

# Chronicles

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Fall 2013. Vol. IV



## From the Chair

Professor James Carson

The Department of History is a big operation. We employ four administrative staff, twenty-four tenured faculty members, and seven continuing adjunct instructors as well as several term adjunct instructors. We usually have about 100 graduate students, 400 undergraduate majors and 220 undergraduate minors enrolled in our program and around 5,300 students take our courses in any given year. The budget I manage as department chair totals around \$4.3 million annually. I'd be curious to know what company out there in the business world would be our peer but I have no idea what our annual revenues are so it's hard to know.

But that is going to change.

To date, our budget, and the budget of every department in the Faculty of Arts and Science, has been what is called a historical budget. That is to say that at some point in time, long ago, beyond anyone's recollection, the Faculty of Arts and Science assigned us a budget and that as the years have passed various amounts of money, faculty positions, and so forth have been added to our original budget as circumstances required.

For the past few years the University and the Faculty of Arts and Science have been preparing for a monumental budget shift from the historical model to one known variously as a revenue-generation budget or activities-based budget. The difference is that whereas in the past we have simply received our usual historical allocation, next year our budget will be pegged to how many graduate and undergraduate students we enroll, how many concentrators we have, how many instructors we hire at whatever salaries, and how much revenue we generate through our enrollments and our on-line courses. The new model will thus attach a dollar value to every student in our classes and to our research productivity so that our budget will align with our proportional ability to deliver the Faculty's teaching, research and service missions.

What will our new budget look like? I have

no idea. But I am certain that it will trigger a significant culture shift at Queen's and the department will need to adapt to the new order.

With a premium placed on revenue generation, we will need to find ways to make money. Our on-line courses, for example, will constitute one healthy line of income numbering in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Our graduate enrollments too, among the highest in the Faculty, will offer an important addition to our revenue stream as will our large undergraduate enrollments. But the new order will also offer an opportunity to enable departments who raise enough money to begin hiring faculty, something we have not been able to do for nearly half a decade.

What might we do? We can offer new kinds of graduate programs in such areas as digital humanities, applied research and information synthesis, critical assessment, or public history. We could offer weekend non-credit enrichment courses for interested people that focus on particular historical topics like World War II or Canadian politics or European intellectual history or world history. We can also find ways to partner with the private sector but I have no idea where we would start.

Do you?

Do you have ideas?

Do you have suggestions?

If so, drop me a line. If the department is going to thrive under the new regime, we will need to draw upon not only our in-house expertise and energy, but on our large pool of former students like you who are out there in the world undertaking the kinds of diverse and entrepreneurial activities that we will need to emulate. In the past the department has used the newsletter to keep you apprised of what is going on, to hold our cap in our hand and ask for donations, and to mark our many and various successes. All of that is true with the current edition, but, as well, we need your help to teach us how to make our way in what has become in a few short years a 21st century university.

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## Faculty Fellowships



**Dr. Amitava Chowdhury** will spend the fall term of 2013 as a Fellow at the Initiative on Global History Program at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. The fellowship identifies and brings together a community of scholars whose work resonates with the growing field of global history. During his tenure at Harvard, Dr. Chowdhury will work on a theoretical and historiographical project that interrogates the current world history scholarship. The project entitled, "World History as a critique of modernity" will be published in the form of two articles. The first, "The Nation and its Accomplish: Some thoughts on the agenda of global history" will also be presented as a talk at Harvard in October; and, the second is titled, "Geoffrey Barraclough and World History: Epistemic adventures of a wandering historian."



**Dr. Andrew Jainchill** is spending the 2013-14 academic year as a residential fellow at the Institut d'études avancées de Paris (Paris Institute of Advanced Studies), where he is working on a project on political thought in France during the first half of the 18th century, tentatively titled "Sovereignty and Reform in the Early Enlightenment." The Institute brings together scholars in the humanities and social sciences from around the world to carry out their research in dialogue with one another. As a residential fellow, Jainchill will participate in the Institute's weekly interdisciplinary seminar while also pursuing his research in Paris's libraries and archives.

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## Graduate Student wins Prize

The Political History Group (PHG), a committee affiliated with the Canadian Historical Association, awarded PhD student **Peter Price's** article "Fashioning a Constitutional Narrative: John S. Ewart and the Development of a 'Canadian Constitution'" in the Canadian Historical Review with the 2013 prize for the best article in Canadian political history.

In the article, Price analysed lawyer John S. Ewart's efforts to craft and popularize a constitutional narrative supporting an independent Canadian nationalism. He demonstrated the importance of competing constitutional narratives in debates about politics and identity in Canada. In drawing upon the work of political scientists, historians, and legal scholars, and from his careful analysis of Ewart's personal correspondence and publications, Price showed how Ewart resisted the hegemony of British imperialism and thus breathed new life into debates about the constitution.



## Department to Welcome Visiting Scholar

**Prof. Ishita Pande** successfully applied to the Faculty of Arts and Science for funds to support a Good Family Visiting Research Fellow. We are delighted to welcome **Prof. Aparna Balachandran** who will join us in winter term, 2014. Prof. Balachandran holds a tenured appointment in the Department of History, University of Delhi. Her publications include a prize-winning essay "Of Corporations and Caste Heads: Urban Rule in Company Madras, 1640-1720", *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, Vol 9 (2), 2008) and a co-authored monograph on archival preservation. At Queen's, she will be working on her book entitled *Christ and the Pariah: Law, Religion and Outcaste Labour in South India, 1780-1830*. Dr Balachandran adds to the department's growing strength in non-western histories, and law and empire.



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## W.J. Barnes Teaching Excellence Award

**Prof. Nancy van Deusen** wins prestigious Arts and Science Undergraduate Society W.J. Barnes Teaching Excellence Award for the spring semester of 2013.

## Department Members Help Make SSHRC Video

**Dr. Allan English, Dr. Claire Cookson-Hills,** and Ph.D. candidates **Rob Engen** and **Sonia Dussault** along with the Office of Queen's Vice-Principal Research and Powerline Films produced a video highlighting some of the ways members of the Queen's community are contributing to the creation of new ways of learning in higher education as part of SSHRC's Imagine Canada's Future initiative. The video will be available online via Queen's, SSHRC, the Canadian Federation for Social Sciences and Humanities, and YouTube websites starting in October 2013, and will be showcased at a World Social Science Forum in October.

Based on interviews with researchers in innovative learning and students who took courses with the History Department, the video shows how Queen's is at the leading edge of pedagogical techniques and that our faculty members are interested in integrating student concerns with their teaching styles and techniques. It is based on SSHRC's premise that for Canadians to thrive in an emerging society and labour market, we must prepare our students with the knowledge, practice, experience and critical thinking skills that will allow them to tackle future challenges and responsibilities. This video highlights how collaboration between young learners and SSHRC researchers can enrich learning experiences for future generations

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## Welcome Postdoctoral Fellow

The History Department is pleased to announce that **Dr. Asa Mc Kercher** has been awarded a prestigious SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship. Kercher earned his PhD from the University of Cambridge. His dissertation focused on the connection between decolonisation and the Cold War in the Caribbean. For the next two years he will work with **Prof. Jeff Brison** exploring the international and transnational aspects of Canada's relationship with Cuba.



## WHO'S DOING WHAT?

Former doctoral student **Michael Boudreau** (PhD 1996) was nominated for the Canadian Historical Association's John A. Macdonald Prize for his book *City of Order: Crime and Society in Halifax, 1918-1935* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2012).

Current doctoral student **Kendall Garton** won a fellowship from the Strong National Museum of Play and the Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives in Rochester, New York to conduct research on her dissertation.

Current doctoral student **Robert Engen** held the Margaret Angus Fellowship at the Museum of Health Care in Kingston, published an article in the journal *Canadian Military History*, authored a 6 week column on the Canadian role in the invasion of Sicily in world War II published by the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, and also authored a column in the *National Post* about WWII Sicily.

Former MA student **Joey McQuade** won a Gates Scholarship to undertake doctoral studies at University of Cambridge.

**Prof. Tim Smith** was nominated for the Frank Knox award for excellence in teaching in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

**Prof. Emeritus Gerald Tulchinsky** recently published a new book entitled *Joe Saltsberg: A Life of Commitment*. He was also recently interviewed by Steve Paikin for TVO's *The Agenda*. He will also be honoured at a Symposium on Canadian Jewish Studies on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at the University of Toronto.

## Your Donations at Work

Each year we are lucky enough to have alumni who donate money to the Departmental Trust Fund. The fund's purpose is to support initiatives undertaken by students and faculty that enhance the life of the department, the faculty, and the university. This year, trust funds supported the Queen's Model United Nations Conference, an international conference on King Francis I and the Literary Life of His Time (1515-1547), the Queen's Debating Union, Queen's Model Court, the Queen's University Rotaract Club, and the Seminar on National and International Development (SNID).

## Nugent Fund at Work

Several years ago **Bernice Nugent**, a former History graduate, requested a large endowment that has enabled the Department to sponsor lectures, organize workshops, and host other public events that had raised our profile and enhanced the overall quality of our program. Each year students and faculty apply for Nugent Fund to support their initiatives. This year the Nugent Fund supported the following activities:

In early March, 2013, the Department's graduate students hosted the 10th Annual McGill-Queen's Graduate Conference. The conference highlighted work undertaken by our graduate students. **Dr. Heather MacDougall** of the University of Waterloo gave the keynote address on rethinking Canada's healthcare system, and 60 graduate students from a variety of universities participated.

Graduate students also organized the department's third annual "Clio's Craft" workshop. **Dr. Sean Mills** a former undergraduate and graduate student in the department and now a member of the Department of History at the University of Toronto, spoke on links between Quebec and Haiti. Students also gave research papers on transatlantic history, and Mills offered his thoughts and advice on the topic.

In March, **Prof. Amitava Chowdhury** organized a one-day workshop on the British Caribbean, 21. Scholars from Queen's, York

University, McMaster University, and Warwick University (U.K.) joined **Prof. Chowdhury** in a day-long discussion about new directions for research in the field.

This past September, **Prof. Amitava Chowdhury** and **Donald Harman Akenson** organized a day-long workshop on Diaspora Studies. The man who more or

less invented the field, **Prof. William Safran**, delivered a keynote address that looked back on his scholarly legacy and that identified future directions of study.

**Prof. Akenson** then spoke about some of the big issues and small details that confront the academic study of diasporas. **Prof. James Carson** spoke on indigeneity and diasporas and **Prof. Chowdhury**, **Prof. Eivind Seland** from the University of Bergen (Norway), **Prof. Hideaki Suzuki** of McGill University, gave papers on various aspects of the movement of peoples around the Indian Ocean and beyond. The workshop marked the first step towards the preparation of a published volume of essays and will be followed by more workshops as we develop our department's expertise in the field of diaspora studies.



*Prof. William Safran*

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## Undergraduate Research

Two of our undergraduate students received prestigious Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowships. Working with **Prof. Nancy van Deusen**, **Stephanie Collins** improved her Spanish language skills, traveled to the Huntington Library in San Marino, California to study records of Mexican Inquisition trials, and wrote a research paper entitled "Competing Christianities: Lay Spanish Practices in Seventeenth-Century Mexico." **Erika Hodge** worked with **Prof. James Carson** on the role of women in Canadian prison reform. After spending three years as a volunteer in a prison literacy program, Hodge researched archives in Kingston, Toronto and Ottawa to develop a full account of how women participated in national debates about prisons and shaped the system we have today.

## World History Rankings

World history in an emerging field of teaching and study in North America as Canadian and United States institutions try to catch up in a globalized world. Such courses teach students about global history from perspectives other than Europe. In a recent ranking of World History programs we ranked second in Canada, after the University of British Columbia, and sixteenth in the world, just behind Harvard but ahead of Cornell. Our first year course in world history is the largest we offer, and the department owes great thanks to the course's instructors, **Prof. Ariel Salzmann** and **Amitava Chowdhury**.



## Kingston's Criminal Past

On April 2nd, students in **Steven Maynard's** core seminar on Canadian social history assembled for their last class of the year at Kingston City Hall. The location was fitting. Students presented the results of their research based on the archival records of the Kingston Police, which, from the 1840s until the early 1970s, was located in City Hall. It was also the appropriate setting given the theme of this year's seminar: the public presentation of the past. Students shared their research in the form of academic posters and answered questions from an audience that included the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Kingston Police, the City Curator and others from Cultural Services, and representatives from the Archives, including the chief archivist of **Queen's**. The History Department was represented by its Chair, **Professor Jamey Carson**.

In addition to uncovering a diverse and fascinating range of Kingston social history, students made other contributions through their engagement with the project. One student's detective work revealed that the archival provenance of an important set of jail records in the **Queen's Archives**, long believed to be from Kingston, in fact originate from somewhere else in Ontario. Another student's work at Kingston Police headquar-



ters turned up a rare Kingston Police Court register from the nineteenth century, which we now hope will make its way to the **Queen's Archives** where it can be properly preserved and made available for public research. Linking their police cases to accounts in Kingston historical newspapers on microfilm, students created the demand for and helped to push both the Library and the Archives to update their microfilm readers. Finally, media interest in the project gave students the experience of learning how to communicate their historical work to a broader public, including interviews with the *Whig-Standard*, CKWS television, CBC radio, *Kingston This Week*, and the **Queen's News Service**.

A selection of the students' posters were displayed in the Department before moving this summer to Kingston City Hall where they were seen by tourists and others who take the City Hall historical tour.

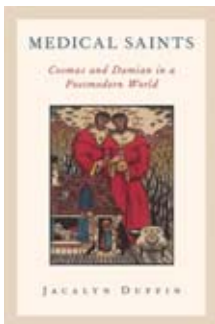
## Departmental Teaching Awards

**Dr. Chowdhury** is the recipient of the Department of History's Faculty Award and was presented to him at last year's holiday party. He was nominated by his students who praised him for his mastery of his subject, his patience, his cheerful personality and his ability to stimulate and keep student interest both in his lectures and seminars. Professor Chowdhury was nominated for his teaching of HIST 122 – The Making of the Modern World and HIST 303 – The Caribbean in the Global Perspective.

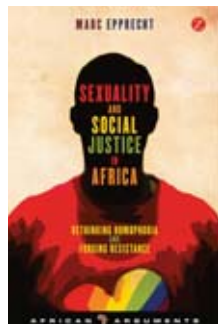
**Scott de Groot** received the Department of History's Teaching Fellow Award. Scott was nominated by students in HIST 464 – The History of Sexuality. Scott's qualities that were described by his students were his thoughtfulness, honesty, and his ability to challenge and draw out the best of his students. Scott received his award certificate after he returned from The Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne where he is currently conducting research.

These awards are presented each year to Faculty and Teaching Fellows/Teaching Assistants who are considered to be outstanding and is intended to favour instructors who both inform and inspire their students.

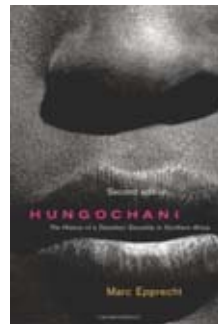
## Recent publications



Jacalyn Duffin, *Medical Saints* (Oxford University Press)



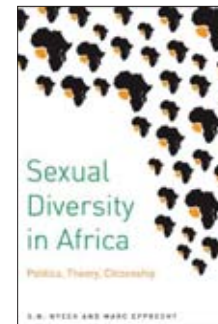
Marc Epprecht, *Sexuality and Social Justice in Africa* (Zedbooks)



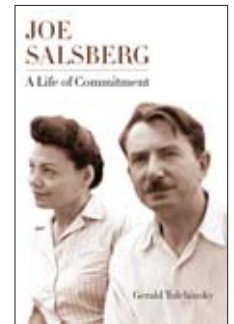
Marc Epprecht, *Hungochani*, 2nd Ed. (McGill-Queen's University Press)



Richard P.H. Greenfield, trans., *The Life of Saint Symeon the New Theologian* (Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library)



Marc Epprecht and S.N. Nyeck, eds., *Sexual Diversity in Africa* (McGill-Queen's University Press)



Gerald Tulchinsky, *Joe Salsberg: A Life of Commitment* (University of Toronto Press)



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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](http://givetoqueens.ca/history) or contact Laura Costello at 613-533-6110 or [laura.costello@queensu.ca](mailto:laura.costello@queensu.ca). Thank you for your consideration.