

# History Department Newsletter

## June 2019

### Causes for Celebration

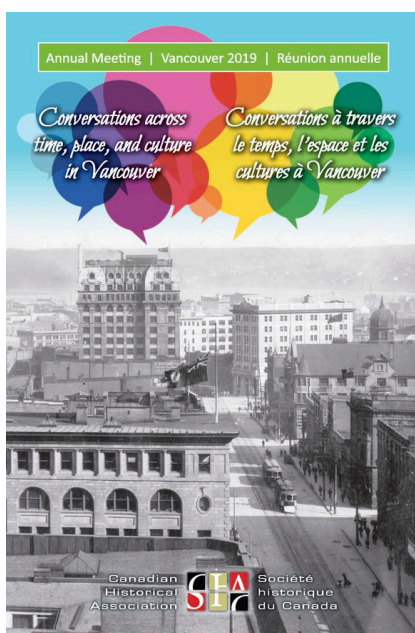
June is National Smile Month (in the UK) and so it is appropriate that our department has much to smile about. Since our last bulletin in March there are many causes for celebration and congratulations!



Giant congratulations to **Georgia Sitara** winner of the 2019 REACH Award Gillian Sherwin Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching. Georgia who also won the THUGs MVP award this year, will receive the REACH award at a gala in the fall.



Congratulations to **Jason Colby** for winning an Internal Research Grant for his new work on “devilfish,” -- the near-extinction and stunning recovery of a whale born in the desert. The eastern Pacific gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) rears its young in the lagoons of Baja California, spends its summers cruising off BC and Alaska and in between creates an ocean highway off BC’s shores.



At the Canadian Historical Association Meeting in Vancouver at the beginning of June our Ph.D. graduate **Stephen Fielding** won the prize for the best dissertation at a Canadian university last year! Wow!

Congratulations to him and his supervisor **Jordan Stanger Ross**!

Also at the CHA meeting our adjunct colleague **Dan Marshall**'s book *Claiming the Land* won the prize for the best book in BC history last year.



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Since March we had a celebration of recent books/projects by faculty, adjuncts and emeritus faculty here at UVic , fourteen books/projects in all from twelve scholars including **Jon Clapperton, Jason Colby, Simon Devereaux, John Lutz, Daniel Marshall, Gordon Martel, Brian McKercher, Patricia Roy, Jordan Stanger Ross, Veronica Strong Boag, Elizabeth Vibert, Guoguang Wu.**

The Department hosted a reprise book celebration for faculty and emeriti books (we could not fit all the adjunct books into the time slot) at the Canadian Historical Association meeting in Vancouver June 4 where we added **Wendy Wickwire's** new book *At the Bridge : James Teit and an Anthropology of Belonging* and **John Price's** new book, *A Woman in Between: Searching for Dr. Victoria Chung* which were released between the two events. Congratulations to John and Wendy and all those author/creators we toasted at the two events.

Thanks too, to all the toasters: **Greg Blue, Penny Bryden, Zhongping Chen, Beatriz De Alba Koch, Lorne Hammond, Mariel Grant, Lynne Marks, Patricia Roy, Eric Sager, Jordan Stanger Ross, Rick Rajala, Elizabeth Vibert, and David Zimmerman!** Wendy's book is getting its own launch at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney, Monday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30. John's book *A Woman in Between* was reviewed June 14<sup>th</sup> in the Vancouver Sun.



Our graduate students have done amazing well in winning awards this season. In addition to two ongoing PhD SSHRC awards (**Gordon Lyall** and **Kefen Zhou**), we have been awarded two new PhD SSHRCs: one \$20,000 award for two years for **Carla Osborne** and a second \$35,000 award for three years for incoming PhD student **Jesse Robertson**.

In addition, our MA students were awarded three CGSM awards (**Kristina Celli, Timothy Cunningham** and **Josephine Mrozewski**). MA student **Darren Reid** has won one of the inaugural British Columbia Graduate Scholarships. Also more congratulations to Carla who has just been awarded one of 10 new President's Fellowship in Research-Enriched Teaching Award. Amazing all of you!



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Our colleagues have been busy in other ways too. **Zhongping Chen** organized a two-day symposium here at UVic with our partner university in China: Zhejiang University including a Lansdowne lecture. Many of our students participated as presenters or translators including **Huang Hairong, Jill Levine, Han Liang, Kefen Zhou,** and faculty presenting included **Greg Blue, Martin Bunton, Zhongping Chen, John Lutz, Lynne Marks, John Price, Oliver Schmidtke, and Guoguang Wu.**

At another event, Serhy Yekelchyk participated in a public round table “**Making Sense of the Ukrainian Election.**”



Many of our colleagues participated in a very successful History Fair at the beginning of May including **Elizabeth Vibert, Mitch Lewis Hammond, Andrea McKenzie, Peter Cook, Lynne Marks, Sara Beam and Rachel Cleves.** Many thanks for taking that time and thanks to **Jill Walshaw, Theresa Gallant and Consuela Covrig** for all the heavy organizational lifting.

## Historians in the News



**Oliver Schmidtke** continues to be in high demand as an on screen expert for CTV news CBC TV news and other outlets about the Shakespearean *Brexit: A Tragedy of Errors*. He was also interviewed about the European Union elections and British Prime Minister Theresa May's resignation.

On the comedy side of the ledger (with potential tragic overtones) **Serhy Yekelchyk** was interviewed on CTV news and the Chinese international TV news program “The Heat” about the election of comedian Volodymyr Zelensky to the Ukrainian presidency. He also popped up on CFAX radio.

**Penny Bryden** was just on CBC Radio's "Early Edition" to comment on racist campaigning and how to navigate these issues during elections.

**John Lutz** was on the CBC BC Interior radio commenting on the removal of the statue of Matthew Begbie from city hall at New Westminster and on CFAX radio about the anniversary of the Point Ellice Bridge disaster which killed 95 people in Victoria in 1896.

John with **Jordan Stanger Ross** and **Kaitlin Findlay**, research director for the Landscapes project co-authored an op-ed in Times Colonist in April with a vision for a new Tea House in Gorge Park commemorating the First Nations and Japanese Canadian use of and removal from the area.



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