2011 was a productive year for the department. Inside you’ll read about the people who published new books recently, and the range of topics admirably displays the breadth and depth of the department’s collective expertise. Three members of the department: Jennifer Spear, Paul Sedra, and Ilya Vinkovetsky were promoted from assistant to associate professor, and Jay Taylor was promoted from associate to full professor. Nicolas Kenny and Jeremy Brown were renewed for another 3-year term.

Alec Dawson won the Cormack Teaching Award, continuing the department’s tradition of excellent teaching. Depending on how you count, History has won more teaching awards than any other department in the university. Jack Little was named University Professor, a special rank that recognizes his outstanding career as a scholar and teacher and his exemplary service to the university and the profession.

We’re very pleased to have two limited-term instructors join us in 2012: Africanist Sarah Walshaw, and German historian Carla MacDougall. We are undertaking searches for a tenure-track appointment in British history and limited-term appointments in South Asian history and Greek history.

Our successful colloquium series was capped by John Craig, now Dean of FASS, whose lively talk, “Bodies at Prayer in Early Modern England,” brought in students and faculty from a number of departments. It was particularly good to see retired faculty members Hannah Gay, John Spagnolo, David Ross, and Charles Hamilton in attendance. The colloquia are open to the public and former students are especially welcome.

Our public history lecture series, “Think You Know Vancouver? Think Again” wrapped up in November. Seven faculty members and an SFU History graduate gave talks at Harbour Centre on topics ranging from Russia’s colonization on the northwest coast to the Muslim community in Vancouver. The talks were well-attended, and the police seldom had to be called to quell raucous behaviour at the department’s post-talk discussions at the local pub.

Proving yet again that history confers expertise in analysis and interpretation, the department continues to provide administrative support to the university. We have supplied SFU with John Craig, the Dean of FASS; Karen Ferguson, the incoming Director of Urban Studies; and Mary-Ellen Kelm, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Thus the Department’s 23-year plan to take over the university is well-underway. However, since the original implementation date has been lost in the mists of time, or perhaps the chair’s filing cabinet, we are not quite sure when it is expected to reach fruition. We will keep you posted.
Undergraduate Chair’s Report

Paul Sedra

In order to achieve a better understanding of undergraduates’ expectations and knowledge of the History Department, a survey of all students enrolled in 100-level history courses was undertaken at the beginning of the fall 2011 term. The results of the survey proved extremely revealing, particularly as regards the pressures affecting undergraduates’ choice of major. Although large numbers of the students surveyed professed an abiding interest in history, a considerable proportion of these admitted that they were reluctant to declare themselves history majors, due to their perception that a degree in history was not as ‘marketable’ among potential employers as a degree in international studies or, indeed, political science.

As part of the effort to combat this perception, Professors Luke Clossey and Paul Sedra participated in the ‘bicker and banter’ series of talks mounted by the Society of Arts and Social Sciences (SASS). The tenor of the session was less bicker than banter, with Professor Clossey discussing the relative lack, among history departments, of specialists in the global south, while Professor Sedra mounted a close historical analysis of a video from Egypt’s January 25th Revolution. The event was well attended and received, thanks to no small extent to the organizing efforts of History Student Union president Jenny Shutek.

As far as undergraduate curriculum development is concerned, the past year the department approved the conversion of several provisional courses into permanent ones — among them, Professor Matsumura’s HIST 236 “Japan from 1603 to 1867: Peasants, Merchants, Warriors” and Professor Kenny’s HIST 372 “Urban History.”

Graduate Chair’s Report

Hilmar Pabel

Our Graduate Studies Handbook makes a virtue of the graduate program’s smallness. Ours is “a small and analytically sophisticated program of excellent quality and reputation.” Furthermore, “the small number of students admitted creates an atmosphere where students have direct access to their advisors as well as other members of the faculty.” We need to take these words to heart at a time when enrollments are low and may continue to be low. Low enrollments challenge our ability to teach undergraduates, but they still allow our graduate students to gain valuable teaching experience as TAs. Indeed, our graduate students become all the more important in the Department’s teaching mission. And of course, as professional historians in training, they share the passion for history that faculty have.

At this leaner time, the Graduate Program Committee is engaged in some important house-keeping. It worked on a plan, unveiled in December 2011, to make the scheduling of graduate seminars more manageable in the light of limited resources—financial and human. The plan’s primary purpose is to facilitate the progress of MA students in their crucial first year in the program. Before the academic year is over the GPC will carefully review the graduate program in detail to see if there are any other changes we can make to improve the program for students and faculty alike.

In September, we welcomed a small intake of fine students. Neil Adolph, Rose Golzadeh, Maurice Guibord, Brendan Plummer, and Joseph Tilley have joined the MA program; Jamie Horncastle, Jason Smith, and Sean Springer are our trio of doctoral students. Three of these are international students: Rose from Iran, and Jason and Sean from the USA. We hope that all in the class of 2011 have begun to feel at home with us. We congratulate our students on the successful defence of their theses in 2011: Wyatt Skovron, Danielle LeBlanc, Alexander Olson, Aaron Goings, Alyssa Vanpopta, James Park, Aleksander Petrovic.

Roxanne Panchasi began chairing the Candidates’ Seminar in September. I am extremely grateful for her excellent leadership on this front. Our students have turned out in great numbers to support, discuss, and offer constructive feedback on the writing of their peers. Many thanks to Star Deibert-Turner, Paulo Amaral, Lisa Lai, and James Ensom for sharing their research.

As Chair of the Graduate Program Committee since the beginning of September, I have enjoyed the many opportunities of meeting with and assisting graduate students as well as teaching incoming students in Hist. 814, the Methods Seminar. (The course was my most enjoyable teaching experience since arriving at SFU in 1992.) We can be justly proud of our students’ commitment to advanced historical research. It is a pleasure to learn with and from them. They remind us constantly of the value of the graduate program.

In the short time that I have chaired the GPC, I have learned not only what it means to serve our students and administer the program but also how fortunate I am to rely on the expertise and hard work of others. I think of the talented and friendly staff in the office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, especially Deena Coburn, Mary Ann Pope, and Sheilagh Macdonald. Wade Parkhouse is an excellent Dean. Working helpfully at his side as an Associate Dean is our own Mary-Ellen Kelm. Closer to home, Julie Sloan deftly made all the arrangements for a lively recruiting session with our undergraduates in October. As president of the History Graduate Students Association, Andrea Walisser is an asset to her peers and a valuable liaison with faculty. I am grateful for the service of my colleagues on the GPC: Paulo Amaral, the graduate student representative, and Roxanne Panchasi, Thomas Kuehn, and Jay Taylor. Students and faculty alike share my deep and abiding appreciation for Ruth Anderson, the Graduate Program Assistant. She is the program’s invaluable anchor.
Undergraduate Awards

• Eric Proulx was accepted into the highly competitive Juno Beach Centre Guide Programme in Normandy, France.
• Michael Farrelly: Stephen McIntyre Memorial Book Prize in History, a $500 prize in recognition of academic excellence.
• Jenny Shutek: Cleveland Prize in African Middle-Eastern Asian History, a $500 prize for a superior undergraduate term report or essay.
• Lucas McFadden-Gummeson: European History Book Prize, a $240 prize for a superior undergraduate term report or essay.
• Abby Rolston: Margaret Ormsby History Prize, a $400 prize for best essay by an undergraduate upper-level student enrolled in a Canadian History course at SFU.

Graduate Awards

SSHRCs 2011
Maddie Knickerbocker PhD
Andrea Walisser
Ivan Drury
Ron Hughes
Timothy Stielow

Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement Travel Award 2011
Andrea Walisser
Jeremy Milloy

Special Graduate Entrance Scholarship
Sean Springer

Graduate (International) Travel Awards
Paulo Amaral
Andrea Walisser

Travel and Minor Research Awards
Eden Dovaou
Eryk Martin
Andrea Walisser
Maddie Knickerbocker
Bonnie Schmidt
Jeremy Milloy
Mariam Klait
Edip Golbasi

PRIVATE AWARDS
William & Jane Saywell
Cory Scott
Joseph Howard

Leon J Ladner
Stacey Bishop

Cook Conference
Edip Golbasi

Douglas Cole
Rose Golzadeh

Baldwin Graduate Scholarship
Andrea Walisser

Aberbach
Jeremy Milloy

I.O.D.E. Seaman Morley Scott Memorial Graduate Scholarship
Sarah Nickle

Christensen Graduate Scholarship
Madeline Knickerbocker

Mme. Justice Bertha Wilson Bursary
Stacey Bishop

Katevatis Scholarship
Lucia Petersen

Niarchos Foundation
Jason Smith

Muslin Studies Graduate Student Travel Award
Mariam Klait

CTEF — Graduate Fellowship — 2011
Eryk Martin

Graduate Fellowships — 2011
Edip Golbasi
Mark Grueter
Ivan Drury
James Ensom
Joseph Howard
Ron Hughes
Mariam Klait
Maddie Knickerbocker
Timothy Stielow
Andrea Walisser
Ron Verzuh

President Research Stipend — 2011
Ron Verzuh
Eryk Martin
The department held a highly successful, year-long public lecture series on different aspects of Vancouver's history as part of the city's 125th anniversary year celebrations. The series kicked off in January with comedian and former history student Charlie Demers, and SFU Urban Studies professor Matt Hearn de-bunking the common myth of Vancouver as "lotus land."

- “Vancouver: The Greatest Place on Earth?” by Charlie Demers and Matt Hearn
- “I Can See Russia from My House,” by Ilya Vinkovetsky
- “Captain George Vancouver goes to California,” by Jennifer Spear
- “The Flu of 1918 — preview of H1N1?” by Mary-Ellen Kelm
- “Vancouver’s First 50 Years” by Allen Seager
- “Vancouver’s Playground: Class and Leisure in Howe Sound, 1902-1962” by Jack Little
- “Taking the Province to Court: Japanese Immigrants and Race in Early Vancouver” by Andrea Geiger
- “Realizing the Muslim Community in Vancouver” by Derryl MacLean

Huge thanks to the faculty members who shared their time and passion, reaching out to our local community. Thanks also to Mark Leier, our unofficial emcee and to all of the staff and faculty who came in support to every lecture. And lastly, thanks go out to Julie Sloan for putting together and running such a successful series.

Podcasts of the lectures can be found on our website at http://www.sfu.ca/history/van125.html

Colloquium
Jennifer Spear

The Fall 2011 Colloquium took us on a tour around the Atlantic, with stops in early modern and modern North America and Europe. The series kicked off with a visit by Professor Juliana Barr from the University of Florida who used the image of the Virgin Mary to explore the role of religion and gender in early contact between Spanish explorers and native peoples of the southwestern United States. With thanks to the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies, our next speaker, Professor Thanos Veremi, came all the way from the University of Athens to navigate the rocky shoals of nationalist thought in Greek politics from the inception of the modern Greek state to its role in the contemporary financial crisis. Keeping our focus on political discourse but bringing us back to the western hemisphere, M.A. student Paulo Amaral engaged us with a lively examination of the construction of youth as a political category in 1960s Mexico. The series concluded with a packed house, filling AQ 6229 to capacity, to hear our very own John Craig, Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, discuss the body politics of the act of prayer in early modern England. Thanks to all our speakers, and especially to John for taking time out from his busy day job, to come speak to us about their research. I hope to see you all at one or more of the Spring 2012 Colloquium talks where we will have a chance to learn about the Northern Ireland peace process from graduate student Andrea Walisser, early 20th century women farmers in Britain from the 2012 Ian Dyck Visiting Lecturer Dr. Nicola Verdon of Sheffield Hallam University, the civil rights movements of postwar California from Professor Mark Brilliant from the University of California, Berkeley, and eleventh-century Byzantium from our colleague, Professor Dimitris Krallis.
We Demand

Elise Chenier

Over one hundred people gathered in August for We Demand: History/Sex/Activism, the first national conference since 1993 on the history of sexuality in Canada. Organized by Elise Chenier and historians Pat Gentile (Carleton University) and Cameron Duder (independent scholar), and featuring a parallel film program at the Pacific Cinémathèque curated by Peter Dickinson (Department of English), We Demand brought together graduate and undergraduate students, scholars, activists, and artists from across Canada, who were joined by a broad cross-section of community members. Ann Cvetkovich (University of Texas at Austin) offered a keynote talk on archives. Presentations represented most every discipline in the social sciences, and, despite the spectacular weather outside, sessions were full and hallway conversations lively. Pat and I received countless emails praising the SFU and UBC graduate and undergraduate volunteers who kept the whole show running smoothly. Judi Fraser, Anne Klein, and former MA student Anne Toews deserve special mention for the countless hours they committed to some of the least glamorous aspects of conference organizing. The department’s support for this conference is deeply appreciated.

Graduate Student Events

Andrea Walisser

The department had yet another strong showing at the 36th annual Qualicum Conference last January. The work presented by SFU’s grads was among the strongest at the conference (if we do say so ourselves). Fresh off a semester spent grappling with Dr. Sedra’s Historical Methods course, representatives from the 2010 cohort presented on a wide range of theoretical and methodological topics. These included a panel on the challenges and opportunities afforded by oral history and talks that touched on issues of identity, how to approach world history, and dealing with problems of language as field researchers. Some of our Qualicum veterans, MAs and PhDs alike, presented on new research and offered sometimes-tentative but always thought-provoking conclusions on topics as varied as local anarchist movements, the gendered politics of museums, and feminism and biopolitics. Many of the papers presented by SFU students yielded lively and useful exchanges in the Q&A sessions immediately following. The highlight of the 2011 conference was, perhaps, Mark Leier’s talk on the popular revival of the vampire — and why it sucks. The standing ovation that followed was, of course, spearheaded enthusiastically by the SFU contingent. The conference was a chance to get together with old friends who have pursued their graduate studies at another of the province’s universities and to get to know our counterparts at UVic and UBC, and from as far afield as the University of Alberta. As always, the pub offered a chance for students to unwind and, for the observant, to learn some of their professors’ choice nightcaps. Karaoke on Saturday was characteristically entertaining, and provided the perfect opportunity to unwind after the stresses of presenting.

In Spring, Sarah Nickel spearheaded the organization of the department’s first book auction, which was a huge success and raised a considerable amount of money for the HGSA. Summer saw a number of us skip town to complete our research, traveling to places like Mexico City, Lebanon, Belfast, and Victoria. The grads enjoyed a lively social calendar during Fall Semester, which included a number of pub meet-ups, a grad-organized workshop on practical research concerns, a quiz night at The Academic, and an end-of-semester party at The Old Admiral which was not deterred by a temporary — but very complete — blackout in Burnaby Heights. Fun was had, prizes were won, and comradeships were forged, setting us up nicely to move into the new year.

Christmas Party

Anne Klein, one of the department’s wonderful staff members, graciously hosted the holiday party again this year. As usual, the food was fantastic, the kids had a ball and the festive spirit was only slightly diminished by the unfortunate and dramatic accident that damaged/destroyed 3 staff/faculty cars parked on the side of the road. Luckily, no one was seriously injured and the festivities carried on!
Highlights
It has been a very busy and exciting year for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. Perhaps the most noteworthy event was the significant endowment from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and the establishment of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies as well as the SNF New Media Lab at Simon Fraser University. Dr. Andre Gerolymatos was named the new Centre’s director at the September 16th inauguration.

In other news, Andre Gerolymatos gave a lecture entitled “The Battle of Crete” this past May which proved very popular. Mayor Gregor Robertson introduced the lecture, celebrating Vancouver’s 125th anniversary and the start of Greek Heritage Month. The lecture took place in collaboration with the Cretan Association of BC and the Hellenic Canadian Congress. Also in May, Gerolymatos participated in Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s official Canadian delegation to Athens, Greece. The purpose of the trip was to discuss bilateral relations between Canada and Greece, as well determine possible solutions to Greece’s current economic difficulties.

The New Face of the Middle East
On March 17th, Simon Fraser University’s Hellenic Studies, The Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies & Cultures and The School for International Studies partnered with Global BC to present The New Face of the Middle East, a roundtable discussion on the cataclysmic events that were and still are re-shaping the region. “It’s undeniable that the unrest in the Middle East is impacting our geopolitical architecture,” said Dr. Andre Gerolymatos, a panelist at the event. “We hope this discussion will engage the community in our exploration of the repercussions at hand.” The New Face of the Middle East was moderated by Global BC anchor Sophie Lui, and featured seven expert panelists. Along with Gerolymatos, the panelists included: special guest panelist Jas Johal, Asia Bureau Chief at Global National; Sadia Abbas, Assistant Professor at Rutgers University; and Simon Fraser University professors Paul Sedra, Tamir Moustafa, John Harriss and Thomas Kuehn.

The Dig Greece Semester Abroad program organized by The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies and the Faculty of Environment at SFU saw the highest number of applications yet. In June 2011, twenty students were selected to participate in the fourth semester of this once in a lifetime opportunity. Since its inception in 2008, the program has invited a group of students to spend a semester living on the island of Kefalonia, Greece. There, they have learned to excavate an ancient cemetery dating back to 500BC while gaining fourteen credits towards their degree.

Cyprus Still Divided
On June 14th, the American Hellenic Institute (AHI)’s documentary Cyprus Still Divided was screened in Vancouver, followed by a roundtable discussion featuring local and international experts. The evening’s events were generously funded by the Hellenic Canadian Congress of BC, organized in cooperation with Hellenic Studies at SFU and were part of Vancouver’s annual Greek Heritage Festival. Cyprus Still Divided approaches the ongoing partition of the island from the perspective of Cold War geopolitics and American action, or more recently, inaction. The film was followed by a roundtable discussion with SFU professors Andre Gerolymatos, Dimitri Krallis and John Harriss who were joined by Chris Ioannides of Queen’s College (City University of New York). They discussed the material presented in the film and engaged with the problems of local and international politics at play in this ongoing Mediterranean dispute.

The Dig Greece Semester Abroad

Andre Gerolymatos with Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures

2011 Mirhady Lecture: Dr. Janet Afary “Gender Reforms and Female Sexuality in the Pahlavi Era”

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Gender Reforms and Female Sexuality in the Pahlavi Era
Dr. Janet Afary
Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC
October 7, 2011, 7 pm
1900 Fletcher Room, Harbour Centre

Dr. Janet Afary presented the 2011 Mirhady lecture from UC Santa Barbara. Dr. Afary presented images and comics portraying women in Pahlavi society, which was followed by her thought-provoking lecture on the status of women in Pahlavi era. Afary captivated a full house and later mingled at the reception that followed the formal presentation.

2011/2012 Annual Lectures Series

September 27, 2011, 7 pm
900 Fletcher Room, Harbour Center
Abdullahi Ahmed is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, Director of the Center for International and Comparative Law, and Associated Professor in Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. An-na’im’s lecture titled: Human Rights, Universality and Sovereignty: The Relevance and Irrelevance Sharia, addressed the role that Sharia law played and continues to play in the development of the modern nation-state. An-na’im convincingly deconstructed the concept of universality in both human rights and Sharia law, demonstrating that the notion of universality is a paradox.

October 28, 2011, 7 pm
1900 Fletcher Room, Harbour Center

George Saliba is Professor of Arabic and Islamic Science at Columbia University in the city of New York. Saliba’s lecture “Embedding Arabic/Islamic Science in the Renaissance” offered an engaging, illustrated account of how Renaissance scientists incorporated scientific ideas from the Islamic world into their Latin works without necessarily having the Arabic works in which those ideas first appeared literally translated into Latin, as was done during the Middle Ages.

International Summer Programme (ISP) 2012

Registration is now open for the International Summer Programme (ISP) 2012, Expressions of Diversity, to be held in Vancouver. This year the second week will focus on the complexities of modernity in Muslim societies and cultures. The “Expressions of Diversity Visiting Professor” will be Dr. Bruce B. Lawrence, the Nancy and Jeffrey Marcus Humanities Professor of Religion at Duke University.

For further details and application forms see: www.ccsmsc.sfu.ca/summer/2012
The beginning of 2011 saw the election of an entirely new slate of History Student Union executives, who have been working to become familiar with Departmental Student Unions and to learn how best to interact with and serve History students.

One of the new executive’s core goals is to reach out into the larger History student body. To this end, the HSU, with the support of the History department, has carried out two rounds of classroom visits at the beginning of the summer and fall 2011 semesters in order to raise awareness among upper- and lower-division History students about ways to get involved with the HSU.

The newly formed Society for the Arts and Social Sciences organized a Bicker and Banter lecture series; the HSU volunteered the History department to kick-start this series, and hosted a well-received event at which Doctors Paul Sedra and Luke Clossey presented.

The HSU hosted a pub trivia night on campus in October. It also began an ongoing initiative to publish its first inter-departmental journal.

In 2012, the HSU will be hosting a number of events, including a movie night, two pub trivia nights, and a pancake breakfast.

New Website
www.sfu.ca/history

We have a new website! Please check it out and stay awhile. And don’t forget to check us out on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter.

http://tinyurl.com/6lgjn8n  www.twitter.com/sfuhistory

New Appointments

We are very pleased to announce the addition of two talented Limited Term Instructors to our department: African historian Sarah Walshaw and German historian Carla MacDougall.

Sarah Walshaw grew up in Alberta, where she completed a BSc in Archaeology at the University of Calgary and an MA in Anthropology at the University of Alberta. She migrated south for a PhD in Anthropology at Washington University in St Louis, where my interest in Africa was nurtured and where she studied the Swahili language. In 2006 she began a SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Archaeology Department of SFU, and began teaching African History on a sessional basis at SFU and UBC.

Carla MacDougall received her Ph.D. in 2011 from Rutgers University in New Jersey. After falling in love with Berlin, she decided to make the city the subject of her dissertation titled, “Cold War Capital: Contested Urbanity in West Berlin, 1963-1989.” Carla had a one-year appointment at SFU in 2007-08 and is excited to be back.

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Elise Chenier: In June and July I took full advantage of my sabbatical to launch an intensive study of the US borders and coasts by motorcycle, stopping at the occasional archives just for kicks. In August I co-hosted the SSHRC-funded conference We Demand: History/Sex/Activism, and published an article on the construction of pedophilia in Sexuality and Culture. Somewhere in there I presented a paper at the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians in Amherst, Massachusetts on my digital archives project, the Archives of Lesbian Oral Testimony, and I was invited to participate in a fantastic workshop on oral history at Concordia’s Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling.

Luke Clossey: 2011 saw research trips to India, Bahrain, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, and Wales, with a relatively relaxing fall semester teaching as dessert.


Andrea Geiger: 2011 saw the publication of my first book, Subverting Exclusion: Transpacific Encounters with Race, Caste, and Borders, 1885–1928, by Yale University Press as part of the Lamar Series in Western History. I presented papers at the Annual Meetings of the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and the Western History Association, and continued to serve as chair of both the Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals and the OAH/JAAS (Japanese Association of American Studies) Historians’ Collaborative Committee.
Mary-Ellen Kelm: This year has been another busy one. I finished out my position as Graduate Chair, which was a really good experience, learning from colleagues and students alike. It was so much fun that I’ve joined the Office of Grad Studies as an Associate Dean with a focus on students. My book on rodeo, A Wilder West, was released in November. I gave two talks that discussed the project in its theoretical context. One at the Jeudi Montreal in March, and one at the W.L. Morton Distinguished Lecturer at Trent University in November. I also met up with former graduate students Sean Carleton and Julia Smith who are doing very well at Trent and are great ambassadors of SFU.

I received a Digitization Grant from the library to digitize many of the primary sources I collected during the course of my research on rodeo. These will be mounted to the library’s website and once up, will be linked to my web page putting readers of A Wilder West in touch with some of its sources.

I was successful in receiving a Teaching and Learning Inquiry Grant which I used to give the TAs in HIST 101 facilitation training. We were hoping to improve the tutorial experience of our first year students.

I was part of a team that wrote a response to the Harper government’s revised guide to Citizenship called Discover Canada. We’ve entitled our guide, a People’s Guide to Canada and offers an alternate view of being Canadian and of Canadian history. I was a part of the Vancouver Lecture Series, giving a talk on Vancouver’s experience of 1918 flu. A book chapter (from which the talk was drawn) will appear in a collection edited by Eyllt Jones with UBC press in 2012. And last but not least, for those who are following Rusty’s career as well, he earned his Companion Dog (CD) Title this past year with two High in Class awards receiving scores over 190/200 in all three competitions required to earn the CD.

Nicolas Kenny: 2011 kept me busy thinking about all things urban. I travelled to Tours, France for a conference on “The Five Senses of the City,” and published a paper on “Corporeal Understandings of the Industrialising Environment” in Metropolitan Natures: Urban Environmental Histories of Montreal, a volume edited by Stéphane Castonguay and Michèle Dagenais. In the Fall I had the pleasure of putting together a new 300-level course on “The Urban Experience,” which looked at what it has meant, historically, to be a city dweller.

Willeen Keough has primarily been on research and sabbatical leave this past academic year and has been enjoying the opportunity to really tuck into her research and writing. Two of her articles have been published (in Signs and the Journal of the Canadian Historical Association). She and colleague Lara Campbell of Gender Studies and Women’s Studies have completed a manuscript for Oxford University Press on gender and history in Canada, which will be in print by the fall semester of 2013. Work on her SSHRC project “Seal Wars: Conflicting Masculinities at the Labrador Front” is ongoing, and research and conferences are taking her to Newfouldand, Sanibel Island, New Orleans, Bath, Waterloo, and Paris. “It’s dirty work,” she says, “but someone has to do it.”

Dimitri Krallis: In 2011 I completed three significant projects, which now have publication dates set for spring and fall 2012. The first is my book Michael Attaleiates and the Politics of Imperial Decline in Eleventh Century Byzantium. Then in the fall of 2012 a joint project with professor Anthony Kaldellis of The Ohio State University will appear at the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library published by Harvard University Press. This is a full length translation of Michael Attaleiates’ History. Thirdly my article: “Harmless satire, stinging critique: a new reading of the Timarion” will appear in a volume edited by Dimitar Angelov and Michael Saxby titled Byzantium Behind the Scenes: Power and Subversion. In 2011 I edited with our colleague Thomas Kuehn volume 28 of the Journal of Modern Hellenism. This particular issue is titled Hellenism and Islam: Global and Historical Perspectives and contains our coauthored introduction. Over the last year I wrote two book reviews, one on Gill Page’s Being Byzantine: Greek Identity before the Ottomans, published in the Journal of Hellenic Studies and one of Youval Rotman’s Byzantine Slavery and the Mediterranean World, published in Speculum.

I also presented three papers on other aspects of my work at workshops/symposia at SFU, UVic and the University of Oxford. Finally I submitted upon invitation one journal article at the Boundary 2 Journal. It is titled: The Critic’s Byzantine Ploy: Voltairean Confusion in post-secularist Narratives and it is currently under review.

In the fall of 2011, I presented two conferences papers: “We know nothing about Yemen! Ottoman governance in southwest Arabia, the politics of knowledge production and the Zaydi imams, 1891-1919” (Presented at “A Century after Da’an: A workshop on Yemeni history and society,” Princeton University, October 15, 2011) and “What do we know about Yemen? Ottoman politics of knowledge production and imperial governance in southwest Arabia, 1872-1914” (Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America [MESA], Washington, D.C., December 4, 2011).

In July and August of 2011, I did five weeks of research in London and Istanbul on my new project titled “Bearing the burden of empire: Military service in Yemen and its impact on Ottoman society, 1891-1914.” And in May of 2011 I briefed the Vancouver division of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) on the recent political developments in the Middle East.

Mark Leier was nearly run over by a presidential motorcade while in Washington, DC for the Workers in Crises conference, in September 2011. Two short, popular articles, “Money, Blood, and Why Today’s Vampire Revival Sucks” and “Labour Day’s Feisty Origins” appeared in The Tyee. He is working on a revised second edition of Rebel Life, due out with New Star Books this fall.

Paul Sedra: Apart from publishing his first book (From Mission to Modernity) and achieving tenure, Paul Sedra had an eventful 2011 due to Egypt’s January 25th revolution and the uprisings elsewhere in the Arab world. He became active as a media commentator, both locally (for CBC Radio’s Early Edition) and internationally (for Al-Jazeera English); as a visiting lecturer in Canada and the US; and as a blogger for the Jadaliyya e-zine (www.jadaliyya.com) and his own Thawra Thoughts (thawrathoughts.blogspot.com).

Jennifer Spear: In June, the Fifteen Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, which I had spent almost two years helping to organize as the co-chair of the Program Committee, finally took place at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Apart from a few last minute room changes and a dreadful thunderstorm that disrupted many attendees’ travel plans, it was an enormously rewarding experience although not one I plan on repeating soon: organizing one conference of this size — over two hundred sessions and more than a thousand attendees — should suffice for a single lifetime.

Jay Taylor: Joseph Taylor published a short essay in Thresholds on the usage of historical metaphors, wrote a number of stories for High Country News’s “The Range”, and has a piece on science and marine environmental history coming out in the summer 2012 of Environmental History, The Oregon Encyclopedia Project, and The Americas and Oceania encyclopedia to be published by Berkshire Press. He also presented papers at the Organization of American Historians and the American Society for Environmental History and gave a series of invited talks and lectures at Bowdoin College.

Sarah Walshaw: Sarah Walshaw is excited to return to work, teaching African History as a Senior Instructor and continuing my research through the Departments of History and Archaeology. In November I presented a paper titled “Agricultural Independence of Family Farms on Pemba Island, Tanzania: Archival and Ethnographic Perspectives” at the African Studies Association Meetings in Washington, DC.

Ilya Vinkovetsky: 2011 was an important year in Ilya Vinkovetsky’s career. His book, Russian America: An Overseas Colony of a Continental Empire, 1804-1867 (Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press) came out in April. In September he received tenure and promotion to associate professor. He taught two new seminars: one on the history of the relations between Russians and Muslims (in the Spring semester) and another, in the Summer, on Leo Tolstoy and Napoleon’s 1812 excursion into Russia.
Faculty Publications & Awards

Books (Current Faculty)


Books (Retired Faculty)


Faculty Awards
Jack Little: named University Professor, a rare honour given to faculty with an outstanding career as a scholar and teacher.

Alec Dawson: the Cormack Teaching Award, SSHRC Workshop Grant.

Elise Chenier: SSHRC SRG and Conference grants.

Nicolas Kenny: SSHRC Standard Research Grant.