

Name: Andrew Denison

What year did you graduate: April 2012.

What did you enjoy about TRU/What did you do while at TRU?

I really did enjoy myself at TRU. My schedule was fit around working a typical student job to pay some of my bills, making music with my friends and sibling, and reading some books that really interested me. So I had a nice lifestyle that was engaging as well as enjoyable, but still stressful at times which was ok because I always felt a feeling of satisfaction when I turned in a research paper.



While I was attending TRU I was invited to attend the Association for Psychological Science (APS) conference in San Francisco in 2009. It was a valuable experience and tremendously interesting. I preferred just to slink into some symposium and listen while absorbing myself in the culture of the conference. I think what impressed me the most was just kind of being on a level with your professors. Almost like a colleague, it was refreshing to engage in your professors as just "normal people" as they naturally are. To me, I felt that my professors showed a level of respect to their students by kind of letting their hair down and engaging in them as fellow learners. To me I always felt the TRU Psyc staff were always very genuine and kind.

I also had the luxury of travelling abroad in Europe for about one year. That was also something that TRU was effective in. It wasn't cheap but it was certainly a wonderful experience, although it was outside my major. I had technically completed everything I needed to do to graduate, so I had the pleasure of taking weird and interesting classes completely irrelevant to my degree, which was amazing. I had some wonderful memories and even more wonderful friends from that little enterprise.

I do really have fond memories of TRU and my university days, and feel gratitude and appreciation to my professors and colleagues.

How did TRU help you get into grad school, find employment etc.?

As far as what TRU did to help me get employed or grad school or what have you, it was pretty minimal. Not because TRU in any way was lacking, but I never used the resources that were probably available. That's fine for me, I think I am not quite ready to engage in more schooling right now, mainly because there was so many things I want to do and going for a Masters and, for some, a PhD is quite an investment. For me, I feel that experience can be a valuable asset to have and the problem can sometimes be that people are too over educated and have no experience. I am sure many would disagree but it doesn't matter. What I can say is that my psychology and sociology background gave me a deep insight into myself and other people. Not in any kind of pseudo-scientific or deceitful way, but more as an appreciation and as empathy. I can say it taught me the fundamentals of thinking clearly, reasonably, and scientifically, which I took quite seriously and consider valuable for a broad number of reasons. To me, that in itself, is worth every penny of tuition. To appreciate the intricacies of human emotion and intentions can be very interesting. Understanding that each person on so many different levels is such a complex thing can be exhilarating as well as frustrating. But perhaps I can say that what I got most out of my studies was essentially a kind of catalyst that allowed me to synthesize who I wanted to be and what was important to me and how I could go about achieving that effectively. I feel I wasn't truly seeking any kind of academic advancement. It wasn't what I was gunning for in the end, but moreover I was looking for something a little more substantive and personal. I learned that I love

learning things and that my education taught me how to learn with quality. To me, I am more than happy for what I got out of my university education.

What are you doing now?

I have been living in Korea for about a year and a half. I have been enjoying myself and travelling around Asian and the Korean peninsula. Really fascinating place. I picked up an English teaching gig which has been quite fun. I have learned a lot about kids and have much more appreciation for parents now. I have been taking some classes in Korean and learning this kumdo which is like korean / japanese style fencing. It's really neat. Everything has philosophy over here. They like to keep things heavy.

I am also a co-organizer of a group of people that volunteer at homes for mentally ill people. We also try and bring awareness in the community as well as some cash because unfortunately, culturally, it's kind of taboo to talk about mental health, which is really unfortunate. I want to get this going well and then I plan on moving down to South America and buy a motor bike, rough it out a bit and see what I can find. The really interesting thing I find is that there is always positions open for volunteering, and you can learn a hell of a lot.

If current students have questions would you be willing to be contacted:

Yes, feel free to contact me (ad1031@hotmail.com). Sometimes it takes me a little time to respond but eventually I get around to it.