News from SFU's Heritage Resource Management Program

IMPORTANT DATES

June 1, 2017
Program Application Deadline

Sept 5-7, 2017

Photo courtesy Jodie MacMillan
On-Campus Orientation

Please visit our website for more information.

PROGRAM ORIENTATION BRINGS TOGETHER STUDENTS FROM ACROSS CANADA AND THE USA

John Welch, HRM Program Director

SFU Archaeology's new Professional HRM Program got off to a great start with three days of learning, planning, and team-building, September 6-8, 2016. Each of the 11 members of our first cohort —traveling from as far away as Ontario, Wisconsin, Wyoming, the Yukon, and Fort Saint John— made the trip to SFU’s Burnaby campus.
Once assembled, we settled in to the business of “eliminating disorientation” by working through the new Program's designs, possible stumbling blocks, and student expectations. Day One was capped off with a panel discussion on “Desired (and Less Desired) HRM Futures,” led by John Welch and panelists Kim Christenson, Christopher Dore, Joanne Hammond, Geordie Howe, Dave Schaepe, and Alice Storey, followed by the world premier of WILD ARCHAEOLOGY, hosted by Rudy Reimer at the SFU Highland Pub.

On Day Two, we launched into the essential work of thesis planning, with an overview of the Program's thesis rubric and a peer-review workshop to finalize each student prospectus in preparation for their first meeting with their faculty supervisor. With that challenge met, we rewarded ourselves with an afternoon tour of Stanley Park, led by Vancouver Park Board Archaeologist, Geordie Howe.

Day Three focused on the nuts and bolts of online learning via the Canvas system, professional development with a resume/cv workshop, thesis development via individual meetings between students and supervisors, and learning more about graduate life at SFU within the Department of Archaeology. We closed out the orientation with a final reception at the Highland Pub.

Good humours, attitudes, and colleagues easily overcame the disorientation of a complex and challenging graduate program.

STUDENT Q&A
Derek O'Neill
Interview excerpted from the BCAPA Fall Newsletter

Why did you choose SFU's HRM MA program? When I first began looking seriously at graduate programs I was still living in Fort St. John and in the middle of a full-time, year round archaeology position. I was interested in further developing my research, analytical, and practical skills; however, I was concerned about taking one to two years off, the career setbacks that graduate studies may cause, and relocating to another area of the province or Canada. The HRM MA program afforded me the ability to continue working full time while studying and to study from wherever. It also offered very relevant coursework to the challenges and research within contemporary heritage management.

How has the program been thus far? The program is fantastic thus far. Our cohort is ten students from British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon, Ontario, Wyoming, and Alaska, studying a wide variety of topics, such as traditional use studies, paleobotany, zooarchaeology, experimental archaeology, and human osteology as they relate to the practice of heritage resource management. 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. The cohort is incredibly engaging through our online platforms and provides a great opportunity for debate, discussion, and discourse about ongoing topics in HRM that we debate over on a weekly basis.

I am the only student in the program who is local to Metro Vancouver and I find the graduate studies experience, alongside my normal workload, has been great. You have access to all the same resources (with the exception of scholarships) as other master's students and, if you choose to, can use your graduate degree to pursue a doctoral studies in the future.

Photo courtesy Derek O'Neill and UNBC.

ARCHAEOLOGY AT CAMP COVE [VIDEO]
With the permission of the Sts’ailes First Nation, HRM Program Director John Welch, videographer Nathan Douglas, and production assistant Eric Simons visited Camp Cove (West Harrison) to record the fieldwork underway at a heritage site identified by archaeologist Morgan Ritchie.

Morgan introduced us to the craggy prominence that once served as a camp and possible lookout for Sts’ailes ancestors, and he explained what he and his field crew were doing and why archaeology is an integral part of project planning as well as First Nations title and rights claims.

**FEATURED THESIS PROJECTS**

### THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF HOWARD’S PASS

**Jodie MacMillan**

Until recently Howard’s Pass was an understudied region. Now 53 known archaeological sites have been recorded, making it one of the highest densities of sites in the Yukon. Using data gathered through a heritage resource impact assessment project (including site data, site distribution data, lithic analysis and comparisons of other travel corridors), the main goal of my thesis research is to explore the use of Howard’s Pass as a pre-contact travel corridor.

### THE CURATION CRISIS

**Marina Tinkcom**

Using available repository data sets, I am examining the current status of collections across the nation, to question the methods of attaining modern curation standards for these collections, and to reevaluate accessioning and deaccessioning criterions.
WINTER TESTING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Megan Vanderwel

My thesis research examines the potential of site identification under winter and summer conditions, appropriate subsurface testing methodologies, and snow cover thresholds. The main goal of my thesis research is to identify any shortcomings in winter testing methodology and potential risks to the resource. Read More +

ANCESTRAL REMAINS IN NORTHWEST COAST ARCHEOLOGY

Derek O'Neill

Examining the intersection between professional practice, established exhumation methods, and mortuary site types, my research aims to address the lack of juvenile skeletal remains within the archaeological record on the northwest coast, specifically the Sunshine Coast. The goals of my research are to improve excavation methods for sites that have, or may possibly, have human remains (specifically juvenile) and to provide a greater understanding of the lack of representation of human remains in the archaeological record in British Columbia. Read More +
Meet Our First HRM Students

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