

## **Congratulations to Chris Conway!**

### **Master of Philosophy (Humanities) candidate**



Chris has been awarded the Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship in the amount of \$17,000 over 12 months starting September 2010.

In the discipline of electrical engineering there are three basic circuit elements: resistors, capacitors, and inductors. These elements are the cornerstone of electronics because they provide physical models of actual electrical characteristics and, as such, these are the building blocks for all electronic circuits. In 2008 a team of researchers at HP Lab created a new circuit element which, until then, had only been a theoretical posit. This device, dubbed the memristor as it acted similar to a resistor with memory, created a buzz in several popular technology magazines (Wired in particular) where the promise of its use in developing better computer hard-drives and acting as a 'learning circuit' for pattern recognition.

Chris' research is focused on the social and economic interests that motivate (or prevent) technological change. The research project uses the case of the memristor to examine the relationship between business decision-making and technological invention and innovation. In this research project in the field of Science and Technology Studies, Chris will examine the microeconomic and business management factors that are influencing the development of the memristor. The final form of the memristor is something that will be constructed depending on what specific problem or set of problems are to be addressed in this development.

In addition to this, Chris was awarded the Stuart O. Pierson for 2009/2010. This is awarded annually on the joint recommendation of the Head of the History Department and the Director of the Master of Philosophy (Humanities) program and given to students who show particular promise in the history of ideas, historiography, or the history of science. The amount of the Stuart O. Pierson award is \$400 and a copy of Stuart Pierson's collection of essays *Hard-Headed and Big Hearted: Writing Newfoundland*.