In 2013, we bade a fond farewell to Anne Klein, our Budget Clerk, and Julie Sloan, our Coordinator for Communications and Recruitment. We welcomed Tammy Theis and Allison McMahon, respectively our new Finance and Administration Clerk and Coordinator for Communications and Events. Tammy and Allison have brought much dedication and enthusiasm to their positions and have integrated quickly into our wonderful administrative staff.

We also bade an administrative farewell of sorts to our colleagues in Hellenic Studies, André Gerolymatos, Dimitris Krallis, and Doxis Doxiadis. Under André’s leadership they have formed the new independent academic program of Hellenic Studies at SFU, separate from the Department of History. As historians they remain closely connected to our Department, however. Their undergraduate courses are cross-listed with History. They will continue to supervise graduate students in History. Looking forward to fruitful cooperation, we wish them well in their new situation.

After our well-received public lecture series in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, we decided to mount a new series, this time on “Heroes and Villains: Re-thinking Good and Evil in History.” This series has been our most successful yet, drawing large and attentive audiences to Harbour Centre. Mark Leier spoke on Robert Gosden, revolutionary, mystic, and labour spy and with the help of his banjo treated us to some musical experiential learning. It was standing room only when Bidisha Ray explored the myth of Mahatma Gandhi. Roxanne Panchasi moderated an intriguing panel discussion of the public personae of Pierre and Justin Trudeau with historical, political, and cultural insight from Elise Chenier, Nicolas Kenny, and Allen Seager. 2014 will bring lectures from Emily O’Brien on the Renaissance papacy, Karen Ferguson on Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, and Thomas Kuehn on Ahmed Feyzi Pasha—Ottoman Hero or Frontier Villain? If you were unable to attend the lectures, or if you want to hear them again, point your browser to http://www.sfu.ca/history/events/event-recordings.html.

The Department has made financial commitments to recognize the achievements of undergraduate and graduate students and to consolidate our profile in modern British history. Gretchen Cleveland has been donating regularly to the William L. Cleveland Essay Prize in African, Middle-Eastern, and Asian History. We matched her latest donation to complete the endowment of the Prize for undergraduates in honour of our esteemed colleague. We also approved a substantial donation to establish the Michael Fellman Graduate Prize to reward outstanding writing by an MA student. The Prize will alternate between Graduate Liberal Studies at SFU and our Department. Finally, with a substantial donation from our Department matched by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences we have completed the endowment of the Ian Dyck Memorial Lectureship. Every spring the Lectureship brings an eminent scholar in British history to address students, faculty, and the wider public at SFU.
Graduate Chair’s Report
Roxanne Panchasi

This past year was an exciting one for our graduate program. At the beginning of the year, our department had a very strong presence at the Qualicum Graduate History Conference in Parksville, BC. Our student presenters did an outstanding job, sharing work that took audiences from Early Modern Europe to twentieth-century Greece and Canada. From an inaugural SFU reception that took place right before the conference through the ferry trip back to Vancouver, the faculty and students who attended had a wonderful time.

By May of 2013, all of the 2012-2013 cohort of MA students defended their thesis prospectuses successfully and went on to productive summers of research. In September, we welcomed a new cohort of MA and PhD students to the program: Sukhjit Chohan, Jennifer Chutter, Gisèle Dubé, Khash Hemmati, Huangyi Jiang, Corey Larson, Liam O’Flaherty, Ardalan Rezamand, Abby Rolston, Andrea Samoil, and Katrina Trask. Continuing our department’s record of excellence, several of our students were awarded SSHRCs and a range of private awards this past year. In November 2013, the department hosted another successful round of Grad 101, a recruitment event that encourages our best undergraduates to consider continuing their studies in History at the MA level.

Over the course of 2013, five MA and two PhD students defended theses that reflected years of hard work, creative and critical thinking. Many congratulations to our graduates and thanks to the faculty and student community that supported their progress.

Recently Defended Graduate Theses

M.A. Theses

Stacey Bishop
“’Livability is a victim of street prostitution’: The Politics of Sex, the Neighbourhood, and the Rightward Turn in Vancouver’s Gay West End, 1981–1985.”

Star Deibert-Turner

Maurice Guibord
“The Evolution of Chinese Graves at Burnaby’s Ocean View Cemetery: From Stigmatized Purlieu to Political Adaptations and Cultural Identity.”

Mei-En (Lisa) Lai
“Social Status, the Patriarch and Assembly Balls and the Transformation in Elite Identity in Gilded Age New York”

Andrea Walisser
“Parading Anxieties: Drumcree, Sectarianism, and the Contested Production of Knowledge in Peace Process Era Northern Ireland.”

Roy Smith

PhD Dissertations

Bonnie Schmidt

Julian Brooks
“Managing Macedonia: British Statecraft, Intervention, and ‘Proto-Peacekeeping’ in Ottoman Macedonia, 1902–1905”
Graduate Awards

Alan Aberbach Scholarship
Corey Larson (PhD)

Baldwin Scholarship
Gisele Dubeau (MA)

Cole Entry Scholarship
Jennifer Chutter (MA)

Cook Conference Scholarship
Abby Rolston (MA)

CTEF Fellowship
Jeremy Milloy (PhD)
Sarah Nickel (PhD)
Mark Grueter (PhD)

J.V. Christensen Scholarship
Alice Huang (MA)

External Graduate Award
Madeline Knickerbocker (PhD)
Edip Golbasi (PhD)

Graduate Fellowship
Mark Grueter (PhD)
Edip Golbasi (PhD)
Leah Wiener (PhD)
Christopher Dickert (MA)
Joseph Tilley (MA)

Kathryn Hearn (MA)
Brendan Plummer (MA)
Leigha Smith (MA)
Sarah Inglis (MA)
Campbell Eaton (MA)
Alice Huang (MA)

Fellowship Supplement
James Horncastle [PhD]
Christopher Dickert (MA)

Graduate International Scholar
Mark Grueter [PhD]
Thomas Hoy (MA)

Hellenic Canadian Congress
Sarah Inglis (MA)

Katevatis Scholarship
Sarah Inglis (MA)

Ladner Scholarship in History
Abby Rolston (MA)

Muslim Studies Travel Award
Babagolzadeh Koshtely (MA)

Nick Kravariotis Memorial Scholarship
Sarah Inglis (MA)

President’s Research Stipend
Sarah Nickel (PhD)
Edip Golbasi (PhD)

Saywell Scholarship in History
Jeremy Milloy (PhD)
Christopher Dickert (MA)
Simone Hanebaum (MA)

SSHRC Scholarship
Leah Weiner (PhD)
Christopher Dickert (MA)
Campbell Eaton (MA)
Alice Huang (MA)

Travel and Minor Research Award
Edip Golbasi (PhD)
Alice Huang (MA)
Joseph Howard (MA)
James Horncastle [PhD]
Sarah Inglis (MA)
Maddie Knickerbocker (PhD)
Jeremy Milloy [PhD]
Kathryn McKay [PhD]
Tilley (MA)
Ron Verzuh (PhD)
Leah Weiner (PhD)
History Student Union: 2013 in Review
Anna-Christine Avefjall, History Student Union President

In 2013 the History Student Union saw the election of several new executive members. These new members spent the Spring and Summer semesters familiarizing themselves with their roles, and the responsibilities of Departmental Student Unions. With the help of former executive members they learned the best way to serve and interact with fellow History students and with the faculty in the department.

Our mission is to demonstrate that history is more than just the memorization of names and dates. To this end, we worked closely with both students and faculty to promote a greater awareness among undergraduates of what this field has to offer outside of the classroom.

With the support of the department, the HSU carried out classroom visits at the beginning of the Fall 2013 semester, allowing us to raise awareness among undergraduate History students about ways to get involved with the HSU as well as the events that were taking place in the upcoming months.

We hosted a pub trivia night on SFU Burnaby campus in October, for which the very entertaining and engaging Dr. Luke Clossey graciously volunteered to be our emcee. The event had a great turn out. Teams were a mix of undergraduates, graduates, and even faculty. Overall, it was a successful event, and we hope to host it again in 2014.

In November the History Student Union hosted a dialogue lecture with Dr. Thomas Kuehn and Dr. Paul Sedra entitled “Voice of the People: Historicizing the Arab Spring.” This lecture related historical interpretations of social protest in the Middle East with contemporary depictions of the region.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to build a community of history students in coming year.

Undergraduate Award Winners

Stephen McIntyre Memorial Book Prize in History
Awarded to the top graduating student in history
Jennifer Shutek

Cleveland Essay Prize in African, Middle-Eastern, or Asian History
Awarded for the best essay in African, Middle-Eastern, or Asian History

European History Essay Prize
Awarded for the best essay in European History
Joel Roberts for “Intersections between History and Literature: Anna Karenina and Modernity in Late 19th Century Russia,” written in HIST 419 for Dr. Ilya Vinkovetsky.

Richard Morgan Memorial Book Prize
Awarded for the best essay in Aboriginal History
Colin Osmond for “Be Respectful of One Another and Seek Truth”: Ethnocentrism and the Slaimmon Land Struggle in British Columbia,” written in HIST 326 for Dr. Miles Powell.
Honours Program

The Department of History is pleased to congratulate Mystery Beck on the completion of her honours thesis (abstract below). We look forward to welcoming a new honours cohort in Fall 2014.

Mystery Beck, “Ethnic Slurs, Slights, and Tensions in Medieval Education,” supervised by Paul Dutton (Humanities)

At the University of Paris during the thirteenth century, the evolution of scholastic practices had an impact on social norms. The shift from strict theological education taught in religious buildings to new subjects founded in institutions like the university attracted students from all over Europe. These international students brought unique cultural traditions that ultimately fuelled tensions with the local student population. Enraged at this digression, a Parisian bishop, Jacques de Vitry, wrote an extensive list of ethnic slurs he heard throughout the city. In his Historia Occidentalis, de Vitry mentions “hot-tempered Germans”, the “arrogant French”, and most peculiarly, the “tailed British”. The list of slurs suggests a division evident in not only the university and the city of Paris, but also across all of Europe.
Annual Lecture Series

The department’s annual lecture series aims to foster a conversation about history and its critical importance in today’s society. So far, the series has done just that, earning write-ups in the local press and standing room only audiences. The lectures have also been recorded and made available on YouTube. All recordings are available on our website: www.sfu.ca/history/events/event-recordings.html.

Travel in History

The 2012-2013 lecture series took a close and critical look at various forms of travel, tourism, and trips across time and place. Below are descriptions of the lectures held in 2013.

Filth, Sex and Owning the Gaze: Calcutta’s Slum Tours in Historical Perspective
Bidisha Ray

Calcutta is associated with some of the most familiar clichés of poverty, disease and social deprivation in South Asia. This murky reputation, alongside sentimental representations of the city as a ‘City of Joy’, fountainhead of literary cultures, or Mother Teresa’s heartland, draws an eclectic mix of travelers to the city, curious to experience ‘real’ India in all its contrasting glory. Bidisha Ray’s lecture explored the dynamics of identity and privilege at work in one common form of tourism in Calcutta: slum tours through its impoverished neighbourhoods. In particular, the talk explored the strategic deployment of poverty as an attraction for wealthy tourists and considered the interaction, conflict, and political implications of ‘elite’ and ‘subaltern’ identities in this context.

Going Home: Mountains, Mountaineers, and Environmental Activism
Jay Taylor

Jay Taylor’s lecture explored the interplay of psychology and ecology in modern mountaineering, explaining how, for some climbers, avocation evolved into vocation and cause, producing some of modernity’s most energetic advocates for protecting undeveloped landscapes. In particular, he highlighted the writings of Leslie Stephen, John Muir, David Brower, and Yvon Chouinard, which reveal how sport and gender combined to turn wild nature into places they called “home.”

That Other Kind of Trip: Psychedelics and the Lure of Indigenous Mexico
Alec Dawson

In the 1960s and 1970s, North Americans took two kinds of trips to Mexico: the first involved travel in the traditional sense of the word, and the second entailed the search for the perfect psychedelic “trip.” Over time these “Hippies” and “New Agers” got a series of bad raps, both as lazy hedonists and as culture thieves — rich outsiders who appropriated indigenous cultures and ultimately damaged the communities they purported to admire. In his lecture, Alec Dawson took a different approach by rescuing some of the idealism and existential angst of the hippy/new ager, and arguing that in certain moments the non-natives who sought out indigenous hallucinogens represent just one more iteration of a long standing tradition of intercultural dialogue. In this, Dr. Dawson demonstrated that they were the types of boundary crossers whose example could help us escape the obsession with cultural difference that plagues our times.
Heroes and Villains: Rethinking Good and Evil in History

Who does history remember as a hero? Who is castigated as a villain? Do these labels help or hinder our understanding of historical figures? Our 2013-2014 lecture series takes on these questions by examining the lives of some of history’s most notorious saints and sinners.

Rebel Life: The Life and Times of Robert Gosden, Revolutionary, Mystic, and Labour Spy
Mark Leier

In BC’s rough and tumble resource economy before World War One, labour relations were marked by terrible working conditions, lengthy lockouts, imprisonment, even murder at the hands of company gun thugs. Robert Gosden was a fiery radical who advocated in response strikes, sabotage, and, he hinted darkly, assassination, from Prince Rupert to Vancouver Island to San Diego. But by 1919, Gosden had become a labour spy for the RCMP, urging the police to “disappear” his former comrades during the strike wave of that year. Mark Leier’s talk examined Gosden’s life to explore our history and the lessons that it can teach us.

Great Soul or Great Schemer? Exploring the Myth of Mahatma Gandhi
Bidisha Ray

Mahatma Gandhi’s name is synonymous with peace and saintliness almost everywhere on the planet. Yet in parts of postcolonial South Asia, Gandhi’s life, politics, ideologies, and legacy have been the subject of considerable controversy and even violent denigration. How, then, should we remember Gandhi? Misogynist tyrant or freethinking radical? Self-absorbed kingmaker or farsighted statesman? Economic genius or utopian fantasist? In her lecture, Bidisha Ray explored some of the most popular myths surrounding the man and his work to offer a fresh perspective on what Gandhi and Gandhi-isms may stand for.

Trudeau 2.0: Pierre’s Legacy and Justin’s Future
Elise Chenier, Nicolas Kenny, Allen Seager, & Roxanne Panchasi

Many Canadians view Pierre Elliott Trudeau as a Canadian hero, perhaps the most charismatic Prime Minister the nation has ever seen. Yet others are far more critical of Trudeau’s leadership and legacies. This ambivalence has led to popular opinion polls naming Pierre one of the greatest and worst Canadians of all time. Justin, Pierre’s 41-year-old son and current leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, is no less of a polarizing figure than his father. A media darling, Justin’s youthful energy and charm have worked both for and against him in assessments of his political capital and potential. Using images of the two Trudeau’s, this panel of Canadian historians explored the past, present, and future of the Trudeau dynasty.

High School Outreach

This year, the department opened its doors to high school students, inviting social studies classes from around the lower mainland to sit in on a 100-level lecture and enjoy a tour of the campus. The purpose of these visits was to help students make more informed decisions about their future after secondary school by demystifying the university campus and offering them a glimpse into the world of undergraduate studies. Over 120 students participated in the first semester of the program, with groups visiting both Luke Clossey’s Fundamentals of World History lectures and Paul Sedra’s Modern Middle East course. We look forward to continuing our outreach efforts in 2014!
Rebel Life: The Life and Times of Robert Gosden, Revolutionary, Mystic, Labour Spy, Rev. Ed.
Mark Leier
(Vancouver: New Star Books, 2013)

Canada’s west coast was rife with upheaval in the second and third decades of the twentieth century. At the centre of the turmoil is Robert Gosden, migrant labourer turned radical activist — turned police spy. In 1913, he publicly recommends assassinating Premier Richard McBride to resolve the miners’ strike. By 1919, he is urging Prime Minister Robert Borden to “disappear” key labour radicals to quell rising discontent. What happened?

Rebel Life plumbs the enigma that was Gosden, but is it much more: an ideal introduction to BC labour history containing archival photograph and sidebars rich with historical arcana and a chapter outlining the research that unearthed Gosden’s story and a rich resource for instructors, students, and trade unionists.

“One of the finest books on Canadian labour to appear in recent years. Rebel Life stands out as a true diamond.” — David Bright, Niagara College

Patrician Liberal: The Public and Private Life of Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière, 1829-1908
Jack Little
(Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013)

Patrician Liberal examines the life and career of a neglected figure in Canadian history, Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière. This book provides a detailed account of Joly’s political career as Quebec premier, Cabinet minister in the Laurier government, and lieutenant-governor of British Columbia, as well as his public role as a French-speaking Protestant promoter of national unity, a leading spokesperson for the Canadian forest conservation movement, a Quebec seigneur, and father to a large and devoted family.

Joly’s life serves as a prism through which author J.I. Little elucidates important themes in Quebec and Canadian society, economy, politics, and culture during the Victorian and Edwardian eras. As Little reveals, Joly’s story is particularly fascinating for how closely the conflicting forces in his life — religious, cultural, and social — mirrored those of a Canadian society straining to forge a cohesive and distinctive national identity.

“Patrician Liberal is an excellent biography and an enjoyable read. J.I. Little not only tells a great story in this book, but also uses it to discuss larger issues about Canadian and Quebec society, politics, and culture. Very well researched and nicely contextualized, Patrician Liberal will be an important book that contributes to significant historiographical debates.” — Michel Ducharme, Department of History, University of British Columbia
**Top Down: The Ford Foundation, Black Power, and the Reinvention of Racial Liberalism**

Karen Ferguson


At first glance, the Ford Foundation and the black power movement would make an unlikely partnership. After the Second World War, the renowned Foundation was the largest philanthropic organization in the United States and was dedicated to projects of liberal reform. Black power ideology, which promoted self-determination over color-blind assimilation, was often characterized as radical and divisive. But Foundation president McGeorge Bundy chose to engage rather than confront black power’s challenge to racial liberalism through an ambitious, long-term strategy to foster the “social development” of racial minorities. The Ford Foundation not only bankrolled but originated many of the black power era’s hallmark legacies: community control of public schools, ghetto-based economic development initiatives, and race-specific arts and cultural organizations.

In Top Down, Karen Ferguson explores the consequences of this counterintuitive and unequal relationship between the liberal establishment and black activists and their ideas. In essence, the white liberal effort to reforge a national consensus on race had the effect of remaking racial liberalism from the top down—a domestication of black power ideology that still flourishes in current racial politics. Ultimately, this new racial liberalism would help foster a black leadership class—including Barack Obama—while accommodating the intractable inequality that first drew the Ford Foundation to address the “race problem.”

“Karen Ferguson’s Top Down is a provocative and often brilliant history of the single most important philanthropic institution in the long civil rights era.” - Felicia Kornbluh, University of Vermont

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**Gender History: Canadian Perspectives**

Willen Keough and Lara Campbell

(Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2013)

Seamlessly integrating primary and secondary sources with insightful original overviews, Gender History: Canadian Perspectives is a comprehensive resource for students of gender history in Canada. This reader-textbook takes and innovative historical and thematic approach - the first half is chronological in structure, tracing developments from the pre-contacts such as work, the law, sexuality, religion, and popular culture. The result is a solid introduction to the broad patterns and themes of gender history in Canada, with particular emphasis on the diversity of gender experiences and the intersections of gender with class and race.

“This is a desperately needed update to the available literature on the subject of gender and Canadian history. It is, to my knowledge, unique in providing a single, coherent narrative on the topic.” — G. Bruce Retallack, University of Toronto
United Way Faculty Smackdown Debate

The key to winning a United Way Smackdown debate? Make sure that a historian is on your team.

That’s the lesson that The Gargantueloquents learned when they took on “Downtown” Jeremy Brown and his team, Size Does Matter, in an Oxford-style debate. Size Does Matter used logic and wit to successfully argue against the proposition before the house: “Be it resolved that big words are better than little words.”

The debate, hosted annually as a fundraiser for United Way, brings together twelve faculty members to “debate topics of no real importance in a low-budget version of the Oxford Union-style debates.” The debaters are nominated by students based on the following criteria:

The faculty member must:
1) be known for his/her sense of humour,
2) have the ability to talk about anything, and
3) possess an appreciation for volunteerism or the act of giving.

Historians have proven themselves to be particularly well-suited to the competition; last year’s winning side benefitted from Elise Chenier’s excellent rhetorical skills.

Cosmopolitanisms in Muslim Contexts: Perspectives from the Past
Derryl MacLean & Sikeena Karmali Ahmed (Editors)
(Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013)

This collection of 9 essays focuses on instances in world history when cosmopolitan ideas and actions pervaded specific Muslim societies and cultures. The contributors explore the tensions between regional cultures, isolated enclaves and modern nation-states.

Cosmopolitanism is a key concept in social and political thought, standing in opposition to closed human group ideologies such as tribalism, nationalism and fundamentalism. Recent discussions of it have been situated within Western self-perceptions. Now, this volume explores it from Muslim perspectives.

“Cosmopolitanisms in Muslim Contexts exceeds all previous efforts to address the intersection of Islam and cosmopolitan norms, values and options. Against the backdrop of Islamicate civilization and contemporary global challenges, its contributors accent cosmopolitanism as both a political ideal and a social practice in several contexts. At last one can, and does, grasp the critical cosmopolitan element of the Muslim world throughout the Afro-Eurasian ecumene.” —Bruce B. Lawrence, Duke University
Tammy Theis  
Finance and Administration Clerk

I’ve been with the History department since February 2013 and am thrilled to be working here on a permanent basis. I managed a transportation office before coming to SFU and prior to that worked in fundraising and event planning. I graduated from SFU in 2000 with a degree in the Humanities and worked for years making the world a cooler place as a professional breakdancer, actor and recording artist before settling down to raise my two young sons and eventually return to my alma mater.

My duties include:
• Assisting with the administration of the department’s budget
• Processing expense claims for faculty and staff
• Helping faculty and sessional instructors with administrative issues
• Performing website maintenance

Allison McMahon  
Coordinator, Communications and Events

When I finished my M.A. in September 2012, I faced a question that many newly-minted history graduates ask themselves: how can I merge my passion for the past with my desire for something other than academic life? Luckily, the universe delivered an answer in the form of my current position, which allows me to bring the fascinating research done by SFU’s historians into the public eye. When I’m not hard at work in the AQ, you can usually find me curled up with a book, bent over a sewing machine, or moonlighting as a research assistant and writer.

My duties include:
• Managing the department’s website and social media pages
• Coordinating and promoting departmental events
• Writing press releases and liaising with the media
• Designing promotional materials

New Website

The department’s website has been made over with a brand new look and feel. New features on the site include an improved and expanded news section, and an updated publications page. Department staff members are still hard at work on the site, so stay tuned for further updates in the near future!
At the end of the spring 2014 semester, our dear colleague and friend Allen Seager will commence his retirement after 34 years of teaching in the department.

Allen took up his position in 1980 after completing his PhD at York University. A specialist in the history of the coal industry, mining communities in Western Canada, and the Canadian railways, Allen’s appointment placed the department at the forefront of the new and exciting field of Canadian working class history. Bringing what he describes as a “Groucho-Marxist” perspective to the subject, his work challenged older forms of anti-communist labour history and attracted young radicals (including our own Mark Leier) to the department.

Since then, he has published books and articles on a wide range of topics, including the experience of Finnish immigrants to Canada; the politics of Alberta’s coal fields; the social and political upheaval of Canada’s “decades of discord” in the 1920s-30s; and the lives of workers in Vancouver’s first 100 years.

Yet Allen’s publication record tells only part of the story. Never content to merely write about the political struggles of the past, Allen could be found as often on peace marches, political campaigns, and picket lines as in the archive.

These contemporary struggles greatly shaped his pedagogical practice; as alumna Elaine Bernard recalls of her time as a PhD student in the early 1980s, Allen “helped us connect what was happening around us, with what had gone before. He helped us explore how we might learn from history and how current events might influence the lens through which we examine the past.”

Though historiographical and political divisions have been a constant presence in the department, Allen’s natural congeniality has ensured that he has always been well-liked and respected throughout the department. Former colleague Bryan Palmer recalls that amongst the Canadianists, “there was a rollicking sociability and intellectual engagement that encompassed dinners and conviviality, arguments and mutual support, criticism and comradeship […] and Allen Seager was at the centre of all of this.”

Allen reports that in his retirement, he would “like to see more of Canada, and maybe read a bit less about the subject.” Though he’ll miss his colleagues and students, he looks forward to a life free from “MySFU, on-line bookstore orders, half-wired classrooms, and generally speaking, anything to do with the digital revolution.” He will, of course, remain politically active in his constituency and community.

Allen’s encyclopedic knowledge of Canadian history, energetic and informed political perspectives, and endlessly generous spirit will be missed in the department. Nevertheless, we wish him well in his well-earned break from academic life.

Special thanks to Jack Little, Gordon Hak, Elaine Bernard, Bryan Palmer, and Mark Leier for their contributions.
Allen has always impressed me with the depth of his reading. Those armloads of papers and books he’s always carrying around? He reads them. At a thesis defence many years ago, a thesis on Canadian women’s history, Allen proclaimed, that of course, as we all knew, the Italians were the acknowledged masters of oral history, and he turned to a page in one of that pile of books, pulled out a very appropriate quote from the Italian author, and used it as the basis of a series of questions for the candidate who was, as she confessed later, still thinking, “The Italians? WTF?”

Some years later, Allen, with another armload of books and papers, stuck his head in my office door and said, “Did you know that during the BC gold rush, they actually took out more platinum than gold? It was really a platinum rush.” He turned and left that nugget for me to digest, and I haven’t had the courage to ask him what I was supposed to do now that I know that.

My point is that Allen, for as long as I have known him, and that goes back to 1982, when I started here as an undergraduate student and in 1985 did an MA with him, has always been an amazing repository of knowledge, empirical and theoretical. He has engaged the literature and students with his command of historiography and data, ranging from Italian oral history to world systems to whatever the hell they dug out of the ground during the BC gold rush.

Elaine Bernard
Executive Director, Labour Program
Harvard Law School

I remember Allen’s arrival at SFU in the 1980s. I was then both an employee (Labour Studies Program Director at Continuing Studies) and a new, but “older,” PhD candidate in the History Department. Allen was a new, young history professor. In short order he proved to be not just an inspiring teacher of Canadian history, but also a mentor to many students — especially those of us trying to juggle work and study... Allen worked to make our cohort of students a community of scholars rather than just commuters to the campus.
Hellenic Studies Update

Leading Greece Back to Growth - Roundtable Discussion
In January, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, the School for International Studies, and the University of Washington hosted a roundtable discussion at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. Guest speakers Dr. George Stathakis and Dr. John Milios, members of SYRIZA, the official opposition party of the Greek government, presented their ideas and proposals for Greece’s economic recovery. The round table discussion included SFU professors Dr. Stephen Easton and Dr. Geoff Mann and was moderated by Dr. John Craig, Dean, FASS.

Erika’s Voyages
On Wednesday, April 3, 2013, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies Arts & Letters Committee hosted an auction of Mrs. Erika Spyropoulos’ artwork, with the proceeds going toward the MAHI Society, a Vancouver non-profit group who work toward assisting the most vulnerable facing adverse conditions both here and in Greece. The event was a great success, and the evening was enjoyed by SFU faculty, staff, and students, as well as members of the local Hellenic community.

Edu-Tourism
In September, Mrs. Maria Hamilton [SNFCHS] and Mrs. Laura Quilici [FASS] traveled to Athens and met with the Greek Minister of Tourism Mrs. Olga Kefalogianni and Mr. Steve Mirkopoulos of the Hellenic Heritage Foundation of Toronto, Canada to discuss developing a collaboration in “Edu-Tourism” initiatives in Greece. The initiative will include hospitality programs for students coming to Greece during the summer period focusing on Greek language instruction.

Poetry of Cavafy
On 17 November 2013, the SNF Centre for Hellenic Studies, in recognition of UNESCO’s celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Constantine Cavafy (1863-1933) and in cooperation with the Consulate General of Greece in Vancouver and the Vancouver International Film Festival, presented an evening of the poetry of Cavafy, read by Christopher Gaze, founder of Bard on the Beach Vancouver, accompanied by the music of Mr. Malcolm Toms.
2013 Highlights in the CCSMSC

Expressions of Diversity: An Introduction to Muslim Cultures
6th Annual International Summer Programme

The International Summer Programme was established in 2008 to provide non-specialists with a critical framework for understanding the cultures of Muslim peoples in all of their diversity across time and space. ISP2013 was held this year in London, UK, July 1 - 9 and brought in faculty from SFU and educational institutions across the UK whose teachings focussed on the art, architecture and music of the Muslim world. Participants came from numerous countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, the USA, India, Pakistan, France, and Jordan.

The 2014 edition of the International Summer Programme will take place at SFU Vancouver from June 16 to 27, and will focus on mysticisms in Muslim contexts.

The Material World of Safavid Iran, 1534-40
11th Annual Mirhady Endowed Lecture, presented by Dr. Sheila Canby

This year’s Mirhady Lecturer, Dr. Sheila Canby, gave a beautifully pictoral account of The Material World of Safavid Iran, 1524 - 40 to an audience of about 175 people at SFU Woodward’s, Mowafaghian Cinema. The public lecture was followed by a reception. Dr. Canby, a distinguished expert on the art and antiquities of pre-modern Iran, is the Patti Cadby Birch Curator in charge of Islamic Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She is the author or editor of numerous publications, including The Shahnama of Shah Tahmasp (2011), Shah ‘Abbas and the Imperial Treasuries of Iran (2009), and Hunt for Paradise: Court Arts of Safavid Iran, 1501-1722 (with Jon Thompson, 2003). Dr. Canby is currently working on an exhibition on Seljuq art scheduled to open at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2015.

Reflections on Exhibiting Islam and Islamic Art in the Contemporary World
Dr. Venetia Porter

Dr. Venetia Porter is a curator at the British Museum in London where she is responsible for the collection of Islamic art, in particular of the Arab World and Turkey as well as developing the collection of the modern and contemporary art of the Middle East. Her recent publications include Hajj: journey to the heart of Islam (British Museum Press, London 2012), The Art of Hajj (British Museum Press, London 2012), Lasting Impressions: Seals from the Islamic world (Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia 2012) and Metalwork and Material Culture in the Islamic World: Art, Craft and Text (I.B.Tauris, London 2012).
**FACULTY UPDATES**

**JEREMY BROWN**

In 2013 I published “When Things Go Wrong: Accidents and the Legacy of the Mao Era in Today’s China,” in Restless China, edited by Perry Link, Richard Madsen, and Paul Pickowicz. I also got the good news that my new book, Maoism at the Grassroots: Everyday Life in China’s Era of High Socialism, co-edited with Matthew D. Johnson, was accepted for publication by Harvard University Press. I was fortunate to have received two accolades in 2013: City versus Countryside in Mao’s China received Honourable Mention for the Canadian Historical Association’s Wallace K. Ferguson Prize, and I won the Cormack Award for Teaching Excellence.

**ELISE CHENIER**

Thanks to a SSHRC Grant this fall I was able to hire an archivist for the Archives of Lesbian Oral History (alotarchives.org). Nailisa Tanner is getting the archives, housed in the Bennett Library, organized and will begin processing the donations we have already received. MA student Nadine Martine will be organizing an outreach campaign to bring in even more material. Hopefully by this time next year we’ll see the impact of the grant with a greatly expanded website.

**LUKE CLOSSEY**

My main project for 2013 was the smallworldhistory.org website and different subprojects in support of that, but enjoyed Jesus-related research and workshops in Galicia, Galway, Wales, and the Lake District.

**KAREN FERGUSON**

I’ve had a busy year directing the Urban Studies Program while keeping up my teaching in both History and Urban Studies. This summer I published my second book, Top Down: The Ford Foundation, Black Power and the Reinvention of Racial Liberalism (University of Pennsylvania Press), and have started a new project on African Americans in the television industry in the 1960s and 1970s.

**ANDREA GEIGER**

The first months of 2013 were busy as far as conferences went: in addition to presenting papers at the AHA and CHA Annual Meetings and at the BC Studies Conference, I had the pleasure of reading and commenting on several wonderful papers presented by other scholars at the OAH and AAAS Annual Meetings. I also learned that my book Subverting Exclusion: Transpacific Encounters with Race, Caste, and Borders, 1885-1928, had been awarded a second prize — the Asian American History Association’s 2013 History Book Award for books published in 2011.

My travels while on sabbatical made possible visits to various archives along the way where I gathered materials related to my new research project, which examines historical encounters between Japanese immigrants and indigenous people in the North American West.

I was honoured to be invited to serve as co-chair of the program committee for the 2015 OAH Annual Meeting, a welcome task that will keep me busy in the coming year.

**NICOLAS KENNY**

My work this past year has focussed on streetlights, in particular on the connection between their proliferation in the late nineteenth century and the array of emotions they elicited in urban dwellers keen to appropriate the nocturnal city. I had the pleasure of discussing aspects of this research at the Urban History Group conference at the University of York (allowing this historian of industrial cities to finally set foot in Manchester!) and at the UBC History Department colloquium. In another vein, I’ve been pursuing research on the history of British Columbia’s Francophone community and the establishment of minority-language schools in the province — more to follow in 2014! Finally, the pundit in me had the enormous privilege of participating in Radio-Canada’s live television coverage of the BC election as well as commenting on the Trudeau legacy in the context of the department’s Heroes and Villains lecture series.

**THOMAS KUEHN**

During the second portion of my sabbatical leave, from January to September 2013, I continued to work on one of my two new research projects that explores how Ottoman policy makers and provincial society dealt with a series of drought and famine in Ottoman Anatolia, Yemen, and Tripolitania during the period from the late 1880s and the eve of World War I.

Moreover, I presented two conference papers on aspects of imperial governance in the Ottoman Empire during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: “Bringing the Imperial back in: Reconsidering Governance in the Late Ottoman Empire” (MEICON BC Conference, UVic, March 22, 2013) and “The Meaning of Difference: Looking for the
Imperial in Late Ottoman Governance, 1839-1918” (“Tales of Two Empires: Ottoman and Russian Imperial Studies, Compared” — Amherst College, Amherst, MA, November 1, 2013). In these presentations, I “test drove” early results of my second project which I started earlier this year. In this project, I argue against the view that the late Ottoman Empire functioned increasingly along national lines and suggest that different forms of imperial governance remained relevant for the running of the empire till its end in the aftermath of World War I.

In June and August 2013, I was interviewed several times on Global BC and on CBC Television on the political situation in Turkey and Egypt.

The revised edition of Rebel Life: The Life and Times of Robert Gosden, Revolutionary, Mystic, Labour Spy was published in 2013. The book has new material and discusses strategy and tactics for movements in light of an article on the general strike written by Gosden in 1915.

I attended a workshop on direct, experiential education called “Teaching for Change.” Funded by the Dean of FASS, the workshop was run by George Lakey, a well-known activist and organizer, and his message of learning with, rather than teaching to students was deeply inspiring and provocative.

While I love the irony of professors decrying the lecture as a teaching method while we zip off to conferences...to give and receive lectures...I facilitated a session on public labour history at the CHA conference in Victoria and gave a keynote address at the Pacific Northwest Labor History Conference in Portland, Oregon. I also gave talks at our department public lecture series and the BC Social Studies Teachers Association.

Since just about everybody works, one very large community to engage is working people. I taught a one-day workshop on labour history for the BC Government Employees’ Union and worked as a consultant for a Knowledge Network history minute series and a short film on the depression of the 1930s. Together with Ron Verzuh, one of our PhD students, I wrote and narrated an animated introduction to a film on the history of CUPE.

Much of the year was devoted to working with graduate students, who continue to impress and delight with their dedication and smarts and political engagement. Working with Dale McCartney (MA, SFU History) and Sarah Nickel (PhD student, SFU History), to develop and rethink our teaching at Fraser International College was particularly exciting; Dale McCartney and Sarah Nickel are gifted and enthusiastic teachers and colleagues.

And after years of benign neglect, I have become more active in SFUFA, particularly in the struggle over learning outcomes, organizing SFUFA as a union, and the current round of contract negotiations. 2014 will be an interesting year!

The big event for me in 2013 was the publication of my biography of Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière, a pioneer forest conservationist who was knighted for his efforts to promote Canadian unity following the Riel crisis. Because Joly served as Lieutenant-Governor of BC between 1900 and 1906, I had the pleasure of attending no less than three book launches in the fall, one of which was at Government House in Victoria where one can still find trees that Joly planted. A few miles south of the Lotbinière seigneurie, my own Irish great great grandparents were part of a settlement project examined in my ‘A.C. Buchanan and the Megantic Experiment: Promoting British Colonization in Lower Canada,’ Histoire sociale / Social History, no. 92 (November 2013). I also delivered papers at the History of Medicine Days at the University of Calgary, where the medical students impressed me with their passion for history and their skill with the latest computer technology; at the Irish and Scottish Studies Conference in Vancouver; at the annual...
meeting of the Canadian Historical Association in Victoria; at the symposium on the history of fuels and energy organized by my former PhD student, Ruth Sandwell, in Bloomfield, Ontario; and at the Biennial Conference of the Association for Canadian Studies in balmy Tampa, Florida.

**JANICE MATSUMURA**

I am still pursuing my research on Japanese psychiatry. I have submitted a chapter for a collection, which addresses the question of how empire-building shaped the development of science, technology and medicine through an examination of studies of manic-depression in Korea, Taiwan, and Manchukuo. I have also finished an article on suicides within Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) — not the deaths that resulted from military strategy, such as the use of kamikaze pilots, but the unauthorized self killings that the army leadership interpreted as conscious acts of disobedience. I am about to complete another article on psychiatric studies of soldier criminals, focusing on individuals stationed in China during the Asia-Pacific War (1931-1945), and am gathering data for two other projects. The first project deals with the temperance movement and psychiatric research on alcoholism. The second project is a bit of departure from the fun topics that usually attract my attention and will be an exploration of historical interpretations found on coins and paper currency throughout the Japanese empire. The idea came to me as I read the response of literary scholars to the ironic selection in 2004 of Higuchi Ichiyō (1872-96, a short story writer who struggled with poverty throughout her short life) to adorn the new ¥5,000 note. At this point, the money project is just an idea and may end up on my mounting trash heap of plans that did not pan out. I have until now never really looked at money. Whether it was yen or any other currency, it seemed to leave my hands too quickly. However, I will have to pay more attention and try to accumulate it for a future trip to Japan.

**HILMAR PABEL**

I enjoyed my academic travels in 2013. In early April, I gave a paper at the conference of the Renaissance Society of America in San Diego, the delightfully temperate city of palm trees. Munich was my centre of activity for most of May as I completed some research for a chapter for my book on the literary career of Peter Canisius SJ (1521-1597). It was great to spend some time at the Bavarian State Library and the University of Munich in spring instead of the winter, my usual time for research. Alas, I do not expect to return to this wonderful city for several years. I shall miss the plentiful resources for research, brief stops at the University’s memorial to Sophie Scholl (1921-1943) and her brave companions of the White Rose resistance group, early morning walks in the English Garden, and the refreshing beer. While in Germany, I took brief trips to Augsburg, where Martin Luther argued with Cardinal Cajetan, and to Paderborn, where I visited the Johann Möhler Institute for Ecumenism and took a look at some documents in the archiepiscopal archive.

**ROXANNE PANCHASI**

In addition to enjoying my work as Chair of the Graduate Program, I’ve been working on two new research projects this past year. The first, “Excavating the Present in the History Classroom”, is a study focused on past-present thinking and the interest and skills students have in making connections between historical and current events. The second is a new book project that examines the culture of the atomic age in France since the Second World War. I am particularly interested in cultural representations of and responses to the French program of nuclear testing from 1960 through the mid-1990s. I am also excited about New Books in French Studies: Discussions with Scholars of France and the Francophone World about Their New Books, a monthly podcast I launched and have been hosting since May 2013. Eight interviews and counting...

**BIDISHA RAY**

I’ve been waiting for the proverbial honeymoon period to transition into the glare of reality ever since my 2012 move from Manchester to SFU, but the warm fuzzy feeling doesn’t seem to be abating one bit, I’m happy to report. It has been a fulfilling first year of teaching, public engagement talks, departmental pie days and research trips. My courses on the political, cultural and developmental history of modern South Asia were well-received and I continue to be impressed...
by how ably SFU History undergraduates balance jobs outside university with academic requirements. Outside of teaching, as part of our department’s public lecture series I delivered talks on slum tourism in Calcutta and the controversial legacy of Gandhi. I was also invited to present my research at UBC and participate in GSWS’s Herstory Café, where my talk on the community of Indian hijras (transgendered persons) attracted a very engaged audience. The surprisingly packed Gandhi talk last October, in particular, has found itself reported in various media around the lower mainland and I am now faced with the daunting prospect of an interview on Canadian national TV. On a much less scary note, I was lucky to spend some time in archives in India over two SFU breaks, gathering a good amount of material for my book project on the role of prostitutes in colonial Bengal during the height of the British Raj. It is an added bonus that I get to tell the scowling bureaucrats who so zealously guard Indian government archives (think Gollum in a linen suit) that prostitution is my central professional interest. This year I am enjoying teaching new courses on gender, body and sexuality in South Asia and there’s a Teaching and Learning Centre grant in the pipeline which should help support an experiential course on the legacy of the partition of British India among BC’s South Asian diaspora, that I’m very excited about. Other than this, I now own a knockoff Canucks jersey, have a favourite Tim Horton’s donut (sour cream!) and understand the fundamentals of curling (a ‘delivery stick’ does not mean obstetric forcepts!) and am thereby feeling mighty smug about my assimilative abilities.

**ALLEN SEAGER**

The historical novelist, Vanessa Winn, will be visiting Allen Seager’s British Columbia history class to speak about her interrogations of the colonial past. Allen’s British Columbia history students enjoyed the unprecedented exhibition of works by Charles Edenshaw (Haida-contact era art and craft) at the VAG, an exhibition that unfortunately closed 2 February. Many thanks to the Department for making this field trip possible.

**JOSEPH TAYLOR**

Joseph Taylor published an essay in the journal Environmental History, titled “Knowing the Black Box,” on the intersection of science. The rest of his year was spent teaching courses on western North American and environmental history, and researching the history of public lands at the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University. He has also been developing a big data mapping project on this subject with Stanford’s Spatial History Project. He gave a talk about the project at the 2013 meeting of the Western Historical Association in Tucson, and a talk about the environmental history of persistent organic pollutants in the Salish Sea at the 2013 meeting of the American Society for Environmental History in Toronto.

**ILYA VINKOVETSKY**

For me, this year has been notable for conference presentations (six in all) and an invited talk. The invited talk was at the University of Hawaii History Workshop on “Human Rights and Historical Responsibilities”: its timing in February offered a welcome respite from Vancouver’s rain. Two different workshops that I attended, both at the University of Illinois, offered particularly valuable opportunities to write and talk about new ideas. The first one, devoted to the history of small towns, took place in February and provided a chance to talk about the intense politics and cutthroat lobbying involved in deciding the route of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. The second was the Ralph Fisher Forum in June devoted to “Early Russian Itineraries,” and it pushed me to introduce new research on the barge haulers of the Volga River. I also spent much of 2013 working on the forthcoming revised Russian language edition of my book on the Russian colonization of Alaska.

**SARAH WALSHAW**

Sarah Walshaw continued to teach African history in 2014, including arguably the department’s tastiest offering, a seminar on Food and Culture in African History. She traveled with her family to present her work on Tanzanian agriculture at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, which took place in Honolulu this April. She also traveled to the southern coast of Tanzania in July to conduct fieldwork and teach at a field school held at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Songo Mnara (more about this site and the project can be found in the January 2014 issue of Archaeology Magazine, and http://www.songomnara.rice.edu/songo.htm). This site is unique because of the preservation of stone-coral architecture (some buildings still stand 2 stories tall) and its one hundred-year occupation that dates to the 15th and 16th centuries, a time period that remains poorly understood in this region (aside from — and perhaps because of — Portuguese destruction of Kilwa and other stonetowns by 1505). It also seems to be a different type of site than its well-known neighbor Kilwa, as evidenced by a large open area and many mosques and mortuary structures; excavations planned through 2015 should make significant contributions...
to Swahili studies. Sarah also works on the historical ethnobotany of Juffure in The Gambia during the era of Atlantic trade, and has a co-authored paper coming out this year that compares historical, ceramic, and dietary data from several trading towns and a British factory at Juffure. This year Sarah will conduct a workshop in Archaeobotany and Ethnobotany at the University of Dar es Salaam and work with Tanzanian researchers to establish an Archaeobotany laboratory there. [Not only is she tired of heaving luggage filled with plant remains across three continents, but these research facilities will support local and international scholars and help keep Tanzanian antiquities in the country.] Sarah is looking forward to accompanying Jim on sabbatical to Oxford later in the year, along with daughter Danica; Jim has already scouted out the ice hockey arena in Oxford and he and Danica are prepared to wow the locals with Canadian skills.

AARON WINDEL

The big news of the year for me is that I was promoted from a limited term position to Assistant Professor. The excitement still has not worn off. I co-authored an article in the summer edition of *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* for which I got to read newly-discovered diaries and commonplace books of an obscure middle manager in the East India Company of the 1780s [which was much more fun than it sounds]. In the fall I presented a paper on cooperatives at a British studies conference in Connecticut, and I organized a panel and delivered a paper on the politics of imperial community at the North American Conference on British Studies in Portland, Oregon.

Upcoming Events

**Great Soul or Great Schemer? Exploring the Myth of Mahatma Gandhi**
Emily O’Brien (SFU)
Thursday, Jan. 23rd | 5:30 PM

**The Yin-Yang of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King**
Karen Ferguson (SFU)
Wednesday, Feb. 26th | 5:30 PM

**Middle East and the First World War.**
Eugene Rogan (Oxford)
Thursday, March 13, 2014 | 7:00 PM
*Hosted by the CCSMSC*

**The Defense of Inhumanity: Air Control and the British Idea of Arabia (Dyck Memorial Lecture)**
Priya Satia (Stanford University)
Friday, March 14th, 2014 | 5:30 PM

**An Epistemic Revolution in Arab Late Antiquity: The Qur’anic Discover of Writing**
Angelika Neuwirth (Freie Universität Berlin),
Thursday, March 27, 2014 | 7:00 PM
*Hosted by the CCSMSC*

**Ottoman Hero or Frontier Villain? Ahmed Feyzi Pasha, 1839-1915**
Thomas Kuehn (SFU)
Thursday, April 3rd, 2014 | 5:30 PM

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