

THE GRADUATES - ÉTUDIANTS DIPLÔMÉS !

Graduate Student Liaison, By Heather Steel

The Graduate Students' Committee (GSC) has undergone a period of transition recently. I have been acting as co-chair of the committee for just over a year and was elected the graduate student representative for the CHA council at the conference in 2006. The GSC recently had elections for two positions — Jean-François Lozier from the University of Toronto was elected to the other co-chair position and Josh MacFadyen was elected treasurer. We held our general meeting during the CHA conference and it was encouraging to see that the students who took the time to attend were enthusiastic about the work of the committee and even volunteered to work on specific issues, such as increasing francophone involvement and generating financial resources. We hope that with this small, but committed, group, the GSC will gradually grow and be able to discuss and address the issues we face in a more effective manner.

Currently we are in the process of revamping our website. While there was important information on the old website, we found it was poorly organized and out-of-date. Our webmaster, Roger Gillis, created a new layout, which is much better organized and more aesthetically pleasing, and Jean-François and I have been updating the text. I have compiled a list of external scholarships and awards available for history students to replace the list that is currently on the website. No longer eligible for government funding in Ontario, I have had to search for private sources of funding this fall. This process was frustrating as I had to look at numerous websites and databases to find scholarships geared specifically to graduate history students or open to all graduate students. While the list I have compiled is likely not exhaustive, it will be a valuable resource for other students who find themselves in this position. Jean-François has committed to keeping the conference announcements updated on the website. Crucial

to ensuring more francophone involvement is keeping the French side of the website updated. Now that we have an individual on the executive who speaks French fluently, this will be done shortly. We hope that if the content of the website is kept up-to-date, more graduate students will use it as a resource, en Anglais comme en Français. The website is not yet completed, but it is open for use: <http://www.cha-shc.ca/gsc-ced/en/index.htm>. We will also be co-operating with the CHA on a number of issues important to graduate students, including the ethics review process and access to documents and archivists at the national archives. In Ontario, an important issue is the growth of graduate programmes and the impact this will have on graduate education. We are hoping to fund an event for graduate students at the CHA Annual Meeting in Saskatoon and welcome any suggestions for issues that could be addressed at such an event.

The committee maintains a list of representatives from every graduate program in the history. The following schools are not currently represented: Concordia University, Dalhousie University, Laurentian University, McGill University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Saint Mary's University, Simon Fraser University, Trent University, Université de Moncton, University of Northern British Columbia, Université du Québec à Montréal, University of Regina, Université de Sherbrooke, University of Saskatchewan, University of Victoria, University of Waterloo, University of Windsor and Wilfrid Laurier University. If you are from one of these schools and wish to volunteer, please contact Heather Steel (steelh@yorku.ca).

Heather Steel

CHA Graduate Student Liaison

