

2009–2010 Academic Innovation Fund Disbursements

The 2009–2010 disbursements of the Academic Innovation Fund provided \$15,543.79 for six projects that support teaching at Trent University. This internal fund is designed to support projects that strengthen Trent University's undergraduate programs and to support professional development and pedagogical research. To date, this fund has committed \$558,352.36 for 130 projects.

The following projects received funding in the 2009–2010 allocation:

Suzanne Bailey (Department of English Literature): \$1,322.79 to investigate the expansion of the English curriculum content to include material of interest to non-majors and specifically students in nursing and the health sciences; to develop a new unit in ENGL3700Y "Gender and Literature" focusing on women, aging and life writing; and to gain a better understanding of the range of humanities-based programming in medical humanities programmes in Canada and the US with a view to developing course content in this area with colleagues in the English Department and in other humanities departments at Trent.

Nicole Bell (School of Education and Professional Learning): \$1,725 to improve the teaching of Aboriginal worldviews and ways of knowing to Teacher Candidates in the context of the Ministry of Education's First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework (2007). An intranet site will be developed with resources that will inform the B.Ed. curriculum and the classroom practice of Teacher Candidates.

Craig Brunetti (Department of Biology): \$4,500 to develop multi-media content for the first-year Biology course 1030H. The multi-media content will include a novel set of videos, animations, and images to better convey the lecture material in a more visually-engaging manner, and a series of experimental modules (flash animations) designed to explore background material and reinforce concepts.

Ivana Elbl (M.A. Program in History): \$3,000 to provide graduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences with a foundation to build their ability to read academic works in a foreign language. The project will involve developing a WebCT-based instructional shell that introduces students to the principles of acquiring reading proficiency in a foreign language, strategies for vocabulary acquisition, and orientation in grammar.

Fiona Harris-Stoertz (Department of History): \$2,587.50 to complete the final upgrades to the History 1500 Online Skills Workbook and to generalize the resource beyond its initial target audience to all history students.

Barbara Marshall (Department of Sociology): \$2,408.50 to develop and pilot a renovation of the required second year course, Classical Sociological Theory, in the context of the Department of Sociology's recent external program review. The research will include a review of the existing literature on pedagogical approaches to teaching sociological theory; searching for, abridging and annotating relevant texts and resources to develop new teaching materials; and developing new web-based and in-class activities.