

MASTERMINDS 2019

John Anderson

The MasterMinds series is an initiative to foster university:community engagement by providing high quality lectures at the University of Victoria to the public. The series has been offered for the past 14 years, delivering over 50 thoughtful and often thought-provoking presentations.

The MasterMinds series is comprised of four lecture presentations, one on each Wednesday evening in April. Each lecture is created and delivered by a University of Victoria retiree on a topic in their area of expertise and of general interest. Each year the series is developed by a collaboration of the UVRA, the Institute of Aging and Lifelong Health, and the University's Media Relations and Public Affairs group. UVRA is responsible for identifying and contacting UVic retirees who can and will develop thoughtful and stimulating presentations that are of interest to the community. The committee to do this consisted of Peter Liddell and me.

The presentations were well attended with average attendance in excess of 100, and well received by the audience with an average rating of 4.7 out of a possible maximum of 5.0. The series is widely advertized in the general media, University communications and also by word of mouth.

The MasterMinds series could not happen without the active participation of not only the presenters who devote significant thought, energy and time to their presentations, but also the many individuals who organize the events. Particular recognition must be given to Leah Potter, Arlene Senft, Harjot Grewal and Delany McCartan from IALH, and Suzanne Ahearne from Media Relations and Public Affairs.

The four presentations for MasterMinds 2019 were:

CLAIRE CARLIN

APRIL 17

Humanities in the Digital Age: A Quiet Revolution

Digital Humanities has become an academic discipline unto itself, with its own national and international conferences, its sub-disciplines, and theory underpinning its practice. This talk will explore the ways in which digital humanities has changed the research landscape over the past 20 years, often, though not always, for the better.

A specialist in 17th century French studies, Professor Emerita Claire Carlin taught at UVic from 1989-2015; she served as Associate Dean of Humanities from 2004-2009. Her major publications focus on the history of theatre and on representations of Early Modern marriage, including the online anthology *L*

mariage sous l'Ancien Régime, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. She currently leads a SSHRC-funded digital humanities program entitled *Endings: Concluding, Archiving, and Preserving Digital Projects for Long-Term Usability*.

HAMAR FOSTER

APRIL 3

Arthur O'Meara and Land Claims in British Columbia, 1900-1928

In the early 20th century, various organizations worked to settle what was then known as the British Columbia Indian Land Question. Their leaders - and their lawyer, Arthur O'Meara - did not live to see the legal case they put before BC and Ottawa succeed in court, half a century later. This is a part of that story.

Hamar Foster, QC, practiced law in Vancouver and then part-time in Victoria for a number of years after joining the UVic Faculty of Law in 1978, where he taught various subjects. His research has focused primarily on comparative criminal law, Aboriginal law and legal history. His most recent publications include an essay in a volume issued by Cambridge University Press in 2018 marking the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta.

TREVOR HANCOCK

APRIL 24

Creating a One Planet Region: Healthy cities in the 21st century

We only have one Earth, yet we take more than our fair share to support our way of life. The greatest challenge we face in the 21st century is to create communities that are healthy, just and sustainable, ensuring high levels of human and social development and a low ecological footprint. How do we do that in the Greater Victoria Region?

ALEXANDRA PORHAN DAWKINS

APRIL 10

Music from the Inside: The 'Flow' of Live Performance

Music is an integral part of the human experience. Today we carry a soundtrack for our lives in a back pocket, our entire expertly-produced music libraries available at our fingertips. Has this altered our expectations and changed the way we experience music? Has the connection between live musicians and their audiences changed? How does today's musician incorporate this new reality while still seeking 'flow' and spontaneity in performance? Oboist and Professor Emerita Alexandra Pohran Dawkins, through live and recorded music, will share her thoughts and some of her experiences of her 40-plus years as a performing, recording and teaching musician.

Prior to her 30 year association with UVIC's School of Music, Alexandra Pohran Dawkins was the principal oboe of the National Ballet Company. She enjoyed an active career with the Canadian Opera Company, Esprit Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony, Toronto New Music Concerts, Vancouver New Music and many other live performing ensembles. She maintains her long-standing leadership role in chamber music production and a lively interest in recorded as well as improvised music. Currently she is the Artistic Director of the newly-formed Victoria Chamber Players.