

Student Committee Bulletin Fall 2011

This is what I hope will be the first of a series of biannual bulletins from the Chair of the student committee, keeping the CMS students abreast of the student committee's activities within the Centre. This is partly to improve transparency and communication within the department, and partly to give newer students who are interested in volunteering for the Student Committee an idea of what each of the subcommittees and the SC Executive Committee do over the course of the year. These bulletins will then also be filed in the Student Committee office for future reference.

FYI: A piece of information that may not have reached you: the new website now contains a full breakdown of the Student Committee roles and committees here:

<http://medieval.utoronto.ca/studying/life/student-committee/>

And its officers and members, here:

http://medieval.utoronto.ca/people/committees/#Student_Committees_20112012

As ever, if you have any feedback about how any CMS events went – if there was something with which you were particularly unsatisfied or satisfied – or if there's anything you'd like the Student Committee to do that they're not doing now, please get in touch with me (anna.wilson@utoronto.ca) or the relevant subcommittee, so that we can consider how to improve it next year.

Fall Semester, 2011

September

- We were delighted to welcome the new MA and P1 students to CMS. The Welcoming Committee organized the Welcome Packs, campus tour and Ice Cream Social, and staffed the Welcome Desk during the language exams.
- The Executive Committee met to discuss issues to address in the coming year. The main issues we decided to act on were: improving placement resources for historians; offering more information resources to MA students; seeing through the Major Field review; seeing through the installment of the new website.
- The Social Committee organized the first CMS pub night and the first Games Night of the year
- Cinematheque CMS started off its year of Wednesday night movies at CMS.
- WIMS ran its first talks of the year. In response to student feedback, they are offering a greater variety of food this year.
- Sources and Resources also ran the PIMS library tour with Father Farge as well as "Computers for Medievalists" with Andrew Dunning.
- In response to a request from the Chair, Professor Martin Pickavé put together a breakdown of five different funding packages which he emailed to the student body. He has kindly offered to put together and send an up-to-date version of this email at the beginning of every academic year.
- Members of the student committee were asked for feedback on the new website put together by Andrew Dunning and Martin Pickavé.
- Sources and Resources, in conjunction with Professor David Klausner, ran a seminar on course selection and placement for lower and upper-year students.
- GSU rep Michael Barbezat began serving on the GSU finance committee, and representing CMS students at GSU general meetings and votes.

October

- The Welcoming Committee, in conjunction with the Social Committee, organized the MA-PhD dinners, with a pub night afterwards.
- The Social Committee held a Pumpkin Carving, and organized the CMS Halloween party.

- The Student Committee Exec held an Annual General Meeting, open to all students. Minutes are available to students upon request (email jessica.lockhart@utoronto.ca).
- Latin Anonymity: at the AGM, we discussed whether to request that CMS cease to publically post names of students who had passed the Latin exam. We held a vote, and the motion carried; I passed on the request to the relevant CMS officers, and it was implemented. The Director and head of the Latin Committee have agreed that henceforth an anonymity system will be used for the Latin exams
- Following the AGM, the Exec held a Town Hall. Professors Magee, Caskey and Pickavé each spoke about their current activities in their respective positions, and answered questions from the student body. Minutes compiled by Jessica Lockhart are attached to this email, and will be pinned to the SC noticeboard in CMS.

November

- GSU rep Emily Blakelock attended one of a series of meetings the GSU is having with every single graduate course union to try to collect information about how funding is administered, what the MA/PhD requirements are (and how feasible they are in the timeframe), TA/RA-ships, and many other issues that are radically different across departments. The person responsible for this project wants to orient the GSU more towards advocating on practical issues that affect every student.
- Sources and Resources ran one of their biannual Methodologies seminar series, on the topic of 'Statistics and Computational Analysis', with Dr. Michael Gervers (English) and CMS students Chris Piuma, Greg Maxwell, Daniel Jamison and Morris Tichenor speaking.
- The Chair compiled and sent out to third years an unofficial memo clarifying CMS requirements for Major Fields and language exams, based on CMS documentation and Professors Magee and Caskey's responses to questions at the Town Hall, for students who were not present at that meeting.
- Professor Klausner ran a seminar on job placements for historians, with organizational input from the student committee.
- CUPE rep Daniel Price ran a CUPE information meeting on the upcoming strike vote.
- Chris Piuma (Treasurer) organized an information seminar for MA students on the PhD application process, at with Martin Pickavé, Amanda Wetmore, Ben Wheaton, Anna Wilson and Chris Piuma speaking. This was generally well-received, and we hope to make it an annual event.
- Professor Jill Caskey ran a Major Fields Information Meeting, after a long process of reviewing the Major Fields with a committee of students chaired by previous student chair Alice Hutton, and joined by new student chair Anna Wilson. The minutes, compiled by Jessica Lockhart, are attached to this email.

December

- The Social Committee organized the annual CMS Christmas party, and CMS students and faculty excelled in their baked offerings, holiday attire and children. Special recognition goes to Jessica Lockhart's magnificent gingerbread castle. St. Nicholas made an appearance, as usual; he just never seems to age.
- The Chair compiled this bulletin, with input from the Exec and subcommittees.

Thanks for a great semester, everybody.