

Chronicles

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Fall 2015. Vol. VI



From the Chair

Professor James Carson

Whatever you might have thought about the recent federal election, it nonetheless has set a new tone in public discourse. Whether or not the Liberals' pledges to govern on hope, to lead our collective aspirations to be better, and to foster an attitude of tolerance, respect, and solicitude go pop as political promises so often do once the ballots have been counted remains to be seen. Or perhaps their pledges will prove to be the durable foundations of a new kind of Canada. Whatever the case may be two things jumped out from the campaign that speak to our work here in the Department of History.

In one of the leaders' debates, Mr. Trudeau advocated for going into debt to leverage the funds necessary to invest in future growth and prosperity. Interest rates have never been lower, he declared. It has never been cheaper to borrow for the capital we need to compete tomorrow. As you may know, the university adopted recently a budget model premised on the elimination of deficits and the binding of departmental funding to departmental enrolments. At present the Department has to close a gap of almost \$800,000 between what past budgets once provided to us and what the new budget will give based on our enrolment profile. The new model seeks to liberate within faculty-members entrepreneurial energy to make-up for diminishing government funding by raising enrolments, creating new programs, cutting where we can cut, and, for the time being, not replacing retirements. Such an approach recognizes the global lack of revenue, shrinking provincial supports, and the perils of debt but, at the same time, the incredibly low costs of purchasing capital to fund a renaissance at Queen's never comes up.

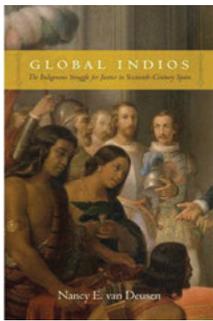
Perhaps it is time for a change, one that flows in parallel to the broader political convulsion that just seized our society and that also might poise us to capitalize not only on low market interest rates but on a cultural moment when confidence in the future might be replacing the wariness of the present. Opportunities pass those who wait, and in a university that has embraced an entrepreneurial budget model,

perhaps we might consider doing what any entrepreneur does – borrow capital to finance the hiring of the new faculty who will underwrite the future's growth. Such, anyway, are the idle musings that preoccupy so many of us as we seek to cope with the new budget world we inhabit and the future it portends.

The second thing that emerged from the campaign was that I cannot recall the word "university" ever being said by any of the candidates except in conjunction with a Liberal promise for first nations' scholarships. To be sure, Ontario's universities lie not within the purview of Ottawa but rather within that of Queen's Park. But unlike in Australia or New Zealand where universities are considered cornerstones of economic development, universities in Ontario, and perhaps in Canada too, have fallen off the public map. The pages that follow reflect what we have been doing to teach, to create, and to contribute to the society we serve, all done while ensuring that we prepare students for everything life might throw at them. We work to critique ideas of race and of freedom; we reconsider how we understand the wars of the past in hopes of guarding ourselves within those of the present. We work to become better writers and thinkers. And we aspire to become the best students of the past we can be, thanks in large part to the ongoing support that our past students and graduates provide.

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New Book: Global Indios



Prof. Nancy van Deusen's book *Global Indios* is attracting great acclaim. The book explores the hundreds of thousands of *indios* – indigenous peoples from the territories of the Spanish empire – who were enslaved and relocated throughout the Iberian world in the sixteenth century. Although various laws and decrees outlawed *indio* enslavement, several loopholes allowed the practice to continue. By researching more than one hundred lawsuits between 1530 and 1585 that *indio* slaves living in Castile brought to the Spanish courts to secure their freedom, she asks how they proved their *indio*-ness in a Spanish imperial context. The lawsuits

reveal the difficulties of determining who was an *indio* and who was not – especially since it was an all-encompassing identity connoting subservience and political personhood and at times could refer to people from Mexico, Peru, or even South or East Asia. The categories of free and slave were also often no better defined, and the book forces a rethinking of the meaning of *indio* in ways that emphasize the need to situate colonial Spanish American indigenous subjects in a global context.

As one of leading historical anthropologist put it, "*Global Indios* shatters and resignifies the category of *indio*, a term that has provided – along with 'Spaniard' – the foundations of scholarship on colonial Latin America. It forces readers to rethink Spanish America as something that extends beyond the Western Hemisphere and that can really

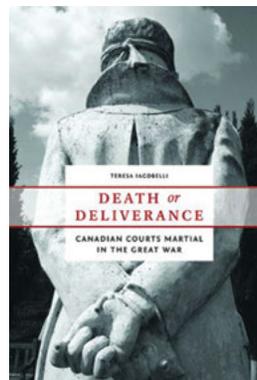
only be adequately comprehended in the context of the movement of peoples and the clash of empires." Historian Kathryn Burns further noted that the book shows us "how the legal struggles of those held in slavery contributed to the winding down of decades of unchecked enslavement of hundreds of thousands of indigenous peoples in the Americas. This is slavery as many readers won't have imagined it."

Departure



Prof. Ian McKay has resigned his appointment in the Department to take up the L.R. Wilson Chair in Canadian History at McMaster University. Prof. McKay began teaching at Queen's in 1988, and his interests in Canadian cultural history; in the economic and social history of Atlantic Canada; in the history of Canada as a liberal order; and in the history of both Canadian and international left-wing movements inspired the incredibly diverse writings that have made him one of Canada's leading historians. *In The Province of History: The Making of the Public Past in Twentieth-Century Nova Scotia* (2010), co-authored with Robin Bates, won the 2011 International Council for Canadian Studies Pierre Savard award for the best book written in Canadian studies in English or French while his article "The Liberal Order Framework: A Prospectus for a Reconnaissance of Canadian History" in the *Canadian Historical Review* was recognized as the best article in the journal for the year 2000. His supervision of 64 graduate theses, including 27 at the doctoral level, was remarkable too. We will miss him and wish him every success in his new endeavours in Steel Town.

Postdoctoral Fellow Teresa Iacobelli



Teresa Iacobelli, who holds a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship, curated an exhibition, "On the Line: *Intrepid* and the Vietnam War," that opened at the *Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum Complex* in Brooklyn, New York on October 14th. Set on the U.S. aircraft carrier *Intrepid* – which served three tours of duty in Vietnam between 1966 and 1969 and now sees action as a history museum – On the Line examines the history of the Vietnam War from the perspective provided by the ship and through the memories of sailors who served on it.

Teresa also won the 2015 C.P. Stacey Prize for the best book in Canadian military history for *Death or Deliverance: Canadian Courts Martial in the Great War* (University of British Columbia Press). The Stacey Prize is awarded annually by the Canadian Committee for the History of the Second World War and the Canadian Committee for Military History. Postdoctoral fellows typically stay with us just a few years but their contributions in the classroom and in the archives are important and enliven everything we do.

New Doctors!

Congratulations to our Graduate Students on the completion of their “Doctor of Philosophy in History” degree!



From left to right: Elliot Hanowski, Josh Cole, Casey Hurrell, Kailey Miller, Christine Elie, Georgia Carley, Dinah Jansen, Mary Caesar, Mary Chaktsiris, Deanne van Tol

Dr. Christo Aivalis

Christo's thesis "Pierre Elliott, Organized Labour, and the Canadian Social Democratic Left, 1945-2000" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Ian McKay.

Dr. Mary Caesar

Mary's thesis "A 'New Experiment in Local Government' The Local Health Commission: A Study of Public Health and Local Government in Black Urban Areas in Natal, South Africa, 1930-1959" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Marc Epprecht.

Dr. Georgia Carley

Georgia's thesis "The Manner of Confering and Treating With Them": The Board of Trade, the 1730 Anglo-Cherokee Treaty, and the Confluence of Global British Treaty Practices" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Jane Errington and Dr. Sandra den Otter.

Dr. Mary Chaktsiris

Mary's thesis "A Great War of Expectations: Men, Mothers, and Monsters in Toronto, 1914-1918" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Karen Dubinsky and Dr. Jane Errington.

Dr. Josh Cole

Josh's thesis "Children, Liberalism and Utopia: Education, Hall-Dennis and Modernity in Ontario's Long 1960s" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Ian McKay.

Dr. Scott deGroot

Scott's thesis "Out of the Closet and Into Print: Gay Liberation across the Anglo-American World" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Karen Dubinsky and Dr. Ian McKay.

Dr. Christine Elie

Christine's thesis "The City, the Rebels and the Reds: Leftism, the Civic Politics of Order, and the Contested Modernity in Montreal, 1929-1947" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Ian McKay.

Dr. Elliot Hanowski

Elliot's thesis "A Godless Dominion: Unbelief and Religious Controversy in Interwar Canada" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Ian McKay.

Dr. Casey Hurrell

Casey's thesis "Health and Medicine as "the Rallying Points of Unity": Physicians, Activism and International Efforts in the Early Cold War" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Jaelyn Duffin and Dr. Tim Smith.

Dr. Dinah Jansen

Dinah's thesis "After October: Russian Liberalism as a Work in Progress, 1919-1945" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Rebecca Manley and Dr. Ana Sijak.

Dr. Kailey Miller

Kailey's thesis "An Ancillary Weapon': Cultural Diplomacy and Nation-Building in Cold War Canada" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Ian McKay.

Dr. Roubina Shnorhokian

Roubina's thesis "Hayton of Korykos and La Flor des Estoire: Cilician Armenian Intermediation in Crusader-Mongol Politics, c. 1250-1350" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Adnan Husain.

Dr. James Sommerville

James' thesis "Know Thyself: Marsilio Ficino on Revelation, Wisdom, and Reform" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Anthony D'Elia.

Dr. Deanne van Tol

Deanne's thesis "Imperial Volunteering: Women and Welfare in the Twentieth Century British Empire" was completed under the supervision of Dr. Sandra den Otter and Dr. Robert Shenton.

The Department Welcomes Bader Post-Doctoral Fellows

Thanks to a donation by Alfred and Isabel Bader the Department was able to welcome two new postdoctoral fellows this fall, Dr. Vassili Schedrin and Dr. Vaneesa Cook. What is a post-doctoral fellowship? It is an award given to a recent PhD graduate that supports their ongoing research while also providing them with experience in the classroom.



Dr. Schedrin earned his PhD in Modern Jewish history at Brandeis University, and has taught Jewish history at many campuses in North America and overseas, including Virginia Tech, Ohio University, Franklin and Marshall

College, University of Florida, and St. Petersburg State University in Russia. He just finished his first book that examines political and social aspects of the official Jewish policies in the late Russian empire, and is currently researching two new book projects – one on the history of Yiddish theater in the Soviet Union and the other on Jewish history writing in the nineteenth-century Russia.

Dr. Cook earned her PhD from the University of Wisconsin in May 2015. Her research interests include intellectual and cultural history, politics, international relations, and religious history. In her dissertation, entitled “Thy Kingdom Community: Spiritual Socialists and Local to Global Activism, 1920-1970,” she focused on the impact that religion



and its cultural context have had on shaping democratic and socialist thought in the U.S. Her first article on the radicalism of Martin Luther King, Jr. will appear in the journal *Religion & American Culture* in January 2016. She grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Teaching Prize for Graduate Faculty

Dr. Allan English has received the 2015 School of Graduate Studies Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision, which was presented to him at Fall Convocation on November 17, 2015.

The award recognizes outstanding supervisors who demonstrate excellence in advising, monitoring and mentoring graduate students through their training. Excellence is judged on the quality of supervision and mentorship in facilitating the acquisition of skills and resources needed for the student to succeed as scholars and professionals. Characteristics include availability, timeliness and quality of guidance and feedback, responsiveness to student needs, and enthusiasm for the pursuit of knowledge. In addition the supervisor must promote timely completion of the thesis and encourage the career development of the student through the provision of leadership and support in academic matters such as publishing, presenting, applying for funding. Preference is given to faculty members who have displayed sustained mentorship activity over many years.



Sonia Dussault, the graduate student who spearheaded the 2015 nomination of Dr. English for the award, explained why so many of his graduates and current students wrote letters of support:

“We all benefited from his unwavering availability, sharp advice, regular monitoring, everlasting support, stimulating mentoring, and especially the networking he nurtured between his graduates and students. We have nothing but praise for his years of continuing effort, and felt it was time that his exceptional supervision was recognized.”

From left, Dr. Robert Engen, Dr. Allan English, doctoral student Sonia Dussault

Clearly, mentoring and supervising graduate students is something Dr. English is passionate about. Upon learning of his successful nomination, he stated:

“I am grateful to my students for all they have taught me and the many ways through which they have enriched my life.”

Congratulations and thanks to Dr. English for his outstanding supervision of graduate students at our Department!

Departmental Passing... Professor. James S. Pritchard (1939-2015)

by Professor James Stayer



Jim Pritchard died at age seventy-five on April 14, 2015. He started to teach in the Queen's History Department in September 1968, and he took early retirement in August 2000. More than any of us, he expanded and fulfilled his achievement as a published scholar in the years following his retirement. His death cut short still another promising scholarly project.

He finished a year and a half in engineering at Queen's but decided not to pursue an engineering career. While working in the National Archives in Ottawa he became attracted by historical research. At first taking evening courses at Carleton University, he earned a B.A. from Carleton, then an M.A. from the University of Western Ontario, and then a Ph. D. from the University of Toronto. His Ph.D. thesis was still incomplete when he came to Queen's. It was finished as *Ships, Men and Commerce: A Study of Maritime Activity in New France* (1971). Discouraged by difficulties as a stylist, he allowed this first work to remain

unpublished, although it was widely used and studied by scholars in his field. This work foreshadowed his continuing interest in shipping, New France, and the French maritime empire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. His first published book, followed by his promotion to full professor the following year, was *Louis XV's Navy* (McGill-Queen's,

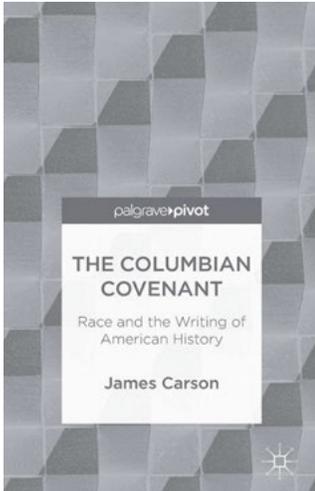
1987). Next came *A Study of a Naval Disaster: The 1746 French Expedition to North America* (McGill-Queen's, 1995), which was awarded the Keith Matthew Prize by the Canadian Nautical Research Society and a John Lyman Book Award from the North American Society for Oceanic History. Following his retirement came two more important books: *In Search of Empire, the French in the Americas, 1670-1730* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), which was awarded the Wallace K. Ferguson prize at the CHA as the best book in European history; and *A Bridge of Ships. Canadian Shipbuilding during the Second World War* (McGill-Queen's, 2011). More recently he was working on studies of Canadian shipping, ship owning, and shipbuilding businesses on the Great Lakes during the first half of the twentieth century. Since he did not suffer a long illness, his was truly a career of active scholarship cut short by his death.

In his teaching years at Queen's Jim taught history courses on New France, Quebec, and early modern European

expansion. For many years, the Europeanists in the History Department shared the multi-section introductory course, History 121, *The Intellectual Origins of the Contemporary West*, on the classics of the European intellectual tradition. It was a way in which we learned to know and appreciate each other in ways that would not otherwise have been possible. In 1982 to 1985 Jim also served a term as a very effective undergraduate chair in the department, the most important administrative task besides the department chair. He supervised some important Ph.D. theses – for instance, the 1989 thesis of Col. Jack English, who, as Col. English says, finished his degree “while still in army uniform” and published it two years later with Praeger as *The Canadian Army and the Normandy Campaign: A Study of Failure in High Command*. As an undergraduate teacher of New France Jim Pritchard helped launch two of his students into graduate work that led to their becoming prominent teachers of New France in Quebec universities: Catherine Desbarats at McGill and Thomas Wien at Université De Montréal.

Jim has been married since 1965 to his wife, Suzanne. They began their married life with adventures like attending the 1972 Osaka Olympics, getting pilots' licenses and owning a private airplane, and then went on to have two children, Laura and Michael, and a grandson, Henry. The Faculty expresses its sympathy to the Pritchard family at its loss.

New Book: The Columbian Covenant



Department Chair James Carson's new book, *The Columbian Covenant: Race and the Writing of American History*, argues that from Christopher Columbus's first journal to the most recent books written in American history, much of the writing of American history is prefigured on the acceptance that race is a legitimate way to categorize people. In this way historians' constant and conventional reliance on the language of race means that in many ways the practice of United States history reproduces the same racial categories it seeks to critique, displace, and demolish.

As one historian has commented, the book "carefully traces the resilient and persistent grip that race still holds on our view of the past... [and] offers a way out. Scrutinizing a vast literature and written in an engaging manner, *The Columbian Covenant* is a book that historians will need, and will want, to read." Yet another has commented that the book is "Remarkable in its sweep, provocative in its interpretation" and that it "uncovers the linguistic snares, fashioned centuries ago, that still entrap all of those writing about the American experience."

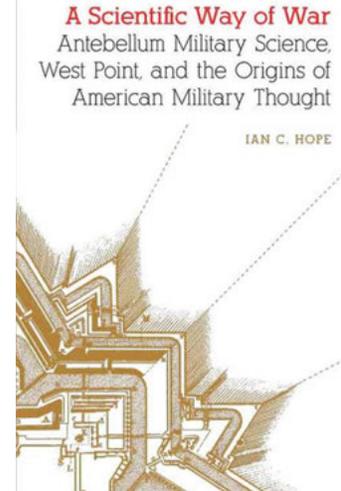
A New Take on the Korean War

Ann Choi won a University Student Summer Research Fellowship that funded her work on "Village Conflict in a Global War: A Reappraisal of the Korean War." Choi undertook archival research at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC and oral interviews in Korea to write a history of the Korean War that looked beyond the conflict between capitalism and communism to see what motivated the violence that ripped apart so many rural villages. While recent scholarship has focused on the "the other war" that pitted rural peasants against rural elites in struggles that predated the Japanese invasion, Choi coined the phrase "the other armistice" to illustrate the innumerable peace agreements required to restore village life after the official hostilities came to an end. Choi is working with the University Library and the Queen's Research Data Centre to upload a website she has designed that will enable public access to the interviews she recorded with senior Koreans who spoke to her about the strife in their villages. Ann worked under the supervision of Prof. Carson and is currently on exchange at St. Andrew's University in Scotland.

Undergraduate Classics Prize

History Undergraduate Student, Will McClelland, was recently awarded the Canadian Committee of Byzantinists' Annual Undergraduate Essay Prize for a piece he wrote in Dr. Greenfield's, Hist 301 class. Congratulations Will for winning this national competition.

New Book: A Scientific Way of War



Former doctoral student (2011) Ian Hope's book, *A Scientific Way of War: Antebellum Military Science, West Point, and the Origins of American Military Thought*, was just published by the University of Nebraska Press. Dr. Hope is on the faculty of the NATO Defense College in Rome. Congratulations Ian!

Departmental Internships and the "Knowledge Capital Exchange"

Over the past year the Department has embarked on the creation of a "Knowledge Capital Exchange" by which we connect undergraduate students with community organizations in need of help to curate exhibits, write grant proposals, or undertake historical research. In addition to a number of internship placements in the Queen's University Archives, we have also placed students with the City of Kingston's Cultural Services Department, the Royal Military College and Fort Frederick Museum, and the Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries, and Historic Sites. We hope to continue to build partnerships over the coming years and to also create similar opportunities for graduate students.

Graduate Students' Success

The Department of History enrolls one of the largest graduate programs in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Each year between 20 and 22 master's students join us in the study of history while around 75 PhD students call our program home. Among the many bright spots in their achievements this past year we would like to applaud:

Leigh-Ann Coffee for winning the Annual Departmental Thesis Prize.

Tabitha Renaud won the School of Graduate and Professional Studies volunteer award for a graduate or professional student who makes an outstanding contribution volunteering within the University and the wider community.

Deirdre McCorkindale spoke at the 16th annual John Brown Festival hosted by the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society at the WISH Centre in Chatham. McCorkindale is researching education and intelligence testing that took place in the 1930s.

Jackson Tait had a summer fellowship in the Program in Early American Economy and Society at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Library Company of Philadelphia where he had the opportunity to research 19th century business records and to give a talk on his work.

Angela Duffett took part in the Network in Canadian History and Environment Field School in Ottawa in June. Participants visited a number of sites related to the capital region's environmental history including the Diefenbunker, Central Experimental Farm, and the old Domtar plant on the Ottawa River.

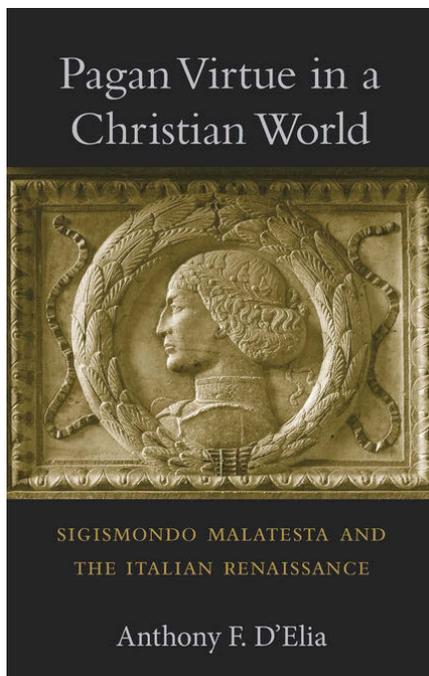
Angela Duffett, Virginia Vandenberg, Michael Couchman, and Patrick Corbeil also decamped to Queen's Biological Research Station at Elbow Lake in August for the School of Graduate Studies's "Dissertation on the Lake" – a writing retreat with 4 nights and five days of focussed writing time, with

outdoor activities such as canoeing, hiking, swimming and campfires.

Matthew Barrett recently published, "Hero of the Half-Breed Rebellion": Gabriel Dumont and Late Victorian Military Masculinity," *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Vol. 48, No. 3, 79-107 and has a forthcoming article co-written with Prof. Allan English in *Canadian Military Journal* entitled, "Fallen on the Field of Honour?: Attitudes of the Canadian Public towards Suicides in the Canadian Military, 1914-2014." In November he will present a paper at CIMVHR entitled, "Directly Attributable to Military Service: Institutional Attitudes towards Suicide in the Canadian Military, 1915-2015."

For alumni who might be interested in finding the Graduate History Student Association (GHSA) on social media they are on facebook at facebook.com/queensghsa and on Twitter @queensghsa

New Book: Pagan Virtue



Prof. Tony D'Elia's new book *Pagan Virtue in a Christian World* examines the court of Sigismondo Malatesta (1417-1468) as a case study for the Renaissance clash of pagan and Christian values. Sigismondo incorporated into a Christian church an unprecedented number of zodiac symbols and images of the Olympian gods and goddesses and had the body of the Greek pagan theologian Plethon buried there. In the literature and art that Sigismondo commissioned, pagan virtues conflicted directly with Christian doctrine. Ambition was celebrated over humility, sexual pleasure over chastity, muscular athleticism over saintly asceticism, and astrological fortune over providence. In the pagan themes so prominent in

Sigismondo's court, D'Elia reveals new fault lines in the domains of culture, life, and religion in Renaissance Italy. Scholars have applauded the book as thoughtful, elegant, learned, and splendid. "Not many authors," Prof. Margaret King wrote, "can combine high scholarship with dramatic narrative" like our Prof. D'Elia.

Advancement Contact info

We are very grateful to have supportive alumni and friends who are inspired to make a difference at Queen's. You can make a gift online at your convenience by visiting: givetoqueens.ca/history or contact Department of Development, Faculty of Arts & Science, Queen's University, Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room A320, 68 University Avenue, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6 or call 613-533-6000, ext. 77901 or toll-free at 1-800-267-7837, ext. 77901 Thank you for your consideration.



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