Message from the Chair

As practitioners of the rather solitary occupation of researching and writing history, all of us benefit from teaching in a mutually supportive and intellectually stimulating environment. Fostering such an environment is a particular challenge at a time when classes are overflowing with students and the increasing numbers of younger faculty feel pressured to publish in order to become tenured. This very welcome newsletter is part of an initiative launched by the History Department’s Working Environment Committee, a new committee whose aim is to foster collegiality within the department as it proceeds through its first major transition since the University was established.

Another very important aim is to reach out to the broader community, and particularly to the many alumne of a department that has always prided itself in its teaching as well as its research. It is no accident that SFU has the largest number of History majors west of Ontario.

As the other columns indicate, the academic year that has drawn to a close has been a very busy and productive one, but also an enjoyable one. I wish to thank my colleagues and our staff members who have made my inaugural eight months as chair such a rewarding experience, and Roxanne Panchasi in particular for her efforts in producing this issue of the newsletter. Its future success will depend upon the contributions made by all of you—faculty, staff, students and alumne.

Students in Print

Grad student Anne Dore’s “Japanese Canadian Sport History in the Fraser Valley: Judo and Baseball in the Interwar Years” is scheduled for publication to come out in the Journal of Sport History in September 2003. This is Anne’s second academic publication. The first publication was entitled “Transnational Communities: Japanese Canadians of the Fraser Valley, 1904-1942,” B.C. Studies 134 (Summer 2002), 35-70.

Marki Sellars, one of our undergrads, has published an article entitled “The Nahwitti and the Strikers at Fort Rupert; 1850” in B.C. Historical News.
Program updates

Undergraduate
The spring semester was very active for the undergraduate program. While working on sharpening our curriculum by thinking about it more thematically and ways we can be more methodologically rigorous, we took on two major initiatives.

Writing Intensive Learning
The first was our collaboration with the Centre for Writing Intensive Learning (CWIL) to incorporate writing into all aspects of our teaching as a way to increase our teaching effectiveness and build our students' comprehension and skills. Two faculty members, Paige Railmon and Roxanne Panchasi, worked in close collaboration with CWIL to make their 300-level courses formally "writing intensive." A number of others incorporated writing intensive exercises and techniques into their classes after taking a series of workshops with CWIL in the fall. History has been one of the most enthusiastic departments in Arts in embracing writing intensive methods, and our experiments have already paid off in dealing with some of our perennial concerns about student writing and in offering fresh new ways to approach teaching.

Joint Seminar on History Teaching
Our second major initiative was to create a dialogue with high school history teachers so that we can have a better understanding of the pressures they face in instructing students (i.e. teaching to the dreaded History 12 exam!) and they could get a better sense of the expectations we have for our lower-division students. On Wednesday, January 28th, we hosted over forty teachers from as far east as Mission and as far west as Duncan for a half day joint seminar. Ten history faculty members, along with Dean John Pierce, CWIL's Wendy Strachan, SFU archivist Frances Fournier, and Arts Co-op's Eva Lewis, participated in facilitating the morning's events, which included two small-group sessions. The first considered "defining the discipline" at the secondary and post-secondary levels in terms of reading, writing, and critical thinking. After a break, the teachers broke up again into smaller workshops considering research skills, fostering critical thinking, First Nations history, and "Making Canadian History Interesting" (a real crowd pleaser!). The evaluations for the seminar were almost entirely positive, and we hope we can continue to foster this constructive dialogue between history teachers in an annual event.

Graduate
New Faces
Marion Walter is helping out in the Graduate Program Office for the next few months. Please stop by and introduce yourself.

Conferences and Workshops
The Qualicum Graduate Conference this year included nineteen SFU History presentations. This was the largest number of any of the BC universities represented at the conference. The papers were professional in quality, and excited considerable interest among the attendees. Four of our faculty and eight of our undergraduates also attended.

A Thesis Preparation Workshop was held on February 27th with Penny Simpson of the Library Thesis Office. The problems of copyright regulations were discussed, and the process of thesis formatting and submission were explained. A timetable for thesis completion and submission was placed in the rack outside the History graduate office.

The annual Prospectus Preparation Workshop was also held on February 27th, with the assistance of Alisa Webb and John Munro. The prospectus was
discussed as genre and paratext, and the defense itself as ritual and performance. Past examples were distributed and discussed. The annual two-day Prospectus Defense Swarm was held on April 30th and May 1st.

Recruitment and SSHRC
In other news, the Graduate Recruitment Committee has arranged recruitment visits, spoken to teachers, and is in the process of reconstructing the Graduate Program web site and producing a poster. Canadian Budget 2003 has created a new Canada Graduate Scholarships program, which will be phased in over four years. When phased in, it will support 2,000 masters and 2,000 doctoral students 60 percent of which will be distributed to SSHRC. The Scholarships at the Masters level are for a single year at $17,500 and at the doctoral level for three years at an annual award of $35,000. An analysis of the budget by Jean-Pierre Gaboury of CAGS is available in the History graduate office.

Congratulations!
Finally, congratulations to two of our M.A. students headed to Ph.D. programmes. John Munro, a SFU M.A. student, won the top university wide Ph.D. fellowship at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Only three of these highly prestigious awards were given this year. Karen Routledge has been accepted to Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey to pursue a Ph.D. under the direction of American cultural historian T.J. Jackson Lears. Karen has been offered a four-year package of funding from the university.

Labour Studies
The Centre for Labour Studies hosted a full day Oral History Workshop on November 8th, 2002. This workshop aimed at students and working people included presentations from our own Karen Ferguson as well as representatives from Archives, LIDC, Media and Public Relations, and the labour movement. The 34 attendees were divided almost equally among undergraduates, grad students and the wider community. This first workshop emphasized theory and personal experiences of oral history collection. A follow-up workshop providing participants with hands on experience in the collection of oral history took place in April 2003.

This year, Labour Studies received a grant from the Historica Foundation to produce a Labour History website. The programme also received a $49,000 grant from SSHRC as part of its “Initiatives on the New Economy.” The project includes a survey of B.C. hospital workers, as well as forums in Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton. Labour Studies also hosted an evening with activist George Lakey on March 31st and organized a memorial to commemorate the death of union organizer Frank Rogers in 1903. Labour Studies also adjudicated a B.C. Federation of Labour Award. The prize was awarded to third-year History student Dale McCartney.

Undergraduate Reception
In January, the department sponsored a lunchtime reception for undergraduate students in History. This was a wonderful opportunity for faculty to meet with students. The department hopes to sponsor events in the future that will give History students more opportunities to meet with members of our department.

Careers Workshop
In March, the department organized a very successful workshop for undergraduates in order to educate our students about the different career options available to History majors in addition to the PDP option. A panel including representatives from the Faculty of Education, Arts Co-op and Health and Career Counseling met with a group of approximately fifty SFU undergraduates. The gathering was a terrific success and we hope to host more workshops in the future.

Mark Leier, Director
Centre for Labour Studies
Faculty Awards & Honours
Two of our historians, Michael Fellman and Paul Dutton, were among the twenty-two featured researchers whose work was honoured at the President’s Research Luncheon held at the Harbour Centre campus on February 4th, 2003.

Congratulations to both Mary Lynn Stewart and Paul Dutton, two faculty members in History who have been awarded SSHRC Standard Research Grants this year.

Alumni in print


Celluloid Marathon a Success!
The History Department sponsored a very successful public film screening of Peter Watkins’ six-hour film “La Commune (Paris, 1871)” on February 22nd at Harbour Centre. Co-sponsors of the event included the School of Communication, Labour Studies and SFPIRG. A group of approximately fifty faculty, grad students, undergrads and members of the community outside the university took part over the course of the day. This diverse group included participants from both SFU and UBC. Those who made it through the experience received hand-screened t-shirts to honour their participation. The History department hopes to sponsor more screenings in the future. The success of this event showed enormous potential for collaboration between university departments, as well as among institutions of higher learning in the Lower Mainland.

New!
Bibliography of Scottish History Resources
There is a new website for people interested in Scottish history in the Lower Mainland: http://www.sfu.ca/~scotshib. On this website, you can browse and search an annotated bibliography of archival resources relating to all things Scottish in Vancouver. The bibliography spans Lower Mainland archives from West Vancouver to Chilliwack, and includes over 400 records. You’ll find information about over 30 Scottish clubs, Scottish cultural events (e.g. Burns Suppers & Highland Games), predominantly Scottish congregations, and Scottish individuals. As a spin-off from this project, the SFU Archives has now started a Scottish Clubs collection to house all the records and minute books hiding in attics around the region. So far, they have minute books and financial records from three clubs, dating from 1895-1998. This project was funded by the Centre for Scottish Studies at SFU. The bibliography is also available in hard copy or on CD-ROM from Jack Little (jlittle@sfu.ca).

SFU Bookstore Focus Group
Faculty, grad student and undergrad representatives from the History department met with the bookstore’s Joann Field in March to discuss improvements to the bookstore’s academic inventory. The meeting was a joint focus group with History and Political Science. Participants expressed their desire for more regular stocking of key titles in their respective disciplines. The focus group also suggested more contact between the bookstore and faculty and student representatives to ensure that academic merchandise better meets the needs of the university community in the future.
Working Environment

Spotlight on New Technology
The department has had a bit of an upgrade—we recently received a new photocopier (much better than our old lemon) and we received new (leased) computers from the Dean of Arts.

Face Lifts
The history common room has had a makeover. With a new paint job, new carpet, no photocopier and a slight shift of the furniture it looks quite comfortable and inviting.

History.com
The History department is currently engaged in the renovation of our website. Stay tuned for more user-friendly, up-to-date electronic access to information about our undergraduate and graduate programmes at http://www.siu.ca/history.

Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquium Series
The department’s Thursday series of Faculty/Graduate Student Colloquia was a great success this year. This semester’s presentations included M.A. Candidate John Munro: “The United Front Can Do It! Popular Responses to Italian Imperialism During the Popular Front”; Ph.D. Candidate Theresa Mulligan: “Towards a Reform Conscience: Christian Socialism, Oxford and R.H. Tawney”; Professor Hannah Gay: “Science and Opportunity in London, 1871-85”; and M.A. Candidate Alisa Webb: “Love, Desire, and the Girls’ Best Friend.” We look forward to another terrific series starting next fall.

Faculty Book Party
The Working Environment Committee organized a gathering for faculty and graduate students in celebration of a decade of scholarship by members of our department. This end-of-semester luncheon was a terrific success and included a display of book publications by History faculty since 1993.

Historians Against the War!
Undergraduate Chair and American historian Karen Ferguson organized members of the History Department in forming a local branch of Historians Against the War. With the help of local artist, Daniel Planko, faculty and grad students from the department put together some wonderful signs. Historians Against the War marched on April 12th, signs held high. Selected quotations included choice words from Lyndon Johnson, Dwight Eisenhower, M.K. Gandhi, and yes...Walter Benjamin. While Benjamin probably didn’t mean it this way, the last line of his passage on the “angel of History” worked brilliantly: “THIS STORM IS WHAT WE CALL PROGRESS.”

For more information on the movement started in the U.S. by members of the American Historical Association, visit: http://www.historiansagainstwar.org/
Hutchinson Memorial Lecture

Dr. John F. Hutchinson served in the Department of History from 1966 until his death in 2002. In that time, he actively participated in the civic life of the department and the university. He also taught countless students Russian history, modern European history and the ever popular "Poverty, Crime, Madness." In 1990 he published Politics and Public Health in Revolutionary Russia, 1890-1918 and in 1996 Champions of Charity: War and the Rise of the Red Cross, which won the Jason A. Hannah Medal for Excellence in the History of Medicine from the Royal Society of Canada. The book also won the Wallace K. Ferguson Prize of the Canadian Historical Association and was short-listed for the distinguished Lionel Gelber Prize in International Relations. Reflecting John. F. Hutchinson's wide-ranging interests in the study of History, the Department of History has decided to mount an annual lecture on any historical subject in his honour. On Friday, April 4th, Professor William Cleveland gave the inaugural John F. Hutchinson Memorial Lecture. Professor Richard Boyer began the evening with some touching introductory remarks in Professor Hutchinson's honour. Professor Cleveland's talk, "Culture Identity and the Making of an Anglo-Arab George Antonius (1891-1942)" was a wonderful beginning to this new series. The next lecture is scheduled to take place in the spring of 2004. If you have questions or would like to make a contribution to the series, please send an e-mail to: hutchinsonlecture@arts.sfu.ca

Welcome New History Faculty

The History Department is pleased to announce that three new faculty members will be joining us this coming year. Drs. Eyferth and Dawson will join us in September; Thomas Kühn will arrive in January 2004.

After studies in sinology, history, and political science at the Freie Universität Berlin, Jacob Eyferth completed M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Leiden University, the Netherlands. His dissertation is titled "Eating Rice from Bamboo Roots: The History of a Papermaking Community in West China, 1839-1998." He was an An Wang Research Fellow at the Fairbank Centre for East Asia from September 2001 to August 2002, and has been a postdoctoral fellow in Modern Chinese Studies at Oxford University since October 2000. Alexander Dawson earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Calgary, then his Ph.D. at the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1997. He was Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Philosophy at Montana State University from that year until 2002, when he became a Visiting Professor in the Centre for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. During the past year he has been a Visiting Fellow at Yale. Forthcoming is his The Persistent Savage: Indigenismo and the Vagaries of Race in Revolutionary Mexico (University of Arizona Press).

Thomas Kühn holds an M.A. in Islamic Studies and Modern History from the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, and a Master of Studies in Modern Middle Eastern Studies from Oxford. He is currently completing his Ph.D. dissertation in the History and Middle Eastern Studies programme at New York University. His articles include "Ordering Public Space in Ottoman Yemen, 1872-1915," in Jans Hansen, Thomas Philipp, and Stefan Weber (eds), Empire in the City: Arab Provincial Capitals in the Late Ottoman Empire (Würzburg: Ergon, 2002); and "Clothing the 'Uncivilized': Military Recruitment in Ottoman Yemen and the Quest for 'Native' Uniforms, 1872-1914," in Sureiya Faroqhi and Christoph K. Neumann (eds), Costume and Identity in the Ottoman Empire (Istanbul: Simurg, 2003).

We welcome Jacob, Alex, and Thomas to SFU and Vancouver.
Books
John Craig
Ian Dyck
Karen Ferguson
David Gagan
Andre Gerolymatos
The Balkan Wars: Conquest, Revolution and Retribution from the Ottoman Era to the Twentieth Century and Beyond. New York: Basic Books, 2002.
Jack Little
Hilmar Pabel
Chapters/Articles
William L. Cleveland
John Craig
Paul Dutton
Karen Ferguson
David Gagan
Hannah Gay
Andre Gerolymatos
Hugh Johnston
Jack Little


Tina Loo


Hilmar Pabel


Mary Lynn Stewart


Book Reviews

William L. Cleveland


Paul Dutton

Karen Ferguson


Hugh Johnston


Mark Leier

Jack Little


Hilmar Pabel


Michael Prokopow

Paige Rabmon

Conferences
William L. Cleveland


John Craig


Paul Dutton
"KAROLVS MAGNVS SCRIPTOR: Charlemagne's Literacy and Carolingian Culture, an Elaborate Fraud?" Harvard University, December 2002.

"Creating a Court Culture and the Connected Problem of Why Charlemagne Couldn't Write," Comparative Court Cultures in Cross-Cultural Perspective, Calistoga, California, February 2002

Ian Dyck


"Rural Song in England since 1500?" Themes in Modern History seminar, University of Cambridge, February 2001.

Karen Ferguson
Hannah Gay
"If gold ruste what shall iren do": Silvanus Phillips Thompson, Quakerism and Science. University of Victoria, September 2001.
"The Declaration of the Students of the Natural and Physical Sciences (1865) revisited". Jacques Maritain Society, May 2002 (Toronto).

Hugh Johnston

Mark Leier

Jack Little

Tina Loo
Lewis H. Thomas Lecturer at the University of Alberta, November 2001.

Derryl MacLean

Janice Matsumura

Hilmar Pabel

Roxanne Panchasi
"Planning a Historic City of the Future: Paris in the Interwar Years", Society for French Historical Studies, Toronto, April 2002

Michael Prokopow
Paige Raibmon


Allen Seager

Mary Lynn Stewart


"Sex Education and Sexual Initiation of French Girls, 1880s-1930s," Colloquium on Adolescent Girls in European History, in Bielefeld, Germany, October 2001; Simon Fraser University History Department Colloquium, November 2001.