

Now and Then

News from the History Department at University of the Fraser Valley

November, 2016

A Message from the Chair

The summer was eventful for the History Department. Like most faculty we enjoy some time off, but the summer is also when courses are designed or refreshed, reading, research or writing that was left unfinished during the teaching semesters is finally attended to, and the department meets for its annual retreat in August. In addition, we received the delightful news that the Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) degree was approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education. History faculty member Dr. Steven Schroeder developed the PACS program, and seeing it come to fruition is a feather in his cap. Students will be excited by the varied content of the program that includes a large number of history courses. Revealing the relationship between disciplines while respecting their individual methodologies is a strength of any interdisciplinary program and PACS encourages students to see those connections.

Summer meetings set the stage for events during the new academic year. The Association of History Students (AHS) and the department hosted the annual History Dog Day. Faculty and students broke bread in



September, cooking up some wieners and chatting with new and returning students. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that young students who physically visit a university campus and meet faculty, are more likely to choose that institution and are even more successful once they arrive. Connecting with students is crucial for recruitment and a service that the History department faculty have embraced, both officially or as individual initiatives.

On October 11 the History Department and the Association of History Students hosted “What to do with a History Degree”, an event designed to highlight the career opportunities for students with a history degree. Many history students choose teaching as a career goal while a few anticipate law school. These are fine ambitions and a history degree provides the content and skills to support them. In addition, a few of our students will pursue graduate studies in history; UFV has a fine record in preparing students for this path. However, many other opportunities await our students. The panel invited to present some of these opportunities represented a diverse range of occupations. These included work in museums, political offices, and diverse kinds of research opportunities including graduate school. Quite unique was a business that specializes in genealogical research for legal disputes concerning estates. Another public research office represented the Kwantlen First Nation and examined the impact of public policies and development proposals on their ancestral lands.

After the panel presentations and the “question and answer” session it was clear that history students are well equipped for the job sector. Research and communication skills, especially the ability to write, were all deemed essential for employability. However, students have to be aware of the importance of those skills while they are completing their degrees, systematically develop them, be able to market themselves as having them, and must demonstrate initiative as self-starting creative individuals.

Dr. Chris Leach



The History Department held its Annual Retreat in August

Faculty News

Update On Adjunct Professor Ged Martin



Professor Martin, while ostensibly retired, maintains an active research schedule, and his adjunct status allows him access to university library databases to support this research productivity. The most recent example (March 2016) is a history of St. John, New Brunswick, “Geography and Governance: the Problem of Saint John (New Brunswick) 1785- 1927.”

Access to library resources is the primary appeal of such an arrangement for Professor Martin. But for the institution and the department, the arrangement offers a great deal more. Ged Martin (PhD, Cambridge, FRHS) is a scholar of international reputation who, before his retirement was the Director of the Centre of Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, the United Kingdom's first permanent Chair of Canadian Studies. He has authored or edited more than a dozen books, and dozens of scholarly articles. In a long a varied career, Professor Martin was also a Research Fellow in History at Australian National University, Canberra; Lecturer in History at University College Cork, Ireland; and, more recently, was elected to an Honorary Fellowship at Hughes Hall, a graduate College of the University of Cambridge. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History at the National University of Ireland, Galway, contributing visiting lectures twice annually.

While Professor Martin's work has embraced themes related to Australia, Britain, Ireland, New Zealand and South Africa, with forays into themes touching India and the United States, a Canadian affiliation is an especially good fit for Professor Martin. His work has a high profile in Canada, and he is an acknowledged expert on the subject of Confederation, a topic that is likely to generate more interest than ever as the 2017 anniversary approaches.

Professor Martin has always been generous with his time, being available for media interviews, conferences and even classroom visits. He has cheerfully engaged with first-year students at 4 o'clock in the morning Ireland time, discussing John A. Macdonald with students who had read some of his work. *Favourite Son? John A. Macdonald and the Voters of Kingston 1841-1891* was awarded the 2012 Ontario Historical Society's James J. Talman Award “for the best book on Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural history.” This was followed by a well-received popular biography, *John A. Macdonald: Canada's First Prime Minister* (Dundurn, 2012). Affiliation with a scholar of Professor Martin's stature can only enhance the prestige of the institution and department.

The adjunct arrangement also facilitates a joint study Professor Martin has been engaged in with Barbara Messamore. This is a study of nineteenth-century private correspondence networks between British Secretaries of State for the Colonies and governors-general of Canada. This quasi-official channel of communication to London often reveals more about policy considerations than the formal despatches to the Colonial Office. In addition, he is engaged in research for a book on the death penalty in Canada, something that may interest colleagues in Criminology.

Student News

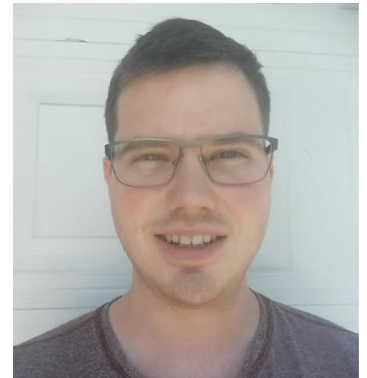


Johannes Mulder

Hans Mulder is a UFV History student and an infantry officer in training in the Canadian Forces Primary Reserve since 2009. He recently participated in a brigade level training activity that replicated the modern unconventional battlefield, with multiple potentially hostile groups, civilians, and NGOs played by actors utilizing Hollywood type special effects. A system comparable to laser tag is integrated with all participants' personal equipment and weapons, adding a final level of realism to the 10 day exercise. The mission was an incredibly complicated and delicate stability operation set in a fictional country with government forces, militias, rebel and guerilla groups engaging in atrocities, requiring coalition forces (US Army and several States' National Guards) to utilize skills and techniques learned from modern conflicts.

Brian Radant: The Abbotsford Online Poppy Album

History Department student Brian Radant researched and compiled the information on the home addresses and photographs of Abbotsford casualties in World War II. Starting with only the names on the Abbotsford cenotaph, Brian traced their information from newspaper files at The Reach Archives, as well as from local land registry records and online resources at Library and Archives Canada.



The Online Poppy Album commemorates 24 recruits from Abbotsford who died in World War II. It does so in a unique way, by showing where these individuals lived when they signed up, and connects us to the life-altering events of the past through geography. The Abbotsford Legion, Branch 15, hosts the The Abbotsford Online Poppy Album on their website.

History Hot Dog Day



A joint History Department and Association of History Students event that features hot dogs with condiments that reflect the course offerings of Department members.

Faculty News

Associate History Professor Barbara Messamore completed a number of projects this year, including “A Critique of Bill C-569: Some Historical Background to the Appointment and Removal of Governors General,” appearing in the *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, and “The Case for George Brown as Confederation’s True Father,” for the *Globe and Mail Online*.

She also wrote an entry for the *Encyclopedia of Empire*, edited by John Mackenzie, entitled “British North America (Canada), 1783-20th c.,” and contributed a chapter on “John A. Macdonald and the Governors General: a prime minister’s use and abuse of the Crown,” in a collection edited Patrice Dutil and Andrew Smith, called *John A. Macdonald at 200: New Reflections and Legacies*.

While she was a Visiting Fellow of Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge, Messamore delivered a paper entitled “The Meaning of Canada’s Confederation: Three Weddings and a Divorce”, to the Humanities Research Forum at Cambridge.



Among her other activities is the preparation of an expert witness report for a constitutional case concerning the division of financial responsibility between the federal and provincial governments. She continues to edit the *Journal of Historical Biography*, an online, open-access scholarly journal published at UFV, which features a special issue devoted to the theme of biographies of historians, and is guest edited by: Doug Munro (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand); Geoffrey Gray (University of Queensland); and Christine Winter (University of Sydney). With three co-authors, she is revising a condensed version of their earlier-published Canadian history survey textbook, for University of Toronto Press.

This October, in an interview about Canada’s Prime Ministers for *Maclean’s* magazine, Messamore was quoted as saying that Laurier sometimes chose “a moral evasion,” because his decision on French-language rights in Manitoba “fundamentally represented an abandonment of those rights.”

Annual History Tea and Student Awards



Alumni News

Gerald Lefurgy graduated from UFV in 2005 with a B.A. in Criminal Justice and an Extended Minor in History, and went on to complete a Graduate Diploma in History at the University of Melbourne. Continuing to pursue his Graduate Studies, Gerald has since emigrated to Australia and now lives in Sydney with his wife, Vanessa. Soon, he will follow his dream to join the New South Wales Police.

Gerry has a wide range of historical interests, having published articles on former New South Wales Premier Jack Lang, Joseph Merrick, 'The Elephant Man', the 1923 Melbourne Police Strike and the Great Depression in inner-city Sydney, Australia.

He is presently working on a number of projects, such as articles entitled "To Usurp the Functions of the Courts: The Illegal Vice-Regality of Sir Philip Game and the Dismissal of the Lang Ministry"; "Big Fascist Machine: An Illustrative Study of the New Guard and Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs" and "Dutiful Disquiet: Great Depression-Era Riots in Australian and Canadian Policing".

Recently, Gerry served as research assistant for Christer Holmgren, on the sources related to Jack the Ripper, assisted in researching sources on the Royal London Hospital, and also conducted research at the Lincoln Cottage Museum in Washington DC.

His other interests have introduced him to several Civil War historians and re-enactors such as Dr. Curt Fields (General and President, Ulysses S. Grant and Doug Baum of the Texas Camel Corps. His research has led to completing a project for the Dja Dja Wurrung people of Australia, and he also helped a good friend in his application for his Certificate of Aboriginality by conducting research in Sydney's Mitchell Library. The evidence then successfully supported his friend's claim.

In his spare time, Gerry enjoys his favorite activities -- natural bodybuilding and travelling, and serves as the Secretary of the Polar Dawn Historical Society of Sydney, a group dedicated to furthering knowledge, enthusiasm and historical research for both polar regions.

Gerry has fond memories of the outstanding History Department Faculty whose courses he attended, and has compiled a list of guidelines for students who want to become historians:

- develop public speaking skills
- when doing research, make sure that you're near a coffee shop and stationery store
- seek out 'life experience' to develop people skills
- make notes and writing not just for fun to read but to 'see', with things like creative acronyms, (i.e. *British Columbia Daily Colonist*, *BCDC*).
- be able to reason critically, logically and offer a good explanation.
- turn over every last stone in search of evidence.
- believe in yourself! You're as good as any other historian on the block!



Gerry Lefurgy



Grad Party and Awards



Faculty News

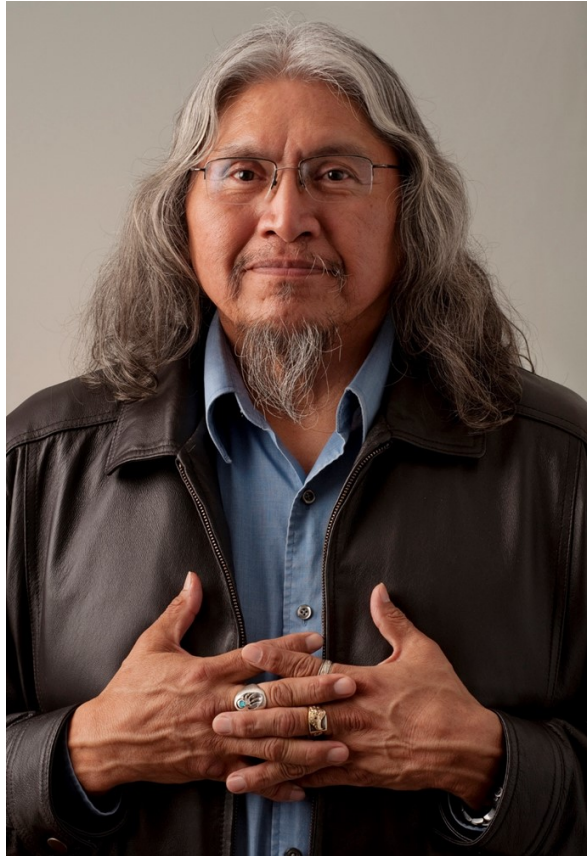
New Appointment - Adjunct Professor Naxaxalhts'i Albert "Sonny" Jules McHalsie

Sonny McHalsie has served as Cultural Advisor/Historian for Stó:lō Nation since 1994. Before that, he was a Research/Cultural Assistant for Stó:lō Nation/Tribal Council. He is presently Cultural Advisor and Historian for the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre at Stó:lō Nation.

His work and interests revolve around education and the transmission of Stó:lō oral history, history and social organization, Stó:lō Place Names, Stó:lō storytelling, Halq'emeylem language revitalization and preservation, and aboriginal rights and title. These areas intersect and overlap with the disciplines of archaeology, anthropology, Indigenous studies, leadership, and resource management, geography and, especially history.

His appointment will allow him to expand on his current relationships with UFV, as an individual and in his capacity as Cultural Advisor / Historian of the Stó:lō Research & Resource Management Centre at Stó:lō Nation. He will bring to the UFV the Stó:lō traditional system of teaching and learning, which relies on the oral transmission of knowledge as well as cultural knowledge and expertise.

Professor McHalsie presently serves as co-instructor with Dr. David Schaepe for the Indigenous Maps, Films, Rights and Land Claims Certificate – (Hist 396i), and has been the primary instructor and mentor for the Ethnohistory Field School, offered by the University of Victoria in partnership with Stó:lō



Sonny McHalsie

Nation and the University of Saskatchewan. He brings to the Department of History a lifetime of cultural work that not only preserves Stó:lō traditional systems of teaching, learning and cognition on their own terms, but draws on both Indigenous and Western epistemologies to build long-lasting social, cultural and economic relationships between Coast Salish and settler cultures. He is able to provide mentorship and advice for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, provide guest lectures and workshops within and without the department, help develop internship and practicum opportunities, and assist students with graduate school or applied employment opportunities in

Indigenous communities.

As the Cultural Advisor / Sxweyxiyam (Historian) at Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre, Stó:lō Nation, Sonny's journey in cultural and history preservation and transmission began in 1978. Sonny began working in his home territory as an archaeological assistant but was soon drawn into the oral histories and the stories of the Stó:lō. His natural gift as a storyteller and Sxweyxiyam led him to listen closely to the Stó:lō elders and to generously share what he learned at every opportunity. In 1985 Sonny began work for Stó:lō Tribal Council (currently Stó:lō Nation) as a heritage researcher and later as a Cultural researcher. His work with Stó:lō has led him to being an Executive Director supervising archival, genealogical, heritage, justice and environmental staff. Simultaneously, Sonny served as a Si:yam (on Chief and Council) for his community of Shxw'ōw'hamel.

Naxaxalhts'i has produced numerous published and unpublished papers, and participates as a Director, Chair and member of many committees, including UFV's Aboriginal Community Council.

Larissa Horne talks about her new role as Experiential Learning Co-ordinator

In recent years, Experiential Learning across Canadian post-secondary institutions has gained greater prominence in terms of both teaching and learning methods as well as establishing its presence on campuses. UFV is no exception. Numerous experiential learning opportunities such as internships, practica, field trips and study tours, both local and international, have been taking place on a required and extra-curriculum basis for many years, with great expertise accumulated among our faculty and tangible benefits gained by students. As well, UFV has been known for often engaging in projects that bring together instructors, students and administrative staff members and strengthening a sense of community. Student engagement in volunteerism and community-based service learning also contributes to the roster of experiential learning opportunities that enrich their educational journey and creates lasting and meaningful memories of their time spent at UFV. All of these activities contribute to our students' personal and professional growth, make them better thinkers, and more compassionate and responsible citizens. Based on my personal teaching experience in History, I have witnessed first hand how my students' ability to reflect, analyze and synthesize complex issues has been served through experiential learning models both locally and internationally, inside and outside the classroom, and how much more meaningful their previously gained theoretical knowledge has become.

The Experiential Education Coordinator position, to which I have been recently appointed, aims at building a leading-edge, student-centered model of coordination between various aspects of experiential learning at UFV, and serves to support, enhance and promote such opportunities across the institution. One of the tasks is to create a comprehensive inventory of opportunities, which is accessible to students, faculty and external partners. In addition to this, my role is to create a database of all the necessary toolkits, handbooks and other documents, to help students navigate a multidimensional world of experiential learning. This database will also become a platform where instructors can share new organizational tools and practices. The Coordinator's mandate also includes building a greater capacity for Experiential Education by identifying new sources of external support and funding.

"Learning by doing," "Learning through experience," and using an "applied learning" model" – are only some of the definitions that UFV's instructors use when speaking of their teaching methodologies and the specifics of their disciplines and programs. In my role, I intend to further cultivate the sense of a teaching and learning community in Experiential Education at UFV, so that the best practices can be documented and shared, new internal and external partnerships built, and students' interests best served.



Peter Inkman, a decorated Canadian veteran of the Korean War, gave a presentation to Larissa Horne's students



From Left to right: Convocation 2016, Association of History Students Paintball Tournament, Award Presentation at the Grad Party

