

# **Brock University Faculty of Humanities 2007-2014**

## **Knowledge, Engagement, Transformation**

The Faculty of Humanities is the second-largest Faculty in the University. It has 128 tenured and tenure-track faculty members, nine departments, six centres, and the Humanities Research Institute; three of the departments and a program are gathered under the School of Fine and Performing Arts. Faculty members have active and successful research agenda, and have been successful in earning funding from a number of granting agencies. The Faculty is a generator of creative as well as scholarly activity, with students and faculty engaged in performance in music, art, drama and creative writing on the local, national and international stage; the Faculty hosts the literary journal *PRECIPICE* and is the home of the Rodman Hall Arts Centre. The number of MA programs has increased in the last several years from one to six, more are in the planning stages, and a proposal for a PhD in Humanities is close to submission. The Faculty has 2,952 undergraduate majors and 14,146 undergraduate course enrollments (2007-08 numbers); its courses serve not only majors and context students but the large majority of Concurrent BA/BEEd students and many students taking minors and “second teachables.” .

### **Mission:**

*To facilitate research and creative production, to provide high quality academic programs and course offerings that engage all of the Humanities disciplines and fields of study; to model and develop intellectual practices of inquiry, creativity, analysis and synthesis; to promote intercultural knowledge and ethical reasoning; to provide integrative, interactive and immersive learning opportunities such that students will have the capacity to adapt knowledge and skills to new settings.*

### **FACULTY ACADEMIC STRATEGIC PLAN**

#### **1. RESEARCH**

*The Faculty is proud of its burgeoning profile in research and creative work, the productivity and vigour of its faculty members, and the support for research provided by the Humanities Research Institute. It aims to create a scholarly environment with appropriate and extensive resources that integrates the work of faculty, students and staff into a pervasive, interdisciplinary and integrative culture of research and creative activity which works both to strengthen the core of humanities disciplines and to break down the boundaries of academic convention.*

#### **Specific Objectives**

1. a. Provide adequate and appropriate learning and research space to the programs in the Humanities; initiatives include
  - i. Locating the School of Fine and Performing Arts in its own unique space, integrating it with the community and adding a sense of urban culture.
  - ii. Relocating Humanities the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures and the Department of Classics to be relocated to the West Campus to increase the synergies between Humanities departments through their propinquity.
1. b. Further develop the Humanities Research Institute, expanding it to include a Visiting Scholar Program.
1. c. Further develop the research emerging from the Centre for Digital Humanities through the support of the *nGen* initiative.
1. d. Utilize Faculty Advancement initiatives to support research.
1. e. Further develop promotional mechanisms for internal/external awareness of Humanities research to include communication and promotional materials and events.
1. f. Develop the following Research Centres and Institutes:
  - i. The Institute for Studies in Praxis in the Fine and Performing Arts to include a Research Centre in Performance and a colloquia series
  - ii. The Border Studies Institute
  - iii. The Cultural Institute of the Great Lakes
1. g. Promote research mentoring opportunities throughout the Faculty.
1. h. Ensure that necessary electronic research materials are available in the Library.

## 2. GRADUATE STUDIES

*Over the last several years the Faculty has added to its MA Program in Philosophy, MA Programs in Applied Linguistics, Classics, Comparative Arts and Literature, English and History. The goal of the Faculty is to develop a full array of graduate and professional programs that educate the next generation of highly qualified people and enhance our scholarly capacity. The Faculty's first doctoral program, a PhD in Humanities, is in the approval process.*

### **Specific Objectives:**

- 2.a. Develop a PhD in Humanities for 2009-2010
- 2.b. Develop an intrafaculty MA program in Serious Gaming associated with the Canada Research Chairs in Digital Humanities and multidisciplinary MA programs in Canadian Studies and Arts Therapies.
- 2.c. Develop MA programs in Musicology, MMus in Performance, and a creative writing option in the English MA.
- 2.d. Develop a certificate program in Arts and Culture Journalism/Writing and in Arts Management
- 2.e. Develop an MFA in Visual Arts, an MA in Visual Studies, and an MA/MFA in

Dramatic Arts

- 2.f. Lay the groundwork for an inter-Faculty MA in Speech-Language Pathology.
- 2.g. Increase the number and particularly the quality of graduate students through vigorous recruitment.

### 3. **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

*The Faculty aims to prepare to students for leadership roles in an increasingly complex world by providing a wide range of innovative interdisciplinary and traditional undergraduate programs, and encouraging faculty-student interaction through a variety of teaching and experiential learning approaches. Its **priority objective** is to foster a learning environment that champions problem-based and project-based learning. By 2014, throughout the Humanities curricula students will be able put their knowledge to work, through real-world applications, employing new media such as databases, Web-pages, computer games and simulations. Our goal is to enrich student experience by continually and consistently improving immersive learning opportunities as well as providing up-to-date, leading edge programs that address contemporary issues.*

#### **Further Specific Objectives**

- 3.a. Retain the use of seminars as critical to its teaching mission and aim to reduce the cap in Years 3 and 4 from 20 to 16.
- 3.b. Enhance the development of the School of Fine and Performing Arts as it moves into a more integrated relationship with the Niagara community.
- 3.c. Further develop the area of Interactive Arts/Digital Humanities programming with Social Science and Computer Science and prepare to offer a major along with a minor by 2009.
- 3.d. Develop a BA in Writing and Rhetoric and create a dedicated lab for Writing classes
- 3.e. Develop a BFA in Visual Arts
- 3.f. Create an Essay Prize in the Faculty of Humanities.
- 3.g. Develop and resource the programming emerging from Great Books/Liberal Studies, soon to be known as Liberal Arts. (note: This initiative has the potential to become Brock's first endowed college.)
- 3.h. Resource the academic writing course offerings 1P93 and 1P94 to be available to all incoming first year students.
- 3.i. Develop a revenue-generating Language Institute modeled on the IELP to offer graduate students an opportunity to learn to read (German, French, Spanish, Italian, Sanskrit, Latin, Greek, Hebrew) for scholarly purposes.
- 3.j. Continue to develop strategies for the recruitment and retention of undergraduate students.
- 3.k. Continue foster and to celebrate the achievements of our undergraduates, as through our annual Student Awards Night.

4. **Engage with the community to enhance the economic, social, cultural and intellectual lives of the citizens of Niagara and beyond.**

*As a Humanities Faculty with dynamic performance and creative as well as scholarly dimensions, the Faculty is increasing its stature as a key focal point of and generator of an enriched cultural life for the Niagara Region, a life vital to the Region's ambitions to develop its professional and manufacturing base.*

**Specific Objectives:**

- 4.a. Further relationships of The School of Fine and Performing Arts with diverse audiences through the opportunities of a downtown presentation space and will continue to develop linkages with professional cultural sector (Niagara Symphony, Shaw Festival, Niagara Art Centre, Theatre Beyond Words, Niagara Youth Orchestra, Lyndesfarne, Carousel, Stratford Festival).
- 4.b. Continue to provide outstanding high caliber exhibitions Rodman Hall for the Niagara community, and develop further opportunities at Rodman Hall for community engagement.
- 4.c. Continue to cultivate outreach with the educational sector through the Departments and Programs, especially Drama, Music, English, Classics, Interactive Arts and Science; for instance, create pedagogical resources and outreach programs for the use of Niagara Region secondary teachers.
- 4.d. Further engagement of the Interactive Arts and Science program with the nGen partnership for development in interactive media.
- 4.e. Increase English Department resources to profile and promote its literary journal *PRECIPICe*, and maintain departmental association with the Grey Borders Reading Series.
- 4.f. Make the expertise of Humanities departments available to the public through discipline-related activities in the community.
- 4.g. Seek ways in which the Visiting Artists and Writers in Residence will be more engaged with the community.
- 4.h. Continue the active engagement of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures with the community – for example the Dante Alighieri Society and the annual French and Italian Contests, and will develop a series of Cultural Soirées celebrating Francophonie.
- 4.i. Continue support of the Ontario Classics Conference and continue to house the Niagara Peninsula Society of the Archeological Association of America
- 4.j. Further develop departmental and Faculty Speaker Series, for instance the Department of Applied Linguistics, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Humanities Research Institute.
- 4.k. Create an on-campus Speech-Language Pathology Clinic open to the public
- 4.l. Further engagement of History and Canadian Studies with bicentennial planning as part of the increasing focus on heritage tourism, and pursue a shared three-year visiting appointment with Niagara University as part of the bicentennial planning
- 4.m. Develop the resources for historical knowledge of the Niagara Region through an annual lecture-gala to be held at the Lake Street Armory , the development of an annual joint-lecture series with the Royal Niagara Military Institute, a for-credit

course in local history that would be open to members of the community, and linking graduate students interested in local history with regional museums and other establishments in order to work at them on research projects

**5. Create a vibrant educational gateway to Canada and expand our international engagement through our commitment to diversity, globalization and equity, and the creation of mutually beneficial partnerships.**

*The scholarship of the Faculty of Humanities offers unique access to global and local culture: the study of modern languages and literatures introduces students to the symbolic and historical heart of many cultures, and includes studies abroad; the study of history links students to the world's past; the study of literature in English, including the literature of developing nations, features the literature of our cultural past, the literature of Canada, the most powerful expressions of the dreams and anxieties of contemporary peoples, and interactions with current creative writers in the Niagara Region, in Canada and abroad; the study of art, music and drama all bring students and faculty into the vibrant presence of creative thinkers from abroad and at home, in current and past times; the study of linguistics and the teaching of English as a second language involves students in the knowledge of, and contact with, other cultures; the study of classics brings the past of ancient lands into the present, and students travel to the Mediterranean to see through artifacts into the life of other places and times; the study of Liberal Arts and Intercultural Studies and brings students in their different ways into contact with different cultures, past cultures, and our own, through documents of many kinds; our Philosophy department is exceptional in its focus on Eastern thought as well as on that of the West. The Faculty's performance disciplines in particular – music, art, drama, creative writing – bring the university and its members into dynamic and fruitful relation to the people and cultural life of the Region. As well, the Faculty is developing an increasing number of relationships with Niagara College and with colleges and universities directly across the border.*

**Specific Objectives:**

- 5.a. Emphasize the value of internationalization as part of this university's mission, and particularly exchange programs for both faculty and students at every level.
- 5.b. Further develop the international components of the Faculty, for instance through extending affiliations with international academic institutions.
- 5.c. Offer additional opportunities for students to study languages abroad.
- 5.d. Locate opportunities for faculty exchange.
- 5.e. Explore international internships and *practica* as part of programming.
- 5.f. Simplify protocols and procedures for courses taken abroad.
- 5.g. Provide opportunities for students to relate their international experiences.
- 5.h. Develop collaborative programs with Niagara University and Buffalo University (e.g. Canadian Studies with UB and Dramatic Arts with NU are currently under discussion)
- 5.i. Pursue additional articulations and collaborative developments with Niagara College, Sheridan College, Fanshawe College, and Mohawk College.

**The Faculty of Humanities will seek to target support according to the needs of strong departments and will continue to develop significant interdisciplinary research and curricula.**

**Fundamental needs:**

- Ensure appropriate levels of staffing – faculty and administrative. The current student:faculty ratio in several Humanities departments should be lowered to reflect interest in excellence in program delivery.
- Areas targeted for growth: SFPA units, IASC program, English, Classics, language offerings
- Required staff positions: permanent FAO, Immersive Learning Environment Coordinator, Director of the Summer Language Institute, additional administrative staff for departments with graduate programs, particularly English, History, Classics, MLLC

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES FUNDING PRIORITIES:**

1. Capital projects: SFPA and Humanities West Campus Complex; ensure lab/studio support
2. Graduate program development: PhD in Humanities, MA in Serious Gaming, MFA in Visual Arts, MFA in Dramatic Arts, MMus in Music, graduate diploma in Arts Management; undergraduate development of a competitive BFA
3. Faculty appointments: Visiting Appointments for Writer in Residence (1), Visiting Artist in Drama (1), Visiting Scholar for PhD in Humanities (1); Full-Time TT appointments for English (1 for writing program), IASC (2 cross-appointments), Canadian Studies/Border Studies (2 cross-appointments), Intercultural Studies (2 cross-appointments), all SFPA programs (4), History (1), Classics (1), MLLC (language specific 3).
4. Endowed Research Chairs: Targeted areas include English, History, Classics, Canadian Studies, Digital Humanities; pursue Canada Research Chair in Canadian Studies
5. Resource faculty training for employment of interactive media and further development of immersive environments
6. Substantially increase international exchange/travel opportunities for faculty and students

## **FACULTY DEPARTMENTS**

Applied Linguistics  
Classics  
Dramatic Arts  
English Language and Literature  
History  
Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
Philosophy  
Visual Arts

## **CENTRES**

### With Academic programs:

Canadian Studies  
Great Books/Liberal Studies  
Interactive Arts and Science  
Intercultural Studies  
Medieval and Renaissance Studies

### Research and pedagogy:

Centre for Digital Humanities

## **INSTITUTES**

Humanities Research Institute