

STUDENTS

CAMPUS CORNER:

A Focus on Graduate Studies in Psychology at Queen's University

KELLY B. SMITH, Queen's University, CPA Chair-Elect and Campus Representative Coordinator, Student Section Executive

The Department of Psychology at Queen's University became an independent academic unit in 1949, after being housed in the Department of Philosophy.

After awarding its first Ph.D. in 1958, the department has grown significantly and is currently comprised of 33 faculty members and 86 graduate students. Impressively, our faculty members have funding from several major agencies, and many have cross-appointments with other departments at Queen's. Recently, psychology at Queen's has witnessed change, with some faculty retiring and new ones arriving. Our talented new faculty brought with them a wide array of research interests, energy, and enthusiasm, and it is very exciting to welcome them into the department! Recruitment for faculty will continue this year, with positions in Developmental Psychology and Cognitive Psychology available.

Another recent change within the department has been the development of the Psychology Clinic. Designed to offer teaching, research, and supervision to

clinical graduate students while providing psychological assessment and treatment services for community members, the clinic is a thrilling new addition to the Clinical Psychology program and the department. Both faculty and students are excited by development as it promises increased training opportunities for clinical students and exemplifies the progression of the department and its commitment to excellence in graduate training.

Information about Graduate Studies:

Graduate training in our department consists of four streams: Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science; Clinical; Developmental; and Social Psychology. In both the clinical and experimental areas, research is heavily encouraged, and the department offers annual travel stipends to graduate students attending scientific conferences.



The department also offers extensive support in terms of TA ships – most students are offered a TA ship, several which afford great teaching experiences and opportunities to lead labs and tutorials. Not that all our students require the support – many hold prestigious awards from provincial and national funding agencies; graduate students in our department have done very well at securing funding and excelling in research.

However, lest that suggests that we are all work and no play, let me clarify! The department has an active graduate student body, the Association for Graduate Students in Psychology (AGSIP) that, among other academic and administrative duties, is responsible for planning social events, welcoming new students, and making sure the graduate students in our department have a good time. And in my opinion,

that is one of the best things about the department – that there are people who work to make the graduate experience a positive one, balanced with both academic and social events. For a moderately-sized department, Psychology at Queen's has a warm, almost family-like atmosphere. Graduate students are treated with respect and have a spot on all academic committees within the department, and staff and faculty are readily available to mentor students. I look forward to continuing my graduate education at Queen's University, and encourage potential students to check out the department!

Web Address: For more information about the Department of Psychology, please visit: <http://psyc.queensu.ca/>.

Here, you can access a variety of information about the department, including guidelines and information on graduate studies in Psychology at Queen's University. For information on AGSIP, please visit: <http://psyc.queensu.ca/gradbeta1/agsip/index.html>

Note to Students: Do you want to highlight your department? Please do! The Student Section Executive welcome "Campus Corner" submissions to spotlight psychology departments across the nation. If you are interested in submitting a spotlight or for more information, please contact Kelly Smith at 2kbs@qlink.queensu.ca. We would love to learn about your department!

Happy Fall!

The school year has started and along with it the hectic pace of new classes, projects and deadlines. We would like to take this opportunity to say hello from the 2005-2006 CPA Section for Students in Psychology Executive. We are a friendly group and welcome you to contact us over the course of the year. We have an area on the CPA webpage; <http://www.cpa.ca/Students.htm>, as well as a listserv for student members. If you would like to be on the listserv, would like information about being a campus representative, or would just like to say hello, please contact us!

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Roxanne Sterniczuk, Undergraduate Affairs Coordinator
M.A. student, Behavioural Neuroscience, University of Calgary

Kelly Hayton, Website and Listserv Manager

As part of your fall to-do's, we want to encourage students to submit abstracts for the CPA annual meeting. The meeting will be held from June 8-10, 2006 in Calgary. The deadline for submissions is coming up soon - October 21, 2005! The conference is always stimulating. The Section for Students will have several student-oriented sessions. In the past, these have included workshops on making a CV, putting together successful graduate school applications, and dealing with difficult ethical dilemmas. The Section will also host a Student Social, where students can meet, network, and have fun! Please see the CPA website for information about the on-line conference abstract submission process: <http://www.cpa.ca/convention.htm>.

Have a great year!

Sincerely,

The CPA Section for Students in Psychology Executive

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