Message from the Chair

Dr. Brian McKillop  
Chair, Department of History

For most of us in the department, except perhaps those anticipating a much-deserved sabbatical leave, the academic year 2007-08 has sped by. It seems almost yesterday that the Shannon Lectures in Social History took place, yet that was several months ago. Meanwhile, in March our graduate students organized and hosted the Underhill Graduate Student Colloquium, now celebrating its 14th year. Rod Phillips and Jennifer Evans have recently won major Carleton University research awards, and many other members of the department have been extremely active at conferences and with publications.

The dissertations of our former doctoral students continue to appear almost every year as new books. This is a source of genuine pride for all members of the department, not former supervisors alone. The early publications of graduates of a graduate program are of course affairs of personal accomplishment. But each published dissertation is also, and genuinely, the product of a good deal of academic collaboration. Theses and dissertations reflect more than an individual's research alone: they involve perspectives and knowledge gained from courses taken in several fields; supervised reading with one or more professors; advice gathered through informal conversation within and outside the departmental precinct; suggestions provided by the supervisor or supervisors, and by members of the dissertation examination committee; and then, more suggestions from colleagues and friends, about how to make the dissertation publishable.

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Carleton's postgraduates have produced a wide range of books. The trend began in 1988, when Bruce Elliott and Duncan McDowall, among the department's earliest Carleton doctoral students, published The Light and Irish Migrants to the Canadas -- major books on Canadian business and migration, respectively. Contributions to Canadian social history have included Robert McIntosh, Boys in the Pits, on child labour in coal mines; Kerry Badgley, Ringing in the Common Badge of Good, on the United Farmers of Ontario; and the revised 1998 MA thesis of Jill St. Germain, Indian Treaty-Making Policy in the United States and Canada -- each published in 2000. Notable Carleton contributions to Canadian scholarship on business and military history are Matthew Bellamy's work on Polymer Corporation, Profiting the Crown (2005), Kenneth Radley's study of the First Canadian Division, C.E.F. (2006) during the Great War, and Grant Dawson's case study of the Canadian military engagement in Somalia,"Here is Hell" (2007).

These books are remarkable not only for their range of interest and their breadth of reach, but also for the importance of the subjects their authors have chosen. Not a hint of the arcane or the parochial or the irrelevant is to be found among them -- no studies of ‘housemaid's knee in Belleville.’

To this impressive list, we can now add Janet Friskney's *New Canadian Library: The Ross-McClelland Years 1952-1978*, an important addition to the history of Canadian publishing, released early in 2008. It is the latest, but certainly will not be not the last, of a remarkable contribution from a history department with a Canadian graduate program of modest size but with considerable ambition, perspective, and originality in the students it chooses to admit.

A.B. McKillop, F.R.S.C.
Chancellor's Professor and Chair
Department of History

**Faculty News**

**Prizes, Publications, Presentations & then some …**

**Larry Black** (emeritus) has completed briefing papers for CSIS on corruption in Russia and Russian Expansion into Central Asia.

-- his collaborative work with the *Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations* (CRCR) will be supported by a grant from the Donner Canadian Foundation.


-- participated in the workshop ‘Using Gender as a Category of Analysis for Environmental Activism’ at the American Society for Environmental History, Boise, Idaho, March 2008.

**Audra Diptee** is part of an international network of scholars whose research will be funded by a SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) grant over the next seven years. They will be working on the *Slavery, Memory, and Citizenship* project which has its headquarters at the Harriet Tubman Institute at York University.

-- was given an award by the Black History Month committee of the Carleton University Students’ Association for her support of student activities on campus. The award was made at the Black History Cultural Show on February 8th at Kailash Mital Theatre.


-- presented ‘Lenin on Vacation’ to the Ottawa Historical Association, February 2008.

Jennifer Evans was awarded a FASS Research Award to work on her manuscript on what happened to the permissiveness of Weimar Berlin After Hitler.

-- presented ‘Life Among the Ruins: Sex and Subculture in Destroyed Berlin’ at the German Studies Association Annual General Meeting, San Diego, October, 2007; this presentation was also given to the conference Democracy, Law and Intimacy: Toward a Moral History of Postwar Europe at the Centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes, Université de Montréal, November, 2007.

-- presented ‘Mapping Manhood in Cold War Berlin’ at the Berlin, Divided City, 1945-89 Workshop, Department of Germanic Studies, University of Texas (Austin), March, 2008.

Hal Goldman received the 2007-2008 Contract Instructor Award. The award recognizes outstanding performance by a part-time instructor.


-- was an invited member of the panel ‘Author Meets Critics: Scholars Critique Matthew Connelly’s Book Fatal Misconceptions: The Struggle to Control World Population’ (Harvard, 2008) at the annual meeting of the Council for European Studies, Chicago, March, 2008.

Roy Laird gave the guest lecture ‘The Secret at Galileo’s Trial’ to the History of Science Program at Indiana University, January 2008.


-- continues to serve as advisor on international politics to Hon. Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety.

Brian McKillop presented ‘Reflections on Tradition’ to a Canadian Studies graduate seminar at the Frost Centre at Trent University, January 2008; he also gave a public presentation ‘Pierre Berton and the Consumer Society in Canada’ to a lunch time audience.

His most recent book, Pierre Berton: A Biography, is completed and in press with McClelland and Stewart. It will be published in September.


James Opp was awarded a Visiting Research Fellowship at the University of Calgary’s Institute for the Humanities. The award will be taken up during his sabbatical in the 2008-2009 academic year.

-- presented ‘Antimodern Albums and Modern Memory: Ernest Brown’s Photographic collection and the Visualization of Western Canadian History’ to the Montreal History Group, McGill University, March 2008.

-- gave two guest lectures at the inauguration of the ‘Eighteenth Century Worlds’ project at the University of Liverpool, February 2008.

-- was a guest speaker at the ‘The History of History and John Pocock’s Histories of History’ held at Johns Hopkins University. His paper was entitled ‘Historical Distance and Visual Representation,’ March 2008.

Roderick Phillips was awarded the Marston LaFrance Fellowship for 2008-2009. He will use it to complete his research on the family during the French Revolution.

-- gave a lecture to Carleton Alumni in Montreal. The talk, entitled ‘From Diet to Discretion: The Changing Meaning of Alcohol,’ was part of the Focus series organized by Alumni Services.

John Walsh and Jim Opp were awarded a SSHRC Workshop Grant in support of their project ‘Remembering Place and Placing Memory in Canadian History.’ The workshop will be held in July 2008.

Murray Watson gave a public talk entitled ‘Unlocking Memories: Recording and Listening to Family Histories’ at Library and Archives Canada, March 1st 2008. The session was organized by the British Isles Family History Society Of Greater Ottawa.


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Library News

I am pleased to inform the History Department that the library has recently acquired the following:

- Mark Freeman, The English Rural Poor, 1850-1914, 5 Volumes, (Pickering & Chatto, 2005).

In addition, we now have a trial subscription to ‘Making of the Modern World Digital Archive.’ This collection promises to be useful to a number of faculty members for both research and teaching purposes. Our subscription ends on April 25th 2008. Faculty members interested in this collection beyond the trial period should contact me by email.

Finally, there is now an electronic database for fellowships, scholarships, and grants available through the library website. To access the database, search the library catalogue under Community of Science. Despite its name, this database includes much relevant material for scholars in the humanities and social science.

Margaret McLeod,
Subject Specialist for History
Letter from the Brian Foster, HGSA President

When I and my cohort arrived at Carleton two years ago there was a tangible sense that the graduate community was on the cusp of big changes. Carleton’s history program was growing and it took little time for graduate students to see the need to adapt the social and collegial culture amongst graduates to meet this new reality. To this end, the founding of the HGSA and its inaugural year in 2007-2008 has been a tremendous success. Capturing and supplementing departmental and graduate collegiality 2007-2008 was nothing short of a fantastic and successful year for graduate students in Carleton History. We have started exciting new traditions and continued to work to improve pre-existing ones. Thanks to the planning of Tom Rorke and the generous funding of the department, graduates have participated in intramural dodgeball and soccer. Thanks to the hard work of our Vice-President Social, Jennifer Wilhelm, and the dependable initiatives of the social committee we celebrated at every opportunity. We had our second annual Christmas Party, our first annual Orientation event, hosted nearly a half-dozen pub nights, saw the Ottawa 67s play and even learned how to curl—and all in two semesters. Graduates are excited and engaged, the halls are bustling with bodies, and students feel a sense of collegiality that connects them to the department in a real way. Drawn in by this growing sense of community and breathing a new institutional life into the university, the HGSA executive and its members have collectively invested hundreds of hours into making the department and school something of which we are all proud.

For this reason, it is equally important that we recall the path breaking year we had, not only socially, but in terms of asserting the graduate presence at Carleton and contributing to the shaping of the department. Working closely with the graduate committee, Dave Tough and the HGSA graduate committee have offered constructive ideas on improving the department’s website and offered constructive thoughts on how to present and market Carleton History to incoming MAs and PhDs. This year’s Underhill Colloquium, it should be said, was a resounding and tremendous success. Along with the hard work of the Underhill Coordinators, the HGSA worked to create the History Rock Social event. Showing up in impressive numbers, faculty and graduates had the opportunity to share in food and drink while being serenaded by the music of the departments own “Allrights.” I can only hope that every Underhill is exciting and successful as this year was and that the traditions, both new and old, are continued with the same commitment and zeal we saw this year. Continuing with new traditions, the HGSA, with the help of Ward Minnis, has designed and launched a new HGSA website for guests, potential students and graduates to access for up-to-date news, pictures and information about Carleton’s graduate history community. And lastly, We are in the process of organizing what we hope will be the first annual doctoral student research seminar, for ABD students hoping to present preliminary research to an audience of their peers. The HGSA and its members are doing their part to contribute to the growth of the graduate program’s vibrant social and academic foundation. As yet another academic year comes to an end, I and the HGSA executive want to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone for their hard work and for sharing good times with their peers. If the HGSA was a social experiment in cultivating a collegial environment at the grassroots, I don’t think it is premature to announce that we have seen success. This was a great year and I can only hope that the graduate culture at Carleton History continues to nurture what has truly become a vibrant community.

HGSA Executive (2007-2008)
President: Brian Foster
Vice-President (VP) Academic-External: David Tough
First Year MA Representative: Chris Miller
Treasurer-Secretary: Lorna Chisholm
Vice-President (VP) Social-Internal: Jennifer Wilhelm


Julie Columbus was awarded the Maureen O’Neil Award for Women’s Studies.


Brian Foster passed his comprehensive examinations with distinction.


Kristina Guiguet was awarded the Natalie Luckyj Scholarship (2007-2008).


-- received Honorable Mention for the 2007 Pauline Alderman Award for Outstanding Scholarship on Women in Music: Reference Book or Research Tool category, for her CD *Mrs. Widder's Soiree Musicales, Toronto, 1844* (Ottawa: Melotrope, 2006). The CD is a teaching aid, based on her MA work, and now published as *The Ideal World of Mrs. Widder's Soiree Musicales: Social Identity and Musical Life in Nineteenth-Century Ontario* (Mercury Series of the Canadian Museum of Civilisation, 2004).

Maureen Mahoney passed her comprehensive examinations with distinction.

Edward Minnis was selected to participate in the Cropper Foundation Creative Writers Residential Workshop. In July, he will spend three weeks in Balandra, Trinidad working with other Caribbean writers.

David Tough passed his comprehensive examinations with distinction.

-- co-presented “‘If we lose the post office we lose everything’: Representing Contentious Politics in the Rural Resistance to Canada Post Restructuring in the 1980s’ at the Underhill Colloquium, March 2008 – with Lorna Chisholm.


Jennifer Wilhelm presented ‘(Inter)national Identity: City of Gold and the NFB’ at a public history roundtable held at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, February 2008.
On March 6-7th The Fourteenth Annual Underhill Graduate Student Colloquium was hosted by the history graduate students. The two days saw papers presented on a wide range of topics including the influence of the environment on the Libyan slave trade, the Vancouver Art Gallery as a site of protest, anticommunist schools in Southern California, female alcoholics in Victorian Britain and various ways of constructing a Canadian identity. Half the presenters came from outside the Carleton history department and featured students from, anthropology, art history, legal studies, Eastern European and Russian Studies, political science and, of course, history.

The Carleton Lunch and Learn series was continued for the second year as Dr. Marc Saurette presented on “Representing the Pre-Christian Other in Twelfth Century Chronicle” or more specifically “Representations of Cyrus the Great in Christian Historiography.” The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Lynda Jessup from the Department of Art History at Queen’s University. Entitled “Winners’ History: Exhibiting The Group of Seven,” the talk was well attended despite the snow storm.

There were two social events to the Colloquium, a Thursday evening trip to the National Gallery of Canada followed by dinner at the Earl of Sussex Pub, and the First Annual HGSA History Rock Social on Friday night. The gallery and pub night offered a fantastic opportunity for the out-of-town presenters and Carleton students to visit in a more informal setting. The History Rock Social, held at the Corner Bar and Grill, was a roaring success due, in no small part, to the hard work of HGSA VP Social Jennifer Wilhelm. Music was provided by The Allrights, featuring Dave Banoub and Dave Tough as members, and appreciation for their alt-country sounds was shown by applause and dancing. It was great to see some professors at the event and we hope next year even more are able to make it out and join the graduate students in celebrating the successful completion of the longest running student-organized history colloquium in the country.

Co-Chairs Maureen Mahoney and Lauren Wheeler would like to extend thanks to all the students, faculty and staff who helped make this year’s colloquium a success. Attendance at sessions was fantastic and all the presenters appreciated seeing professors at the sessions and the questions they asked. Huge thanks to all the Carleton students for being gracious hosts to the out-of-town presenters.

Selection of the co-chairs for the Fifteenth Annual Underhill Graduate Student Colloquium will take place when the new HGSA executive is selected in April.

Lauren Wheeler, Co-Chair

Organizing Committee

Co-Chairs: Maureen Mahoney & Lauren Wheeler
Shadow Program Coordinators: Susan Joudrey & Valerie Minnett
Media/Graphic Services Liaisons: Michael Gagné, Joel Kropf
Audio-Visual Co-ordinators: Peter Anderson, Jennifer Wilhelm
Catering Committee: Valerie Minnett, Andrew Denstedt, Julie Columbus
Public Relations Liaison: Lisa Kilner
Website: Edward Minnis
Presenter Liaison: Jess Dunkin
Thursday Night Activities: Tom Rorke
Rock Social Co-ordinator: Jennifer Wilhelm
Website News: Dr. James Opp (Director) and Ms. Jennie Wilhelm (Research Assistant) are pleased to announce that the CCPH has launched its new and revised website at www.carleton.ca/ccph.

The Pinhey Family at War, 1914-1918

As a project for Paul's Litt's course ‘Introduction to Public History’ the Department's Public History MA students of 2007-08 researched and planned an exhibit for a local heritage organization, the Pinhey's Point Foundation. Bruce Elliott was the project advisor and liaison. The Pinhey Family at War 1914-1918 opened at Pinhey's Point Historic Site in August. Here two of the students, Lauren Wheeler and Lorna Chisholm, pose with the exhibit and with restoration architect Julian Smith, formerly of the School of Canadian Studies, who spoke at the opening about his restoration of the Vimy Memorial. The exhibit will be on view again this summer at the historic site on the Ottawa River.

Credits: Michele LeBoldus, Pinhey's Point Foundation

Announcements

- The History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) is pleased to announce the launch of its new website at www.carleton.ca/hgsa. The site provides a central location to keep track of HGSA events.

- Tim Krywulak has taken up a position as a Senior Research Associate in the Education and Learning Division at the Conference Board of Canada in March 2008. The Department of History wishes him well in this new position.

Newsletter Edited by
Dr. Audra A. Diptee
Department of History