The exciting transition within the History Department proceeds apace, with three of our members joining the Full Professor ranks, and four and a half new tenure-track appointments completed during the past year. My congratulations to John Craig, Mark Leier, and Hilmar Pabel on their well-deserved promotions, and to Mark again for becoming the fourth department member currently holding a coveted Excellence in Teaching Award. Given the outstanding pedagogical skills of some of our recent appointees, I’m confident that others will soon join those ranks.

The new appointments for this year include Mary-Ellen Kelm whose recommendation as the department’s second Canada Research Chair has now been approved by Ottawa. (My thanks to John Stubbs in particular for the leading role he played in gaining this position). Professor Kelm, who will arrive from UNBC in January, is a highly regarded and widely published specialist on First Nations history in western Canada. Our second new Canadian historian, Andrea Geiger, worked as a Native reservation attorney in Washington before enrolling in the doctoral programme at the University of Washington where she is currently completing a dissertation on Japanese immigration to the west coast of North America. The department has, therefore, re-established its longstanding strength in First Nations and immigration history. With David Ross’s retirement, we were very fortunate to be given authorization to hire two African historians, Felicitas Becker and Helena Pohlandt-McCormick. Dr Becker will arrive from London’s School of Oriental and African Studies in January 2006, and Dr Pohlandt-McCormick from Minnesota’s St Olaf’s College in September 2006. With Willeen Keough, who has begun teaching Canadian history this September, Dr Pohlandt-McCormick will be the second winner of the prestigious Gutenberg-e dissertation award to join the department. Finally, Dr Emily O’Brien arrives from Harvard as our new Renaissance specialist, appointed in Humanities as well as History. The fact that all these appointees are women will greatly help to redress the gender imbalance in the department.

The department will also benefit greatly from the presence of two newly appointed limited-term lecturers. Dr David Delafenetre, who is a joint appointee with the university’s new French Cohort Programme, received his PhD from the Sorbonne and has provided stellar service as a sessional instructor in this department over the past several years. He will teach two exciting new courses in the coming year — one on the history of the animal rights movement and one on Australasia. Our second lecturer, Dr Paul Garfinkel, has been teaching at Harvard, having recently completed his PhD at Brandeis on criminal law and juridical culture in liberal and fascist Italy. A number of distinguished historians and historical researchers are located outside the History Department, and I am very pleased that Mary Lynn Stewart and Lara Campbell from Women’s Studies, David Mirhady from Humanities, and the well-known criminology team of Dorothy Chunn and Robert Menzies have been appointed as associate members who will nicely complement the research strengths that already exist in this department. During the coming year, we will be appointing a permanent lecturer, as well as our first specialist in Byzantine history and a replacement for the irreparable Bill Cleveland in twentieth-century Middle East history.

The department is therefore branching out in new directions even as we continue to fill the holes left by retiring faculty, and it appears likely that we will begin growing now that the founding generation has almost all retired. Indeed, after even as we continue to fill the holes left by retiring faculty, and it appears likely that we will begin growing now that the founding generation has almost all retired. Indeed, after the coming year I will occupy the somewhat unsettling position of longest-serving member in the department. In the meantime, I’m looking forward to a year of research and writing as my term as chair comes to an end. It has been a busy but rewarding three years, and I feel confident that the almost entirely new History Department will rapidly establish a reputation as one of the very best in the country. I am very grateful for the tremendous support generously given by faculty and staff, particularly Mark Leier and Karen Ferguson as extremely hard working graduate and undergraduate chairs, respectively, and Sheilagh Macdonald who continues to display unflagging grace under tremendous pressure. One couldn’t ask for a more collegial and stimulating department to work in. Finally, we all owe a strong vote of thanks to John Craig for assuming the editorship of this issue of the newsletter, and for agreeing to take over the reins as department chair. John has been an invaluable source of advice and support during the past three years, and I’m confident that his great sense of humour will carry him through a highly successful term as chair.
Throughout the academic year the history society acts as a conduit between the students and the history department. The history student union has grown and expanded dramatically after conducting class room visits with the help and permission of individual history professors. Last fall 2004, our executive committee was made up of only five people. We now have nine executive members after we added four additional positions to the committee, and our email database holds over 300 student emails.

If you look beyond the 6th floor in the AQ building, you will find History students whisking in and out of our common room (AQ 6026). The executive committee has been working hard to improve the atmosphere, and environment of the common room. More students are taking advantage of the room to study.

Last spring, the SFU and UBC student societies published a joint journal called, *The Atlas*. The journal is a composition of student essays based on a wide range of historical topics. We also hosted a series of grad info sessions for undergraduates who are thinking of attending graduate school after their undergraduate studies. Mark Leier, Penny Freno, and graduate students Nawal and Debbie spoke to an audience of students. We ended the busy semester with an up beat St. Patrick’s Day celebration. Over 75 students came to enjoy the live Celtic music, free food, and a pint of beer with their peers.

The HSU kicked off the fall 2005 semester with an on-campus scavenger hunt for the week of welcome. New students had the opportunity to become better acquainted with on-campus resources related to the history department. Check out the HSU website at www.sfu.ca/history/hsu.htm to see pictures from our welcome week event.

In October 2005, the student society organized and hosted a successful movie night with Professor Eyferth and special speaker Paola Iovene. We want to thank all the students and staff who showed up to watch the film *Yellow Earth*.

Plans are already underway for our 2nd Annual History Conference. The conference is scheduled to take place at the SFU Harbour Centre Campus on Sunday, November 20th, 2005. Last year’s conference was well attended by both SFU and UBC students. This year we have over 20 students who will be presenting historical topics in front of an audience of their peers. This is a great opportunity for students to meet, speak, and learn about history. — ALEC DAWSON

### Thinking Through Action Conference

The history department sponsored an international conference “Thinking Through Action: Twentieth-Century Social Movements and their Legacy” this June 10–12. Organized by faculty member Karen Ferguson with the able assistance of M.A. candidate Ian Rocksborough-Smith, the conference brought together a diverse group of over 200 scholars and organizers from around North America to discuss how the history of social movements in Canada and the United States can broaden our vision of the challenges facing today’s struggles, including the globalization of social justice issues, the ongoing retrogressive clawback of twentieth-century social movements’ policy achievements, and a hostile political climate.

The program included panels on issues vital to organizing today, including ones on building a democratic culture, the necessity and challenges of coalition building, the impact of movements on electoral politics, labour and social justice, organizing poor people’s movements, and the struggles and balance between rights-based reform and social transformation, among many others.

Distinguished speakers included keynote presenter Bill Fletcher, Jr., Canadian women’s movement leader and Rabble.ca editor Judy Rebick, peace movement leader David Cortright, Vancouver peace activist and union organizer Mable Elmore, along with distinguished movement scholars Michael Honey, David McNally, Audra Simpson, Mark Solomon, Nikhil Pal Singh, and Michael Zweig. Further information about this conference (including an upcoming online conference proceedings) can be found on the website, [www.sfu.ca/~thinkact](http://www.sfu.ca/~thinkact).

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AWARDS AND HONOURS

David Gagan — David and Rosemary Gagan’s history of the origins of Canada’s system of public hospitals, For Patients of Public Means (McGill-Queen’s University Press) has been awarded the Jason Hannah Medal and prize for 2005. The presentation took place at the Royal Society of Canada’s annual dinner November 27, 2005.


Mark Leier — SFU Excellence in Teaching Award in February, 2005.

Roxanne Panchasi — granted a SSHRC Small Grant to study cultural diplomacy and diplomatic culture in France and India, 1981–1989. She is also the recipient of a Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute fellowship to do research in India.

Hilmar Pabel — Renaissance Society of America Senior Scholar Research Grant (awarded in 2005).

Mirhady Lecture and Manuscript Exhibition

Dr. Fahad Daftary, Acting Director of the Institute of Ismaili Studies (London) provided this year’s Drs. Fereidoun and Katharine Mirhady Endowed Lecture in Iranian Studies on November 6, 2004. This was the third in a series of annual lectures endowed by the Mirhady family and sponsored by the Department of History.

Dr. Daftary is the foremost authority on the pre-modern history of Persian Ismailism and the author of five books on the topic. His lecture, “The Persian Contribution to Ismaili History and Culture,” located the Ismailis within the development of interpretive Muslim communities in the larger Persianate world, focussing especially on Hasan-i Sabbah and the move from confrontation to dissimulation under the mantle of Sufism. An exhibition of Arabic and Persian manuscripts from the Library of the Institute of Ismaili Studies (London) accompanied the lecture and was on view in the Teck Gallery. Over 600 persons attended the manuscript exhibition, and over 400 attended Dr. Daftary’s lecture.

Drs. Fereidoun and Katharine Mirhady created the Endowment in Iranian Studies to promote greater awareness within the university and the community of the important contribution of Persian speaking peoples. Sadly, Dr. Fereidoun Mirhady passed away in January 2005.
Elise Chenier Since Elise Chenier arrived at Simon Fraser University on 1 July 2004, an article titled “Rethinking Class in Lesbian Bar Culture: Living ‘The Gay Life’ in Toronto, 1955–1965” appeared in a special queer history issue of Left History (Spring/Summer 2004). In the spring of 2005 she presented two conference papers on moral panics and the law in post-WWII Canada, first in San Francisco at the International Association for the Study of Sexuality and Culture’s conference on Sexual Rights and Moral Panics, and second in British Columbia at Law’s Empire — A Critically Engaged Social-Legal Conference. She was also awarded a President’s Research Grant for her project on debutantes in late 19th and early 20th century Canada.


Nick Guyatt: I’ve just had my book manuscript formally accepted by Cambridge University Press — it’s provisionally entitled Providence and the Invention of the United States. I’m currently writing the last chapter of the book, and it should be out next year. I’ve also been editing a series of contemporary history books (1989 to the present) for Zed Books in London — there are a dozen books in the series, and one of them (on Mexico) will be written by our own Alec Dawson. Finally, I’ve started work on my next project, a book on the idea of colonization in Britain and America from 1730 to 1900 — I’ll be presenting a paper on this at the American Historical Association meeting at Philadelphia in January. So there are no publications in 2005, but lots in the pipeline.

Martin Kitchen Since retirement in 2002 he has published the following books: Nazi Germany: A Critical Introduction (Tempus), A History of Modern Germany 1800–2000 (Blackwell), Europe Between the Wars (Longman) (this is an almost completely rewritten and greatly extended edition of the 1988 version.) His book The Cambridge History of Germany has recently appeared in Chinese and Korean translations.

J.I. (Jack) Little, Professor, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, completed his three years of service to the department August 31, 2005 and will continue research in Canadian History. During Dr. Little’s tenure, the university faced significant change with the retirement of distinguished senior faculty, many whom were hired when the university opened in the 1960s. As Chair, Jack Little was involved in 14 searches that account for more than half the total number of full-time faculty members. While the Chair, he published his latest book, Borderland Religion: The Emergence of an English Canadian Identity, 1759–1852 which examines religion’s crucial role in creating and cementing the Canadian identity. The book has proved to be very topical and Dr. Little has been interviewed by a number of media outlets.
Roxanne Panchasi

My article “If the Revolution Had Been Televised: Past and Presentism” in Peter Watkins’ La Commune (Paris, 1871)” has been accepted by Rethinking History and is scheduled to appear in May 2006. In the fall, I completed a review of Jean Pedersen’s Legislating the French Family (Rutgers University Press, 2003) for the Journal of Interdisciplinary History. This past year, I also began work on my new project exploring cultural relations between France and India from 1947 to 1989. I received a Small SSHRC grant for research in France in 2005–2006 for this project, as well as a Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Faculty Training Fellowship for travel to India in 2005–2006.

Janice Matsumura

In 2004 I had two articles published: “Mental Health as Public Peace: Kaneko Junji and the Promotion of Psychiatry in Modern Japan,” which appeared in Modern Asian Studies, Vol. 38, No. 4; “State Propaganda and Mental Disorders: The Issue of Psychiatric Casualties among Japanese Soldiers during the Asia-Pacific War,” which appeared in the Bulletin of the History of Medicine, Vol. 78, No. 4. In early 2005, I discussed the topic of Japan’s wartime psychiatric facilities at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities. In October 2004, at the 18th Annual Conference of the Japan Studies Association of Canada, I gave a talk based on the draft of an article entitled, “Unfaithful Wives and Dissolute Labourers in Wartime Japan: Psychiatry and Expressions of Middle Class Male Anxieties about Female Morality.” Finally, in the same month, I was the discussant for a panel, “Eccentrics and Anomalies in Early Modern and Modern Japan,” at CASA (Canadian Asian Studies Association) 25th Anniversary Conference.

Mary Lynn Stewart

Refereed Articles:


Reviews:


Philip Stigger


John Stubbs

Published in 2004 were two entries in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, one major on James Louis Garvin (1878–1947) editor of The Observer from 1908 to 1942. Garvin was credited by his peers as having reinvented the quality Sunday newspaper. A minor entry for Lina Waterfield (1874–1964) a journalist and author was also published. On leave calendar 2006.

Joseph Taylor

gave several public lectures this year to the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, the Green College at UBC, the Fisheries School at the University of Washington, and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Studies. He published one essay (“The Many Lives of the New West,” Western Historical Quarterly 35 (Summer 2004): 141–65). He also submitted two essays (“The History of Salmonid Hatchery Programs” and “The Political Implications of Hatchery Programs”) to Advances in Marine Biology and had another manuscript (“Mapping Adventure: Class and Gender in Yosemite Valley’s Climbing Landscapes”) accepted by the Journal of Historical Geography. He is finishing a history of outdoor sports and environmentalism titled “Pilgrims of the Vertical: Yosemite Rock Climbing and Modern Environmental Culture”. He also published several book reviews and chaired a prize committee for the Western History Association, but most of his time was consumed with organizing this year’s annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, which met in Houston in March 2005. His proudest moment, however, was when Joel Orth, his former student at Iowa State University, received the Gilbert C. Fite Award from the Agricultural History Society for best dissertation in 2004.

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History Turns Forty

It seems odd to imagine the History Department at SFU approaching middle age, with one eye on greener pastures and the other on young whipper-snappers who are closing in from behind, but this child of the 1960s has hit a generational moment. The fortieth anniversary celebrations that overtook the campus in September and early October were two-fold events, marking both the maturation of a new and radical experiment in education into a pillar in the lower mainland community with approximately 20,000 undergraduates and 3,700 graduates, and also marking a sort of changing of the guard; the first generation of scholars at this university is giving way to another, whose ideas and pedagogy are rooted in the new century.

It is perhaps thus fitting that the History Department celebrated its own middle age with a roundtable focused on Professor Emeritus Hugh Johnston’s new book, Radical Campus: Making Simon Fraser University (SFU, 2006), which took place on November 18, 2005. An early member of the department, prominent scholar, and a long serving department chair, Johnston brought a keen historical eye and insider’s knowledge to the book which is as much a critical examination as a celebration of the past forty years. Keeping with the generational theme, at the roundtable his book was discussed by Professor John Stubbs, a long time department member and former University President, Assistant Professor Nicholas Guyatt, one of our bright young scholars, and Dino Rossi, one of our former graduate students, who is now doing well as a law clerk on the BC Supreme Court. Their comments remind us that one’s vision of the university depends on one’s perspective, but also that over 40 years the university and its alumni have become large community; a community that now has a global reach.

The fortieth anniversary is being celebrated throughout the year, through talks, presentations, music, picnics, and an active effort to preserve and promote our history, but 2005 represents far more than these celebrations could reveal. Over forty years SFU has transformed and been transformed by a fast-growing lower mainland. Perhaps it was naïve to imagine that an institution could always be radical (does not institutionalization undermine radical tendencies?), but rather than simply losing its radical edge, the university has become the home to an immense range of intellectual beliefs, cultures, and ethnicities. Of the 20 original faculty members, all were white males largely from Britain or the United States. The same trends can be seen in our department, which has been remade as the first generation of scholars has moved towards retirement. As a result of the older generation’s commitment to equity (itself a product of the era in which SFU was conceived) and of the increasingly diverse make-up of North American graduate schools, the department has been transformed to represent much more closely the community we serve. Today’s full-time faculty is 27 strong; 10 are women. 17 of the total number are Canadians, the rest are either European or American. We can only imagine what it will look like in another forty years.

Ilya Vinkovetsky


In February I had a high school student from Coquitlam come up and follow me around for a day as a “job shadow.” The student wanted to see what it is like to be a college professor for a day. He asked many questions. We both had a great time.
OBITUARY

Don Stuart Kirschner 1928–2005
by Bob Koepke

Don joined the department in 1967 and served with us until he retired in 1993. He was an honoured scholar, respected teacher, and valued colleague. He was also a beloved son, husband, father, and friend. And, not to forget, a life-long fan of the Chicago Cubs.

One of the first words that comes to my mind when I think of Don is ‘civilized’; another is ‘balanced’. Don loved his family and devoted as much time and nurture to it as to his professional life. He also loved, and appreciated, good food, good wine, good music, good conversation. He enjoyed life, as when he sat at the head of his table, surrounded by family and friends. We had many memorable times together in that setting.

But this is primarily about his professional life. I remember when Don came to Simon Fraser in the Spring of 1967 to be interviewed for the job he eventually accepted. He always remembered one question in particular: “Do you play poker?” He later recalled that although he had been in many interview sessions, that was the only time he’d been asked that question. Quixotic enough to swing the balance in our favour? (It also says something about the early department.)

Don enjoyed his role as University Professor. Indeed, I can’t think of a role for which he was better suited. He was, to my mind, the classic university professor. And he defines that role in his work on Maurice Halperin. “But it was a university, and the people connected with it were concerned with the things that usually engage university people — learning, teaching, and research in humanistic, scientific, and technological matters.”

Don wrote three books: City and Country: Rural Responses to Urbanization in the 1920s (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1970); The Paradox of Professionalism: Reform and Public Service in Urban America, 1900-1940, (Greenwood Press, 1986); and Cold War Exile: The Unclosed Case of Maurice Halperin (University of Missouri Press, 1995), as well as numerous articles, reviews, etc.

I was on the Promotion and Tenure Committee when Don came up for promotion to full professor and was thus privileged to read his letters of reference. And it was a privilege. I was impressed by the universal high regard with which he was held in the wider academic community. Those letters spoke as one voice about his broad knowledge, thorough research and lucid writing. Indeed, his first book, City and Country, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1970. As I looked back over those works, I was struck by how timely they remain. Although, the focus was narrow, whether rural perceptions regarding the culture of the cities in Iowa and Illinois in the 1920s, or the “new professionals”, the reformers in social welfare, public health, and city planning in the early 20th Century, Don placed his research in a much broader framework. As he put it in his opening sentence in The Paradox of Professionalism, “Different societies respond in different ways to the dislocation of the modern world.” And I thought of the responses to that dislocation we are witnessing in our own world today.

Don came to us with an established reputation as a teacher, having been named ‘Top Prof’ at Roosevelt University in 1965, a reputation he nourished and extended at Simon Fraser. His courses on modern American culture were reputed as informative, stimulating, challenging and intellectually satisfying. (I never participated in any of his courses, but I almost did. Don was an instructor in the History of Western Civilization at the University of Iowa when I was an undergraduate member of that course, but with a different instructor.) His door was always open to students, for informal chats as well as intense discussions of course topics and of wider issues. And there was always time for stories, both humorous and informative. (Don was a natural story teller and we swapped many stories over the years, about life in the American Army in Germany in the early 50’s and our experiences at the University of Iowa in the late 50s, and about the ongoing rivalry between the St Louis Cardinals [my team] and the Chicago Cubs.)

continued on back
Don never took an especially active role in University politics, but that is not to say he didn’t take an active interest. He served for many years in the department as chair of the nominating committee. I would tease him about using that position to avoid serving on certain committees, but I knew he used it to ensure that those he believed would do the best job would serve. Indeed, about the only time his office door was shut was when it became the site for that proverbial ‘smoke-filled room.’ (When that was still possible at the University, which went on too long, of course, for the long-term state of our health.) That was when and where some us hashed over who should and who should not be department chair. Don always remembered the History Department at the University of Iowa as a ‘happy’ department, and he remembered how it remained so. The Iowa faculty ensured that those who wanted to be chair for the wrong reasons were excluded and those they knew would make good chairs but did not want it were pressured to accept, no matter how much arm-twisting that took. Don did his best to introduce that tradition to the Simon Fraser History Department.

Don would, I think, accept the appellation of ‘liberal’, despite — or perhaps all the more because of — its designation today by some as a derogative term. He was passionate about many things, none more than in opposing acts of racism or injustice. I have never seen Don more passionately involved than when he participated in the early, successful fight against an injustice in our own little departmental “Affaire.”

Don Kirschner touched many people in many ways; he will be missed. He was a private and modest man, not much given to eulogies, but he will be remembered by the many whose lives he enriched.