

# Now and Then

## News from the History Department at University of the Fraser Valley

### A Message from the Chair



The UFV History Department has been active in engaging with the public and offering new opportunities for our students, thereby promoting the importance of this discipline.

Colin Nicholl

Over the last two semesters, History faculty have been involved in a number of high-profile initiatives and smaller scale activities to highlight the relevance of history. To commemorate and contemplate the centenary of World War One, the Department took the lead in an inter-disciplinary “Great War Day.” This was a public history event that featured a number of community and museum exhibits, performances and presentations. Faculty have given public lectures, presented film series, and moderated “philosophers cafes” to appreciative audiences. Study tours have been led and planned; last year, students went to Russia and this year Peru is the target destination. Students have taken the initiative too. With department support, the Association of History Students has re-emerged and organized social events that enliven the history community on campus.

Communicating the value of a discipline is only viable if that discipline is itself vital. Over the last year, faculty have been engaged in their professional pursuits such as presenting conference papers and working on books and articles. Pedagogy is also part of the fabric of what we do. New course development and methods of delivery have been developed; more on-line courses are forecast and hybrid delivery is part of the department’s offerings.

Academic disciplines like history need to work hard to assert their worth to a public that expects a linear path through education to a profession and high wages. The skills that history provides have enhanced the careers of many of our graduates, and are essential for any kind of analytical, managerial or leadership positions, both in the public and private sectors. In an age of ubiquitous ‘information,’ disciplines like history are essential to decode the complexities of an interconnected world.

Dr. Christopher Leach

### AHS

#### Association of History Students

Congratulations to this year’s Executive, Pierce Smith, Colin Nicholl, Jonathan Wiese and Kelly Miles.



Heading up an active and effective Association, they organized a number of informal Coffee Breaks, where students were invited to meet colleagues and chat with Faculty.

In March, a very successful Pub Night, devoted to the topic of “Beer, Beards and Burgers ... to celebrate the rugged facial hair of the past and present”, was held. Beards were supplied to the unsuspecting, non-hirsute attendees



## Faculty News



### Robin Anderson

I am writing a book on the First World War era cartoons of Vancouver editorial cartoonist James Fitzmaurice. Fitzmaurice was an all-purpose cartoonist and illustrator for the *Vancouver Province* newspaper during the years 1908-1910 and 1916-1926.

He is considered British Columbia's best known and respected editorial cartoonist from this early period. Fitzmaurice's First World War cartoons included front page anti-German propaganda images that ridiculed Kaiser Wilhelm II, promoted efforts by the Entente, and images that poked fun at wartime life on the home front.



The book will explore these topics, placing the cartoons in their historical context and offering some interpretations of their meanings.

Part of the process of preparing this book has been the digital restoration of the cartoons themselves, which only exist on newspaper microfilm rolls.

This has been a long yet very rewarding process. I am hoping the manuscript will be completed by the end of the year.



## Alumni News

**Brittany Reid** graduated from UFV in 2010 with a BA in History, while working as an Educational Assistant and earning her Educational Assistant's Certificate.

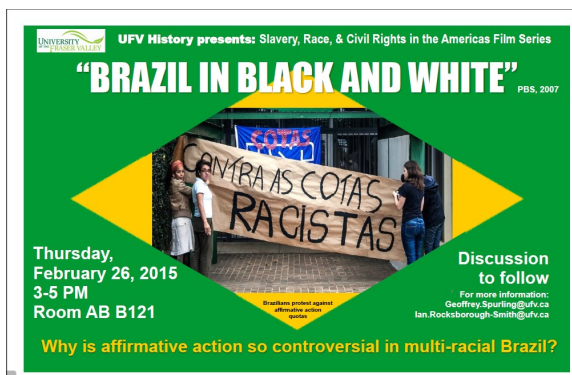
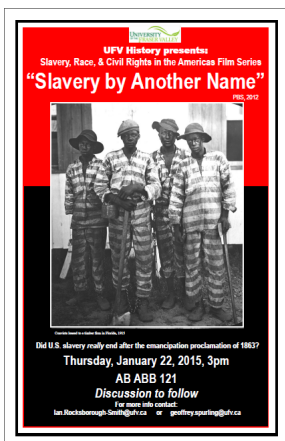
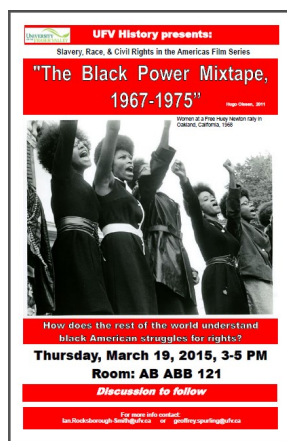
She then took training in Applied Behavioural Analysis, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Deaf Blind Intervention.

In 2012 she entered SFU's Teacher Ed. Program, completed her Practica two years later, and was immediately offered a full-time teaching position with the Vancouver School Board.

The study of History has benefitted Brittany's teaching, enabling her to design Oral History assignments and projects related to archival skills. She has also brought her interest in technology into the classroom by organizing an iPad Club, and introducing website and blog creation.

The integration of technology with education has become a subject that Brittany hopes to pursue at Graduate School, and she hopes to enter the Master's of Educational Technology Program at UBC.

# Film Series



In the Fall and Winter semesters, Geof Spurling and Ian Rocksborough-Smith organized and ran the Slavery, Race, and Civil Rights in the Americas Film Series, which included "Twelve Years a Slave", "Slavery By Another Nmae", "Brazil in Black and White" and "Black Power Mixtape, 1967-1975".

Each screening was followed by a discussion, which students thought was a very valuable component. The films were very well-attended, drawing about 30 to 35 students for each showing.

## Faculty News



### Barbara Messamore

This past year, I completed an article entitled "A Critique of Bill C-569: Some Historical Background to the Appointment and Removal of Governors General," for the *Journal of Parliamentary and Political Law*, and a *Globe and Mail Online* entry called "The Case for George Brown as Confederation's True Father".

For the *Encyclopedia of Empire*, I submitted an entry on "British North America (Canada), 1783-20<sup>th</sup> c.", and contributed an article on "John A. Macdonald and the Governors General: a prime minister's use and abuse of the Crown," to the edited collection *John A. Macdonald at 200: New Reflections and Legacies*.

During my Sabbatical in the Spring of 2014, I was a Visiting Fellow of Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge, and was invited to speak at the Humanities Research Forum, where I delivered a talk on "The Meaning of Canada's Confederation: Three Weddings and a Divorce".

I continue to edit the *Journal of Historical Biography*, an online, open-access scholarly journal published at UFV. Volume 16, which will be online soon, is a special issue devoted to the theme of biographies of historians. The special issue has been guest edited by Doug Munro (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand); Geoffrey Gray (University of Queensland); and Christine Winter (University of Sydney).



# Faculty News



## Daniel Kwan

I recently conducted research in the Special Division of the Sun Yat-Sen Library in Guangzhou, on the subject of “Vocational schools for workers in South China 1980 -1999”.

I also reviewed *The Formation of the Chinese Communist Party* by Yoshihiro Ishikawa, for *The American Historical Review*, and attended the Asian Studies Conference Japan, held at Sophia University, Tokyo.

Last year, I undertook an extensive cultural tour of Japan, visiting many museums, Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines as well as enjoying a lot of delicious sushi.

I am also working on a manuscript based on two areas of research: “Worker education, culture, and class formation in Guangzhou, 1949 – 1976”, and “Class ‘deformation’ as seen from working class literature in South China during the 1990s”.

I still enjoy relaxing by comparing different interpretations of Bruckner’s symphonies, to the accompaniment of a good glass of red wine.

## Geof Spurling

In 2013 I spent six weeks in Peru, doing preparatory work for the 2015 Peru Study Tour. I also researched 17th-century Andean land disputes and fraud in the General Archive of the Nation in Lima, Peru.



I participated in the UFV Microlecture Series, on the subject of “Land Struggles in the Colonial Andes”. I also created two new courses: “Aztecs, Mayas, and Spaniards” and “Soccer and Song in Latin America”



## David Milobar

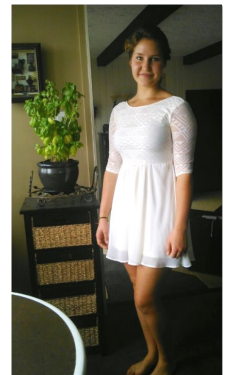
I’m researching the theme of Communications, and preparing three articles on this theme:

“Communications, Quebec, and the British Atlantic World”, “Canada, Indian Nationalism and the Punjab Press, 1908-1922”, and “First Nations and Popular Culture in Victorian and Edwardian Britain, 1860 - 1914”.

On a my recent trip to Chios, Greece, I was able to further this work at the Korais Library, which was established in 1792.

**Mia Klassen**, a 1st year History student, has been accepted into the UFV Study Abroad Program, for the Fall 2015 semester. Mia will continue her History studies at the University of Gloucestershire, in the UK.

“History and community are what draw me to U. of Gloucestershire. My interest was peaked by the history and the humble beginnings of the school, and I was thrilled to realize that I also had a family connection to Gloucestershire. My grandparents once lived in Gloucester and my Dad was born there. I hope to connect with distant relatives still living nearby.



In addition to the community of family I will have in England, the community feel of the University also draws me. This University has a large international community and is rated first in the UK for its international students’ programs. I love interacting with people from other nations and look forward to becoming a part of this international community.

It fascinates me to learn about historical events and the way that we have recorded them, and it is important to honour others through taking the time to learn about their past. I enjoy studying the history of small countries and specific groups who have experienced injustice. We can learn and grow through studying history.”