News from Simon Fraser University's Heritage Resource Management MA Program
This edition of the newsletter for SFU Archaeology’s HRM Professional Program is a break from the previous format. Instead of articles with links, we feature a message from Program director, John Welch. His bottom line:

- Our professional online graduate program in HRM archaeology is a hit with students.
- Slots are still available for the 2017 cohort.
- The application deadline has been extended.
- Send us applications from future leaders.

Enjoy the summer and look for a fall edition announcing the public events associated with the orientation for the 2017 cohort.

---

**Harmonizing Expectations and Realities**

My high school chemistry teacher, Jim Mariner, was also part philosopher. In response to what seemed at the time like a big problem he quipped: “Life’s just one big experiment.” I think he may have been cribbing from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, but it stuck with me (obviously) and provides perspective at moments when expectations and realities diverge.

One of my jobs in managing this new professional graduate program for SFU Archaeology is to limit such divergences, especially gaps between student expectations and program realities. As of June 2017, however, my own expectations are the issue. I somehow got it in my head that there existed a substantial and unmet demand for specialized graduate training in cultural heritage management. One source of my expectations comes from publications. More than five decades ago, in an *American Antiquity* (1963, 28[3]: 392) article entitled, *A Training Program for Salvage Archaeology*, the venerable James Hester wrote:
"The study of archaeology is currently in a period of crisis, primarily because large-scale reservoir, pipeline, transmission line, and highway programs on public lands are furnishing rapidly expanding opportunities for archaeological research" and supplies of qualified researchers are insufficient.

The academic response was, by most accounts, insouciant. In his introduction to the path breaking 1989 book, *Archaeological Heritage Management in the Modern World*, Henry Cleere (1989: 15) called for collaboration among universities, professional organizations, and government agencies toward the “creation of a new profession of archaeological heritage manager.” Another decade went by. The 1997 report on the Society for American Archaeology’s Task Force on Consulting Archaeology (Robert Elston, *SAA Bulletin* 15[5]), urged efforts to close gaps between CRM and academic archaeologies, including graduate programs designed and implemented to meet the specific demands of CRM firms for highly trained junior professionals. Again, only a small number of universities, notably Sonoma State and Northern Arizona, responded with solid sustainable offerings.

I watched these developments (and lack of developments) with interest. After joining the SFU faculty in 2005, the temptation to do something (my particular Achilles heel) in the great Northwest and Beautiful British Columbia started to mount. In 2015, SFU dangled grant funds to jump-start professional online graduate programs.

Our Archaeology faculty rose to the bait. With help from industry and government colleagues and our *business management* course designer, Chris Dore, we built what has been widely received as a worthy option for BA- or BSc-holding practitioners. Our Program broadens, deepens, and professionalizes student capacities to balance often competing legal, ethical, business, and scientific demands. The intensive, in-person orientation, four online courses with virtual meetings, and thesis requirements expand and enhance candidates’ knowledge of contemporary CRM issues and dynamics on regional, national, and global scales.

We’ve done all within our power to make the Program attractive to applicants and their current and prospective employers. We adopted RPA standards for student theses. We relaxed admissions standards to limit experience requirements for applicants and SFU rules to allow candidates to engage senior colleagues on thesis committees. We cut tuition to $26,000 CAD (less than $20,000 USD). We set up websites and Twitter accounts and, of course, this newsletter.

The first student cohort rated their experience highly and demonstrated their learning by placing second in the *2017 SAA Ethics Bowl*. Whitney Spearing wrote, "The course material is directly relevant to project planning and operations—both high-risk factors in the HRM compliance industry." Derek O’Neill said, "Working in the HRM industry in BC for almost ten years, I would consider myself knowledgeable in many aspects of our industry; however, the coursework has been incredibly enlightening and engaging to problems facing heritage management on a regional, national, and global scale."

In sum, SFU Archaeology has responded constructively and substantively to the longstanding need for intensive training to create leaders in C/HRM archaeology. What we need to close the current gap between expectations and realities is applications. Slots are still open for the 2017 cohort. We have extended the application deadline to early August. We strongly encourage applications from those ready to raise their career ceilings, boost their research capacities, optimize their potential earnings, and learn a lot.
Visit our [website](http://mailchi.mp/295c4c52221d/an-invitation-to-the-future) or drop me a [line](http://mailchi.mp/295c4c52221d/an-invitation-to-the-future) to learn more and [apply](http://mailchi.mp/295c4c52221d/an-invitation-to-the-future).

---

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

Application Deadline: **August 7, 2017**
On-Campus Orientation: **Sept 5-7, 2017**

Please visit our [website](http://mailchi.mp/295c4c52221d/an-invitation-to-the-future) for more information.

---

**Training Leaders in Heritage Stewardship**

---

Copyright © 2017 Heritage Resource Management Graduate Program, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](http://mailchi.mp/295c4c52221d/an-invitation-to-the-future) or [unsubscribe from this list](http://mailchi.mp/295c4c52221d/an-invitation-to-the-future).