

Online rating gives students inside scoop

Instructors at Kwantlen find out what students really think about their teaching skills from reviews at RateMyProfessor.com

By Alex Tegart
Kwantlen Chronicle

Where can students from across North America go and complain or praise their teachers to the rest of the world?

RateMyProfessor.com is the largest online forum where students can post ratings of their teachers to warn others where not to study, to share tips on certain classes or to rant and rave and get some of that pre-mid-term anxiety out of the way.

You can even read the top 15

funniest ratings.

Including one where a student called a teacher an "evil computer science teaching robot who crushes humans for pleasure."

Many students from Kwantlen have heard about the website and have used as a way a choosing professors for the semester.

Melissa Fraser, a first-year student at Kwantlen, heard about the website from a classmate and visited it hoping to get some useful tips about certain teachers.

She found some comments help-



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- Seema Ahluwalia

ful and said they gave her a better idea of what to expect from the class.

Amanda Grant, another first-year student at Kwantlen heard about the website through a friend well but says she probably won't go back.

Grant thinks that the information available was pretty good but for the most part the comments were written to the extreme and it was difficult to know which advice she should take.

"[The comments] were either really good or really bad," says Grant.

Seema Ahluwalia, a sociology professor at Kwantlen University College has been to the website and loves reading comments posted about her – she has a total of 36 ratings on the website – but does so only for entertainment.

"It's hilarious," Ahluwalia said. "I love reading my comments."

"Students either love or hate my class and that's ok."

Ahluwalia acknowledges the fact that her classes are controversial and do raise questions that not many other classes do, but she uses many other ways to evaluate her teaching.

The website is free but new updates and a Gold – which gives students extra features – have an annual fee of \$9.95 or a two-year fee of \$14.95.

With Gold Membership you can see all ratings, you can ask registered raters questions about a course, a professor, a department, or a particular school and search for professors by class code.

Students rate teachers in five areas: easiness, helpfulness, clarity, overall clarity and rater interest – based on a five-point system.

Each school has a designated administrator who becomes a part of the RateMyProfessor.com staff and must be a student at the school and have an account.

The website has received mixed reviews from teachers but surprisingly 65 per cent of the ratings offer a positive opinion.

Red Cross visits Kwantlen

By Alex Tegart
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The Red Cross will be at Kwantlen's Surrey campus Oct. 22 to give a workshop for students considering a career that will take them into conflict or post-conflict situations.

The workshop will allow students to gain a basic understanding of humanitarian law (rules of armed conflict).

Students will be exposed to issues

such as international law, protection, assistance, weapons of war, avenues for justice and the challenges presented by modern armed conflict.

Students going into relief-work, medicine, engineering, development, foreign service, journalism, military and law are encouraged to attend.

The event will be organized by Michelle Hassen who has done a four-year internship with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva with the mines and

arms unit.

The workshop is only in its first year but Hassen says that the Red Cross received a lot of positive feedback from students who have attended.

"Many enjoyed the role play and hands-on learning," says Hassen.

The workshop has been held at UBC, SFU, and Douglas Colleges so far his year.

There are limited spaces available and the registration fee is \$15.



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Kwantlen Chronicle

Lucadio Gutierrez reads a Red Cross poster at a KSA bulletin board.