The department has seen many changes since our last newsletter was published. First and foremost, we ruefully sent Jack Little off to his retirement after nearly forty years of service to the department and an incredibly productive scholarly career: Jack is the author of nine books and over fifty articles! We are sure, however, that retirement will do nothing to slow down his contributions to our historical knowledge, and we eagerly look forward to his forthcoming book on landscapes, tourism, and representations of Canadian identity (see the tribute to Jack on page 8).

While Jack’s loss to the department will be significant, we were lucky to hire four young colleagues who together just might be able to surpass Jack’s lifetime publication totals! Last fall saw the arrival of Tina Adcock, a specialist on the cultural and environmental history of the Canadian north, and this fall, we are pleased to welcome back Sarah Walshaw, who is returning as Senior Lecturer in African history, as well as two new colleagues, Katie McCullough and Weiting Guo, whose expertise in Scottish and Taiwanese history, respectively, bring two new fields to our increasingly global course offerings.

Staff members too came and went. We wish Allison McMahon, who has done a stellar job as the department’s Communications and Events Coordinator (including contributing to this newsletter), all the best in her new career path, as she enters UBC Law School: we relish the further proof her decision provides that you can indeed do anything with a history degree! We bid a fond farewell to Tammy Theis, extended a warm welcome to her replacement Liane McIlmoyle, and then lured Tammy back to the department as Allison’s replacement. Alumni can look forward to hearing from Tammy as she seeks to extend our outreach and engagement with those of you who have passed through our classrooms in the past fifty years.

Finally, we extend a hearty thanks to Hilmar Pabel for his service as chair, wish him all the best in his well-deserved leave, and look forward to welcoming him back as a colleague next year.

We are proud to highlight the national and international recognition that faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate majors have received for their scholarship in recent months. Nicolas Kenny’s first book, The Feel of the City: Experiences of Urban Transformation (University of Toronto Press, 2014), was shortlisted for the Canadian Historical Association’s prize for the best book in Canadian history while current and recently-graduated graduate students have

Continues next page...
be awarded article prizes by the CHA, graduate fellowships from SSHRC, and Fulbright grants for overseas study (see the Graduate Chair’s Report for more details). Even our history undergraduates are winning attention beyond SFU. Jakub Mscichowski not only received a prize for the best essay written by an undergraduate from the World History Association, but he has also received a Huayu Enrichment Scholarship from the Taiwanese Ministry of Education that will allow Jakub to study Mandarin Chinese in Taiwan this coming year.

SFU historians continue to develop innovative ways to reach beyond the classroom and shape the public’s engagement with history. Roxanne Panchasi has conducted more than twenty-five engaging and thought-provoking interviews with scholars of France and the Francophone world. The interviews are released monthly as podcasts by New Books in French Studies www.newbooksinfrenchstudies.com. Friends of the SFU History Department might be particularly interested in her March 2015 interview with our very own Nicolas Kenny. Elise Chenier launched “Interracial Intimacies: Sex and Race in Toronto, 1910-1950” www.interracialintimacies.org, a website that includes an archive of oral history interviews, newspaper articles, photographs, and other historical documents as well as resources for teachers to help students learn “How to think like a historian.” Andrea Geiger continued her work with the Japanese Canadian Oral History Collection www.centre.nikkeiplace.org/oral-history-collection, a project that is digitizing interviews with Japanese-Canadians, making them accessible to people around the globe. Jeremy Brown and Paul Sedra have used their historical expertise of modern China and modern Egypt, respectively, to comment in the news media on topics ranging from censorship in China to Islamic State attacks on Egyptian Copts.

Paul’s lecture “Egypt 2011: Writing the History of a Revolution in Progress” was one of the highlights of this year’s lecture series, which sought to connect contemporary news items and historical analysis under the title, “This Just In: History and the Headlines.” Additional presentations by Elise Chenier, Joseph Taylor, Bidisha Ray, Janice Matsumura, Roxanne Panchasi, and Jack Little examined Israel’s gay and lesbian politics, the long history of human impacts on the environment in the Salish Sea, sexual violence in India, military suicides during the Asia-Pacific War, the cultural politics of France’s nuclear tests, and l’affaire Coffin.

During this coming year, the History Department joins SFU in celebrating the University’s 50th anniversary with a lecture series focusing on 1965, the year of the university’s founding. The series will kick off in September with a lecture by noted author and filmmaker Tariq Ali and will also include lectures by professor emeritus Hugh Johnston (and author of Radical Campus: Making Simon Fraser University) in November and, in the Spring semester, by Hilmar Pabel and Sarah Walshaw, exploring 1965 in its global contexts. We hope you will join us at these events to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University. See page 7 for more details.

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATION

The Feel of the City: Experiences of Urban Transformation

At the start of the twentieth century, the modern metropolis was a riot of sensation. City dwellers lived in an environment filled with smoky factories, crowded homes, and lively thoroughfares. Sights, sounds, and smells flooded their senses, while changing conceptions of health and decorum forced many to rethink their most banal gestures, from the way they negotiated speeding traffic to the use they made of public washrooms.

The Feel of the City exposes the sensory experiences of city-dwellers in Montreal and Brussels at the turn of the century and the ways in which these shaped the social and cultural significance of urban space. Using the experiences of municipal officials, urban planners, hygienists, workers, writers, artists, and ordinary citizens, Nicolas Kenny explores the implications of the senses for our understanding of modernity.

The Feel of the City was nominated for the Sir John A. MacDonald Prize, awarded annually to the best scholarly book in Canadian history.
ALUMNUS PROFILE:

Gordon Martel

As part of our celebration of SFU’s 50th anniversary, we spoke with charter alumnus Gordon Martel about his experiences in our department. We hope his good memories are representative of the experience of the countless students who have passed through our doors since 1965!

QUICK FACTS

Name: Dr. Gordon Martel
Profession: History Professor (Retired)
Degrees: B.A. (Hons.), SFU, 1968; M.A., Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy (Tufts/Harvard), 1969; PhD, University of Toronto, 1977

When Gordon Martel arrived at SFU in 1965 as part of the first cohort of students at the university, he knew that he wanted to study history. He had no definite career plans—he thought that a degree in history might set him up well for a career as a high school teacher—but was eager to learn as much as possible during his time on the mountain.

Gordon found that opportunities for intellectual engagement abounded on campus. In class, “demanding and imaginative teachers inspired us to think critically and creatively—and not to be afraid of taking a stand.” Gordon arrived at SFU with advanced credits, which allowed him to start taking upper level courses in his second year. In combination with SFU’s efforts to keep classes small, this meant that Gordon enjoyed a high degree of individual attention from his professors.

“I never had a course in my final two years that had more than 10 students in it,” Gordon recalls. “And frequently about half of those students were teachers who had returned to SFU to do a master’s degree,” Gordon explains. “One course, ‘Dynastic Diplomacy,’ consisted of four students in total—one a graduate student, two of us in honours. Beyond everything else, there was no place to hide.”

The workload of the Dynastic Diplomacy course was demanding to say the least. Assignments included four 20-minute paper presentations, which were later written up as 10-page essays; critiques of four classmates’ presentations; and a final essay of 25–30 pages. The demanding nature of this course and others would serve as excellent preparation for graduate school.

“When I went to graduate school in 1969 (the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy—operated by Tufts and Harvard jointly) it seemed like going backward. There I was listening to lectures again, in classes with 20-30 students. I was light years ahead of my fellow students (except when it came to cramming for examinations).”

While the classroom was at the centre of intellectual life on campus, the social and political struggles of the late sixties ensured that learning and engagement extended well outside of the classroom. Between the war in Vietnam, the civil rights movement, and a conservative Board of Governors at SFU, Gordon felt that “there was plenty to get excited about.” The synthesis of learning in and outside the classroom created a unique and exciting educational atmosphere. “The bond between the ‘academic’ side of being a university student in the late 60s and the political and social side of things outside the classroom was very strong,” Gordon says. “The bond invigorated both.”

Within the history department in particular, Gordon recalls a strong current of camaraderie. “One of my fondest memories of undergraduate days was the weekly ‘beer and bellyache’ session that a group of us met for at the Cariboo pub every Thursday evening (it would be years before a pub would be built on campus!) The remarkable thing about this was that the [...] consisted of undergraduate history students, graduate students and faculty. The ‘discussions’ were always lively and informative, especially about doing history and making a career of it.”

These experiences deepened Gordon’s love of history and opened his eyes to a future he had never considered: pursuing a career in academia. “I can still recall the day after a seminar in the fall of 1966 when my prof, Warren Williams, asked me ‘what graduate schools are you thinking of,’” Gordon says. “I didn’t admit that I didn’t know what a graduate school was. But I soon found out—and discovered that several of my profs in History believed I had the ability to succeed if I went on. By that time I was fully aware of how much I enjoyed doing history, and the idea of continuing to do it became truly alluring.”

After completing his M.A. at the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Gordon went on to complete a PhD at the University of Toronto. In spite of an unfavourable job market for historians in Canada, Gordon was able to find a tenure track position at Trent University. He has since held permanent and visiting positions at universities around the world, including Royal Roads Military College, Oxford, SFU, University of Ulster, De Montfort University, University of Western Australia, University of Northern BC, and, most recently, the University of Victoria. He has authored or edited sixteen books on the history of international diplomacy and war, including the Encyclopedia of War (Wiley-Blackwell 2013) and The Month That Changed the World: July 1914 (Oxford University Press 2014).

Looking back on his career, Gordon points to his work at Royal Roads as a particular highlight. Gordon was hired to help design the Military and Strategic Studies curriculum and tailor it to the needs of military officers and the Canadian armed forces. “We designed a highly successful program of studies,” Gordon says, “and many of our students have gone on to take up the highest positions—and many others, when leaving the military, have gone on to do postgraduate studies.”

Gordon also appreciates work has afforded him the opportunity to travel widely and connect with a global community of historians.

Ultimately, Gordon’s experiences at SFU made a profound impression on him and influenced his approach to teaching throughout his career. “It was an amazing opportunity. It left me with a lifelong commitment to know my own students outside of the classroom once I became a professor myself.”
Illustrating History

Most historians trade in the books and articles, with words serving as their only means of expression. Some of the department’s alumni, however, have discovered the power of images in communicating with the public about the past. Below, we interview the alumni behind two such projects.

ERIC SANGWINE

Eric is a retired librarian living in Ontario who spends his spare time making prints inspired by medieval curses. Eric recently donated one of his illustrations to the SFU Department of History; drop by the 6th floor of the AQ to view it!

How did your concept of illustrating medieval curses come about?

I first came across the curses while completing my M.L.S. at the University of Toronto back in 1977. One day, quite by accident, I came across an old book about them on the shelf of the library there. They struck me as funny, but I didn’t decide to interpret them visually until many years later when I was working as a programme librarian for the Oshawa Public Library. It was then that I decided to illustrate the curses as an amusing way to introduce young people and adults to a little known chapter in medieval history.

What drew you to curses?

Actually, my interests are eclectic. I’m happy illustrating anything that strikes my fancy—from comic tales by James Thurber to fables by Leo Tolstoy and, of course, the world of the Middle Ages. I also enjoy doing caricatures, especially when I have the opportunity to show my subject in an historical setting. For example, in one caricature I portrayed a colleague whose background is in classics in a pose inspired by the statue Augustus of Prima Porta. Around my “antique librarian,” I penned famous Latin sayings, all re-interpreted to appeal to a bibliophile. Eg., Caesar’s Veni, Vidi, Vici (I came, I saw, I conquered) became Veni, Vici, Legi (I came, I saw, I read). I’ve just finished my Christmas card design for this year, inspired by A.A. Milne’s poem “King John’s Christmas.” Since this year is the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, this subject seemed especially topical.

What do illustrations offer that words alone cannot?

Illustrations can fill gaps left by the author (intentionally or not). For example, in “The Unicorn in the Garden,” a favourite tale of mine by James Thurber, there are no physical descriptions of the main characters. So I had fun interpreting them my way. In one case, I drew inspiration from a portrait painted by Alex Colville.

JULIA SMITH & SEAN CARLETON

Julia and Sean, recent graduates of History’s MA program, are now PhD candidates at the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies (Trent University). They are both members of the Graphic History Collective, an organization that publishes historically accurate comics. Their work includes May Day: A Graphic History of Protest and Drawn to Change: Graphic Histories of Working-Class Struggles (forthcoming). Read their comics online: www.graphichistorycollective.com

Why graphic novels? What do you think the graphic element gives the reader that words alone cannot?

Historians use a variety of mediums to tell stories about the past. Each medium, of
course, has its own strengths and appeal, and we see them as complementary. The comics medium, though, is unique in that it offers readers an incredible amount of interpretive power to create their own meaning from the story. Using the images and text as a guide, comics readers can control the pacing and interpretation of a given story. Comics, as sequential combinations of information, are necessarily incomplete and thus require the reader to piece things together to derive overall meaning. Ultimately, then, we use the comics medium because we believe the kind of active storytelling that reading a comic book requires can foster consciousness-raising and empowerment.

Your work is quite political. Is this a conscious historiographical/political choice, or simply a matter of where your historical interests lie?

Historian and activist Howard Zinn used to say that “you can’t be neutral on a moving train.” Recounting the events of the past, then, is not a neutral endeavour. It is profoundly political. Taking inspiration from Zinn and other activist academics, we argue that how we choose to see the past shapes our understanding of ourselves and the power we possess to change the present and the future. As a result, we choose to focus on stories of struggle that can inspire hope for social change.

Who is your readership? What do you hope your readers take away from your work (if anything)?

Our readership ranges from young kids stumbling across the May Day comic book in the local public library to teachers, activists, and history-lovers of all kinds. Overall, we hope that after reading one of our projects, people understand that they are powerful historical agents that can organize with others to bring about positive social change.

What unexpected challenges have you faced in preparing graphic novels? How does researching/writing a graphic novel differ from researching/writing an academic article?

Comics are collaborative endeavours and the production process, while a lot of fun, can be long and arduous. A storyboard for a ten-page comic book can take months or more to perfect, and even then the artist(s) might want to re-write sections when they actually start transforming the storyboard into comics form. Working collaboratively, though, is the most rewarding part of comics production. One unexpected challenge we face is learning to say more with less. This is not necessarily as simple as using fewer words. It is more about being strategic with the words you use and finding ways to connect them with images to suggest new but unstated meaning. This creates the layers of historical meaning that make historical comic books a lot of fun to read as well as excellent teaching tools.
Weiting Guo received his LL.B and M.L. from National Taiwan University and LL.M. from University of Southern California. He is completing his PhD in Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia. He is a social and legal historian of late imperial China and nineteenth-century Taiwan, with a particular focus on law and violence, local politics, and crime and punishment from a comparative perspective. His current project, “The Speed of Justice: Summary Execution and Chinese Legal Culture, 1748-1937” explores the rise of summary execution from the eighteenth-century “prosperous era” to the twentieth-century turbulent time. Drawing upon abundant sources from central and local archives, he examines how the extensive use of an extraordinary punishment tremendously impacted Chinese legal culture and transformed judicial system before the advent of Westernization.

Weiting Guo has received fellowships and grants from the Harvard Yenching Library, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation. He is currently the Secretary of the International Society for Chinese Law and History (ISCLH).

I was born and raised in Victoria, B.C. where I did my undergraduate degree in history at the University of Victoria. Since then, I pursued an MA in history and a PhD in modern Scottish history at the University of Guelph where I was very active with the University of Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies and in the local Scottish community. I have spent many years travelling to Scotland, which has now become my second home. I am thrilled to be able to return to my native British Columbia and share my passion for Scotland with students at SFU and the local community.

My research focuses on transatlantic networks of support for Highland Scottish economic and cultural development in the British Empire in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Currently I am working on two articles: one exploring the support for Highland Scottish settlement in Glengarry, Ontario by the Highland Society of London (est. 1778) and its branch in Glengarry, the Highland Society of Canada (est. 1818), and another examining the early theorization of free trade in the Atlantic World by the eighteenth-century Scottish economic theorist Dr. James Anderson who formed many of his ideas by observing uneven development in the Scottish Highlands as compared to the rest of Great Britain. My future research will place Scottish settlement in British Columbia in the context of broader patterns of imperial expansion.
LIANE MCILMOYLE  
Finance & Administration Clerk

I’ve been working in the History Department in a financial and administrative capacity for the last year and have thoroughly enjoyed being surrounded by such an interesting and dynamic group of people. I have a varied professional background ranging from owning my own businesses, working in the legal field and my most treasured job, being a mom to two adult boys, who also happen to be SFU Alumni. When I’m not crunching numbers at work you will usually find me on the trails with my golden retriever, Ryder.

TAMMY THEIS  
Coordinator, Communications & Events

I’m beyond thrilled to be back in History with the opportunity to engage current and prospective students, alumni and the public in the exciting things happening in our department! I’m also working on my MA in Liberal Studies at SFU, taking a class currently in the fall with our department’s own Emily O’Brien. I’ve worked as a professional singer/songwriter and breakdancer before coming to SFU, and plan to focus my thesis project around an album recording, which will be a series of creative retellings of course texts. The first song I wrote for Sasha Colby’s LS 800 class was based on Euripides’ tragic play Medea, titled Can’t Live Without You. When I’m not studying, songwriting, planning events or posting on the department’s social media pages, I can be found at a turf field diving for soccer balls, playing goalie for my 6 and 8 year old sons, Fox and Marshall.

Critical Uprisings, Crucial Events:  
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 1965

SFU Past & Present:  
A REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY TODAY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT FROM TURBULENT BEGINNINGS

PostColonial Possibilities:  
WHY IT MATTERS THAT SFU EMERGED DURING AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE

1965:  
A REVOLUTION IN CHRISTIAN–JEWISH RELATIONS

We’re thrilled to announce the beginning of the Department of History’s 2015-2016 lecture series “1965: Reflections on 50 Years of History”. This year’s series honours both the 50th anniversary of SFU’s establishment, and the real legacy of our 50 years as a department, our alumni.


Following Tariq Ali, emeritus professor Hugh Johnston’s talk will examine SFU’s turbulent beginnings and transformation to an internationally recognized institution. Professor Sarah Walshaw will then discuss why it matters that SFU emerged during African Independence, and Professor Hilmar Pabel will conclude the series with an examination of the revolution in Christian-Jewish relations.

We look forward to seeing you there!
Retirement Tribute: JACK LITTLE

A truly prolific scholar, Jack has published nine monographs and over sixty peer-reviewed articles over the course of the last four decades. In recognition of his contributions to the study of Canadian history, Jack was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2003 and earned a Dean’s Medal for academic excellence in 2008. He has also earned plaudits for his leadership within the department, which has included ten years as Graduate Chair, three as Department Chair, and terms on numerous university and departmental committees.

In spite of his stature in the profession, Jack is known for his humility and openness to students and colleagues. As Alec Dawson notes, Jack “treats every member of the department as if they were just as knowledgeable as he, just as accomplished. No moment in which Jack throws his weight around in an argument, telling someone that he actually knows how things work at the university, having been here for 40 years, or that he knows a thing or two about publishing, winning grants, and acquiring standing in the profession. You would never know any of these things about Jack. He is just another guy, sitting at the table, making a joke to himself that he might share with others.”

True to form, Jack says that he will continue “to research and write as long as my diminishing supply of brain cells will allow... The great advantage of being an academic historian, as far as I’m concerned, is that life can go on much as it has, researching and writing about topics that I’m genuinely interested in.” Happily, he says, retired life will no longer include grading term papers —“a time of semester when I’m prone to questioning the role of the humanities in an increasingly post-literate society.” He looks forward to having more time to travel, read novels, attend concerts and plays, as well as for hiking, biking, kayaking, gardening, and community service on Bowen Island.

Below, Jack’s students, friends, and colleagues share their memories of his time in the department.

ALEC DAWSON
Associate Professor of History

Jack Little was perhaps the most hard-pressed chair in the history of our Department, hiring, as far as I can tell, 13 faculty members in his three-year term. I was one of those hires. In that short period of time—chaotic really, given the number of people coming and going, I was astounded to see the calm and professionalism that Jack showed at the helm of the department. He read everything provided by every candidate, presided over a massive transformation...
I think we lose a little of our moral compass with his retirement, and we will suffer a little as a result.

with a sensibility that was at once avuncular, humorous, and slightly grumpy, and did an outstanding job of shaping the future of the department. I saw many things in him during these times that I have tried to emulate as I have gone through my career. He was fair, he was actually quite generous, and honest to a fault. He respected his colleagues, he seemed to like them (if occasionally they annoyed him), and he had no love for the bosses. Jack (who would have been an excellent Dean, and was once or twice suggested for the position), seemed happier defending the interests of the department than cozying up to power, and would spare no quarter in his assessments of a university administration he knew all too well. You knew whose side he was on, and it was ours.

More than once I have told Jack I don’t want him to retire. There are all sorts of reasons for this. Some are purely selfish. We look like a much less impressive place when we take down his name from the list of fulltime faculty. We simply do. And I get fewer opportunities to run into him in the hallway, to hear about what is up with him, to laugh, even to learn something about something that I had never known. Other reasons are a little less selfish. Jack is the memory of our department. He knows how things have worked, and has always brought to the table forms of wisdom that set him apart from his colleagues. He speaks his mind on issues, and most of the time I find myself convinced that what he says is correct. He insists that we can argue, we can disagree, but we can still get along with one another. He is ethical, not interested in sneaky deals or back-stabbing, and a reminder that we work better if we all follow that example. I think we lose a little of our moral compass with his retirement, and we will suffer a little as a result.

ALLEN SEAGER
Retired Professor of History

Jack Little was a graduate of a no-nonsense school of social history born of very tough debates in postwar Quebec; he contributed much to the building of the Western Canadian academy on a high scholarly plane.

As an individual, Jack always had a sense of fun and adventure, but one rarely (if ever) took so much as a stroll down the street with Jack without a discourse on architecture, prospects for development, and so forth.

My favourite memory: an early 80s journey from Jack’s beloved Eastern Townships to Quebec City in a borrowed ’76 Chevrolet—a real old fashioned boat. For the briefest moment I imagined myself On the Road—as those guys from Cape Breton in the famous Canadian film of that title—but the trip soon ended... in Quebec’s National Archives!

WENDIE NELSON
Former student

Some of the things I remember about him: His intense devotion to history: Any questions I raised in class—or in his office—always prompted a serious and engaged response, and might well result in a long digression as he worked through the implications. His pursuit of understanding was always collegial, whether in discussion with an undergrad or a fellow historian.

His scrupulous attention to detail: His comments in my essays competed in length with the essays themselves. There was nothing that escaped his notice or that was too peripheral for comment. I remember my use of “anyways” prompting an “Ugh!!” in an early essay. What was so marvelous was that he took my work seriously, and always left me with the sense that there was so much more to learn.

His lovely sense of humour: To leaven the intensity and the high expectations came laughter—typically, an unexpected burst, usually in response to the ridiculous nature of life and human nature. A delight to hear.

Jack was an excellent mentor through my years at SFU. I am grateful to him for helping to inspire my love of history, and for preparing me for my own years of teaching.

KAREN FERGUSON
Associate Professor of History

I first arrived at SFU when I was 29 and just a year out from my PhD. Those first years in Vancouver were pretty lonely ones for me; I knew virtually no one in the city, the commute to Burnaby Mountain from the West End was a long one, and I was much younger than almost all of my colleagues.

I will always be deeply grateful to Jack for his generosity in helping make SFU and Vancouver home. In particular, he introduced me to Super Natural British Columbia, inviting me and other new colleagues to join him on spectacular hikes (I even climbed Black Tusk with him!), fantastic daylong cross-country ski outings (Tina Loo called him the Eveready Bunny for how he could keep going and going and going!), and one memorably grueling mountain bike adventure on the North Shore. This entrée into the outdoors has reshaped my life and passions. Thank you, Jack!

On these trips, Jack would share great stories of his childhood and youth in the Eastern Townships and his early days in Vancouver. Jack the Asbestos Miner. How Jack Was Miraculously Rescued From a Crevasse When Hiking Alone. The Day Jack Took Michael Ignatieff On a Hike and Almost Killed Him. Jack the Corgy Killer. Half of my enjoyment in hearing these stories was in their forthright delivery. Jack is always straightforward and never embellishes, as I certainly would with such great material. He is the king of understatement and an entirely reliable narrator.

Jack has also been entirely generous, straightforward, and reliable as a colleague. In a profession with its share of neurotics, Jack is always clear-headed. He doesn’t play games, equivocate, or hold grudges. And his steady exertion, enjoyment, and success as a researcher, just as a skier, has provided me with a great model of the scholar’s life.
WRITING FOR WIKIPEDIA
Jeremy Brown

In Jeremy Brown’s classroom, students spend the semester developing a detailed Wikipedia article relating to some aspect of the Tiananmen Square incident instead of writing a traditional research essay. This assignment gives students experience writing for a broad, non-academic audience: the Wikipedia page for the Tiananmen Protests receives an average of 75,000 page views per month.

According to former student and Wikipedia contributor Benedicte Melanie Olsen, this fact made the project rewarding in a way that other writing assignments are not. “Publishing a Wikipedia article was for many a first experience in writing for an audience of thousands,” Olsen writes. “Unlike submitting term papers to a professor at the end of a semester in return for a grade, we were painfully aware that our work could be deleted or changed beyond recognition if it fell short of Wikipedia’s standards. As a result, we found ourselves constantly checking and tweaking the published articles, even after the semester had ended.”

INTERRACIAL INTIMACIES
Elise Chenier

Elise Chenier has worked with web developers to create an online learning platform. The site, “Interracial Intimacies”, features an interactive timeline that walks students through the process of researching and writing an academic article. By navigating through the timeline, users can read the oral histories, newspaper articles, marriage certificates, photographs, and secondary materials in the order that Dr. Chenier collected them. Alongside these materials are Dr. Chenier’s reflections about the sources, her methodology, and aspects of the research process. Altogether, the site is an immersive, interactive journey into the mind of a historian.

In collaboration with SFU’s Faculty of Education, Chenier developed a set of discussion and reflection questions to accompany the site. Her hope is that the site will be useful for learners of all levels. For instance, teachers of introductory courses might use the site to familiarize students with primary source analysis, while more senior students will find useful information about how to empower the subjects of their studies.

For a closer look, visit: www.interracialintimacies.com
FLIPPING THE CLASSROOM

Alec Dawson

Alec Dawson says that he has “always implicitly known that even the best lectures are poor pedagogy.” So when he saw an opportunity to cut lectures and concentrate on teaching tutorials, he jumped.

In order to accomplish this, Dawson developed a series of podcasts for his students to listen to in lieu of attending lectures. The course is otherwise relatively traditional: students do readings, write online discussion posts, and discuss their ideas in a tutorial. They also write two papers, two peer reviews, and a take home final.

For Dawson, there are numerous benefits to this structure. “I teach tutorials now, which is good for me and them. They get the didactic stuff in a form that is more in line with their sensibilities. They get it when they want it, and if they need to study, they can simply listen to or watch the materials again. Student performance and satisfaction are both way up.”

Our outgoing students are also off to a range of exciting new professional adventures...
For most of us doing the masters program, this is the first time in our careers that we have spent an extensive amount of time doing original research in the archives. For still others, this is the first time we have conducted our own oral history interviews.

The business of doing research can be a surprisingly daunting task. Just take archives: every one of them is different. Some archives allow you to take pictures and some require you to pay for photocopies made by the archivist. Some require you to call ahead and order files, some don’t. Freedom of Information requests can act as an irritant to new researchers who are not sure what to expect in terms of delays and time management in their research semesters.

What’s a lowly grad student to do?

I asked fellow MA students in my cohort, and a sampling of those in other cohorts, about their experiences in the program so far, with special attention to their experiences doing intensive research for the first time. I was also curious about whether they had any interesting stories from doing the conference circuit. Here’s what they said.

The first thing I noticed after interviewing people in the program is that we as MA students all come from varied backgrounds. Most but not all of us did history majors; some did the honours program, and still others did a minor program. Some of us came from cognate fields in liberal arts, political science, anthropology, area studies, and so on, though most are historians through and through. As such, some of us have already done historical research through research assistantships or honours projects. Our experience in BA programs has made us fairly familiar with primary sources, but not always in how to locate them.

In the course of our research, some of us still had to figure things out the hard way. Huangyi Jiang, who researches Greek migration to North America, encountered one archive where there was no catalogue whatsoever, and so had to manually “go through every box to see what they had.” I echo that sentiment. My own experience brought me to the attic of an old museum in outport Newfoundland where a makeshift archive with no finding aids had been established in the same room where they stored the Christmas decorations. The price of entry to getting unmonitored access to those files, I think, was to tidy up the room, which of course I proceeded to do.

Those exceptions aside, historical research is becoming easier and more accessible for my colleagues. The days of slow note taking and file ordering at archives, while not completely gone, seem to be numbered. Gisèle Dubéau, whose research centres on early eighteenth century Quebec political figure John Neilson, was able to avoid having to travel to Quebec entirely. All the records she needed were on microfilm and she was able to get the archive in Quebec to send them to her. In her words, “I had the archives brought to me.” The process of converting microfilm images to .pdf format, while time-consuming, is a sign of the times for how easy data collection is becoming for us grad students.

This was also true of Sukhjit Chohan, whose research on Soviet and American diplomatic overtures to India during the Cold War. The sources that Sukhjit needed, including digital access to the Times of India, was already readily available to him here in the Lower Mainland. So, no big trip to India, Russia or the United States was needed—something that leads me to believe that digitization can be a curse for those of us with a travel bug!

Some people in my cohort and other cohorts before and after mine are researching on topics that are situated in British Columbia or specifically in the Lower Mainland, so travel was not necessary. Jennifer Chutter’s research is on the housing style known as the “Vancouver Special.” Abby Rolston’s research is about prisoner organizing in BC from the 1960s to the 1980s. Bruce Dyck is researching the Smiling Buddha Cabaret in the downtown eastside. And Ivan Drury is researching sexuality and colonialism in early twentieth century Vancouver.

A few of us however have had the chance to fly to other places on our research semesters. Some of us wound up at the National Archives in Ottawa. In fact, Leigha Smith, whose research is on the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, has moved to Ottawa. The proximity to LAC has been a boon for her research. Others among us have travelled to archives in Toronto and elsewhere. Huangyi’s continent-wide research on Greek migration took him to Toronto, Minneapolis, and Sacramento. Khash Hemmati’s research on the Shahyad monument in Tehran took him to Boston, Washington DC, and London, making his travel itinerary the most international of the bunch. In Cambridge, Massachusetts, Khash attended the Fine Arts Library and the Widener Library at Harvard, before heading off to spend time at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. While in London, Khash visited the National Archives in Kew. As I write, those in the MA cohort after mine are in the midst of their own research semesters, and some are planning on travelling to Africa and the Middle East.

That moment when you come across a trove of documents that are really useful for your thesis can be a moment of elation!

That moment when you come across a trove of documents that are really useful for your thesis can be a moment of elation! But the drudgery of poring over documents that may or may not be useful is also something that some of us expected but were not adequately prepared for. Indeed, preparation is key. When I asked “What shocked you about your experience in the archives?” Jennifer joked, “How hungry I get.” Nevertheless, there is something beautiful about the experience of handling old correspondence, and seeing, holding and sensing first hand a document from a moment in the distant past.
past. As Jennifer noted, she likes “reading the marginalia and imagining who the person was with their fat red pen and their quick scrawl.” This of course is something that can be lost in the digital age. One of Khash’s complaints was with the archival search functions at some of the libraries and archives he attended, which he described as “troublesome.” An online search would reveal that a source existed and was in the library or archive, but the response, which would come 2-3 days later, would reveal that “the source requested cannot be found.”

Academic conferences, the best of which Leigha described as “intellectual boot-camps,” occupied our time too—and for some of us it was the first time we had ever been to them. Gisele was able to attend a conference that fit the theme of her research perfectly, as its theme was “Ambiguous Encounters: Anglophone-Francophone Relations in Quebec, from the Conquest to the Quiet Revolution.”

Most of us attended the Qualicum History Conference at the end of January 2015, of course, though other conferences closer to home, such as BC Studies, MEICON (Middle East and Islamic Consortium) of BC, and the Labour/Le Travail mini-workshop in November last year also saw healthy turn-out among SFU History’s grad students. Abby was able to attend CHA last year, and some of our colleagues in the PhD program attended the CHA this year. Jennifer and Leigha have plans to attend the ActiveHistory conference in London, Ontario later this year. Huangyi attended a graduate student conference in Greek Studies while in California, and in May I was able to attend the Pacific Northwest Labour History conference in Seattle.

Where do we go from here? As we try vaingloriously to finish up our theses, we look to the future with a mix of excitement and trepidation. Remarkably though, I was surprised with how zen and at peace with the future everyone seemed to be when I asked them what was next. Gisele for example said that while she would like to do a PhD, she would prefer to let life take her where she needs to be. Jennifer noted “I am not worried about the future or whether I will find a job in academia. Life will unfold as it should.” These are times of intense pressure on universities, and history departments face declining enrollments. Our cohort appears to be adapting.

William and Gretchen Cleveland Arabic Collection and Digitalization Project

DR. DERRYL MACLEAN  Associate Professor of History

The late Dr. William L. Cleveland (1941-2006) spent all of his academic career in the Department of History at SFU, retiring in 2006 as Professor Emeritus. A world-renowned scholar of the Middle East and North Africa, he was the founder of SFU’s Middle East and Islamic program and the mentor of numerous undergraduate and graduate students, for which he received the inaugural Middle East Studies Association Mentoring Award. His publications, including his seminal work, A History of the Modern Middle East, now in its fifth edition, are required readings in most North American institutes of higher education. After his passing, his wife, Gretchen Cleveland, donated to the SFU Library his and her personal collection of Arabic books on the Middle East and North Africa. These volumes reside in Special Collections as the “William and Gretchen Cleveland Arabic Collection.” The Collection consists of approximately 300 Arabic books and is rich in first-edition Beirut and Cairo imprints in history, memoirs, travelogs, and novels, including the complete works of Najib Mahfuz, Taha Husayn, Mahmud Taymur, and Tawfiq al-Hakim. The Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Society and Culture (CCSMSC) donated an additional $10,000 to purchase further Arabic language books for the Cleveland Collection as well as to defray the costs of cataloguing.

The Cleveland Collection Digitization Project, now in its third year, was established to convert many of the Arabic works in this collection into a digital format, which will allow researchers access to the material without the costs and risks associated with a physical examination of the Collection. The Project is sponsored by the CCSSC and the Scholarly Digitization Fund. It is directed by Derryl Maclean and coordinated by Ardalan Rezamand, a graduate student in History. The Cleveland Digitization Project is the first step in a long-term strategy of collaboration with the SFU Library to make its increas-ingly important collections of Middle East and Islamic Studies accessible to a wider academic and public audience.
The pending closure of Louis Riel House—one of two graduate student residences on campus—has been a subject of concern for many people in the History department. Two graduate students and at least two undergraduate students in the history program are being displaced by the closure.

The building, which has 210 units, has served students for over forty-five years. It primarily caters to graduate students and students with families. Rent at Louis Riel House, which includes cable, internet, and utilities, are in the range of “$843 per month for a one bedroom suite or $991 per month for a two bedroom suite,” well below market rates, and substantially below rates for comparable units in the UniverCity neighbourhood. The availability of the nearby childcare centre within walking distance from Louis Riel House has been a godsend to the many residents who have young children.

Now, many of those students, including international students, aboriginal students, and students with disabilities, are being forced to move out. On March 7th, staff with SFU’s Residence & Housing hand-delivered notices to residents stating that their license agreements would not be renewed past August 31st, though rumours about the forthcoming displacements swirled as early as January, and tenants have been organizing since February.

The university has “multiple concerns with indoor air quality” in the building, and has stated that the building’s “mechanical systems and building envelope are at the end of their service life.” At a town hall meeting for residents on March 10th, it was revealed that the university had concerns about asbestos and mould problems for some time.

Teresa Dettling, a single mother who is pursuing her BA in History and First Nations Studies has been at the forefront of organizing residents. In March, she organized a change.org petition that attracted the support of over five hundred signatories. The petition called for SFU to “stop the secrecy,” to speak to residents directly and clearly about the health hazards they faced, and to involve Louis Riel House residents so that they can “participate equally” in decision-making about residents’ futures.

The petition also called on the university to provide “appropriate family, graduate disability-accessible housing on the mountain” for displaced students and their families, and to accommodate and provide living space for “working-class, lower-income, international, and Indigenous students” in the future.

The petition, or “declaration,” which was also signed by a majority of Louis Riel House’s remaining residents, has allowed organizers to bargain with the university administration to win concessions. So far, residents have been given one full month’s rent back, and have been promised free moving supplies, and the possibility of emergency bursaries for moving costs. Residence & Housing has also offered to provide a monthly subsidy to go towards rent for those students being displaced by the closure while completing their programs at SFU.

But for some residents, while the compensation has been helpful, the closure of Louis Riel House has been a fateful decision. Emily Stremel is an undergraduate History major who lives in Louis Riel House with her wife. For her, the closure of Louis Riel House means that she will no longer have access to the very on-campus housing that initially compelled her to apply at SFU in the first place. She has made the difficult decision to transfer to the University of Victoria where, she noted, “there’s stable, affordable family housing.”

Some residents have continued the struggle. A March 18th rally at “Freedom Square” in Convocation Mall saw a large crowd and a number of speakers. On March 26th, a group of ten people crashed the Board of Governors meeting with signs, and according to a story in The Peak dated March 31st, shouted “Rehouse students! Replace housing!” The board listened and put the Louis Riel House protesters on the agenda. That same day, the History Graduate Students Association unanimously voted to endorse the Louis Riel House tenants’ declaration. The HGSA further demanded “a comprehensive, non-profit plan for the future of on-campus housing for SFU students and their families.”

Ivan Drury, a master’s candidate in the history program and a TSSU steward, has also helped Louis Riel House students by acting as an advocate during negotiations with
university administrators. As an activist on housing issues, Ivan noted that the "next stage of the fight will be to replace the housing lost."

This will not be easy, given the university’s widespread infrastructure problems, and the provincial government’s cutbacks in university funding. There are worries that the closure of Louis Riel House is just the latest chapter in a larger plan by the provincial government and the university administration to replace residence housing and other student services with privatized or partly privatized options instead. As revealed in a story from the Burnaby NewsLeader, the late VP of Finance & Administration at SFU, Pat Hibbits noted that the university has not been able to invest in Louis Riel House over the past decade because the provincial government has placed certain restrictions on the university taking on loans, which is considered public debt.

Meanwhile, Louis Riel House tenants are busy building a coalition with other organizations on campus to keep up the pressure on the university to build low-income, on-campus housing for graduate students and students with families in the future. History faculty members have been vital to this process. Elise Chenier, along with Charles Bingham (Education), Marjorie Griffin Cohen (Political Science), and others, have taken the lead in getting faculty support for the residents. In March, 182 professors signed a letter to the Board of Governors that protested the closure and the university’s handling of the issue. Ten faculty members in the History department signed that letter. Other members of the department have written their own letters in support of the Louis Riel House tenants, which can be found at www.lrhcommunity.wordpress.com.

As August 31st approaches, the number of residents remaining in Louis Riel House has steadily dwindled. Its halls, once filled by the hustle and bustle of the voices of parents and kids, are becoming quieter. A number of moving vans occupy the front entrances at the end of each month. The administration has made some effort to make life easier for tenants by, for instance, allowing them to move out without giving thirty days’ notice. But the larger struggle to ensure that SFU is a place that accommodates its students remains an ongoing fight, and one in which the History department’s students and faculty members have played important roles.

### History Student Union Report

**KAITLYN MACINNIS**  HSU President

The 2014-15 year has been busy for the History Student Union. Our 2015 election saw all HSU executive positions filled for the first time in registered-student memory.

Mascots Napoleon and Josephine (i.e. whichever pigeon couple happens to be outside the window of AQ6027) continued to represent us enthusiastically and sometimes amorously.

With tremendous thanks to our faculty presenters, we added three instalments to “Historical Dialogues” series, which seeks to demonstrate the relevance of History to current events and to other disciplines. Attendees were treated to fascinating short lectures and generated some weighty discussion on the topics of Russia in Ukraine (with Dr. Thomas Kuehn, Dr. Ilya Vinkovetsky and Dr. Aaron Windel), ISIS (with Dr. André Gerolymatos and Ardalan Rezamand) and SFU’s own radical history (with John-Henry Harter, Dr. Hugh Johnston and Dr. Aaron Windel).

Upper-Division Representative Selina Wall solicited student input on staff awards (but we know our staff is the best, anyway) and revisions to the department’s course offerings.

Toward the end of the Spring 2015 term, students, professors, and staff were invited to mingle and relax in the Highland Pub for the fantastically fun “Beers, Peers and Prof’s.” Everyone had a blast, injuries were non-life-threatening, and we hope to host a repeat in the Fall term.

In recognition of SFU’s 50th anniversary, the HSU has sought to make students more politically aware of their university community. Most notably, we spearheaded No to Build SFU. Build SFU is a project with financial implications that the HSU executive believes may adversely affect educational accessibility for future students. The campaign challenged the questionable democratic process of our evil overlords at the Simon Fraser Student Society, culminating in a dramatic and democratically-vibrant vote at the Special General Meeting of January, 2015. While the campaign was successful in preventing the Society from obtaining sizeable loans for the 65-million-dollar project, plans for the student-funded Student Union Building and stadium are ongoing, and the HSU will need to reassess this challenge.

In the same vein, the HSU executive has tentatively agreed to provide endorsement and support to the Teaching Support Staff Union in its difficult negotiations with the university administration. We love our Sessional Instructors, Teaching Assistants, Tutor Markers, and Language Instructors. We believe that their roles are fundamental to the value of our education, and that their employment terms are shameful to Simon Fraser University. The widespread plight of contingent labourers in higher education is a worrying sign for the future of the liberal university as an institution, and for the humanities disciplines in particular.

Perhaps most exciting, the HSU obtained its very own pair of scissors, courtesy of Ruth Anderson. Nothing can stop us now.
Every Spring term our department’s Honours cohort is charged with the unfamiliar task of producing a group project. In the past these endeavours have included guided tours around the SFU campus, interviews with SFU faculty and other interesting research-based projects. With the involvement of some of our most creative faculty, the Honours cohort’s annual group project has often been a site of innovation and resourcefulness.

This year I had the privilege of instructing our Honours cohort throughout the academic year and could see a sense of genuine camaraderie developing within the group. I decided to exploit this camaraderie by getting the students to produce something particularly unfamiliar in the humanities: academic posters. An academic poster is a fine device to help develop the skills of concise, targeted expression and concentrated research. Its enormous popularity in the sciences has, of late, been picked up by the social sciences and humanities; many universities now encourage graduate students to present thesis prospectuses in an academic poster format.

I divided the class of twelve into three small groups of four, ensuring that each group contained a mix of academic interests. These three groups then had about twelve weeks to work through the entire process of selecting, researching, producing, editing, polishing and finally presenting an academic poster on a theme of historiography. In order to ease the logistics of group work, I allocated the last hour of our four-hour seminar slot to project work. I was present during this period and operated as I would during any other seminar, circulating among the small groups and helping iron out ideas. I kept a record of each group’s progress every week, to aid final assessment.

Over the weeks I was heartened to see student groups make the difficult evolution from being individual interlocutors to becoming interconnected, mutually invested team members. This is an experience that rarely attends the professional life of a historian, but is rather marvellous when it works well. This year, mercifully, it worked very well indeed.

In twelve weeks the three groups produced posters on the historiography of massacres, Salem witchcraft trials in historiography, and the recorded history of Canada’s natural environment. Allison McMahon, our Coordinator of Communications and Events, helped students identify poster templates and arranged for the final blowup prints. Hilmar Pabel, our Chair, generously offered to fund the final poster production as well as a catered lunch for the poster presentation session.

In the final few weeks I tightened my review of the students’ progress and put them through a number of sit-down sessions with me where they defended their ideas, images and writing in the face of stringent critique. I based my assessment of their group work on a portfolio of comments and observations that I recorded on a weekly basis. Individual reports from students counted for a small percentage of the assessment and helped balance my own observations and records as their instructor.

The final presentation session in mid-April was a wonderful experience. We set everything up in the department’s conference room. Staff, faculty and graduate students attended in heartening numbers. The Honours group remained, buffed and full of vim, ready to answer questions and discuss ideas with their visitors. Panini, salads and a selection of drinks added to the overall allure of the event.

The posters will remain on our department’s walls as a long-term exhibit. I hope future visitors to our department will enjoy viewing these posters as much as we enjoyed the long and instructive journey of producing them.
Graduate Awards

Alan D. Aberbach Graduate Scholarship
MARK GRUETER

Baldwin Graduate Scholarship
GISELE DUBEAU

CD Nelson Entrance Scholarship
ALEKSANDAR JOVANOVIC

Cole Graduate Entrance Scholarship in History
BRUCE DYCK

Cook Conference Scholarship
MADELINE KNICKERBOCKER

CTEF Graduate Fellowship
Edip Golbasi
MADELINE KNICKERBOCKER

Dr. Christensen Graduate Scholarship
BRUCE DYCK

Edward Said Memorial Scholarship
EDIP GOLBASI

Graduate International Research Travel Award
STEPHANIE POROWSKI

Graduate Fellowship (Masters)
ADAM BIELKA
BRUCE DYCK
JOSHUA PRY

Graduate Fellowship (PhD)
NATHAN CROMPTON
COREY LARSON
ARDALAN REZAMAND
ANDREA SAMOIL

Graduate Fellowship Supplement
HUANGYI JIANG
ALEKSANDAR JOVANOVIC

Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC Scholarship
HUANGYI JIANG

Katevatic Graduate Scholarship in Hellenic Studies
HUANGYI JIANG

Ladner Graduate Scholarship in BC History
ABBY ROLSTON

Muslim Studies Graduate Travel Award
KHASHAYAR HEMMATI

Nick Kravariotic Memorial Graduate Scholarship
JAMES HORNCASTLE

Provost’s Prize of Distinction
ALEKSANDAR JOVANOVIC

Saywell Graduate Scholarship
EDIP GOLBASI
KHASHAYAR HEMMATI
LIAM O’FLAHERTY

Travel & Minor Research Award
IVAN DRURY
GISELE DUBEAU
KHASHAYAR HEMMATI
COREY LARSON
LIAM O’FLAHERTY
ABBY ROLSTON

SSHRC (Masters)
SUHKJIT CHOHAN
JENNIFER CHUTTER
LIAM O’FLAHERTY
ABBY ROLSTON

Margaret Ormsby History Prize
MACKENZIE MCCORKINDALE

Stephen McIntyre Memorial Book Prize
RYAN JOSEPH D’ANGELO

European History Book Prize
ADAM PHILLIP DUBRAS

Margaret Ormsby History Prize
MACKENZIE MCCORKINDALE

Stephen McIntyre Memorial Book Prize
RYAN JOSEPH D’ANGELO

Cleveland Prize in African, Middle Eastern, and Asian History
JAKUB MSCICHELLOWSKI

Jakub is close to completing his History Honours degree and this is the second year in a row that he has won this award. His essay “Muslims in China or Chinese Muslims: Shifting Identities in Early-Modern Chinese Islam 1368-1877” written for Prof. Luke Clossey’s Problems in World History course last Fall was judged the top essay in African Middle-Eastern Asian History this year.

European History Book Prize
ADAM PHILLIP DUBRAS

Ryan is the top graduating student in History this year. He is graduating today, having completed his degree in Fall with a History Major and English Minor. He is now in the second semester of his Bachelor of Education with a minor in Secondary Teaching.

17
Recently Defended Graduate Theses

PhD Dissertations

HEATHER MAYER
Beyond the Rebel Girls: Female Wobblies, Respectability, and the Law in the Pacific Northwest, 1905-1924

JEREMY MILLOY

SARAH NICKEL
“United we stand, divided we perish:” Identity, Community, and the Negotiation of Pan-Tribal Unity in the Union of BC Indian Chiefs

MA Theses

NEAL ADOLPH
No Hobo is an Island: Power and Political Culture in the Federal Work Relief Camps in British Columbia, 1932-1935

SUKHJIT CHOHAHN
Finding Their Voice: The Indian Press and Nikita Kruschev’s 1955 Visit to India

CHRISTOPHER DICKERT
Byzantium, Political Agency, and the City: A case study in urban autonomy during the Norman Conquest of Southern Italy

SCOTT EATON
Capitalism on Trial: Section 98, the Communist Party of Canada, and the Battle for Legality, 1931-36

TINA ADCOCK
After swapping the Atlantic for the Pacific coast in the summer of 2014, I’ve spent the past year settling into life in the Lower Mainland, a task eased both by unusually dry and sunny weather and a warm welcome from my new colleagues. (May the novelty of working atop a mountain never wear thin.) I’ve delivered papers on my research into northern exploration and tourism at a couple of stimulating workshops this year. The first, on tourism history in Canada, was held delightfully nearby, at Granville Island; the second, on “science, technology, and the modern in Canada,” was a little farther afield, at York University in Toronto. I also spoke about my new research on fur trapping at the American Society for Environmental History’s annual meeting in Washington, DC in March. A highlight of my year was joining the executive committee of the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NICHE). As part of this role, I’ve enjoyed co-editing NICHE’s increasingly popular blog, The Otter ~ La Loutre. I’m now involved in an editorial capacity with two scholarly blogs, the other being Findings/Trouvailles, published by the Champlain Society.

JEREMY BROWN
During 2014-2015 I received a Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, and published two book chapters and three book reviews. I traveled to Canberra, Tianjin, Shanghai, Stanford, Freiburg, and Los Angeles for research and conferences. I also went to Cedar Rapids, San Diego, and Oaxaca for fun. My new book, Maoism at the Grassroots: Everyday Life in China’s Era of High Socialism, will be published by Harvard University Press in Fall 2015. In addition to chasing around my two sons, I have been running on roads and trails, placing 2nd, 3rd, and—improbably—1st overall in MEC’s 5K race series in 2014. I set a personal best and won my age group at the San Diego Race for Autism in March 2015; next up are races of longer and shorter distances.

ELISE CHENIER
This past year I’ve published a number of articles on the pros and cons of putting oral history online. The Archives of Lesbian Oral Testimony continues to expand with new donations of oral interview materials. My biggest accomplishment was the completion of a new online teaching and learning tool called “Interracial Intimacies: Sex and Race in Toronto, 1910 to 1950” which can be found at www.interracialintimacies.org

KATHRYN HEARN
Faith, Foes, Fear, and the ‘Bitter Scourge of War’: Eyewitness Accounts of the Thirty Years War and the Religious Debate

KAHASHAYAR HEMMATI
A Monument of Destiny: Envisioning A Nation’s Past, Present, and Future Through Shahyad/Azadi

JOSEPH HOWARD
Half-Brothers in Christ: The Church Missionary Society and the Christians of Kerala, 1813-1840

RON HUGHES
A Clear and Present Concern: The Radical “New History” of Howard Zinn

SARAH INGLIS
Danza de la Muerte: Greek Arms Dealing in the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939

LUKE CLOSSEY
In January at Seattle University’s international symposium on Jesuits in world history I gave a talk “Irrational Christianity: The Early Jesuits and the Improbability of Catholicism” about the idea, originating among Jesuit discussions in seventeenth-century France, that Catholicism was less likely to be true than any other religion.

The summer saw the ten-year anniversary of the beginning of research for my ongoing “Global Jesus” project, an occasion marked by a summit in Vancouver of a dozen former research assistants (“junior Jesus hunters”) gathered to tell lies about past adventures as a form of survivors’ group therapy. SFU History alumnus Martin Pjecha had become the newest member of this elite club upon searching for Jesuses with me in Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland in the spring.

The most unexpected treat of 2014 was receiving a letter from a lady-in-waiting at Buckingham Palace relating the Queen’s pleasure in efforts undertaken by two SFU History alumni and myself to celebrate her overtaking the Kangxi Emperor of China, in terms of length of reign. This year, inshallah, she will overtake Victoria, thus becoming the longest reigning of all major (100+ million subjects) monarchs.
ALEC DAWSON
In the past year I have been continuing my reign of terror as the Director of the School for International Studies, but expect to be deposed rather soon as we settle into Lobster Thermidor. I have now offered my magical, inside out versions of 209 and 265 on several occasions, and am nearing the point where I will vow to never lecture again (cue applause from students). I published a new edition of Latin America Since Independence, much rewritten with two chapters, an article about a psychiatrist who gave psychedelic drugs to his patients in the Hispanic American Historical Review, and various and sundry other things. And yes, I learned to play Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star on the violin (albeit badly).

PAUL GARFINKEL
My book, Criminal Law in Liberal and Fascist Italy, is currently in production with Cambridge University Press and will be available in print in early 2016.

ANDREA GEIGER
A SSHRC Insight Grant received in 2014 made possible a trip to the U.S. National Archives in Anchorage, Alaska, just weeks before the archives were closed. Although the documents were moved and preserved elsewhere, the opportunity to discuss my project with archivists who had worked with them for years and were intimately familiar with the historical geography of Alaska was invaluable. I was honoured to serve as co-chair of the program committee for the 2015 OAH Annual Meeting in St. Louis; participated in a roundtable at the 2014 OAH Annual Meeting in Atlanta and a workshop at the 2014 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians in Toronto; and published an article in the Southern California Quarterly related to my current research, which examines historical encounters between Japanese immigrants and indigenous people in western North America. 2014 also saw the completion of an oral history digitization project begun in 2010 with the aid of SFU students who digitized and described some 400 oral history interviews on behalf of the Nikkei National Museum, many of which are now also available to students and scholars through the SFU Library website.

JOHN–HENRY HARTER
I am most proud of bringing home the ‘Gnome it All’ award once again for History in the Faculty Smackdown Debates last fall. It is an event for United Way and historians have contributed to winning debate teams for a few years running. So I have continued the tradition of Jeremy “Downtown” Brown and Elise “Ennui” Chenier. Hopefully another historian will continue the streak this year. In addition I just presented a paper at the Popular Culture Association conference in New Orleans. It was entitled “Undercover Boss: Disciplining Workers for Fun and Profit.” It combined my two favourite things, pop culture and class analysis. I am preparing the paper for publication. Lastly, I am happy to note that my limited term lectureship has been continued in History for one more year and I look forward to continuing my time here in history.

NICOLAS KENNY
The past year has been a big one for me as it marked the long-awaited publication of my first book, The Feel of the City: Experiences of Urban Transformation (University of Toronto Press, 2014), which examines the bodily and sensory experiences of urban space in Montreal and Brussels at the turn of the twentieth century. It was also in the past year that I passed through the tenure hoops and began a research leave that has brought me to Brussels, where I’ve been working on a project that examines the urban soundscape and public radio broadcasting during and immediately after the Second World War. It’s been wonderful reconnecting with a city I love, and I’ve had the pleasure of attending conferences and giving talks in Brussels, as well as in Lisbon, Telford, England, and Berlin.

MARK LEIER
Turning my leisure activity into a commodity, I gave a paper on detective novels and the alibi in Time: An American Transcendentalist on the Coast of Labrador, 1864–5,” at the Canadian tourism history workshop organized by SFU History graduate Dr Ben Bradley and myself at the very accommodating Granville Island Hotel. An edited selection of the papers from this workshop has been submitted for publication as a special issue of Histoire sociale—Social History.

March was my busiest month of the year, as far as presenting papers was concerned, for I was invited to present my “History of Oxen and Horse Power in Rural Canada from the 17th to the 20th Centuries” at Guelph University’s rural history speakers’ series. At the end of the month I travelled to somewhat warmer but still deep-in-snow Quebec City to talk about my publications on French-English relations in 19th Century Quebec at a conference sponsored by Laval University’s Centre interuniversitaire d’études québécoises (CIEQ). In between, I attended the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies held at the much balmy University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where I delivered a paper titled “Our Lady of the Snows: Rudyard Kipling’s Imperialist Vision of Canada.” I delivered the same paper a few days later (or was it earlier?) at our department’s Thursday noon colloquium. Finally, in April I launched into a new project with a public presentation titled “L’Affaire Coffin:
Murder, Politics, and the Press in Quebec, 1953-2010,” which focussed largely on the controversy caused by Jacques Hébert’s J’accuse les assassins de Wilbert Coffin (1964), and which ended this year’s History in the Headlines series at Harbour Centre.

As for publications, there were “Charities, Manufactures, and Taxes: The Montreal Sisters of Providence Spruce Gum Syrup Case, 1876-78,” Canadian Historical Review, 95, no. 1 (March 2014): 54-77; and the recently released French translation of my co-authored An Illustrated History of Quebec, published by Hurtubise HMH. Forthcoming in the next issue of Académus will be “A fine, hardy, good-looking race of people: Travellers, Tourism, and the Scots Identity on Cape Breton Island, 1829-1920.”

DERRYL MACLEAN

I presented two papers at the Mahdavia Islamic Conference in Chicago on April 3-4, 2015: “From Household to Community: The Origins and Significance of the Mahdavi Da’irah” (the keynote address) and “Messianic Connections across Languages and Cultures: Reflections on Translation.”

JANICE MATSUMURA

During the period of 2013-2014, I have had three works accepted for publication: two book chapters and one journal article. I have also completed a draft of a co-authored article that has been promised to an online journal. However, the activity that I will probably most remember is giving a public lecture, which was an unexpectedly enjoyable experience but also a reminder that I need to get my hearing checked.

HILMAR PABEL

In May 2014 and 2015, I made brief visits to archives in Rome to look for material relevant to a new research project on Catholic ecumenism in the 1920s. I spent most of my time working in the Jesuit archives but found important documents in the Archive of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (which holds the papers of the Roman Inquisition/Holy Office) and in the Vatican Secret Archives. I look forward to taking on this project after I complete my book on the literary career of the very sixteenth-century Peter Canisius, SJ. My research on Canisius led me to the 1920s, when he was canonized (1925). In October 2014, I made a quick trip to Münster in Germany to present a paper on Canisius at a conference on early modern Jesuit visual culture. I hope that a revised version of this paper will appear in print by 2016. Next year marks the 500th anniversary of the first printed Greek New Testament, courtesy of the editorial and philological labours of the Renaissance humanist and my old friend, Erasmus of Rotterdam, a progenitor of modern biblical criticism. I am working on an article to mark the anniversary.

This year my term as Department Chair came to an end. I spent my final months as Chair smoothing the way for our new leader, Dr. Jennifer Spear, and reflecting on experiences of the last three years. I am grateful to staff and faculty colleagues for their support. They taught me a great deal about effective leadership and about the rich diversity of research and teaching excellence that our Department offers to students at SFU, to historians and scholars of other disciplines in the academy, and to the public at large. Our staff do much behind the scenes to allow faculty to develop as teachers and researchers. I admire the commitment of both staff and faculty to the academic mission of our Department within SFU and beyond. Watch our mission flourish in the next three years with Jennifer as our Chair.

SARAH WALSHAW

Sarah was in England this year with her family, where she held a Visiting Academic post at the African Studies Centre at the University of Oxford, and was pursuing research, networking, and travel opportunities ahead of taking up a Senior Lecturer position in African History at SFU in September 2015. She received British Council funding to participate in “AgroBiodiversity Past and Present,” an interdisciplinary workshop in Chefchaouen, Morocco. She spent a week in Masai territory in Tanzania to help a team from the University of York investigate agricultural terracing begun 500 years ago at Engaruka. She presented at conferences in South Africa, England, France, and Italy. She was joined by her husband, Jim Johnson (UBC), who held a Killam Sabbatical award as Visiting Professor at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism. Their daughter Danica was in Year 4 at a girls’ school and was enjoying scones, castles, horse-riding, and the BBC kids’ series “Horrible Histories.”

AARON WINDEL

This has been a fun year of teaching and continued work on my book on the politics of community development in the British empire. I spent last summer working in archives in London and Oxford and also managed a visit to the League of Nations archives in Geneva. I presented two conference papers—one in Minneapolis on East African Ismaili cooperatives of the 1930s-1950s and another in Las Vegas on a banned African cotton farmers cooperative in Uganda in the late 1940s.