Message from the Chair, Jack Little

The past year has proven to be an exceptionally challenging but rewarding one with the transition process in high gear. We welcomed four new faculty members—Alec Dawson in Latin American history, Jacob Eyerth in Chinese history, Thomas Kuhn in Middle East history, and Jay Taylor as the Canada Research Chair in Environmental history—and made an unprecedented five new appointments (profiled in this issue). These latest appointments move us into the exciting new areas of world history and the history of sexuality, as well as repositioning our strength in American and Russian history and expanding our national research interest to the Atlantic provinces. Among last year’s honours, the History Department scored a very encouraging 100 percent success rate with the three faculty applications for SSHRC fellowships as well as the six graduate SSHRC fellowship applications. Deserving special mention is Nadine Roth’s double coup of winning the University of Toronto’s Gold Medal and the Canadian Historical Association’s John Bullen Prize for the best History dissertation produced in a Canadian university last year.

Hugh Johnston, who is completing a history of the University for the upcoming 40th anniversary celebration in 2005-6, retired in August. As a three-term chair, Hugh made a tremendous contribution to the department, and we are deeply indebted to him for the role he played in making it as strong as it is today. David Gagan has also now completed his last teaching semester, and I wish to personally thank him for his skill and dedication in the classroom after being in the administrative world for so long. Also leaving the department are Mary Lynn Stewart, Paul Dutton, and Paige Rabinov, and we wish them well in their future endeavours. Among the support staff, Joan MacDonald, who retired after many years’ service as chair’s secretary, was replaced by the always cheerful and helpful Shailagh MacDonald, and, following the sad loss of Nancy Burnham to cancer, Marion Walter’s status as graduate secretary has recently become permanent.

I’d like to thank Hilmar Pabel for doing such a fine job as undergraduate chair during the past year, and to welcome Karen Ferguson back in a role that has taken on tremendous importance as we continue the all important process of curriculum revision. Derryl MacLean has completed a very busy term as graduate chair, and Mark Leier will take over that position during the next two years while continuing his highly successful direction of the expanding Labour Studies programme. Finally, putting together a newsletter for such a loosely organized collective as a university department is rather like herding cats at the best of times, so we all owe Rosanne Panchasi a vote of thanks for once again assuming the editorship.

As for the future, while it has been difficult to keep pace with the loss of so many members of the department in such a short period of time, we are fortunate to have been authorized to fill two and a half more vacancies—one in Canadian, one in African, and a half position in Renaissance history. We will also be searching for a second Canada Research Chair (Tier II), this one in the history of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas. Vacancies that will remain to be filled another year include the history of Science, and more retirements are in the offing, so the renewal process will not be complete for some time yet. While the increased competition from other universities and the rapid rise in local housing prices are certainly adding to the challenge of finding highly talented new recruits, I remain confident that we will continue to attract the brightest minds in the coming years.
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Program updates

Undergraduate
New requirements
On 10 May 2004 Senate approved the
recommendations of the Undergraduate
Curriculum Implementation Task
Force for a university-wide reform of
the curriculum. New admission and
graduation requirements will take effect
for all students admitted to SFU for
the fall semester of 2006. The complete
Discussion Paper in which these
recommendations are explained may be
found at http://www2.sfu.ca/ugcr/.

At the heart of the recommendations
lies an emphasis on the development of
learning skills in three areas: writing,
breadth, and quantitative analysis.
Those seeking admission to SFU must
demonstrate competence in English
writing skills and quantitative analysis.
To graduate students must complete
(a) 6 credits of writing intensive (W)
courses, one of which must be at the
upper-division level
(b) 6 credits of quantitative (Q) courses,
and
(c) 24 credits of breadth (B) courses.
The History Department has participated
actively in the on-going university-wide
review of the curriculum. Over the
past two academic years, it has shown
leadership in mounting W courses. In
2003-2004, Professors Ian Dyck, Paige
Rabmon and Rosanne Panchasi all
taught W courses from the 100 to the
300-level. In the coming months, the
Department will begin the process of
certifying existing courses as W and B
courses.

New courses
In February, the Department approved
the creation of five new upper-division
courses, two at the 300-level and three
400-level seminars. “Global Histories”
will pursue large themes that disparate
parts of the globe share in common.
“State and Society in Early Modern
Europe” represents a merging of two
courses, namely those on early modern
France and early modern Germany. The
new course will have the flexibility to
examine various European societies in
an interdisciplinary way. “Problems
in Modern German History,” “Race in
the Americas,” “Catholicism in Early
Modern Europe” and “Problems in
Modern French History” will all allow
students to gain in-depth exposure to
exciting subfields of historical study
that are areas of specialization for our
college.

Winners!
We are proud to announce the winners
of the following prizes:

- The Stephen McIntyre Book Prize in
  History (awarded to the graduating
  student with the highest GPA in
  History): Stuart Parker
- The Margaret Ormsby History Prize:
  Miles Powell
- The Richard Morgan Memorial Book
  Prize: Brett Williams
- Essay Prize in African, Middle
  Eastern, Asian History: Stefan
  Martens
- European History Book Prize:
  Sarah Kampen

Graduate
Honors for our students
This year, a number of SFU students in
History received Graduate Fellowships
from the university.

Congratulations go to: Shaun
Richards, Alisa Webb, Chelsea
Horton, Andrea Gill. Our summer
fellowship winners were: Derek
Frenette, Chris Herbert, Ian
Recksoborough-Smith, D’Arcy Saum,
Matt Scalena, Kristin Schachtel, Tim
Slonosky, and David Turcato.

SFU also made a spectacular showing in
this year’s SSHRC competition
with M.A. SSHRCs going to new and
incoming students Matt Scalena,
Chelsea Horton, Ronnie Schmidt
and Dale McCartney. Ph.D students
David Turcato and Alisa Webb also
received SSHRC grants this year.
Anne Deré (M.A. 2004) has received a SSHRC
Doctoral Fellowship that she will be
taking with her to Dalhousie University in
the coming year.

SFU M.A. Andrea Gill (2004) received
the Regent’s Special Fellowship (5
years of financial support) from the
University of California, Santa Barbara
starting September of 2004. This
year, she presented a paper entitled
“Community Control and the Vertical
Ghetto: Interrogating Notions of White
Backlash in Forest Hills, Queens, 1970-
1977” at the New Frontiers in Graduate
History conference at York University,
as well as a paper entitled “Beyond
‘Backlash’: The White Appropriation of
Liberal Rhetoric and Black Protest in
New York City” at the Qualicum History
Conference.

Ian Recksoborough-Smith presented
a paper entitled “Jack O’Dell’s
Working Class Affinities” at the “How
Class Works” conference at the State
University of New York, Stony Brook
in June 2004. Chelsea Horton was
the winner of this year’s Doug Cole

Lesley Morden presented a paper at the Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Conference at the University of Calgary. Lesley also presented at the “Fort Garry Lectures in History” at the University of Manitoba in late April. Both papers drew on Lesley’s thesis entitled “How much damage did the Vikings do? An analysis of the material impact of the raids of the Northerners on Northern France in the ninth century.” James Cousin held an SFU Baldwin Fellowship in 2004.

Sam Wagner published a review of Joy Diorio’s “Divine Feminine: Theosophy and Feminism in England” in Canadian Women’s Studies 23 (Fall/Winter 2003). M.A. student Matt Scalena (the winner of three awards in 2004) presented a paper entitled “No Country under Heaven Would Desire Such People? Canadian Immigration Officers, Ethnic Bigotry, and the Demands of Canadian Industry, 1896-1914” at the Qualicum Graduate Conference in February 2004. He also presented “All I Ask From Them is to Treat Me Right and Use Fair Play! The Double Standard of State Policy and its Effect on Native Land Claims during the McKenna-McBride Commission in British Columbia, 1913-1916” at the Arts Graduate Student Conference at the University of British Columbia in March 2004. This last paper has been accepted for publication by Gateway: An Academic Journal on the Web (http://grad.usask.ca/gateway/currentissue.html). Matt has also reviewed Samuel L. Baily’s Immigrants in the Lands of Promise: Italians in Buenos Aires and New York City, 1870 to 1914 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999), also for Gateway.


Careers workshop

On 12 February 2004, the Department held its second annual Careers Workshop designed to assist our students in thinking through what they might do upon graduation with degrees in History. Over 40 undergraduates were present to hear from a panel of recent SFU History graduates and an expert from the Career Centre discuss their experiences and offer advice. Our guests were asked to tell us how they got from the History Department to where they are today.

Jim Boothroyd (BA History, 1984), Janine Chow (BA History, 1997), Michael Howcroft (BA History, 1992) and Chris Hildred (MA in progress) offered witty and helpful insights on working in the media, communications management, public relations, banking, retail, the law, museums and the not-for-profit sector. Perrey Frome, the cancer account manager for the Faculty of Arts, gently made the audience aware of the vast and impressive range of on-campus services available to assist current and recent graduates in the transition from the University to work.

There was strong confirmation from all members of the panel that the transition is indeed complicated and stressful but that the basic skills of critical reading, research, tutorial presentations and clear writing were highly prized in all workplaces. It is reassuring to hear this from our alumni and equally reassuring for those who teach in the Department to know that the skills we so highly prize are equally valued “out there”.

John O. Stubbs
Labour Studies
Labour Studies has a new bibliography of children's books on labour and the left on its website: www.sfu.ca/labour.
The linked website "Death of a Miner" is up, though parts are still under construction. The site features primary documents on the 1912-1914 Vancouver Island coal strike and the death of Joseph Mairs and invites readers to view the documents and consider why Joseph Mairs died. Was his death an accident? A result of the capitalist system and the courts? Through court records, newspapers, pamphlets, and photographs, the website gives viewers the opportunity to weigh the evidence and draw conclusions and so provides not only information, but also insight into how historians make sense of the past through different interpretations.
The Centre for Labour Studies has launched its labour oral history project. Three SFU students, Dale McCartney, Darren Fleer, and Karin Tyggesen, are researching and interviewing retired union officers and members to ensure their experiences and insights are preserved.

Scottish Studies
This year's St. Andrew's and Caledonian Society Lecture is to be delivered by T. C. Smout, Professor Emeritus at the University of St. Andrews and Historiographer Royal of Scotland. Professor Smout has taught at the University of Edinburgh, is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. The author of several classic histories of Scotland, Professor Smout is also a specialist in environmental history. His books include A History of the Scottish People (1969), A Century of the Scottish People (1986) and Nature Contested: Environmental History in Scotland and Northern England Since 1600 (2000). Professor Smout will be speaking on "Four Centuries of Anglo-Scottish Union." We are excited to report that he will also be leading a special seminar in the History Department while in Vancouver in fall 2004, entitled "Making Scotland A Little Bit Like Canada: Forestry in Britain in the 20th Century."

Hellenic Studies
Hellenic Studies is developing an online Greek Language course to be offered in the fall of 2005.
Chair André Gerolymatos gave a number of public talks this year in addition to his conference presentations. Among the many presentations in the Lower Mainland were: a lecture on "OXI Day-October 28, 1940" at the Greek Cultural Community of Langley; "Origins of Terrorism in Islam" at the PROBUS Club of North Vancouver; "Problems of Intelligence and Security Organization," an in-camera presentation for The Canadian Security and Intelligence Oversight Committee; as well as lectures at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York City and at the Hellenic Community Centre in Vancouver.
Julian Brooks, M.A. candidate, received the 2004 Edward and Emily McWhinney Foundation Scholarship. Established in 1998, the scholarship funds a graduate student or senior undergraduate student to participate in the annual session of the Institute of International Public Law and International Relations, in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Qualicum conference report
Chelsea Horton, M.A. candidate
On January 30th, a large contingent of SFU history graduate students and faculty turned from research, reading, teaching, and marking to attend the annual Qualicum History Conference on the scenic east coast of Vancouver Island. Held at the historic Qualicum Heritage Inn, the conference provided an excellent opportunity to engage in stimulating debate and discussion within an encouraging and non-confrontational atmosphere. Supported by their peers and professors, SFU students presented papers on topics as wide-ranging as community activism and political rhetoric, religion and spirituality, women's agency, prostitution and public health, military insurgency, race relations and representations, labour, immigration, and wartime bureaucracy.
In addition to student presentations and keynote addresses by Perry Biddiscombe and Margaret MacMillan, the weekend was also filled with more informal meetings and dialogue between students and faculty from SFU as well as UBC, UVic, UNBC, and UCFV. After-hours entertaining was greatly facilitated by our own Cathy Hilton, who managed to secure the coveted master suite for herself and her lucky roommates. Many thanks go to Cathy and to Derryl MacLean for all of their hard work in organizing SFU attendance at the conference. Thanks also to Luke Clossey for traveling all the way from California to participate, as well as to all the professors who took the time to facilitate panels and support their graduate students. Congratulations to all who participated!
Faculty

Awards and distinctions

Congratulations to John Craig, Martin Kitchen and Paige Ralibmon, History Department recipients of Standard Research Grants from SSHRC this year! Also this year, John Craig became a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and Jack Little became fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. New faculty members Jacob Eyferth, Alec Dawson and Jay Taylor received President’s Research Grants from SFU this year. Jay also received Honorable Mention of the Joel Palmer Award by the Oregon Historical Society for his article, “Master of the Seas? Herbert Hoover and the Western Fisheries,” Oregon Historical Quarterly 105 (Spring 2004): 40-61.

Nadine Roth was the recipient of the Governor General’s Gold Medal for her graduate work at the University of Toronto, and the Canadian Historical Association’s John Bullen Prize for the best History dissertation produced in a Canadian university last year.

New faculty

Four new faculty members will begin teaching in September 2004, and a fifth appointee will arrive a year later. While each individual will be primarily identified with one of our three streams – the Americas, Europe, and the Wider World – an exciting new development is that most of them have research interests in more than one broad geographical area. Nick Guyatt studies the United States in the trans-Atlantic context, Ilya Vinokovskiy is an Americanist as well as a Russian historian, Willeen Keough is a historian of Ireland as well as Newfoundland, and Luke Clossey covers all three streams with his work on German, Mexican, and Chinese history. Elise Chenier’s research on sexuality also crosses national boundaries.

Elise Chenier


Luke Clossey

A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, where he held the university’s most prestigious fellowship, Luke’s doctoral dissertation is titled “Distant Souls: Global Religion and the Early-Modern Jesuit Missions in Mexico, China, and Germany.” Luke’s many academic interests include the history of Art and the history of Mathematics. He has also taught courses on the history of Alchemy and on the practice and theory of teaching history. His publications include “Blending Rites: Rituality and the Jesuit Pacific-Rim Mission,” in Court, Ritual Community, and the City: Chinese, Mandhu, and Christian Rituality in Late Imperial Beijing, edited by Nicolas Standaert (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming).
Nicholas Guyatt

Willeen Keough

Ilya Vinkovetsky

Hugh Johnston retires
On 31 August of this year, Hugh Johnston will officially retire and the Department of History will lose the active service of one of its most dedicated citizens and scholars.

Hugh arrived at SFU in fall 1968. In the period since then, he has served as Department Chair for a total of eleven years. That is a stunning statistic, especially when one recognizes that this service took place in four different decades and two different centuries. The members of the Department owe much to Hugh for his willingness to offer leadership and guidance over such a long period and through often difficult times.

Hugh’s contributions to the Department have not, of course, been confined to administrative service. Throughout his career, he regularly taught courses in Canadian history, including History 102, while also expanding the department’s curriculum into new areas with his course on Sikhism. Hugh was also deeply involved in organizing two of the most significant conferences that the Department has hosted: The James Cook and George Vancouver Conferences, each of which resulted in a book co-edited by Hugh and Robin Fisher.

It is not the purpose of this brief tribute to explore the significance of Hugh’s scholarship. Suffice it to say that his monographs and edited books reflect a broad range of scholarly interests from British emigration policy, to the voyage of the Komagata Maru, to the history of British Columbia. All of us, especially those of my generation, eagerly await the publication of Hugh’s forthcoming work on the early history of Simon Fraser University.

Our Department is a better place for Hugh Johnston’s presence in it for thirty-six years and his direction of it for over a decade. The occasion of his retirement serves as a reminder of all that he has given and offers his colleagues an opportunity to express their appreciation and to extend their best wishes for happiness and fulfillment in the years to come.

Bill Cleveland
**Publications**

**Books**

Paul Dutton  

Carolyn Geerlofsma  

William Cleveland  

Alexander Dawson  

André Gerolymatos  

Jack Little  

**Articles/chapters**

Elise Chenier  


John Craig  


André Gerolymatos  

Thomas Kuhn  
“An Imperial Borderland as Colony: Knowledge Production and the Elaboration of Difference in Ottoman Yemen, 1872-1918” in *The MIT Electronic Journal of Middle East Studies* 3: Special Issue “Borderlands of the Ottoman Empire in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries” (Spring 2003): 5-17.


Mark Leier  
“No Time to Care: Work, Education, and the Lifelong Learning among Members of the United Food And Commercial Workers, Local 1518” (October 2003)


Jack Little  


Derryl Maclean  

Janice Matsumura  


Paige Rainbom  


Mary Lynn Stewart  

Mary Lynn Stewart

Joseph Taylor


Conferences and presentations
Andre Géraly Matzos


Jack Little


Janice Matsumura

Hilmar Pabel


Roxanne Panchasi

"The Furniture of the Futuristic in Interwar France," Science Envy
News

History department undergraduate award
Acutely aware that our students are pressed by rising tuition and living costs, we have recently established a History Department Undergraduate Award that will be dedicated to assisting students with demonstrated financial need who have decided to major in History. To do that we will need your help. Any donation, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. To make a donation now go to University Advancement at http://www2.sfu.ca/advancement/.

News from our grads

John F. Hutchinson Memorial Lecture, 2004
This year’s lecture was given by Professor Martin Kitchen on Friday, 2 April 2004.

The title of Professor Kitchen’s lecture was “The Past is Not What It Used To Be: Historians and the Question ‘What is History?’” This was the second in a lecture series established last year in memory of Dr. John F. Hutchinson who served in the Department of History from 1966 until his death in 2002. The next lecture is scheduled for the spring of 2005. If you have any questions or would like to make a financial contribution to the series, please send an e-mail to: hutchinsonlecture@arts.sfu.ca