

FPAA Voices

Randy Boswell
Journalism that
Rewrites History

Ummni Khan
Shifting Views
on Sexuality

Gilbert Whiteduck
On the Road of Love
and Hope



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Message from our Dean



After the surprising election results in the recent U.S. Presidential election, I was reminded of the urgent relevancy of our University's work.

In the days immediately following the election, colleagues from diverse academic backgrounds joined together to host public discussions about the meaning of the election and the repercussions for Canada and the world.

Throughout our Faculty's twelve academic units, this sea change is being discussed and researched as faculty members and students look for ways to place it in the context of their academic disciplines, and help us navigate this new geopolitical terrain.

Their dedication to building a better society

and better democracy, and to helping our students become informed citizens and leaders, is inspiring.

It's also a reflection of Carleton University's 75 years of dedication to education and public outreach. The year 2017 will mark Carleton's 75th anniversary and we are planning a year-long celebration within our Faculty and the University as a whole.

It's especially meaningful for us in the Faculty of Public Affairs because Carleton's first programs—and first graduates—were in Journalism and in Public Administration. We've learned more about the history of those first graduates in 1946 thanks to the research of Journalism Professor Randy Boswell, who is profiled in this issue's cover story.

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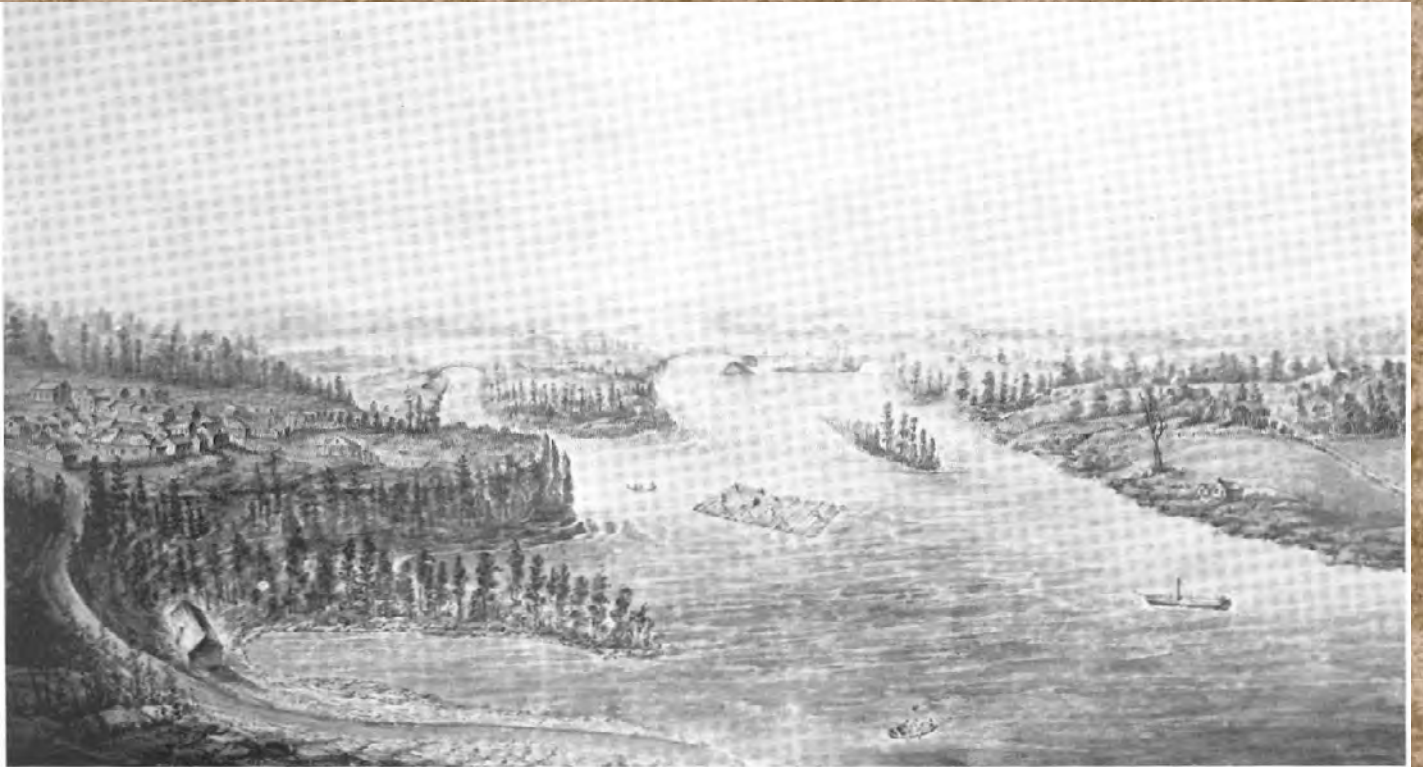
Front Cover: Randy Boswell.

We will also share the story of Aboriginal leader and educator Gilbert Whiteduck, an alumnus of our School of Social Work and a member of our *75 for the 75th*. Since April, we have been introducing you to five prominent alumni each month through our *75 for the 75th* project in honour of Carleton's birthday. The stories will wrap up in June 2017, when Carleton officially turns 75.

Carleton's anniversary also inspired us to host a major conference in March 2017 entitled *Visions for Canada, 2042: Imagining the Canada of the Future*, which will feature panel discussions on pressing societal issues, as well as keynote lectures and a gala dinner. The question being asked throughout the conference is, "What will Canada look like 25 years from now?"

It's a question our students and faculty are exploring every day and I invite you to join us—and them—on this educational journey during Carleton's 75th year in 2017.

André Plourde
Dean, Faculty of Public Affairs
Carleton University



Public Archives of Canada

BYTOWN, ABOUT 1830

Artist unknown

This picture originally belonged to Colonel By, and was presented to the Dominion Archives by Bishop Roper

"After discovering an ancient burial ground, I became more and more interested in the wealth of information that remains locked in old newspapers."

FPA People

Randy Boswell

Assistant Professor of Journalism, School
of Journalism and Communication

FPA People

Randy Boswell

Assistant Professor of Journalism, School of Journalism and *Communication*

During his years of working in daily journalism at The Ottawa Citizen and Postmedia News, Randy Boswell developed a reputation for finding historical stories in unlikely places — including old newspaper files. That niche has yielded much more than a steady stream of news reports: it's led to articles in publications such as the Canadian Journal of Archaeology and Rolling Stone magazine that have altered the historical record.

Do you remember the first time you found a story in a newspaper archive?

I can remember it very specifically: it was May 2002 and there were plans to build the Canadian War Museum on a piece of land in Ottawa called LeBreton Flats. There was a lot of excitement in the archaeology community because the land was believed to be near the site of an ancient aboriginal ossuary.

I looked through microfilm from the Bytown Gazette in 1843, when the burial ground was discovered, and found an article that pointed to a site across the river. It turned the whole understanding of the whereabouts of that site upside down.

What was the reaction to this discovery?

It gained national news coverage and prompted a push for the repatriation of human remains from the then-Canadian Museum of Civilization by local Algonquin people. Years later, after more newspaper-based research yielded additional findings about the site, I approached the top archaeologist at the museum and we wrote two lengthy academic articles about this burial place for the Canadian Journal of Archaeology. It all made me realize what a valuable resource newspapers are for troubleshooting conventional historical narratives.



What are the advantages to researching newspaper archives?

Since it's arranged chronologically, you can go back to certain dates that intersect with major events and get a lot more fine-grained detail about how people perceived what was happening at the time.

You've been published across the country, but your greatest coup may have been your story that appeared

in *Rolling Stone* this year in which you uncovered the true story behind the Elvis song “Heartbreak Hotel”. How did that come about?

It began as a thought that crossed my mind: maybe I could identify the anonymous man who inspired the songwriters, Tommy Durden and Mae Axton. The conventional wisdom was that the song was sparked by a news story about a man who had committed suicide in Florida and left a note that said, “I walk a lonely street.”

Within an hour, I had tapped into a newspaper database and found the story was actually about Alvin Krolik, a man who travelled from Chicago to Texas, where he was shot and killed while trying to rob a liquor store.

I sent it to *Rolling Stone* and they took the story because “Heartbreak Hotel” is arguably the most influential song in rock ‘n’ roll history, and the mystery surrounding its origins had prevailed for 60 years.

A bit closer to home, you uncovered news articles from Carleton University’s first convocation, which was in October 1946 — 70 years ago. They include a quote from Governor General Viscount Alexander, who told graduates: “You have done your duty in war; now prepare yourself to do your duty in peace.” That’s a reference to Carleton’s original mission to retrain returning servicemen.

But interestingly, four of Carleton’s first six graduates were women!

All three journalism graduates were women — Betty Cameron, Faith Hutchison and Ellen Lennox — along with one of the public administration graduates, Olga Bishop. Ms. Bishop went on to obtain six postsecondary degrees, including a PhD, and became a noteworthy figure in Canadian library science. It’s a good example of information that was known at one time but had largely been forgotten.

What’s your next project?

I’m currently working on a book about Dr. Edward Van Cortlandt, a prominent citizen of Ottawa in the 1850s and ‘60s who played a significant role in several fields of emerging science including archaeology, geology, medicine and conservation. His name kept appearing in news articles from the time, and he was the same antiquarian who’d excavated — and desecrated — that important indigenous burial site back in 1843.



Photograph of Dr. Edward Van Cortlandt, September 1870, by William James Topley, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa

Visions for Canada 2042

***Imagining a Future Canada:
An Interdisciplinary Conference***

March 2-4, 2017

- Film Screening and post-film panel discussion, 'My Father's Land', by award-winning Inuk filmmaker Zacharius Kunuk, Mayfair Cinema.
- Papers and panels by faculty and graduate students from the Faculty of Public Affairs, Carleton University, on a diverse range of topics related to Canada's future.
- Informal dialogues and post-panel discussions.
- Keynote Lecture by Kiera Ladner, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Manitoba and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Politics and Governance.
- Closing Gala Dinner, Shaw Centre, Ottawa, with keynote speech.

carleton.ca/fpa/visions



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Career Paths

Gilbert W. Whiteduck, Residential Counselor, Wanaki Residential Treatment Centre

Bachelor of Social Work ('97)

Gilbert Whiteduck is a member of the Faculty of Public Affairs' 75 for the 75th project, which recognizes 75 prominent alumni in honour of Carleton University's 75th anniversary in 2017. He also represents the Faculty in Carleton's CU75 campaign.

Over the next few issues, we will be sharing the career paths of the 75 for the 75th.

By 2015, Mr. Gilbert Whiteduck had worked for over 30 years as an educator in his community, as the elected Chief of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, and as a well-known activist and speaker.

But some days, as he was driving home after delivering a speech or testifying before a parliamentary committee, he would say to himself, "Have I made a difference in the lives of the people most in need today? I gave a beautiful speech and everyone stood up and applauded. But it was a flash in the pan. I didn't do a damned thing."

And so, after many years of working in a community leadership position, Mr. Whiteduck decided he needed to take care of his own spiritual, mental, emotional and physical wellbeing. He therefore left his position and "found his way back to a state of wellbeing by connecting to his ancestral spirituality".

He subsequently decided to go work with people who had great needs and wanted to get on "the red road—a road of love and hope". He accepted a position as

a Residential Counselor at the Wanaki Residential Treatment Centre in the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg community.

"I had never worked at this type of frontline work before, but I wanted to see how colonization truly impacted the lives of First Nations directly," the 62-year-old explains. "Now, I sometimes hear from young people who have lost hope. I hear about the collective impact of residential schools and about racism, which is alive and well. I hear of poverty and this continued movement of covert forced assimilation. I also see many young and older people regain their pride as First Nation people of the land and therefore find their true spirit which came from the first heartbeat and will remain until the last."

But despite the challenges of extreme poverty, addiction, suicides, Mr. Whiteduck refuses to see the glass as half-empty.

"Again and again, when people reconnect with their First Nations or Inuit ancestral way of life, we see a positive change happen. There's just an opening, but it's so exciting," says Mr. Whiteduck. "We want to help them find that spirit they were born with, that is still whole and beautiful, whether they are 17-years-old or 60+ years-old."

Mr. Whiteduck says the counselors are not there to lead, but to accompany the clients during their five-weeks at the centre. They rely on traditional tools such as the medicine wheel, which is used for spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical healing—thereby equipping clients with tools and support from both the traditional community and the mainstream community. The Seven Grandfather teachings also frame the approach that is taken.

“This work draws both on my Social Work degree and on the teachings I received over many years to help make a difference for people,” he says. “I became very accustomed to doing speeches and talking, but I’ve started doing more listening than ever before. Often, people are not looking for much more than that. They need to know and feel that that they are loved.”

In addition to his counselling work, Mr. Whiteduck remains a front-line activist, as well—challenging government leaders to help improve life in First Nations and Inuit communities.

“There are promises in a budget speech. But at the community level, promises don’t mean a damned thing because nothing significant has changed,” he says. “There are children (on reserve) across Canada without safe drinking water, quality education or equal family support. It has to go beyond words.”

In all of his efforts, Mr. Whiteduck continues to bring his focus back to the people around him: his neighbours, the youth, and the First Nation people that come to the treatment centre.

“I tell the youth that I speak with in my community and elsewhere that if they ever want to come over and talk, I’m there. I’m trying to convey hope and pride and not allow them to let go of that,” says Mr. Whiteduck. “We can’t let our ancestral teachings get lost in mainstream Canada.”





From the Foreign Service to foreign correspondents, FPA alumni lead fascinating and inspiring lives.

In honour of Carleton University's 75th anniversary in 2017, we're profiling 75 of the Faculty of Public Affairs' most inspiring alumni over the next year. We'll release five new ones each month until June 2017.

carleton.ca/fpa/75-75



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A portrait of Professor Ummni Khan, a woman with dark hair and blue eyes, smiling. She is positioned in front of a bookshelf filled with various books. The books are of different colors and sizes, some with titles visible like 'Empowerment for Global Change', 'Moving...', 'GENDER, VIOLEN...', 'DESTINED FOR A LIFE OF SERVICE', 'ghosts OF REVOLUTION', 'POLITICS OF NATIONALISM', 'POL NATION...', and 'The Case of th...'.

Field Notes

Ummni Khan

Professor of Law and Legal Studies, Pauline Jewett Joint Chair in Women's Studies at Carleton University and University of Ottawa

Professor Ummni Khan was an undergraduate at Concordia University when she first encountered the feminist “sex wars” that rocked the feminist movement throughout the 1970’s and 80’s. Feminists clashed over issues of feminist identity, pornography, sado-masochism, butch and femme identity, and sex work. Professor Khan studies the evolution of these debates today.

“Radical feminists were convinced that criminalizing pornography was a key—if not the key—to ending the objectification of women,” says Professor Khan, who is the current Joint Chair in Women and Gender studies, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Law and Legal Studies. “There’s a puritanism that runs through this brand of feminism that rests on sexual exceptionalism. The idea is sex is sacred. So it follows that graphic representations of sex must inherently be degrading and harmful to women.”

These are among topics that will be explored at the FPA Research Excellence Symposium on February 27, entitled, *Sex Wars and Erotic Empowerment*. As the 2016 winner of the FPA Research Excellence Award, Professor Khan is hosting the symposium at Carleton University, which

will strive to fill in the gaps in the history of Canada’s feminist movement.

“I hope to fill in the history of Canadian debates around porn, erotica, and expression and to discuss ways in which those with marginalized identities have used erotica as a source of pleasure and empowerment,” she explains. “I’m concerned about the lack of representation of diverse sexual interests, bodies and identities.”

As a law professor and the author of *Vicarious Kinks: Sodomasochism in the Socio-Legal Imaginary*, Khan questions the use of the state to police sexuality.

“We need to ask what happens when the state is the arbiter of what is right and wrong. Does criminalization help women? Does it help sex workers? The empirical evidence suggests that it doesn’t,” says Professor Khan. “Even if it’s the most misogynistic thing in the world, it does not follow that it should be criminalized.”

While she acknowledges that the subject matter is controversial, Professor Khan contends that the use of the criminal justice system as a deterrent to unconventional or unpopular sexual behavior warrants closer examination.

Open Book

The Book: *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* by Iain Reid

The Reviewer: Gina Freitag, Assistant to the Chair/Communications Coordinator in the Department of Law and Legal Studies (Carleton BA Hon. '07, MA Film Studies '11)

The colder months are perfect for curling up with a good book—something intriguing for company when we are driven indoors by the early darkness and dreary weather. Local author Iain Reid's debut novel, *I'm Thinking of Ending Things*, is an unsettling psychological thriller that stirs the imagination, proving just how chilling the cold countryside can be when it's the setting of sinister happenings.

The reader is lured in through the mind of the narrator, an unnamed woman who is lost in a flurry of recollections and conflicting feelings about her relationship with a man named Jake. As the couple traverses the winter landscape to a distant country home so that she can 'meet the parents', we navigate her winding thoughts and reflect on the nature of memory, the perception of reality as it is revisited and reconstructed, and the obsession with trying to make sense of things that unnerve us. The novel creates a quiet, creeping sense of horror through the narrator's growing discomfort, not only in the isolating effect of her confusion and in the strangeness of her encounter with Jake's parents, but in her interactions with Jake himself as he leads her around the familiar haunts of his youth.

Reid has previously noted that the story was written with the intention that it could be read in a single sitting. The eerie imagery and entangling narrative promises that the reader will be too reluctant to part ways with the novel before reaching its thrilling conclusion.



Events

Political Science: “The Rise of Populism: Economic Inequality or Cultural Backlash?”
December 2 | [More information here](#)

NPSIA: “The Year Ahead Conference: NPSIA’s Premier Foreign and Defence Policy Conference”.
December 8 | [More information here](#)

Economics: Ongoing seminar series with Tatyana Koreshkova of Concordia University.
December 9 | [More information here](#)

FPA/Law and Legal Studies: Author Meets Readers on *Sensing Law*, a collection written by faculty within the Department of Law and Legal Studies.
January 26 | [More information here](#)



[Faculty units can submit upcoming events here](#)

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