

S. J. McKee Archives



Dean of Arts

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions154>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Description Level: Sub sub series
Series Number: 7.1.1
Accession Number: 17-2000, 24-2000, 3-2005, 4-2005
GMD: textual records
Date Range: 1962-2004
Physical Description: 1 m
History /
Biographical:

DEANS OF ARTS:

R.F.B. KING (1967-1972)

Ralph Frederick Breach King was born July 16, 1921 in Vancouver, B.C. He obtained his B.A. from the University of British Columbia in 1948, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 1951 and 1960 respectively. Before coming to Brandon College in 1963, King held positions in the English Departments of the University of British Columbia, Royal Military College (Kingston), and the Canadian Services College (Victoria). At the latter, he was also the head of the department.

At Brandon College he joined the Department of English as its Head and also acted as, first, the Associate Dean of Arts (1963-1965), and then as the first Dean of Arts (1965-1972) of Brandon University. He continued as Head of the English Department until 1977. In addition, during the interregnum between the Robbins and Dulmage presidencies in 1969-1970, King also served as Acting President of the University.

As Dean, King oversaw the radical change in curriculum that took place just prior to Brandon College becoming an independent University. He supervised the introduction of the major-minor system (instead of three sequences of specialization) and the wide-ranging revisions in the academic program that the new degree structure required. Once Brandon University had been formally constituted in 1967, a need arose to expand and develop teaching staff, and King profoundly influenced the development of the institution through his choice of faculty. King also played an important role in expanding the library collection as Chair of the Brandon College Faculty Library Committee in the 1960s.

King retired in 1986; he was on full-time disability for the last seven years of his appointment due to complications arising from multiple sclerosis. In 1988, the University conferred on him "Emeritus" status.

Ralph F.B. King died June 3, 2002.

MICHAEL BLANAR (1972 - December 31, 1980)

Michael Blonar was born on April 26, 1933, in Montreal, Quebec. He graduated from Loyola

College (Universite de Montreal) with his B.A. in 1954, and from the Universite de Montreal with his M.A. in 1956. From 1955-1960, except for 1958-1959 when he was registered as a post-graduate external Ph.D. student at University College, University of London, Blonar taught at Loyola High School in Montreal. In 1960, he graduate from the University de Montreal with his Ph.D.

From 1960-1970, Blonar taught English at Loyola College and directed the Freshman English Program there. For the two years before he came to Brandon University, he was on a leave of absence from Loyola College at Mount Saint Vincent University (Halifax), where he held the position of visiting associate professor in the English Department. In 1972, Blonar accepted the position of Dean of Arts at Brandon University. He held that post until 1981, while teaching part-time; in 1981, he resumed teaching full-time in the English Department, and continued to do so up until his retirement on September 1, 1993.

As a member of the English Department, Blonar developed and taught Written Expression, in addition to teaching other courses. He also acted as: a member of Senate (1981-1988); a member of the Senate Executive Committee; Chairman of the Scholarship Committee; Chairman of the Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee; Chairman of the Brandon University Act Committee; Chair, Tenure Committe; Chair, Promotions Appeal Committee; Chair, Search Committee for Director of Extension; and Chairman, Graduate Studies Committee (Arts Faculty Council). Blonar was also the Senior University Officer of Inter-Universities North for a number of years during the 1980s.

As Dean of Arts, he performed the usual academic administrative responsibilities, and due to the fact that there was no Vice-President (Academic and Research) at the time, he also represented the University at negotiations with the Universitites Grants Commission on Inter-Universities North, on the Inter-University Admission Committee. During his tenure as Dean, Blonar also oversaw the establishment of the Department of Native Studies, the consolidation of the language areas at the University into the Department of Classical and Modern Languages, and the intoduction of a Business Minor into the Economics Department.

In addition to his work at the University, Blonar was also a representative on the Articulation Council for Secondary and Post-Secondary Education for the Province of Manitoba (1982-1986), a member of the Board of Directors and the Brandon representative for the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (CNSC), and an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Manitoba Opera Association.

Michael Blonar had three children with his first wife. In 1985, he married Shirley Lyon. Shirley Lyon passed away on March 1st, 2012. Michael Blonar lived in Winnipeg until his death on April 23, 2019.

P.J.C. HORDERN (January 1, 1981 - June 30, 1993)

Peter John Calveley Hordern was born in England on February 5, 1935. He was awarded a State Scholarship to Cambridge University (Latin, History, English) in 1953, and in 1959, completed his B.A. Thological Tripos Part 1 and 2 at that same institution. In 1961, he passed his General Ordination Exam at Lincoln Theological College and in 1961, received his Diploma in Ecumenical Theology from the Unviersity of Geneva, Switzerland. Hordern obtained his M.A. from Cambridge in 1964, and his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from McMaster University in 1972.

In the late 1960s, Hordern was a sessional lecturer in Hebrew at the University of Saskatchewan and a Professor of the Old Testament at the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad. In 1971, he took a position as a Lecturer in the Religion Department at Brandon University. From 1975-1978, he acted as the Chair for the department, and in 1980, he became the Co-ordinator for the Mature Student Centre. In 1981, he became the Dean of Arts; Hordern held this position until July 1993

Hordern held this position until July 1999.

During his career at Brandon University, Hordern served the school in a number of additional capacities, including: Chairman of the Student Recruitment Committee, Chairman of the Arts Faculty Council Library Committee, a member of the Executive of the Brandon University Faculty Association, Vice-Chairman of the Arts Faculty Council, Vice-Chairman of the General Faculty Council and Vice-Chairman of the University Senate. In addition, Hordern was also a member of the Executive of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, Vice-Chairman (1976) and Co-Chairman (1978) of the Programme Committee for the Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, and Chairman of the Manitoba Police Commission. One of his prime research interests was the Epic of Gilgamesh.

Peter John C. Hordern retired from Brandon University in 2005 and on January 26, 2006 he was designated the title of Dean Emeritus. He continues to live in Brandon.

R.E. FLORIDA (July 1, 1993 - December 31, 1999)

Robert Florida was born on September 16, 1939 in St. Louis, MO to Edwin Lowe Florida and Eleanor Camille (nee Greene). He completed his Mech. Eng. degree at the University of Cincinnati in 1962, his Bachelor of Divinity at Tufts University in 1965, his M.A. at McMaster University in 1969 and his Ph.D. at McMaster in 1973.

He joined the Department of Religion at Brandon University in 1969 and retired at the end of 1999. While at Brandon University, Florida served as Dean of Arts from 1993-2000, as Chair of the Religion Department (1974-1975, 1978-1982, 1984-1986, 1991) and as President of the Brandon University Faculty Association (1972-1974, 1979-1980). His research interests focused on Buddhist ethical theory and practice.

During his career, Florida also acted as the Treasurer of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion from 1980-1986, and as Treasurer of the Canadian Corporation for the Study of Religion from 1986-1989. From July 1989-June 1991, he was an Associate Professor, and member of the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni, Swaziland (CIDA Project) helping that institution revise its curriculum. In the Spring of 1989, Florida was a Professor for the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea, and from January-June 1992 and January-June 1993, he was a Visiting Professor at Mahidol University, Salaya (Bangkok), Thailand.

Robert Florida married his wife Janice in 1963, and together they had two children: Aisha and Michael. At present (January 2006), Florida and his wife live in Victoria, B.C.

C. SCOTT GRILLS (August 2000 - June 30, 2007)

Scott Grills was born on December 31, 1963 in Peterborough, Ontario. He obtained his B.A. (Hons.- sociology) from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1984, his M.A. from the University of Waterloo in 1985 and his Ph.D. (sociology) from McMaster University in 1989.

Prior to becoming the Dean of Arts and Graduate Studies at Brandon University in August 2000, Grills served as the President of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations, and taught in the sociology department at Augustana University College from 1989-2000. In his time at Brandon University, Grills has also served on the Brandon University Research Committee, as Chair of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee, as the Brandon University representative of the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada and as a member of the Province of Manitoba's Working Group on Socio-Economic Status and Tuition Policy.

Scott Grills assumed the position of Vice-President (Academic & Research) on July 1, 2007.

DEREK D. KRAMER, A.B., M.A., Ph.D. (1987, B.A., 1984, 1987)

REINHOLD KRAMER - Acting (January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007)

No biographical information yet.

STEVEN ROBINSON - Acting (January 1, 2008 - July 30, 2009)

Steve Robinson obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Guelph. He also studied Classics at Queen's University. He came to Brandon University in 1996 as a member of the Philosophy Department.

G. BRUCE STRANG (August 1, 2009 - December 31, 2014)

Bruce Strang obtained his Ph.D. in History and an M.A. in History from McMaster University and a B.A. (Honours) from the University of Winnipeg. He came to Brandon University from Lakehead University, where he was a member of the history department. At Lakehead, Strang had also served as Acting Dean of Social Sciences & Humanities and Chair of the Department of History. After stepping down as Dean of Arts, Strang returned to teaching in the history and business administration departments at Brandon University.

DEMETRIOUS TRYPHONOPOULOS (January 1, 2015 - July 1, 2019)

No biographical information yet.

LISA ROBSON - Acting (June 1, 2019 - 2020)

Custodial History:

Accession 17-2000 was donated to the McKee Archives by Dr. Robert Florida, Dean of Arts. Accession 24-2000 was donated to the McKee Archives by the Dean's Office in October 1999. Accession 03-2005 was donated to the McKee Archives by the Dean's Office in June 2005. Accession 04-2005 was transferred to the Archives from the Dean of Arts Office in February 2005.

Scope and Content:

Sub sub series consists of a number of accessions.

Accession 17-2000, consists of personnel records of faculty members who have left Brandon University or who have left the employment of the University through retirement or death. In addition, the records of the Northern Manitoba Business Institute, which was operated as a feature of the Faculty of Arts, are included. This accession contains 36 cm of textual records and covers the years 1967-1986.

Accession 24-2000, consists of personnel files for the following members of the Faculty of Arts: C. Acosta-Gonzalez, M. Abou, J. Barletta, M. Bartosova, R. Bazillion (University Librarian), M. Blamar, H. Burmeister, D. Campbell, J. Chyzik, L. Clark, F. Ezeala-Harrison, L. Hallat, K. Hanly, S. Hunter-Harvey (Vice-President Academic and Research), B. Jukpor, L. Kaufman, I. Makus, J. Rastel, M. Ruml, K. Saunders, J. Skinner, Z. Yiheyis. In addition, the accession also includes miscellaneous records dealing with the Northern Manitoba Business Institute, the Brandon University Foundation, Attrition, and Remunerations of instructional staff. This accession contains 30 cm of textual records and covers the years 1962-1995.

Accession 3-2005, consists of personnel files for Dennis Anderson, William DeHaney, Trevor Denton, Robert Florida and Trevor McNeely. Files include curriculum vitae, correspondence, sabbatical applications, notes, paperwork related to courses and certificates. This accession contains 17 cm of textual records and covers the years 1977-2004.

Accession 4-2005, consists of Dr. Robert Brockway's personnel file. The file contains correspondence and copies of articles written by Brockway. The file consists of 5 cm of textual records and covers the years 1966-1999 (predominantly 1972-1985).

Notes: History/Bio information for Scott Grills was taken from the Dean of Arts page of the Faculty of Arts webpage at <http://www.brandonu.ca/academic/arts/Dean's%20Office/dean's%20message.html> (December 2005). History/Bio information for Steve Robinson was taken from the Fall/Winter 2008 Alumni News.

Accruals: Further accruals expected.

Access Restriction: Personnel records are closed.

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Series 7: Faculties and Schools
7.1 Faculty of Arts



Arts Faculty Council

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4388>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: Sub sub series

Series Number: 7.1.14

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1970-1993

Physical Description: 78 cm

Physical Condition: excellent

Custodial History:

Records were stored in the Dean of Arts and Graduate Studies Office until their transfer to the McKee Archives on March 31, 2006.

Scope and Content:

Sub sub series consists of minutes and meeting materials for the Arts Faculty Council (1970-1993).

Storage Location: RG 6 Brandon University fonds
Series 7: Faculties and Schools
7.1 Faculty of Arts



Faculty of Arts publications

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions155>

Part Of: RG 6 Brandon University fonds

Description Level: Sub sub series

Series Number: 7.1.3

GMD: textual records

Date Range: 1969-1989, c. 2010

History /

Biographical:

This is an artificially created sub sub series.

Pierian Spring was the by-product of a creative writing workshop taught by Dr. Robert Brockway at Brandon University in 1969. The members of the workshop met once a month and at the end of the year they decided to produce a mimeographed book of poetry written by members of the group. They called it Peirian Spring, after the spot in Thrace from which the Muses came. In subsequent years, Brockway continued to teach the creative writing class as a non-credit extension course, however there were no further publications of Pierian Spring until Winter 1976. The later publications incorporated the writings of members of the group, but also included works by writers from across North America.

Scope and Content:

Sub sub series consists of copies of one issue of "Aspen Grove" (1971) and numerous issues of "Pierian Spring" (1969, 1976, 1976-1989). It also contains a number of promotional pamphlets created by the Faculty of Arts. Included are pamphlets on: Arts One; the History, Religion, English and Creative Writing, Business Administration, Gender and Women's Studies, Classical and Modern Languages departments; liberal arts degrees: pre-professional programs for early and middle years teachers; Justice System Certificate; graduate programs in Rural Development; and general Faculty of Arts information.

Notes: History/Bio information on Pierian Spring taken from an article in "The Quill" (January 13, 1977).

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