



On Stream

Newsletter of the Selkirk College Faculty Association

Another Year Done!

As the end of the term approaches we all begin to breathe a collective sigh of relief...."Yes! We have made it through another year!"

Your SCFA Executive

President: Tracy Punchard
VP Contract Negotiations: Doug Henderson
VP Contract Administration: Lui Marinelli
VP Liaison: Sally Glock
Secretary: Rob Macrae
Treasurer: John Stegman
College Board Observer: Pat Gibson
Retirement Issues: Ross Bates

Ponderings from the President

Best Doctors Service May or May Not Be Your Best Option

The Best Doctors Service is an optional service that is currently available to SCFA members who are covered by Manulife for extended health and disability plans. It is a completely voluntary option that does not cost you anything extra to use.

Basically, what the service provides is **access to a second opinion**. Let's say, for example a member has been diagnosed with cancer of the prostate. The member may have seen a specialist in his or her local community, but did not like the options for treatment provided. Under this plan, the member and his or her doctor would agree to send all of the member's

medical information and test results to Best Doctors. Best Doctors will then decide on who is the best specialist in prostate cancer to do the medical review. That doctor would evaluate the medical information and provide the member with a second opinion. The doctor may even recommend alternative treatments or interventions.

While information that is provided to Best Doctors should be treated with the usual doctor-patient confidentiality, SCFA members need to be aware that **Best Doctors is an American organization, based out of the Harvard School of Medicine**. If you are concerned about the U.S. Patriot Act currently in place in the United States, and/or how your medical information might be treated in the hands of the American government, then you may not want to access this service.

Sessionals Denied Access to Research Grants

The University of Toronto has brought in new guidelines that specifically exclude sessional lecturers from applying for SSHRC grants. The new guidelines state that the teaching appointment has to last for at least the duration of the award, and that the appointment has to have a research component to it.

SSHRC, unlike other agencies, imposes no such restrictions: all they require is affiliation with an institution, even in the form of an adjunct position, and sessionals/contract faculty from across Canada receive SSHRC grants all the time. (Our own Laura Adams recently received

an SSHRC grant.) These grants contribute to university research budgets and to the continued funding of graduate students. In fact, the University of Toronto has accepted and countersigned grant proposals from sessionals up until this year.

To help rectify the situation you can add your name right away to an online petition at:

http://3902.cupe.ca/BE_petition.php/utfunding/

And please don't forget to confirm your signature (you will receive a message asking for confirmation after you sign).

Submitted on behalf of CUPE 3902

SCOPE Awards

On November 21st the SCFA held a celebration to present six SCFA members with SCOPE Awards. It was our pleasure to acknowledge and honour the professional excellence of our colleagues Liz Ball, Frank Fowler, Allyson Perrott, Su Meredith, Lorill Harding and Mark Bibok.

Retirees Honoured

When members retire, the SCFA makes a \$100 donation on behalf of each member to the charity of their choice. This year we are adding something new. The SCFA will purchase for each retiree a one-year membership into the post-secondary branch of the BC Retired Teachers Association. The BCRTA advocates on behalf of its members as the FPSE does.

This year we extend our congratulations to Carrie Bowen, Jim Howard and George Westinghouse on their most deserved retirements!

Profile of People of Interest



Interview with Denis Kleine, Metal Casting Instructor at the Kootenay School of the Arts

1. Please tell us about your personal life...

I've lived in Nelson the majority of my life having graduated from L.V.Rogers High School in 1974. For 8 years after that I was a professional student, having studied sciences before completing my BFA from David Thompson University Centre .Since 1983, I've maintained a studio practice and continually shown in private and public Galleries and have completed several Public and Private Commissions. I worked for a few years first as an employee at a commercial bronze foundry and then as an owner in Kelowna which is where I learned the skills to teach bronze casting at KSA. I returned to Nelson to help with my elderly parents and have been thankful to be living once again in this beautiful area.

2. What is your favourite leisure activity?

Golfing in the summer and curling in the winter.

3. How did you get into this situation of working for KSA?

I returned to Nelson having spent 11 years in Kelowna. I was setting up my studio when Tom Lynn asked me if I would like to teach bronze casting at KSA.I thought "why not" as it was part time and it would also be a way for me to return something back to the community and prospective students.

4. Please tell us a little about what you teach and how your classes go.

I predominantly teach the students bronze casting and all of the processes involved in creating a bronze. So, first, I assign a project which the students render in sketches, then oil-based clay. I



teach them about modeling, armatures composition, etc. Then they learn how to make a rubber mold (which records the original clay positive). Then they pour a wax of their piece and then they are shown how to invest the

wax in a ceramic shell. After that, we burn out their wax, preheat the shells, melt the bronze and pour their forms in the ceramic shell. Then they learn all the steps involved in metal chasing, welding and finally patinas and marketing. There are over 17 steps in the whole bronze process, but once they have learned this, the sky is the limit!!

5. What is the best thing about your job?

Being able to see the excitement that students have when they break out their bronze forms from the ceramic shell after a bronze pour. I also enjoy the interaction I get with the individual students.

6. What book is on your bedside table at the moment?

"Holy Blood, Holy Grail" (A precursor to the "Da Vinci Code")

7. Can you tell us what "words of wisdom" or "motto" you live by?

"Aim high and work hard to get there!"

Bargaining Bin

Months of preparation are almost over and it's time for the dirty work. As many of you know, the SCFA voted to join in the common table negotiations (now referred to as the sectoral table) and approved the proposal package. I'll be heading down to Vancouver for the first two weeks of December as FPSE and BCGEU faculty from ten of the provincial colleges begin negotiations with management over such issues as pay increases, benefits, and the signing bonus. After a break for Christmas, this bargaining will pick up again in late January, before concluding (one way or another) in mid-February.

On the local side, we will start meeting with management at the end of November. Our bargaining team consists of myself, Lui Marinelli, Sally Glock and David Piasta from the FPSE head office in Vancouver. After the Christmas break, local bargaining picks up again and will continue through to the March 31st deadline. I look forward to the challenge ahead and will keep you abreast of future developments.

VP Negotiations
Doug Henderson

**Deadline for SCFA Special Professional
Development Funds is:**

January 15th, 2007

Please ensure all applications for the Special
PD Funds are submitted *BEFORE* this date to:
SCFA Committee
Box 410,
Castlegar Campus

In Closing

On behalf of the SCFA executive I would like
to wish all of you a restful and revitalizing
holiday season, and all the best for 2007.

VP Liaison, Sally Glock

