

UNIVERSITY OF  
VICTORIA

Department of  
History

January—December  
2014



Colonial Legacies Field School students Patrick Bradley, Sam Kerr, and Stephanie Tiede interview farmer Mahlatse Sekwela in Nkambako, South Africa, May 2014. (photo: E. Vibert)

# Dive into the Past. Shape the Future.

## Musings from the Chair

So here it is: my first and, God-willing, last opportunity to muse from hallowed heights as department chair. And since I am only an interim chair, I'll keep it brief.

From my perspective, the History Department's past year was both marvelous and bittersweet. On the marvelous side of the ledger, we witnessed our colleagues' ambition and productivity in the form of monographs and articles published, major grants won, websites created, conferences organized, and public talks given. We also saw the collective effort required to implement our new curriculum. More than a mere renumbering of courses, this process involved rethinking the structure and priorities of the history major as well as the department's overall course offerings. What made it particularly exciting, however, was the time and creativity that our colleagues invested into creating new classes. Among the new "gateway" courses, for example, were Rick Rajala's "History of Leisure, Sport, and Tourism in North America"; Mitch Lewis-Hammond's "Epidemics from the Black Death to AIDS"; and John Price's "Age of Encounters in the Pacific World." Also important were new upper-level "elective" courses such as Jill Walshaw's "Backpacker's Guide to European History" and Eric Sager's "Hockey Nation," which brought large numbers of non-majors into our courses. In addition, in the summer of 2014, Liz Vibert launched her new "Colonial Legacies" field school, which took students to rural South Africa to examine strategies of food security in the post-Apartheid era.

Also marvelous were the people added. In May, the department welcomed the hiring of Andrew Wender as an Assistant Teaching Professor divided between History and Political Science. An award-

winning teacher and committed public intellectual in the area of Middle East history, religion, and politics, Andrew has long made important contributions to the department. Soon after, the department welcomed to its ranks noted diplomatic scholar Brian McKercher, who brings with him not only his deep expertise on British foreign policy in the twentieth century but also the editorship of the respected journal *Diplomacy and Statecraft*. Finally, in the fall, the ARPT committee conducted a successful search for the department's new Canada Research Chair position in World History, which resulted in the hiring of Neilesh Bose—a rising young scholar of South Asia.

Now the bittersweet. In December 2014, Lynne Marks stepped down as chair. In a time of fiscal pressures, slumping enrolment, and administrative uncertainties, Lynne led the department with vision, tenacity, and a strong sense of social justice. Her time as chair will rightly be remembered as transformative, and our cooperation on many important initiatives will always mean a great deal to me. Also in December 2014, Greg Blue retired. Greg joined the department in 1990 as the foundational figure in its World History section, and he has since become known not only for his staggering breadth of learning but for his generous spirit toward students and colleagues alike. My near daily conversations with Greg were one of my favorite things about working here, and I already badly miss having him as my office neighbor.

- Dr. Jason Colby



University  
of Victoria  
History

# New in the Department

## **New faculty member: Dr. Brian McKercher**

I received my PhD in modern international history, under the supervision of Professor D. Cameron Watt, from the London School of Economics in 1979. My dissertation focussed on the Anglo-American relationship in the latter half of the 1920s. After working in government, I subsequently taught at the University of Alberta (1982-1987) and the Royal Military College of Canada (1987-2014). I was the Chair of War Studies at RMC from January 1997 to December 2006 and, since September 2007, I have been the editor of the British learned journal, *Diplomacy & Statecraft*. I am the general editor of *The Praeger Series on Diplomacy and Strategic Thought*; and with K.E. Neilson, I am the general editor of *The Praeger Series on Foreign Policy in the Interwar Period*. My areas of specialisation encompass the foreign policies of the Great Powers since 1815 and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century British and American foreign policy.



## **New Assistant teaching Professor: Dr. Andrew Wender**

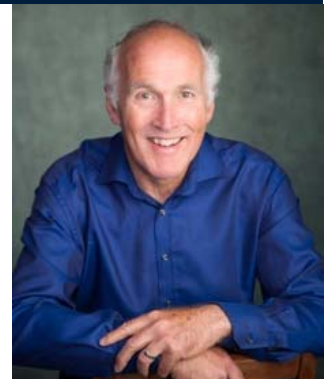
I am an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Departments of History and Political Science, and the Religious Studies Program, and have taught at UVic since 2001. I hold an Interdisciplinary Ph.D. (2006) from the University of Victoria, which I completed while a Fellow at UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society (CSRS); my Ph.D. investigated how modern, secular law's tendency to transform all of reality into property in fact manifests the law's powerful religious foundation. Prior to my Ph.D., I earned a B.A. (Honors) in History from Western Washington University, as well as a J.D. from the Seattle University School of Law, and became a member of the Washington State Bar.

My teaching -- for which I received the 2011 Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching -- and writing focus on the history and politics of the Middle East; the historical interconnections among politics and religion; world history and politics; and political theory. I have published in such journals as *Digest of Middle East Studies*, *Implicit Religion*, and *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*. I frequently serve as a speaker and media commentator on Middle East affairs and related global issues, including numerous lectures for UVic's Division of Continuing Studies, and elsewhere within the UVic and Victoria communities, as well as appearances in venues like *The Globe and Mail*, CBC, CFAX, and CKNW Radio, and A-Channel and CHEK TV.

# Faculty Awards

## **Dr. Eric Sager Royal Society of Canada**

Eric Sager has been elected by his peers as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) for his remarkable contributions to his field and to public life. This distinction is Canada's highest academic honour.



## **Dr. Rachel Cleves Humanities Award for Research Excellence 2014**

This award is given on the basis of innovative original work and recognizes demonstrated excellence in research over the last 5 years.

## **Charity and Sylvia named as the Stonewall Honor Book, American Library Association**

## **Dr. Lynne Marks Provost's Advocacy and Activism Award in Equity and Diversity**

This award recognizes the achievements of individuals or groups in the University community who demonstrate dedication to the advancement of social equity through advocacy and activism.



# Curriculum Revision

In May of 2014 our new curriculum came into effect. This was the first major curriculum revision since the 1960s. This revision included:

- Renumbering all courses and changing HIST to HSTR
- Changing the sequence of courses to more clearly differentiate between levels
  - 100 level—global & thematic courses
  - 200 level—national or regional surveys
  - 300 level—upper level lecture courses
  - 400 level—seminars
- We now require majors to take 3.0 units of surveys, and at least one seminar to graduate
- Breadth requirements—students are now required to take at least 1.5 units from a list of “early” history courses, and 1.5 units from a list of courses outside of Britain, Europe and North America.

We have added or formalized many courses as a part of this process as well as including several broad interest thematic courses at the 100 level, which we hope will increase enrolments and draw more students into history.

## Here are some of our new 100 level gateway courses:

HSTR 101A

10 Days that Shook the World

Introduces the field of history through the exploration of ten turning points in world history. Each week a guest lecturer focuses on a world-changing moment and students examine the arguments and evidence in their discussion sections. Students learn a range of historical skills and have the chance to meet many History Department faculty.

HSTR 101B

History of Leisure, Sport and Tourism in North America

Examines the social and cultural history of recreation, sport and tourism in North America, focusing on how developments in technology, religion, capitalism and family life have shaped the relationship of men, women and children to the “Great Outdoors.”

HSTR 101C

Epidemics from the Black Death to AIDS

Explores the demographic, social and cultural changes brought by epidemic disease from the 14th century to the 21st century. Topics include The Black Death, syphilis in society and literature, smallpox and the Aztec conquest, cholera and the industrial cities, investigation of the influenza viruses and the emergence and early history of AIDS.

HSTR 101D

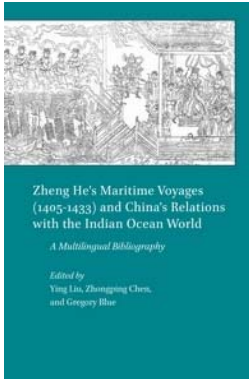
History of Money

Explores the role of money in politics, culture and the economy from the ancient economy to the slave trade, from coins to bills to credit cards. Topics include coin production and counterfeiting, credit and commercialism, money and warfare and how and why we value money in society.



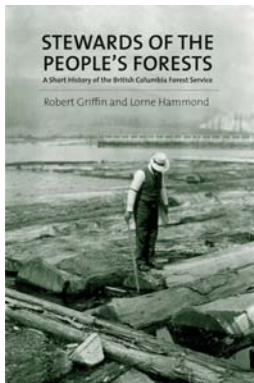


# Books published in 2014



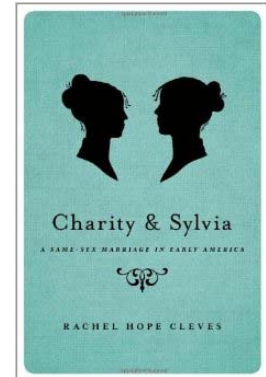
## Zhongping Chen and Greg Blue

Zheng He's Maritime Voyages (1405-1433) and China's Relations with the Indian Ocean World



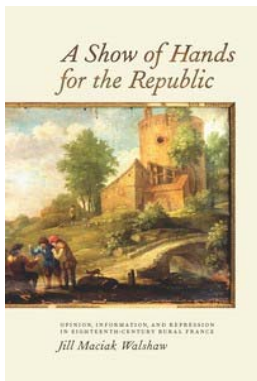
## Rachel Cleves

Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America



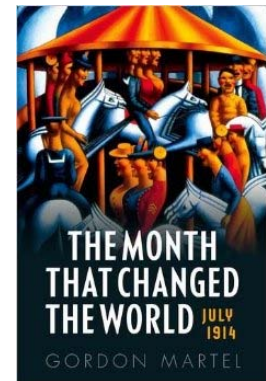
## Lorne Hammond

Stewards of the People's Forest: A Short History of the BC Forest Service



## Gordon Martel

The Month That Changed the World: July 1914

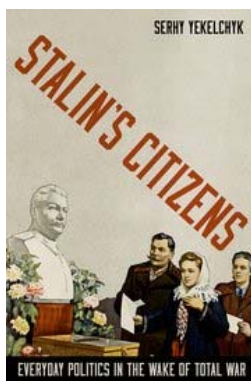
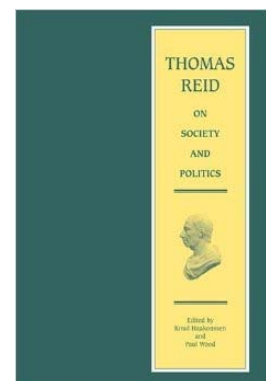


## Jill Walshaw

A Show of Hands for the Republic: Opinion, Information, and Repression in Eighteenth-Century Rural France

## Paul Wood

Thomas Reid on Society and Politics



## Serhy Yekelchyk

Stalin's Citizens: Everyday Politics in the Wake of Total War

# Café Historique



Dr Sara Beam speaking on the abolition of torture in Enlightenment Europe at Café Historique, November 2014 .



Dr. Oliver Schmidtke speaking on the collapse of the Berlin Wall, March 2014.

In the fall of 2013, the History Department began running Café Historique, a regular series of free public talks held at Hermann's Jazz Club in downtown Victoria. Aply organized by Dr John Lutz, the series proved immensely popular, with packed crowds attending hour-long lectures on topics as varied as the Black Death, the French Revolution, Hitler's rise to power, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11. After a summer hiatus, the series resumed in October 2014 as a by-donation event, a change that allows us to cover essential production costs of reserving a venue and equipment. The current organizer, Dr Peter Cook, has the great fortune of having colleagues willing to volunteer as speakers and of having a highly dependable and competent production assistant, history student Stephen Frampton, to assist. The series has proven a remarkable means of bringing what we do to the wider Victoria community and of showcasing the value of the Humanities in the modern world.



Dr Jason Colby speaking on 9/11 at Café Historique, April 2014.

# Reminiscences Upon His Retirement by Dr. Greg Blue



Colleagues who were in the History Department back in 1990 might recall that I actually failed to show up on time for the fall term. I'd happily accepted the university's offer of the department's first World History position that April, but my family and I -- a non-Canadian, American-Belgian composite living in England -- were evidently hard to process officially. Immigration Canada finally delivered our entry paperwork on the day before classes began in September. UVic officials were informed, I was told, that our dossier had somehow been in "the wrong drawer."

Once we reached Victoria, however, we were overwhelmed by the warmth of the reception we received from History colleagues and others in the university community as well as by the schools our children began attending.

Naturally I had various questions since I'd never even taught a university course before. I was nonetheless keen enough not to be put off during a summer phone call when told the first-year course I was assigned to teach was popularly known among instructors as "the lion's den." Some confusion then followed on the line, with Peter Baskerville, the department chair, protesting volubly in the background, "Don't tell him that: He might not come!"

Once I did start in the classroom, lots of people had suggestions and feedback about teaching in Western Canada. Luckily I wasn't too inhibited about asking for guidance, and many people -- colleagues but also students -- pitched in constructively, and gently. Ralph Croizier, Ken Coates and Mariel Grant were particularly perceptive and patient in getting me oriented.

The position in World History that I took up was the first of three expansion posts allotted to equip the department to mount a PhD program. World History was undergoing an important revival at the time: the "new world history movement" was redefining the subject as a research field rather than simply as a first-year teaching subject. Ralph's seminal 1989 workshop on World History here caught the attention of V.P. Academic Sam Scully. A classicist who saw the value of giving students a broad view of the discipline, he (luckily for me) accepted the department's argument that widening graduate students' horizons could be intellectually enriching for them as well as helpful on the job market. Those goals were very much in my mind as I set out teaching, as they have continued to be throughout my years at UVic.

Possibly the most curious coincidence in all my years here came at the beginning of my second term, when Bob McCue, a veteran Europeanist, and I were both diagnosed with leukaemia within days of each other. Despite fears at the time, we've each survived. Bob retired soon thereafter, and fortunately (to the amazement of some of my family) I'm now in a position to do so as well, showing some wear no doubt, but still fairly functional.

Functional enough, I hope, to complete some research projects close to my heart on 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century Sino-Western relations and the varied depictions of "traditional" China in Western social thought. I'm looking forward to building on my previous publications on related themes and exploring this research terrain further in retirement.

Looking back at my career, I'm glad to say that I've always been made feel a valued member of the university community at UVic. I'm most grateful to the department as a whole for its support over the years, particularly the inclusive and consultative chairs -- Peter Baskerville, Ted Wooley, Eric Sager, Tom Saunders and Lynne Marks -- who led the department during my years teaching here. The office staff over the past quarter century have been extraordinarily knowledgeable and generous.

Among the institutional features that contributed to my feeling at home here is the substantial level of faculty participation in academic governance including via elections for major committees and the "Petch procedures" requiring ratification of academic administrative appointments. These things have given a more democratic cast to our academic life than one finds in many institutions.

Two further features made History a particularly welcoming and stimulating place to work: One has been the tradition of consistently including junior as well as senior faculty members on major committees and in planning and decision-making processes. Another that I've valued for maintaining a lively, open teaching environment has been History's practice of having faculty members at all stages of career teaching courses at all levels, from introductory surveys to graduate seminars.

In my undergraduate lectures, a consistent aim was always to engage students in appreciating the diversity and complexity of historical experiences around the world and in grasping the linkages between different experiences, particularly in regard to power and resistance to power. This I tried to do in my bread-&-butter World History offerings: the "Introduction to 20<sup>th</sup> Century World History" (Hist105), my later "Global Society since 1400" and my cycle of upper-level courses related to colonial empires and 20<sup>th</sup> century decolonization.





Those upper-level courses and my supervising of graduate and honours students working on colonialism / decolonization and the history of science drew not so much on my specialist research, but from other elements in my background and from unfolding developments in global politics. For instance, my interest in the history of Afghanistan, the subject of maybe my most innovative course, developed through the 1980s and then grew deeper after friends in India drew my attention in 1995 to the drama of the Taliban's rise. Earlier, while studying philosophy in Belgium in the 1970s, I began my work on China about the time of the Nixon visit, and associations with other foreign students fed my increasingly keen interests in the historical experiences of the Global South. Later, in Cambridge, friendships with scholars and students from Asia and Africa combined with participation in research centres devoted to those regions to provide a foundation of engaged knowledge for eventually working up courses.



At Uvic, participation in the interdisciplinary research centres (CSRS, CAPI and recently CFGS) has always been an important part of my intellectual life. So too has my involvement in such collaborative projects as the Comparative Asian Nationalisms project headed by Radhika Desai and the Zheng He project led by Zhongping Chen.

Along with supervising the theses of graduate and honours students, I've always found working with students in seminars to be most enjoyable and stimulating. My priorities in my World/Comparative History graduate seminars were to encourage students to acquaint themselves with key works in the diversified recent world history literature and to internationalize their understanding of history. Focusing on the emerging literature helped students see in new ways how historical scholarship tied in with contemporary political and cultural debates. I often marvelled to observe how seminar readings and interactions could awaken new interests and enhance students' confidence in dealing with new ideas.

Seeing new ideas sparking was also a great pleasure in my historiography seminars for Honours students during 1996-2004 and for grad students in 2005-13. A consistent basic aim for me in these was to try to help students familiarize themselves with landmarks in the writing of history enough to feel comfortable participating in a professional discussion.

Throughout my time at Uvic, I've sought in various ways to promote an internationalized understanding of the world. In doing this I've greatly appreciated the opportunities of working with colleagues and graduate students, within History and from across campus. I hope I'll be forgiven for not acknowledging more individuals by name, but I must mention that it's been my special good fortune to have worked closely with Ralph Croizier and Martin Bunton. The 1999 World History Association Conference we organized here kept Uvic on the map within WHA circles. The 1990s World History Newsletter served readers across Canada as the field was taking off. The World Affairs in Historical Perspective series of talks and other events organized has served the university community and the broader public well since 1997, particularly at moments such as after the 9/11 attacks and during the 2011 "Arab Spring". It's been a privilege and a pleasure to have been part of such ventures.

## Gregory Blue Scholarship in Global History

We are happy to report that our campaign to endow a scholarship in Greg Blue's name was very successful and exceeded our goal. More than 90 donations were received, totalling \$31,500! Thank you to everyone who contributed. The collective generosity of many made this possible.

As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, the **Gregory Blue Scholarship in Global History** was endowed at \$63,000. Matching funds from an anonymous Uvic donor doubled the amount given by each donor to the scholarship in Greg's name.

This endowment will generate \$2500+ annually for scholarships in support of academically outstanding undergraduate History students, with preference given to students with a demonstrated commitment to Global History, ideally with a focus on the Global South. The inaugural scholarships will be awarded in Fall 2016.

Again, thank you to all those who donated. This tremendous outcome is the result of your amazing generosity. And, if you'd intended to donate, but simply didn't have the opportunity to do so yet, please know that donations can be made to the endowment at any time by visiting [uvic.ca/history/home/donate](http://uvic.ca/history/home/donate). Additional donations help the endowed fund's principal grow, which in turn increases the value of the scholarships for students. Thank you.

# History Department Book Launch



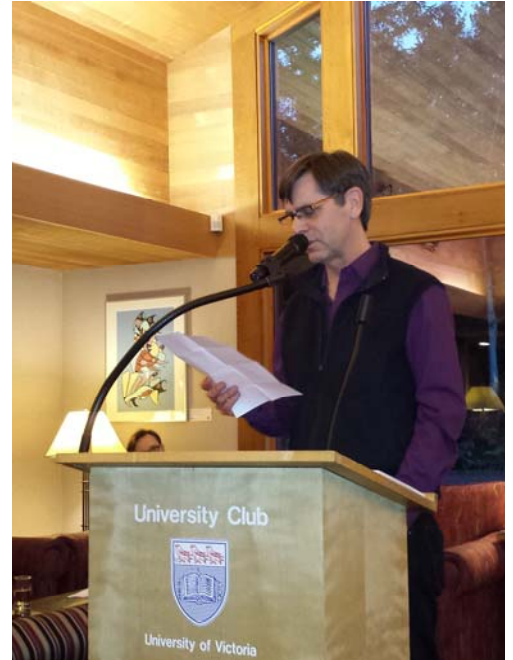
## Books and websites launched:

- **Thomas Reid on Society and Politics**
- **Education for Life: Correspondence and Writings on Religion and Practical Philosophy**  
Paul Wood
- **A Justifiable Obsession': Conservative Ontario's Relations with Ottawa, 1943-1985**  
Penny Bryden
- **Victoria's Chinatown**  
Zhongping Chen
- **A Show of Hands for the Republic: Opinion, Information, and Repression in Eighteenth-Century Rural France**  
Jill Walshaw
- **The Month That Changed the World: July 1914**
- **The Encyclopedia of War**
- **Twentieth-Century War and Conflict: A Concise Encyclopedia**  
Gordon Martel
- **A City Goes to War**  
Jim Kempling and John Lutz
- **Boundless Optimism: Richard McBride's British Columbia**  
Pat Roy
- **Stewards of the People's Forest: A Short History of the BC Forest Service**  
Lorne Hammond
- **Europe's Uncertain Path 1814-1914: State Formation and Civil Society**  
Rob Alexander
- **Zheng Hes Maritime Voyages (1405-1433) and Chinas Relations with the Indian Ocean World**  
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- **Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America**  
Rachel Cleves
- **Stalin's Citizens: Everyday Politics in the Wake of Total War**  
Serhy Yekelchuk
- **The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Very Short Introduction**  
Martin Bunton
- **Ladysmith: Our community. Your Credit Union**  
Patrick Dunae
- **Vancouver Noir & Vancouver Confidential**  
John Belshaw





# December 2014



# Outgoing Chair— Lynne Marks

It was with mixed emotions that I ended my term as Chair in December. I was in some ways sorry to leave a year before the end of my term – but I knew that I needed to listen to my doctor’s advice about maintaining my health. I looked forward to a more relaxed pace, with time to work on my writing, but at the same time, I feel very positive about the four years I spent as Chair.

It was a very busy and sometimes hectic time, but I enjoyed working with many amazing people in moving the department forward in a number of positive ways. Early in my term we were able to move the department to a “2 and 2” course load, which is the norm in most research intensive History departments. This slight reduction in teaching responsibilities enables our research faculty to have more time for research and writing, allowing us to further strengthen the impressive record of scholarship that this department is known for.

We had a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the department’s long and distinguished history of exceptional scholarship and teaching in our celebration of the Department’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, part of the university’s celebrations of this auspicious event.



At our anniversary reception a range of speakers shared fascinating insights into the department’s past. Dr. Pat Roy’s “History of History” provided, and will continue to provide us with an important narrative of the department’s illustrious (and occasionally not so illustrious) history. I know that for me as Chair, Pat’s volume gave me a valuable sense of perspective, as I came to see that many of the challenges of my Chairship were not new, but had emerged in different forms over the decades.

While much is not new, some aspects of university life are changing, not just at UVic, but across North America. I became Chair at a time when there was a dramatically increased focus on “metrics”, particularly around maintaining and increasing undergraduate enrolments. Since History enrolments have been declining across the country, in the face of the increasingly powerful discourse of job market “relevance”, this created stress all around. At the same time, it also encouraged us to think creatively about what we could do to increase enrolments. Eileen Zapshala always had innovative ideas in this regard, and while I hadn’t planned to become Chair in order to be a marketing expert, the creation of a new departmental Recruitment and Retention Committee also enabled us to take some positive steps forward. With the youthful creativity and enthusiasm of a number of colleagues, particularly Jill Walshaw and Jason Colby, and the wisdom and endless energy of Eric Sager, we came up with a number of ideas – some of which we only tried once – while others, such as History Fairs for local high school students and Professional Development Day workshops for high school social science teachers, have become a regular part of our outreach into the larger community. The success of both History Fairs and ProD days have relied on the exceptional organizational skills of our

Administrative Officer, Theresa Gallant, and have also required numerous faculty volunteers to give lectures and workshops on topics ranging from the History of Sex, or of Homicide, to workshops on the Cold War. I’ve been very impressed with how positively everyone responded to requests to do “their bit” to help showcase what we do for teachers and potential students.

Faculty have also demonstrated their creativity and willingness to do their part to increase enrolments with their wonderful ideas for new courses, ranging from the Created Medieval History of J.R.R. Tolkien’s Middle-Earth, to the Backpackers Guide to European History, the History of Tourism and Leisure, the History of Human Rights, Scottish History on Film, and many more. In what was perhaps the most foolhardy move of my Chairship, I decided that while all of these individual new courses were wonderful, and drew in many students, that the department needed a complete curriculum overhaul, as one hadn’t been done for several decades. Surprisingly (to me) there was general agreement among the faculty that we needed to do this, although, less surprisingly, there was less agreement about what it should look like. Nonetheless, with the help of a smart and patient Planning Committee (Greg Blue, Jason Colby and Jordan Stanger-Ross), and many meetings, we managed to develop a new curriculum we could all be pleased with. But then it took the hard work, creativity and patience of Theresa Gallant to pull it all together, producing the almost 300 curriculum change forms needed to make it official.

Laughing with Theresa over the ironies and idiocies of academic life helped to keep me going, particularly whenever we had to deal with the most recent new “initiative” from the senior administration. I couldn’t have done the job without knowing I could always rely on





Karen Hickton for support and help whenever needed – as well as gentle advice (not always heeded) when I seemed to have taken on too much. While the Chair doesn't work quite as closely with the other office staff, Eileen Zapshala and Heather Waterlander also play crucial roles in keeping the department going. Andrea Feary made significant contributions to the office during her time in the department, and the hardest part of my Chairship was having to let her know that her position had been eliminated as a result of budget cuts. Budget cuts were a major challenge of my time as Chair, and between 2010 and 2014 we were regularly required to reduce the number of courses taught by sessional instructors. At the same time, budget cuts forced me to draw on the bargaining skills of my merchant forbearers in dealing with the Dean, and I was pleased that over my time as Chair we were able to retain all of the courses taught by our incredibly impressive continuing sessional instructors, while also continuing to offer teaching opportunities to our doctoral students.

I was very pleased to help facilitate the conversion of one of our award-winning continuing sessional instructors, Dr. Andrew Wender, to an assistant teaching professor position. Over my term as

Chair we had far fewer new faculty hires than had been the case with my predecessors, as I was fortunate that no one retired on my watch, until Greg Blue, who retired as I was stepping down as Chair. However, in July of 2014 we were very pleased to welcome Dr. Brian McKercher into the department for a five year limited term appointment. Dr. McKercher brings a stellar scholarly record, as well as teaching expertise in military, diplomatic, British, European and North American history. I am also pleased and proud that in 2014 we were successful in gaining a CRC Tier II Chair in Global and Comparative History through a university-wide competitive process. Our success there was due in part to the faculty renewal plan that we had crafted as a department in 2011, making further expansion in Global History, particularly areas of the Global South, a central priority for a department that is proud of its strengths in North American and European history, but recognizes the need to further diversify its faculty and curriculum.

After a lengthy search process for the CRC position, in which the hiring committee of Penny Bryden, Martin Bunton, Jordan Stanger-Ross and Elizabeth Vibert played a central role (both in selecting the strongest candidates to interview, and in exposing them to Victoria's best culinary and scenic attractions), we are very pleased that Dr. Neilesh Bose, an exceptional scholar in South Asian and global history, with specializations in intellectual, religious and cultural history, will be joining us in July of 2015.

I am very grateful to all of my colleagues, who made being Chair much easier than it might have been, and who (generally) tolerated the vagaries of their first feminist Chair. I am particularly happy that our renowned collegiality seems to have emerged from my four years as Chair relatively unscathed, despite the many changes and debates

we have gone through. These changes, which I think have helped to make us a stronger and more forward-looking department, would not have been possible without the creativity and cooperation we have all brought to the challenges of the last few years. I am grateful to everyone, but I would like to add particular thanks to our Dean, John Archibald, who was always humane, thoughtful and open to new ideas, even when he had to say no. I owe a huge debt to Tom Saunders, who was always there with much needed thoughtful advice, never complaining if I didn't take it, and always willing to step in when personal matters required me to leave the Chair temporarily. Eric Sager, Sara Beam and Elizabeth Vibert heard more than they might have wanted to about the challenges of being Chair, and also provided much helpful advice. I am very grateful to Jason Colby, who was a co-conspirator on many of the challenges discussed here (even if we didn't always agree), and who was very generous in agreeing to take over as interim Chair until July of 2015. He's doing a great job, and I hope we will see more of his Chairing skills in the future. And finally, many thanks to John Lutz, who kindly agreed to serve as Grad Director when I was Chair, did an excellent job in that role, and will be fabulous as our next Chair when he moves into the position in July.





# Colonial Legacies Field School in South Africa



May 7, 2014 was national Election Day in South Africa and the twentieth anniversary of the first democratic election in the country. Thirteen UVic students, two History faculty and a doctoral student marked the day in the rural village of Joppie, Limpopo Province, visiting the polling station and taking in the excitement of the event. The day before, students had spent the day at a youth education program, taking part in a vigorous debate about whether young people should exercise the hard-won right to vote. Members of the 'born free' generation, many of these young adults expressed alienation from the political system and articulated well-considered reasons for not participating. Each day of our three weeks there, South Africa revealed its paradoxes.

The field school kicked off with an intensive classroom week in the History seminar room. Students were drawn from many disciplines – history, political science, economics, linguistics, women's studies, English. Interdisciplinarity was a strength of the cohort, as was the fact that the director and co-director have expertise in Canadian First Nations history as well as Southern African: comparative colonialisms were often in view.

Our first day on the ground was something of a trial by fire. We landed in Cape Town in the morning, after more than thirty hours of travel, and headed straight to the townships of Langa and Gugulethu. Students found the experience 'jarring, but necessary' as one put it. A bird's-eye view of the ongoing paradoxes of racialized inequality is the privilege, and the burden, of travellers to South Africa. Museum visits, including Robben Island and District 6, a tour to Cape of Good Hope, and a powerful workshop at the university on contemporary urban challenges filled out our days in the city. We spent much of our time in rural Limpopo Province, doing a village home-stay, volunteering on local farms and other community projects, getting to know rural South African youth and elders, and doing oral history interviews with South Africans of varied age and station. The purpose of the field school was to expose students to the ways in which colonial histories shape the present – in social relations, politics, economy, and environment.







A few students' reflections on the experience:

'I gained a perspective on the lives of people in Africa that would not have been available to me under any other circumstances, an experience that at times allowed me to distance myself purposefully from my own world views (if only briefly).'

History MA student Patrick Bradley

'I'm bitterly aware that I moved with an agency that is denied to many South Africans ... I will never forget what a truly bizarre experience it was to spend the day picking groundnuts out of the dirt at the Hleketani community garden amongst some of the country's most disadvantaged citizens and returning to Letsitele to eat pizza beside [our host's] infinity pool.'

History student Faelan Lundeberg

'Traveling to South Africa has helped me to understand the ways in which we can become blind to the common injustices within our own culture.'

Political Science student Laura Soproniuk

This course 'allowed me to experience the world through a different lens, to travel with an objective, and to create ties with a community from across the world. This journey was unforgettable.'

Linguistics student Tess Syrowik



## Lansdowne Guest—Allyson Poska

We were honoured to host Dr. Allyson M. Poska (University of Mary Washington) as our 2014 Lansdowne speaker. Dr. Poska is a specialist in the early modern history of Spain and the Spanish New World, with a particular focus on the lives of peasants and of women. She is the author of three monographs, with the latest, *Gendered Crossings: Women and Migration in the Spanish Empire* due for publication later in 2015. Her second book, *Women and Authority in Early Modern Spain*, was awarded the prestigious Roland H. Bainton Prize in 2005. Her path-breaking research on non-elite women has opened up new research questions for early modern historians working on gender across Europe and the Americas.

Dr. Poska gave three distinctive and stimulating talks while at the University of Victoria. Her public lecture, entitled “History, the Humanities and the Promise of Possibilities,” confronted head-on the challenges facing the Humanities during a period of budget cuts and public debate about the value of a university education. Her departmental seminar focused instead on the challenges of investigating gender relations in a remote corner of the Spanish Empire, namely eighteenth-century Patagonia. Finally, on the first evening of the Qualicum conference, Professor Poska spoke with passion and eloquence on the subject of “Shifting the Frame: Trans-imperial Approaches to Gender in the Atlantic World,” a topic of particular relevance to the research program of several graduate student participants. Throughout the Qualicum conference, Dr. Poska was a gracious guest, always happy to talk with graduate students about their projects and even willing to get up (or should I say down?) on the dance floor during the Saturday night karaoke festivities. It was a pleasure to have such a well-regarded and inspiring historian in our midst for a few days.



## Honourary Degree Recipient—Ruby Dunstan



In June 2015, the University of Victoria will confer on Ruby Dunstan an honorary Doctor of Laws for her years of community service in the spheres of education, politics, environmental activism and social welfare. Elected to the Lytton First Nation Band Council in her early twenties, Ms. Dunstan later became the first female chief of her Band. In this role, she led her community in a decade-long battle to protect the Stein River Valley (the ancestral territory of the Nlaka’pamux and Lil’wat peoples) from logging. In government boardrooms in Victoria and Ottawa and at annual Stein festivals, she made impassioned speeches in defense of her community’s opposition to the logging proposal. In the early 1990s, Ms. Dunstan played a central role in the negotiations with Premier Mike Harcourt that culminated with the creation of the Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux Heritage Provincial Park in 1995. A tireless social worker, she was the first to bring forward the residential school abuses in Canada, an initiative that helped mobilize a national campaign that led to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. More recently, Ms. Dunstan played a prominent role in the creation of the Stein Valley Nlaka’pamux School at Lytton where she continues to serve in multiple capacities, most notably as President of the Stein School Board. As one of a handful of fluent speakers of her Nlaka’pamux language, she uses every opportunity to advocate for the value of local history, culture and language in the school curriculum.



# 2014 Qualicum History Conference

**January 31—February 2 in Parksville, BC**

This year's Qualicum History conference, was both a great success and a lot of fun! Fifty students from eight universities – the four principal participating institutions, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the University of Victoria, as well as visitors from the University of the Fraser Valley, McMaster University, Yale University and Indiana at Bloomington – delivered papers on topics ranging from early modern explorers to indigenous storytelling strategies to protest in the Middle East. Dr. Allyson Poska of the University of Mary Washington delivered a Friday keynote address that challenged students to look at the field of Atlantic history in a new light, and UVic Grantscrafter Dr. Rosemary Ommert of UVic offered her advice on writing SSHRC proposals in a special Saturday afternoon session. On Saturday night, Dr Keith Carlson from the University of Saskatchewan, who co-directs the Stó:lō Ethnohistory Field School with UVic's John Lutz, gave an entertaining talk entitled,

“Autobiography of Sasquatch: A Borderland Resident”. After the talk, student visiting and networking turned to heartfelt singing and dancing in the now-legendary karaoke event.

“Qualicum” (as it is referred to in shorthand) continues to be a fantastic opportunity for UVic students to gain experience presenting their research and to exchange ideas with their peers at other universities. This year's organizer, Dr Jill Walshaw, would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all of the faculty, staff and students who participated in the conference and the fundraising auction the previous fall, and a special note of gratitude to Heather Waterlander for fearlessly taking on the administrative tasks related to both events. 2015 will be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conference: this is a very special tradition, and it owes its success and longevity to your energy, your enthusiasm, and your hard work. “See you at Qualicum!”



# History Honours Program

The Honours program had another great year in 2013-14!

This year the Honours methods seminar was led by the infamous Dr. Tom Saunders. Students report that ...

“It wasn’t until taking History 496 that I realized my full potential. It challenged me in ways I had never considered, both personally and educationally. If I had any suggestions for students considering the course I would say take the leap.”

Derek Turkington

“When I joined the Honours program, I often doubted whether I was ‘smart enough’ to be in a seminar with the rest of the honours students. The readings and discussions intimidated and challenged me. But the harder I worked in this program the more I felt I belonged. That’s because the honours program isn’t just about being ‘smart enough.’ Above all, this program is about hard work and passion for history, and I am truly glad to be a part of it.”

Deborah Deacon

“History 496 is a lot like learning to ride a unicycle. It’s difficult, frustrating, and utter bewildering. Moreover, you’ll often fall down and look foolish all the while having people point and laugh at you. In summary, if you’d like to be an honours student, you have to do History 496 anyways, so you better have some good knee-pads.”

Cole Gagné

“I clearly remember walking to my car in late February after discussing Eksteins, thinking “okay, I finally get Honours now.” And then on my final paper in April I emailed Dr. Saunders with a bunch of questions and he basically replied, “Congratulations—you’re asking all the right questions, which means you are now ready to take the course.”

Sarah Fitterer

“Doing Honours is kind of like climbing a mountain. While you are doing it, it’s extremely difficult, and all you can see is how much work is still in front of you. At times, it feels overwhelming. But like a mountain, when you get to the top and see how far you’ve come, it becomes an extremely rewarding and life changing experience.”

Céilidhe Maher

Highlights included the Honours Colloquium on January 14th: this annual event gives the students doing original historical research for their Honours thesis a chance to present their results and exchange with both faculty and students. The event is open to the public and is a great way of building community among historians young and old.

The culmination of the Honours thesis experience is the April defense. Students present their work to a panel of three History professors who "grill" them for over an hour. Many students report that it is a challenging but very satisfying capstone experience. All told, this year ten Honours students defended theses ranging in topic from politics in nineteenth-century Nova Scotia, to Nazi storm troopers, to African-American gospel music.



# THUGS



2014 was a great year for The History Undergraduate Society. In the spring semester, we hosted a Historical Jeopardy Night, three movie nights with opening lectures by Dr. Grant, Dr. Cook, and Dr. Dolff, and two pub crawls with great attendance from students and professors. THUGS came out to the Qualicum Conference in January and can't wait to attend again. Our Year End Social in March was a huge success and we were pleased to present Dr. Semmens with the Most Valuable Professor award, voted for by undergraduate students. We also co-hosted a Launch Party for the release of The Corvette at the Victoria Art Gallery with the English Students Association. Throughout the year we also offered peer-helping sessions for undergraduate students, and will continue to offer these sessions in 2015.

The fall semester of 2014 began with a THUGS election to bring in a new executive committee with a lot of new and friendly faces! We hosted a pub-crawl in October with 100 attendees, a new record for THUGS! Dr. Fennema gave an opening lecture to the film 'Defiance' at our Movie Night in November. In December, undergrad students came out to our Semester-End Social at the Grad House and we surprised the professors with hot chocolate and timbits at their last departmental meeting of the year to thank them for all they do for us students. We've got some great events planned for the rest of the school year. We hosted a Behind the Vault tour of Uvic Special Collections and Archives where students came out to see some of the many exciting historical objects the library has to offer. We also hosted a Feedback Forum for students to share their ideas with the executive committee on events and planning! More jeopardy nights, bake sales, movie nights, and our notorious pub-crawls are set to take place throughout the semester. We are so happy with the wonderful year we have had and we are excited to continue being one of the most active course unions on campus! Our success as a course union is due in large part to the wonderful people in the history department, including all the professors and administration staff. We are so grateful to have such helpful and hard-working people in our history department. Congrats THUGS on an excellent year!

# GHSU

The Graduate History Student Union began 2014 with strong representation at the Qualicum History Conference in Parksville. After several months of hard work on courses and theses, a Spring retreat to the Jeanne S. Simpson Field Studies Resource Centre was organized. Over the course of a weekend at the Simpson Property, students relaxed and fostered collegial relationships. After a changing of the GHSU executive, September saw a successful welcome dinner for incoming students, followed by the faculty party hosted by Dr. Walshaw. A further trip to Lake Cowichan in October helped to integrate new students into the program. Throughout the year there were multiple informal events including a summer hiking group, ice-skating and lecture & movie-nights. In 2015 the GHSU has attended the Qualicum conference and looks forward another successful year.





# Faculty Year in Review

## Rob Alexander

In 2014 I taught four undergraduate courses. On the research front, gaining an internal research grant enabled me to accelerate work on a project concerning French public debate over military intervention in Spain in 1823 and Belgium in 1831. In the latter regard, I presented a paper on pamphlet literature at a conference of the Society for French Historical Studies in Montreal in April, conducted research on the newspaper press at Paris in the summer, and hired a research assistant to collect information on parliamentary speeches in 1823.

## Penny Bryden

I spent a lot of time writing two new books in 2014 — one is a focused study of the amassing of power in the Prime Ministers Office since 1960, the other is a new political history of Canada. Suffice it to say, neither got finished, but at least one will be done in 2015. I also started a new project on political scandal, and had a marvellous time working with an intern from China — Qianyun Li — for three months in the summer.

## Zhongping Chen

2014 was a fruitful year for my collaborative work with dozens of scholars around the world for the MCRI project (2010-2017), “The Indian Ocean World: The Making of the First Global Economy in the Context of Human-Environmental Interaction.” In particular, my collaboration with Dr. Gregory Blue and Asian Librarian Ying Liu at UVic resulted in the publication of *Zheng He’s Maritime Voyages (1405-1433) and China’s Relations with the Indian Ocean World: A Multilingual Bibliography* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2014). In collaboration with UVic’s Center for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, I organized and presided over the international conference, “Zheng He’s Maritime Voyages (1405-1433) and China’s Relations with the Indian Ocean World from Antiquity” on August 22-24, 2014. More than 50 scholars and graduate students from Asia, America, Australia, Africa and Europe attended the conference at UVic, and they presented more than 40 papers on Zheng He’s seven epic voyages across the Indian Ocean in 1405-1433 and on relevant trade, migration, diplomacy, military clashes, and political interactions between China and the Indian Ocean world around the fifteenth century. I personally presented one paper, and coauthored another paper with Ms. Yen-kuang Kuo, one doctoral candidate under my supervision, for the conference. Moreover, I received a research fellowship from UVic’s Faculty of Humanities for writing my SSHRC-funded book, “Reform and Revolution in the Chinese Diaspora: The Transpacific Politics of Canadian Chinatowns, 1884-1918,” and one section of the book manuscript will be published as an article in one top journal in China, *Jindaishi yanjiu* (Journal of modern history).



## Rachel Cleves

2014 was an exciting year for me! In the spring I was awarded the Humanities Research Excellence Award by the University of Victoria. In the beginning of June my book *Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America* was published by Oxford University Press. *Charity and Sylvia* appeared on several ten-best book lists for 2014, and was chosen as a book of the week by [salon.com](http://salon.com). In the spring and fall I gave public lectures about *Charity and Sylvia* at Oxford University, Yale University, Middlebury College, and Smith College, and throughout the summer and fall I also participated in a series of interviews, including one for the *Boston Globe*, which became one of the newspaper’s ten most popular “Ideas” pieces printed last year. In September, *Early American Studies* published a special issue that I guest-edited on the theme of “Beyond the Binaries: Critical Approaches to Sex and Gender in Early America.” The special issue has received very positive response, and in January 2015 I convened

a roundtable with four of the contributors at the American Historical Association annual meeting to discuss the issue. Lastly, I launched my new research project, “The Not So Innocents Abroad,” a queer history of sex, food, and travel. Visits to archives in Paris, Cambridge (Massachusetts), and New Haven, inspired a series of blogposts on my website [rachelhopecleves.com](http://rachelhopecleves.com). Lastly, I returned from sabbatical to the classroom in the fall, teaching a new seminar of LGBTQ history, which may have been the most fun class I have ever taught.

## Jason Colby

I spent most of 2014 researching and working through the literature relevant to my new book project *Days of the Killer Whale: Business, Orcas, and the New Pacific Northwest*. In addition to several archival visits, this involved some fascinating interviews with scientists, activists, and former policy makers on both sides of the border. As in previous interviews, the more I talked to my historical subjects, the more I realized I didn’t understand. In fact, the process of turning myself into an international environmental historian has been deeply humbling. I haven’t let my status as a novice deter me from disseminating my thoughts, however! In addition to seeing the publication of previously accepted articles and chapters from this project in 2014, I contributed a chapter entitled “Cetaceans in the City: Orca Captivity, Animal Rights, and Environmental Values in Vancouver” to the edited volume *Animal Metropolis*, forthcoming from University of Calgary Press. I also submitted a SSHRC application, the funding of which would enable me to expand the project with graduate student researchers. Finally, at the end of the year, just as I was looking forward to a semester of deep reflection and writing, I was drafted into serving as interim chair. Alas . . .





## Peter Cook

2014 proved an exciting year on the teaching front. I introduced a new course in the department, a history of Indigenous-Settler treaties in Canada that explores the long record of diplomacy and negotiated accommodation between aboriginal peoples and European colonizers from the sixteenth century to the present. I also taught, for the second time, a course on Pirates and Piracy since 1500 that I'd developed the previous year and that has proven popular. It examines the history of sea-borne robbery globally over the last five hundred years alongside the evolution of the image of pirates in the West, and concludes with a look at historical debates about intellectual property — the form of piracy with which today's students are most familiar. Bringing together historical pirates like Blackbeard, pop-culture pirates like Jack Sparrow, and internet "pirates" of the present-day seems to strike a chord with UVic students.

On the research front, I was happy to see my article on the image of Indigenous leaders in sixteenth-century European travel writing appear in print, having developed it the previous year for a scholar's workshop organized by the William and Mary Quarterly at the Huntington Library in California. I spent the latter part of 2014 working on an article on seventeenth-century French-Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) diplomacy that will appear later this year in the *Canadian Historical Review*.

UVic history students marked their own notable publishing success in 2014 with a gala launch of *The Corvette*, a peer-reviewed undergraduate history journal. I was privileged to serve as a faculty advisor for the editorial team, whose industry and dedication astonished me — as did the quality of the papers submitted for review. In the fall, I took on the task of organizing the History Department's *Café Historique* series and have since had great experiences getting to know the thoughtful and enthusiastic audience the event has acquired.

Finally, 2014 was also a year of discovering more about southern Vancouver Island, mostly through hiking its numerous trails and exploring its beaches in the company of friends and dogs. Every outing is a constant reminder of how lucky we are to live and work in this place.

## John Duder

I taught 374 in Summer School - the last time I shall do so - and 372 and 373 in the Fall term - the last times I shall ever do so, since I'm retiring in 2015. I also completed the manuscript for a book - "Killing Captain Lawson-Walton - Soldier Settlement in Kenya". Now to get it published.



## Mitchell Lewis Hammond

This was an eventful year as my ongoing research in 16th-century European medicine was interspersed with other projects. I published a translation of a devotional treatise by a sixteenth-century German religious author (Leonhard Schiemer). The summer Ebola outbreak in West Africa led me to do public talks on the relationship of religious belief and public health, including a lecture in the Department's "Café Historique" series. In October, I also took my first trip to the Okanagan to present at the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society meeting in Kelowna.

## John Lutz

Rankin Inlet on the Northwest shore of Hudson's Bay was the place selected for the April meeting for "The Franklin Mystery: Life and Death in the Arctic" website project to collaborate with the Nunavut Department of Education. Between having our 1970s Bombardier snowcat breakdown (OK- it was only for a few minutes) on the ice of Hudsons Bay and being blizzarded-in for three extra days of northern experience — I almost got to re-enact part of the Franklin experience! I taught two new courses in spring 2015, one the graduate public history course and the other "A City Goes to War" which focussed on the history of Victoria in the decade 1910-20. (See *Random Acts of Public History* for the outcomes). On study leave in the fall I have been working on longstanding project on the erotics of Pacific exploration and the history of race in Victoria which may one day make it into print!

## Lynne Marks

2014 has been a busy year as I completed my term as Chair. In addition, I was pleased to have an article on early Jewish history in BC appear in *BC Studies*. I also presented a paper on first wave feminism, race and religion in BC at the Berkshire Conference on women's history in Toronto in the spring, and a paper on Canadian welfare rights mothers' groups to a conference on the history of women's liberation in Portsmouth, UK over the summer. I was also pleased to learn in December that I had won the UVic Provost's Advocacy and Activism Award in Equity and Diversity, although I can't help but note the irony of UVic giving me an award at least in part because of my efforts in making life more difficult for the senior administration. I very much appreciate being nominated for the award by Eric Sager and Elizabeth Vibert. I was also pleased in 2014 that two of my masters' students, Judith Gibbard and Bonnie Sawyer, both did a wonderful job in defending their impressive theses.

## Rick Rajala

Continued plugging away at research on Vancouver Island tourism at the BC Archives, published an environmental history piece in *BC Studies*, and joined that journal's editorial board.





# Faculty Year in Review



## Eric Sager

2014: a year of travel within Canada. To Fredericton to assess a History Department; to Toronto for productions at the COC and Opera Atelier; to St. Catharines for a conference; to Bridge Lake, B.C., for a summer holiday; to Toronto (again!) for a conference; to Quebec City to be inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. And the biggest trip: back to Victoria to meet my new grand-daughter Kaitlyn Waterman.

## Kristin Semmens

2014 had some wonderful professional and personal highlights for me. In February, I was awarded the 2013 Gilian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching at a lovely evening reception. I felt very honoured indeed! In the spring, I was asked to contribute a chapter to an upcoming work on everyday life in Nazi Germany (due out with Bloomsbury in 2015).

For the first time in my 10 years teaching at UVic, I had taught all my courses before, which made a nice change from new course nerves.

Finally, our family had a wonderful European vacation in the summer, from the canals of Amsterdam to the canals of Venice, with the beaches of Germany and Croatia in between.



## Georgia Sitara

In the fall, the Belfry Theatre invited me to help frame their production of *Venus in Fur* (David Ives' adaptation of Leopold Sacher-Masoch's 1870 novel). It was so much fun to bring the history of sexuality and (sex-positive) feminist theory to this popular, community venue in order to invite and entice shy theatre-goers to see the play. I wrote a short article and participated in their B4Play interview with CBC's Gregor Craigie. The links are provided below, if you are curious.

<http://www.belfry.bc.ca/news/wields-power-love-story/>

<https://soundcloud.com/belfrytheatre>

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/55137289>

## Jordan Stanger-Ross

It has been an exciting year. In January I had the pleasure of beginning parental leave with my son Avi, and we spent much of the spring toddling along shorelines, binging on the city's best fresh donuts (he's a third child) at the *Esquimalt Bake Shop*, and napping. In June, just as that time came to an end, I learned that the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada had decided to fund *Landscapes of Injustice*, a 7-year interdisciplinary and multi-institutional project to tell the history of the forced sale of Japanese-Canadian-owned property during the Second World War, of which I am the Director. Since then, *Landscapes* has been a whirlwind of activity, with students hired, a team organized, the first archival boxes opened, and some new audiences reached. It has been a challenging and promising start (learn more at [landscapesofinjustice.com](http://landscapesofinjustice.com)). And Avi and I are still binging on the donuts.



## Elizabeth Vibert

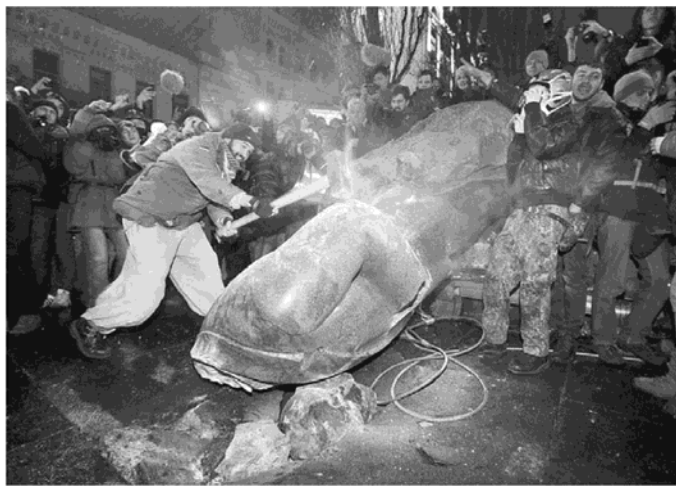
2014 was The Year of the Field School. Was it worth the time and effort – and international headaches – involved in its creation? Yes, I will happily do it again. (I'm offering round two of the Colonial Legacies Field School in South Africa in 2016.) I continued work on my project on rural women's life histories in apartheid and post-apartheid South Africa, gave a number of public talks on food security issues and smallholder farming, and published a new article on food and identities in the Pacific Northwest fur trade.



Ephraim Herbert Coleman (left) and Glenn Willoughby McPherson (right) both played central roles in the decision of the federal government to force the sale of Japanese-Canadian-owned property during WWII. McPherson directed the office of the Custodian of Enemy Property in Vancouver, and Coleman, the Under Secretary of State, oversaw this work from Ottawa. Early research findings from the Landscapes of Injustice project (<http://www.landscapesofinjustice.com/>) hint at a few of the many unexamined layers of this history – top secret entanglements with British intelligence, the integral role of bureaucrats in advancing the policy of forced sales, and little-known voices of protest to the policy taken. (Photo credit: UBC Rare Books and Special Collections)

## Jill Walshaw

This past year, I've been able to celebrate two milestones: my first book, entitled *A Show of Hands for the Republic: Opinion, Information and Repression in Eighteenth-Century Rural France*, appeared in the "Changing Perspectives on Early Modern Europe" series with Rochester University Press, and I was tenured and promoted to associate professor in July. Throughout the year I kept busy with teaching (European survey and 18<sup>th</sup>-century upper-level course, seminars on comparative peasant societies and on French cultural history) as well as with a number of projects. My work on counterfeiting in 18<sup>th</sup>-century France is going well: in the summer, I analyzed some of the several hundred trials I've collected in archives, and presented a paper in San Antonio in November that investigated why counterfeiters were prosecuted with more or less severity in different times and places. At UVic, I saw the first three students participate in a student exchange to Toulouse, France, in September, and relived with them both the challenges of negotiating the French bureaucracy and the joys of discovering a foreign culture. And it has



In December, protesters in Kiev took down a statue of Vladimir Lenin, one of many Soviet-era monuments to fall in Ukraine.

## Goodbye, Lenin – and Russia

Ukrainian Serhy Yekelchuk on his country's struggle to break away from its imperial past

The revolution in the Ukrainian capital began with about 100 students setting up tents in Kiev's central square and declaring a hunger strike. They insisted that the prime minister resign and that the government stop negotiating a new treaty with Moscow. If this sounds familiar, something must be wrong, because these events happened in October 1990, well before revolts were widespread.

At the time, Kiev's central plaza was still known as October Revolution Square, named after the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. At its eastern end stood a huge monument to Vladimir Lenin that dominated the square's ornate, Stalinist architecture. Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union then, but its people were demanding change. Popular pressure seemed to be working, too. The premier resigned, the Lenin monument was dismantled, and the Soviet Union disintegrated the following year.

And yet, twice more in the next 25 years, crowds of protesters would clash with police on the same streets and occupy the same plaza, now known as Independence Square, or Maidan Nezalezhnosti, in honor of the new Ukrainian state that emerged in 1991. It has been rebuilt, too, with a dark-glass hemisphere in the spot where Lenin once stood. It is the entrance to an upscale underground shopping center called Globe.

Indeed, global capitalism arrived in Ukraine long ago, filling parking spots in the city center with Mercedes-Benzes, Rolls-Royces and Maybachs. Why, then, did destroying Lenin monuments become the current protesters' most televised symbolic act? Kiev's other Lenin statue, half a mile south, was the first to fall, on Dec. 8, 2013. Dozens of Lenin statues in other cities were toppled or professionally dismantled over the next three months. The country is changing, but what exactly is it putting behind?

It is not communism, in fact, that Ukrainians have revolted against now, but their long history of Russian rule. This time it started with President Viktor Yanukovich's U-turn from signing a trade agreement with the European Union to entering an economic union with Russia.

Last time, in the winter of 2004, the Orange Revolution began in the same square, where the people protested a rigged presidential election that had

stolen an obvious victory from Viktor Yushchenko. However, both Europe and Yushchenko served as symbols of something much wider – true democracy, the rule of law, reining in corruption.

Ukrainians quickly grew disappointed with the inefficient Yushchenko, and they may well find themselves disillusioned with the European Union in the long run. But at the height of revolutionary upheaval, both were powerful rallying cries of popular protest. The people embraced them as the opposite of what they despised: political manipulation, a compromised judiciary and rampant corruption. Although communism has been dead for nearly 25 years, all these things sound imminently familiar – in a word, Soviet. Hence the falling Lenins.

These problems also seem familiar to Ukrainians because they are associated with the political regime and the economic system of its powerful neighbor and former imperial master, Russia. Yanukovich will be remembered as Vladimir Putin's failed pupil. For all the similarities between the two regimes, Ukraine's president never managed to rein in the oligarchs or suppress opposition parties. When the crucial moment came, he was also powerless to crush the rebellion, notwithstanding the encouraging whispers from the Kremlin.

Toppling Lenin statues was a liberating act because they also stood as symbols of authoritarianism, the old Soviet one and the new Russian one. They represented the hated past that still existed right next door and threatened to creep into Ukraine.

It is telling that attempts to destroy Lenin monuments were met with resistance in Ukraine's eastern and southern regions, where the population still identifies with Russian culture. In defending their Lenins, Russian-speaking Ukrainians are standing up for Putin's Russia. However, the Putin regime itself identifies much more with the last czar, Nicholas II, and his strongman prime minister, Pyotr Stolypin. Putin has been photographed laying flowers on the grave of Gen. Anton Denikin, Lenin's opponent in the Russian civil war. Putin's ideal is Great Russia rather than Soviet Russia, which explains why Russian history textbooks valorize both Stolypin and Joseph Stalin. At the same time, there is little respect for Lenin in Putin's Russia.

It's not that the Ukrainian protesters and their opponents are confused about what they are fighting for. The "war of Lenin monuments" is not about the Bolshevik leader at all; it's about Ukraine's long history as part of the Russian empire. That's why the vague trade agreement with the E.U. resonated so well as a revolutionary slogan. It

meant finally leaving the Russian political and cultural orbit. Twenty-three years after the Soviet Union's official dissolution, Ukrainians are finally burying that last incarnation of the empire. This is why they are taking down its idols, the most prominent ones, the ones that are still standing in so many cities. When they came across a monument to czarist-era Field Marshal Mikhail Kutuzov, who defeated Napoleon in 1812, they took it down as well.

Russia understands what's going on. Putin pressured Yanukovich into his last-minute reversal and was hoping that Ukraine would join the Eurasian Union, the Kremlin's lame answer to the E.U. Putin's attempt to rebuild at least some of the Soviet empire under the guise of a modern economic community is doomed without Ukraine's participation.

This is in part because of the country's strategic location between Russia and Europe, but also because of its importance to the Russian national identity. Although Russians are fond of referring to Ukrainians by the Soviet moniker of a "fraternal people," most of them do not acknowledge the country as a separate nation; they see it as a breakaway region that is really Russian.

The Ukrainian revolution of 2014 threatens the ideology of the Soviet past. It questions Russia's identity. It challenges Russia's plan to restore its influence in the region. It also shows that a Putinite regime can be destroyed by a popular revolution. No wonder Russia has recalled its ambassador from Ukraine and refuses to recognize the country's new government.

It took Ukraine more than 20 years to lay the colonial past to rest. Can we say that, with the toppling of Lenin statues and the toppling of Yanukovich, it has broken free of Russian influence?

Not quite. The day will come when no one will care to destroy or defend the remaining monuments of the Soviet past; when they will become just historical artifacts, perhaps gathered in special theme parks, rather than potent symbols. For the moment, though, the new Ukrainian government is preoccupied with the crises of the day, such as the threat of a default or separatist sentiments in Russian-speaking regions.

The revolutionaries can, and probably will, win these battles. But only constructing a functioning democracy and defeating corruption will help them win the war.

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been a year of Qualicum: I organized the Qualicum Graduate conference in early February, 2014, and nearly immediately started preparing for the next one – the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event, which will take place in 2015. We do a lot of things right here in the History Department at UVic: good people and good ideas go together to create both a great working environment and a legacy we can be proud of.

## Andrew Wender

I was very excited to begin my new position as an Assistant Teaching Professor in Political Science, History, and Religious Studies on May 1, 2014, teaching across areas connecting with my work in Middle East history and politics, world history, politics and religion, and political theory. An interest in the great significance of the World War I Centennial for the Middle East, especially in the light of current turmoil in the region, led me to develop a Summer 2014 HSTR 377 Special Topics course on The WWI Centennial and the Making of the Modern Middle East; I also gave a panel presentation on related issues at a UVic conference on the WWI Centennial. Publications out in 2014 included a book chapter, 'Re-approaching -- Not Merely Reapproaching -- Religious Sectarianism within a Tumultuous Middle East', in Mohammed M. Aman and Mary Jo Aman, eds., *Middle East Conflicts & Reforms* (Washington, DC: Policy Studies Organization/Westphalia Press); and two reviews of books on Zionism and the Israel/Palestine conflict, for Middle East Media and Book Reviews Online.

## Paul Wood

For me, 2014 will be remembered as the year of seemingly endless proof correction and indexing. Two book projects finally came to fruition, but not without incident. One of the books went through five sets of proofs while the proofs for the second book arrived unexpectedly with a short deadline. Apart from a brief trip in May to speak at a conference in Edinburgh, I did not head to the archives in Scotland as I would normally do because I was shepherding the books through the press. Consequently I had to monitor the Scottish independence debate from this side of Atlantic. The issues raised by the referendum focused my mind on my three-year term as the Hugh Campbell and Marion Alice Small Faculty Fellow in Scottish Studies, which began in July. The referendum also added a buzz to my new course on Scottish history in film, which I offered for the first time last autumn. Given the result and the political fallout, the course will remain topical for the foreseeable future.

## Serhy Yekelchuk

It was an intense year—intense in a positive and productive sense, if not always for joyful reasons. The conflict in Ukraine made my home country the top news around the world, which for me meant fielding a great many media requests and writing articles that fall into a grey zone between op-eds and academic research. That same year my monograph on a very different time period came out: *Stalin's Citizens: Everyday Politics in the Wake of Total War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), and my promotion to full professor went through. Finally, this was the year when I got to teach, for the first time, my dream course on the Eastern Front in the First and Second World Wars, an experience that taught me a lesson about being careful in wishing for dream courses; there was just too much prep work to make the dream come true in the form I wanted. Thankfully, there was a Study Leave waiting in January.



# Graduate Award Winners

## UVic Graduate Awards

William Archibald	Esther Rzeplinski	Leroy Thiessen
Shelly Duquette	Ezekiel Gow	Deryck Harry
Anne-Lise Kempling	Meghan Kort	Alison Malis
Galen Murray	Justine Semmens	Ivan Watson
Yen-Kuang Kuo	Stephen Fielding	Jim Kempling
Evan Park	Jonathan Weller	Sadie Evans
Whitney Bajric	Samuel Biagioni	James Davey
Michelle St. Pierre	Patricia Kidd	Sarah Lebel
Joel Legassie	Sylvia Olsen	Kyla Fitzgerald
Tiffany Gunton	Daniel Posey	Megan Catt
Christa Hunfeld	Taylor McKee	Rhiannon Murphy
Megan Harvey	Kurt Krueger	Iain O'Shea
Patrick Bradley	Noah Miller	Zsofia Surjan

## Uvic Fellowships

David Vogt	Kamran Bashir	Thirstan Falconer
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## Outstanding Graduate Entrance Award

William Archibald	Esther Rzeplinski	Meghan Kort
Drew Koehn	Jennifer Seidel	Alexis Leriger de la Plante

## Landscapes of Injustice Fellowship

William Archibald	Esther Rzeplinski	Kyla Fitzgerald
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## MCRI Grant

Yen-Kuang Kuo	Yanshuo Liu
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## SSHRC Awards

Sabina Trimble

## History Department Award

Kamran Bashir

## President's Scholarships

Sabina Trimble

## Learned Societies Scholarship

Meghan Kort

## Sam & June Macey Graduate Scholarship in History

Sabina Trimble

## Victoria Historical Society Scholarship

Jonathan Weller

## UVic Alumni Association Grad Award

Deryck Harry

## Winifred E. Lonsdale Scholarship

Justine Semmens

## Leon J. Ladner British Columbia Historical Scholarship

Patrick Bradley

**Congratulations to all our award winners!**

# Undergraduate Awards

**McGraw-Hill Ryerson Scholarship**

Hannah Anderson

**BC Historical Federation's W. Kaye Lamb Essay Scholarship**

Brandon Krupa

**Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Awards**

Alissa Cartwright, Erin Cotton, Céilidhe Maher, Derek Turkington

**Air Force Officers' Association Book Prize**

Benjamin Fast

**Alexander MacLeod Baird Memorial Prize in Scottish History**

Marina McClintock

**Alfred Loft Book Prize in Canadian History**

Brandon Krupa

**Allan and Elizabeth McKinnon Scholarship**

Zachary McCann-Armitage

**Charlotte S.M. Girard Book Prize in French History**

Connor MacLeod

**Churchill Foundation Vancouver Island's Shirley Burstall Scholarship**

Ceilidhe Maher and Adrian Canagasuriam

**Dr. Shawn Cafferky Scholarship in Military History**

Camas Clowater-Eriksson

**Dr. Toby Jackman Book Prize in British History**

Kirsty Lewis

**Grotius Award in Modern History**

Spirit-Rose Waite

**Harper Scholarships**

Christopher Cruickshank, Kirsty Lewis, Connor MacLeod, Deborah Deacon, Brandon Krupa, Cameron Fish, Erin Chewter, Eric Holdijk, Sarah Wiltshire

**Hendrickson Prize in B.C. History**

David Macauley

**Hutchinson Book Prize**

Laura Vinnedge

**Walter Grant Book Prize in British Columbia History**

Luke Kowalski

**Kathleen Agnew Scholarship**

David Denhoff

**Ken Coates Book Prize**

Luke Kowalski

**Ladner Book Prize for the Study of the History of British Columbia**

Luke Kowalski

**Lord Selkirk Association of Rupert's Land (Victoria Branch) - Bompas Book Prize**

Jamie Speirs

**Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C. Scholarship**

Sarah Fitterer

**Maureen Dobbin Scholarship**

Adrian Canagasuriam

**Norah Lugrin Shaw and Wendell Burrill Shaw Memorial Scholarship**

Deborah Deacon

**Prince and Princess Nicholas Abkhazi Book Prize in Russian History**

Alexandra Hill

**Professor Alfred E. Loft Memorial Scholarship**

Lorenzo Rose

**R.H. Roy Scholarship in Military History**

Sarah Fitterer

**Royal United Services Institute of V.I. Book Prize in Military History**

Sarah Fitterer

**Royal United Services Institute of V.I. Book Prize in Military History**

Camas Clowater-Eriksson

**Sidney Pettit Book Prize in European History**

Cameron Fish

**Sydney W. Jackman Prize in British History**

Janine Garland

**Tatton Anfield Prize in American History**

Alissa Cartwright

**Ted & Jane Wooley Scholarship**

Alissa Cartwright

**United Empire Loyalists' Association (Vic Bra) Alvin Huffman, UE Scholarship in Canadian History**

Alexander Barg

**Victoria Historical Society Scholarship**

Brandon Krupa

**Willard E. Ireland Scholarship in History**

Julia Roe

**A huge thank you to all of our generous donors who make these awards possible!**



# What our students say

Being a part of a large community like the University of Victoria can at times lead students to feel anonymous and isolated. Luckily for history students, the community of professors, staff, and students in this department provides a strong network of support and encouragement that helps students succeed. The professors are passionate and understanding, the administrative staff are always helpful and friendly, and the students are supportive of each other and eager to get involved in their community. To be a part of this community is to feel inspired, challenged, supported, and at home.

– Deborah Deacon

As a second year undergrad, my involvement within the UVic History Department has been short on time, but not in experience. With their knowledge and enthusiasm, my professors have transformed lectures into critically thought-out and engaging narratives and the department's diverse course selection has enabled me to explore every avenue of interest. UVic's history program has provided me with room to grow as an academic and I am excited to see where the remaining years of my degree will take me.

– Allison Wardle

I value the history department because it gives me the chance to study something I'm passionate about. The history office staff are extremely kind and welcoming, and the professors are all world class. Whether I'm studying with friends in the history reading room or talking to professors about essay topics, I've always felt welcome in the history department. I'm proud to call myself a UVic History student and I encourage others to do the same.

- David Heintz

I really enjoy the wide variety of courses offered by the history department and I'm especially excited to have the chance to take some of the new comparative world history courses in later years. One of the best things about the history department is the willingness of professors to participate in student events, especially through events planned by The History Undergraduate Society.

- Alexa Dagan

Over the past five years, I've had the privilege of watching the History Department evolve into the fascinating and lively department it is. History has encouraged me to look for the deeper meaning and to engage more actively in the world around me. The faculty has been so supportive of all our THUGS endeavours and has helped to make this one of our most successful years.

- Diana Dale



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