

HISTORY NEWS

SUMMER 2020



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

GREETINGS TO THE STUDENTS, alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of Dal History, near and far. Sitting down to draft these few words of welcome gives me the chance to reflect upon the 2019/20 academic year – and what a strange year it has been! We started with Hurricane Dorian and ended with a global pandemic. We lost some old friends this year, too; Michael Cross's passing early in the fall term was particularly hard. Our much beloved colleague Ruth Bleasdale moved fully into retirement at the end of June. But alongside the challenges and losses, we have had many a highlight. We welcomed a new faculty member this year, Lisa Binkley, an art historian with a PhD from Queen's. As you'll see from her profile, she has already brought vital new energy and ideas to the department, not least with a stitching circle that brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, faculty, and

community members to hone their skills. We started a new certificate program in Heritage Studies. Our colleague (and former Halifax Poet Laureate) Afua Cooper continues her exemplary work in pressing us to come to terms with our own institutional history and its legacy of anti-Black racism, with the release of the report of the [Lord Dalhousie Scholarly Panel on Slavery and Race](#). Updates on these and other developments can be found in the pages that follow.

Our students continue to do significant work and to win big prizes. Christine Hughes graduates with our University Medal in History this year and heads to the University of Victoria for a Masters degree on a prestigious fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. James Lees, last year's winner of the University Medal, is soon to complete his MA with us and to head to Oxford University

Continued on next page



on a highly competitive Clarendon fellowship to do his DPhil. News follows of some other students, and of winners of other awards—some of which are funded by generous alumni. We congratulate Christine, James, and all our students and graduates, wishing them all the best in these strange but also, perhaps, strangely promising times. We did not get to say 'farewell' in the usual ways this year, but we hope you will all stay in touch and keep us posted

on your news.

I'll end with a few quick words of thanks and congratulations to Gary Kynoch, who finished his term as chair last summer and was promoted to full professor this year. We are grateful for his years of service and proud to work with a colleague who has earned high accolades for his scholarship on the history of apartheid and its end. We will face yet more challenges this coming year – not least in grappling

with how best to teach and learn in an online environment – but with fellow faculty such as Gary, Lisa, Afua, and all the rest, and with students like Christine, James, and their successors, we have every reason to hope for great new things for 2020/21. My thanks and best wishes to all.

Krista Kesselring

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME TO LISA BINKLEY

SINCE JOINING THE HISTORY

Department in 2019, Lisa has participated in field trips with students to Haida Gwaii and Winnipeg. In Haida Gwaii, she accompanied a group from Mount Allison's Geography and Religious Studies programmes, visiting the Haida Gwaii Museum and Cultural Centre at Kay Llnagaay, the central village of Skidegate, and the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, the first park of its kind in Canada co-managed by the Haida and the National Parks Commission. While on Haida Gwaii, students witnessed traditional monument pole carvers in practice.

As part of the new fourth-year seminar course, "Museums, Archives, and Material Culture", Lisa took a group of students to Winnipeg to work in the Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Archives at the University of Manitoba and the Hudson Bay Company Archives, and to visit the Hudson Bay Collection at the Manitoba Museum and the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.

In the Winter term, Lisa introduced students to moccasin making during the new third-year course, "Indigenous Textiles in Canada". Students made slippers in the Inuit tradition while exploring textiles, local and global trade,



At Jim Hart's Woodcarver's Shed, Haida Gwaii



History students at the Centre for Truth and Reconciliation



Students hard at work in the Indigenous Textiles in Canada class and the result

labour and exploitation, and Indigenous cultures across Canada.

In 2020, Lisa's co-edited volume, *Stitching the Self: Identity and the Needle Arts* was released by Bloomsbury Academic Press. This volume is followed by book chapters in *Craft and Heritage: Intersections in Critical Studies and Practice* (Bloomsbury), *Transnational Perspectives on Feminism and Art, 1960-1985*, (Routledge), and *Craft and Politics* (Bloomsbury), as well as an article in the *Journal of Canadian Art History*. She is also currently editing her forthcoming monograph under contract with University of British Columbia Press, *Material Identities: Quilts and their Makers* (forthcoming 2021).

Lisa's new research projects include *Finding Christianne Paul Morris: Mi'kmaw Artist, Model, and Citizen*, with support of the Undergraduate Research Fund, which gave undergraduate student Hannah Beaulieu the opportunity to develop her skills in primary source and material culture research and digital humanities. In addition, Lisa is embarking on a new project that

will aim to decolonize the history of the fur trade through research into the various styles and forms of footwear made and traded along the trails.

Recently, Lisa and a team of 11 other researchers from universities in Canada, the United States, and Europe became the recipients of a two-year, \$250,000 New Foundations in Research Fund that will interrogate Western text and art through Indigenous perspectives. This fund will create opportunities for students and local artists through collaborative workshops, a conference, and an art exhibition.

On campus, Lisa has organized a monthly stitching circle that brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and community members in the spirit of Reconciliation. Each month, participants gather to work on individual projects or learn new methods of stitching or beading. The first gathering, co-organized by history student Naomi Bird and Director of the Indigenous Student Centre Michele Graveline, and lead by Elder Geri Musqua-

Leblanc, focused on the ceremonial teachings of ribbon skirts through the practice of making to first-year Indigenous students so they would have appropriate regalia to wear to ceremonies around campus and the community. When not able to meet in person, the meetings continue in the virtual environment. Lisa is also a member of the Indigenous Advisory Council at Dalhousie.



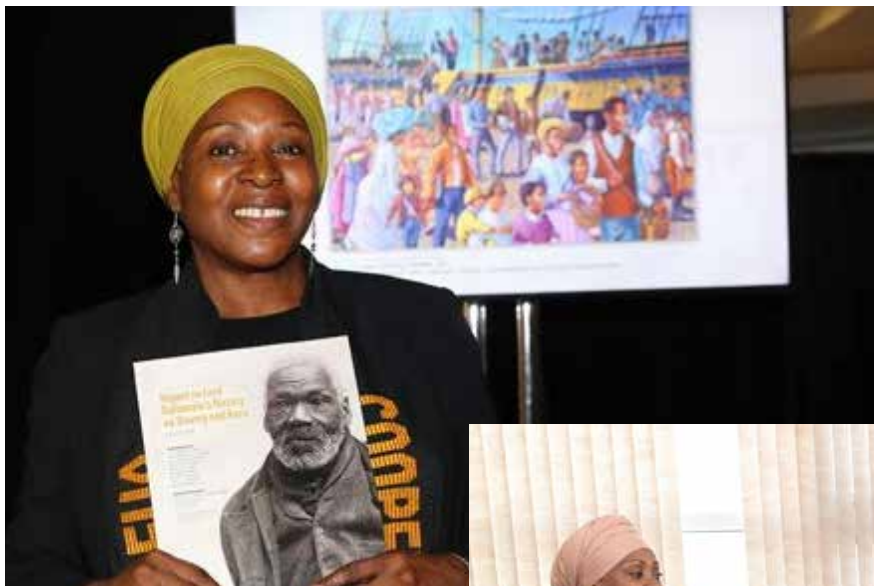
FACULTY UPDATES

AFUA COOPER

AFUA COOPER has continued to show dedicated leadership throughout this year as Chair of the Lord Dalhousie Scholarly Panel on Slavery and Race and lead author of the *Report on Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race*. Afua and the other panel members presented the panel's findings at a reception on September 5, 2019. Teri Balser (Interim President at the time) apologized to the People of African Descent within the Dalhousie community and pledged to implement the report's recommendations to fight against the continuing legacy of anti-Black

racism. This was also an important year for Afua's work outside of the university, as her term as Poet Laureate of Halifax ended in April. On December 6, 2019 she made a statement and read a moving poem commissioned by HRM for the 102nd anniversary memorial of the Halifax Explosion. Afua's work inspired Ken Hynes, head curator of the Army Museum Halifax Citadel, to loan to the university a painting entitled "Freedom Halifax 1814" by Richard Rudnicki, which was featured as an illustration within the Lord Dalhousie Report. The painting, soon to be displayed in the McCain Learning Commons,

depicts Black refugees, who were offered freedom from slavery in exchange for service in the British Army during the War of 1812, disembarking a frigate from the Chesapeake Bay region. In their new life, free from enslavement, they suffered hardships and discrimination. The painting, according to Afua, "tells a story in a way that maybe text cannot. These people are literally jumping off the canvas. And I want it to get a wide viewership. I want people to see it. It's a beautiful tool to use for pedagogy."



Afua Cooper at the reception for the Lord Dalhousie Scholarly Panel on Slavery and Race



Afua Cooper receiving the painting "Freedom Halifax 1814"

AJAY PARASRAM

AJAY PARASRAM was named as a Founding Fellow (2019-2021) at the MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance. His interdisciplinary research into the colonial present and structural forms of violence demonstrated through imperial encounters means that he is well placed to bring a critical perspective to public policy debates that are relevant to our present lives while being rooted in historical contexts. According to Ajay, "policy is the network through which extraordinary human potential can be directed towards addressing our collective action failures, and for this reason ought to be at the forefront of everyone's thinking." He also served as the Chair and Program Chair of the Global Development Section of the International Studies Association (2019-2020). On top of all that, Ajay has also been doing a lot of public education work over the



last year, including lecturing and teaching on the history of race and its connections to ongoing anti-colonial social movements in local high schools, public libraries, and public teach-ins.

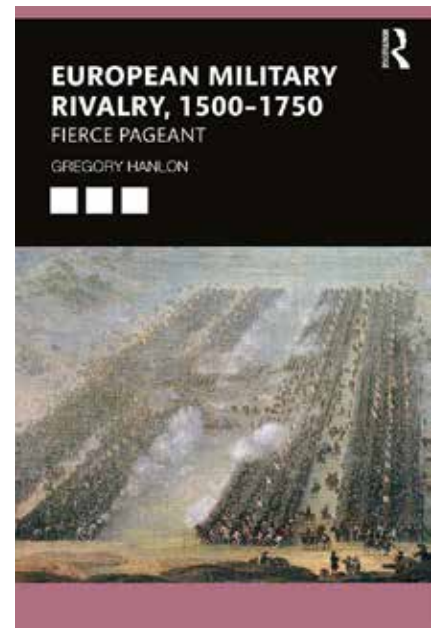
SHIRLEY TILLOTSON

SHIRLEY TILLOTSON'S *Give and Take: The Citizen-Taxpayer and the Rise of Canadian Democracy* has continued to earn well-deserved praise, winning the Canadian Historical Association's most prestigious prize, the Francois-Xavier Garneau Medal. This award honours an outstanding Canadian contribution to historical research and is only presented once every five years. *Give and Take* was also awarded the Governor General's History Award for Scholarly Research in 2019, and so in January 2020 she was invited to present at the 12th annual "Canada's History Forum" in Ottawa. Shirley has spent a large part of this year contributing to the University of King's College "King's & Slavery" scholarly inquiry project, which will be presented to the public in the near future. Her research has helped to examine "How (and How Much) King's



Shirley Tillotson with her Governor General's medal

College Benefited From Slavery in the West Indies, 1789 to 1854." Fellow Dal faculty member, Dr. Jerry Bannister, and Dal alumnus, Dr. Harvey Amani Whitfield, have also contributed to this important project – a true collaboration between both universities.



GREG HANLON

GREG HANLON'S newest

book, *European Military*

Rivalry, 1500-1750: Fierce

Pageant, was published

this spring by Routledge.

It examines 250 years of

warfare in early modern

Europe, focusing particularly

on the complex strategic

dynamics of the era's

international conflicts. In

addition to discussing key

events and personalities of

military rivalry during this

period, the book describes

the operational mechanics

of early modern warfare and

the crucial role of taxation

and state borrowing.

Congratulations Dr. Hanlon!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

INTERVIEW WITH EVA HOLLAND



*Eva Holland is a Dal/King's alumna who graduated with an honours BA in History in 2005 and has since gone on to establish herself as a freelance journalist based in Whitehorse. Her first book, *Nerve: A Personal Journey Through the Science of Fear*, was published with Penguin Random House Canada on April 7, 2020. She "really felt at home" in the Dalhousie History Department and fondly remembers her professors and classmates, and particularly her honours supervisor Dr. Chris Bell. Eva had initially planned to pursue a career in academia, and so she completed an MA from Durham University, UK in 2006. But it was there that she realized that her true calling was in writing narrative non-fiction for a popular audience. Eva became a full-time freelance writer in 2008, and her writing has since appeared in *Wired*, *Canadian Geographic*, *Esquire*, and many other places, often focusing on the Canadian North, outdoor adventures, and personal essays.*

Q Did you always have a gut instinct that writing was the thing that you really wanted to do?

A I wanted to be a writer since I was a little kid in this abstract way, and I didn't really know about stuff besides fiction. It was a slow process of discovering narrative non-fiction, the type of writing I do now. I never felt quite right doing academic writing, but I never felt artistic enough to be a fully creative writer, and this journalistic narrative non-fiction, happy-medium ended up feeling just right to me. I was only discovering that type of literature through undergrad and into grad school and then had this lightbulb moment in grad school: "maybe I should just write true stories."

Q Has your historical training been helpful for your freelance writing career?

A I think the things that were most strange to me were the networking and self-promotion that was required and the running my own business side of things. Those weren't things that history really prepared me for necessarily – more so, maybe, some of the part-time restaurant industry jobs that I'd had and things like that. But where history did help me a lot, I think, is in organizing information. You know, a lot of working writers don't have any idea how to navigate an archive or think critically about sourcing – primary and secondary sources and all that stuff. People are often a lot more likely to have a background in English or political science than history, I think, in my field. So I've definitely felt like it was useful, and I've been able to write some stories that explicitly bring in my historical training.

Q Is there a historical piece that you've written that you're particularly proud of?

A I did a story a few years ago about the internment of the Aleut people during World War II in Alaska [titled "The Forgotten Internment" for *Maisonneuve*]. They were removed from the Aleutian islands and interned, like Japanese Americans. Except in this case it was theoretically for their protection from the Japanese invasion of Alaska, which a lot of people don't really know about – it was the only World War II land battle on North American soil... I went and worked in an archive in Anchorage for a week, and I went to the Aleutians and found – I think at that time there were about a dozen survivors left. These camps lacked sanitation, running water, medical care, adequate food, and one in ten people died in the camps... I was able to find four of them who were willing to speak on the record. So that was kind of a perfect marriage of history and journalism for me.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

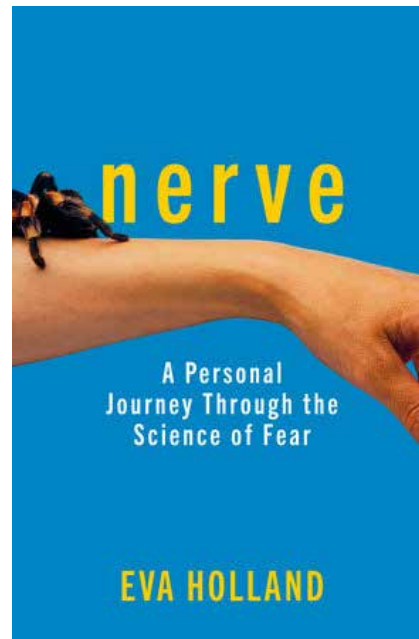
Q Is there anything that you would do differently in your career if you could go back? Or do you have any advice for students and recent graduates regarding what has served you well in developing a career with your history degree?

A I don't have any regrets. At first I felt kind of silly for doing a master's degree and then feeling like I was immediately turning my back on it... So I felt a little foolish at the time, like maybe I should've figured out my priorities sooner. But ultimately I think that both my degrees, even though they're theoretically unrelated to what I'm doing for a living now, really, really helped me. They shaped my critical thinking and my research abilities and my abilities to organize information and to express ideas in writing. Yeah, I really value my experience in both programs, and my time at Dal History in particular was just kind of magical. So, I don't know, I guess my advice would be: don't let people talk you out of doing a history degree if that's what you want to do.

Q Can you tell me a bit about your new book? How has the process of writing and publishing a book been for you?

A *Nerve* is a hybrid of memoir and science reporting. It tells the story of my relationship to fear and my efforts to alter or renegotiate that relationship, alongside a look at psychology and neuroscience and what we know about how fear works in our brains and our bodies and why. So, specifically, it starts with my mom's sudden death from a stroke in the summer of 2015. For various reasons losing her had always been my biggest fear, but then my

worst fear came true and I realized eventually that, although I was really sad, I wasn't harmed in the ways that I had expected to be. That was sort of empowering, and it made me want to see if I could look at my other fears and maybe face them and overcome them as well, so that was the genesis of the book.



I liked writing a book! I love writing for magazines but writing for a book – it's more yours and it's freer in terms of format, you can sort of do what you want. You know, if you want to turn to the camera and address the reader directly you can do that; you can sort of do what you want, to an extent, with a book in a way that a more structured piece of writing is less flexible... It's been strange, of course, launching my first book basically three weeks into the lockdown. So, all events, of course, were cancelled, the launch party was cancelled, the book tour was cancelled. But it's okay, I've been doing lots of Zoom and Skype and Instagram Live and Facebook Live, and I've had some good media coverage, which has been great.

It's a tough time for everyone right now, and it's a tough time to be selling a product. But it's been cool to see how people have stepped up to support authors and bookstores, you know, the things that they value at this time.

Q While doing your journalism, have people shown a willingness to engage with historical concepts, or is there a disconnect between history as a discipline and what people are thinking and caring about in the real world?

A I think it's both. I think there's a disconnect and people do care but it's not top of mind for people. And then when they're exposed to history they're so fascinated by it. I'll give you an example: I did a story for *Wired* a couple of years ago about how the highest level NICUs [neonatal intensive care units] are changing their approach to treating the tiniest premature babies... I put one or two paragraphs in the story about the history of premies and medical treatments for premies and it was the piece that people responded to the most, because – like so many things in history – it was bananas! The first incubators were funded by having them be like circus attractions. They would have premies in incubators at the world's fair, they had them on the boardwalk in Coney Island and Atlantic City, and you would pay to see the tiny babies. That's crazy and readers just loved that detail. So I think that people love history when they're exposed to it... I think there is a disconnect there, but I don't think that has to be the case because I think there's a lot of hunger for this stuff if we can figure out the ways to get it to people.

INTRODUCING: CERTIFICATE IN HERITAGE STUDIES

DR. JERRY BANNISTER

This year we're pleased to announce a new Certificate in Heritage Studies. It will feature an introductory course, HIST 2950, which will be offered in Winter 2021, and a capstone seminar, HIST 4710, which will feature a major research project undertaken in partnership with a local heritage organization. Students enrolled in the program will take a series of electives that will provide background in related fields such as tourism studies, Indigenous history, and African-Nova Scotia studies. The program has three main goals: to provide hands-on, experiential learning for undergraduate students; to offer students opportunities to engage directly with current issues of public commemoration, collective memory, and social justice; and to expose students to training and professional practices in the heritage sector. It will involve both taking students out to local heritage organizations and bringing professionals and community groups into Dalhousie to work in the classroom.

WHILE THE CERTIFICATE

program is new, it builds on our longstanding commitment to public history and our close relationships with archives, museums, and community groups in Nova Scotia. The History Department has extensive experience with helping undergraduate and graduate students find positions in local museums and archives, from summer internships to permanent career positions as curators and managers. In addition to offering field trips at local institutions, the department has worked closely with heritage professionals, who have assisted as guest lecturers, course instructors, and readers on honours and graduate theses. These initiatives included an experimental first-year course, "Raiders of the Lost Archives," which was taught in conjunction with Dalhousie University Archives, as well as close collaboration with Canadian

Studies and other interdisciplinary programs. In 2017, for example, the History Department contributed to the International Summer Institute on Migration and Identity, which was held at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and attracted students from Europe, Australia, and other parts of North America. This past year the department partnered with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic to design and offer a new version of our seafaring course. Working with the Curator of Marine History, Dr. Roger Marsters (Dal PhD, 2013), we developed new pedagogical approaches to working with artifacts and documents in museum spaces.

Our certificate program grows out of these strong professional and institutional relationships. We started with a planning meeting with professionals from across Halifax, where we discussed how to

think more creatively about public history, commemoration, and collective memory. We also secured innovation funding from the Vice President's Office to research and design a new certificate program. We are particularly thankful to Fiona Black, Mona Holmlund, and Monica MacDonald for their support during the early stages; to Christine Harens and Claire Halstead for their work in researching and drafting the proposal; and to Roberta Barker and Michael Fournier for helping to see the proposal through its final stages. With the arrival of Lisa Binkley in 2019, the History Department has significantly expanded and deepened its expertise in key areas such as museum studies, material culture, experiential learning, and Indigenous history – so the timing is right to add to our undergraduate program. We're excited about the certificate program because it offers opportunities to innovate and explore new avenues while building on our core strengths as a department.

A CAREER IN PUBLIC HISTORY

PROFILE OF DR. PHILIP GOLDRING (DAL MA, 1972)



Dr. Philip Goldring in Pangnirtung, Nunavut during the Qikiqtani Truth Commission in 2008

It is hard work to write truthfully about oneself. Witnesses are still on hand to sniff out unintended lapses of fact, shoddy interpretation of context, and self-serving hyperbole. This kind of criticism is part of what historians do; we use evidence and construct narratives with care because accuracy and context matter to us. Nowadays, some approach to objectivity is still respected but we are also aware that hindsight is never 20/20; even the most scrupulous historians filter the past through hopes and fears for the future. And so it may be with writing about one's own past. This profile reports on half a century in the field, showing a small slice of what was possible for a career in public history at the time, and to identify some things that are relevant for future practitioners.

IN SEPTEMBER 1967, WITH A

BA from Saint Mary's, I began graduate studies in history at Dalhousie. My main influences at Dalhousie were Peter Waite, Del Muise, and my thesis supervisor, Peter Burroughs. Despite many differences, they all communicated the department's commitment to thorough research, careful analysis, and clear writing. In general, our responsibility as MA students was to develop research and analytical skills to a professional level without preparation for any specific

employment. I don't remember any of my cohort going on to academic careers, but many or most had careers in public history. Some reached senior public service posts or achieved distinction as practitioners, including Susan Buggie in the evaluation of cultural landscapes and Margaret Carter, who pioneered an effective historical consulting practice.

I belong to the generation of Nova Scotians who finished our studies with a diploma in one hand and a train ticket in the other.

(An unfinished thesis was often part of the baggage.) The first thirty-five years of my career were punctuated by shifts in emphasis. The fifteen years since then have been even more diverse. My research and policy analysis for Parks Canada included studies of the logistics and personalities of the Western fur trade, the history of Nunavut, the politics and praxis of public commemoration and the preservation movement, and official geographical naming – versatility mattered. A significant change in my first year with Parks was marrying another historian, Marianne McLean. By 1982 we had each completed a PhD in the United Kingdom and were raising the first of four children. Marriage to someone in your own narrow discipline in Canada can have important implications for a career; so can parenthood.

In 1984 my career changed decisively in a 40-foot boat weaving among ice floes in Cumberland Sound. As the historian for a new site initiative in Baffin Island, I spent ten days evaluating historic places whose populations had recently been expelled or withdrawn. I accompanied Inuit hunters, an archaeologist, and a heritage planner. Nothing in graduate school or the public service prepared me for this immersion in a new culture and geography, and I spent the next three decades learning to understand and explain the experiences of Indigenous people in Canada.

By the age of 40, I accepted a career shift into a new planning branch. There I coordinated Parks Canada's responses to the cultural resource chapters in northern

Continued on next page

Indigenous Comprehensive Claims, while I managed or conducted Northern research. I had to become familiar with the commemorative policy process, the rudiments of community consultations, and Indigenous perspectives on cultural landscapes. In the following decade I sat on policy and planning committees, advised other departments on heritage in Comprehensive Claims, represented Parks Canada on the Geographical Names Board of Canada, and took a supervisory post in my old branch. I also managed a program that gave new definitions to the historic values of over 100 historic places.

One pleasure at this time was working with undergraduate history students and recent graduates. Before about 1990, students were not recruited for short-term work in my branch. I worked out how to define tasks and projects that could be assigned to lightly-supervised students. So in 1998, when I was invited to launch a weekly internet series on Canadian history, I saw that the very broad target audience is best served by the kind of direct, fresh style of writing that came naturally to those who had not written too many seminar papers or much policy analysis. The resulting product, *This Week in History*, remains online and is still being written by students.

In 2005 I left the public service. After teaching two courses as a contract instructor at Carleton University, my professional life reverted to the kind of work I did before becoming a manager. Indigenous peoples' history, a small part of my work before 1984, took centre stage. I was senior historian and writer with the Qikiqtani Truth Commission, a contractor with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and a volunteer with the *Indigenous Peoples' Atlas of*

Canada. Working for an Indigenous-led project provides a welcome reversal of roles after decades in government. In 2015, the *Canadian Journal of History* (50:3, pp. 492-523.) published my exploration of the QTC's compelling analysis of historical trauma and public memory, and how historians can contribute to reconciliation.

Rapid change has been the norm in the heritage professions. Before 1970, when graduates of history programs were recruited as researchers we had to struggle to influence how our work would be used. Evaluation and interpretation of sites or artifacts was often a contested field where site managers, engineers, architects, planners, writers, and curators struggled to dominate the historians and archaeologists. The best-paid professionals often prevailed. In the mid-1970s, multi-disciplinary teams emerged, with each profession represented in a more mutually respectful process. In the 1970s, Parks Canada's planning and management moved closer to sites and therefore to affected communities. A more ethnographic approach emerged, emphasizing consultation and listening over flaunting of expertise and credentials. By 2012 most of this research and consultation capacity had been removed from the regions but important sensitivities survived. Under legal agreements and other protocols, Indigenous bodies and communities now assert their rights as the owners of their own past, and historians engage with them on terms that are mutually respectful.

Trends in management affect the way public historians are employed. In the 1960s the term "public history" did not even exist; heritage institutions employed a few historians on staff or on

contract. Over time, and especially in research affecting Indigenous peoples' rights, firms emerged offering continuity to clients for archival research. In the last two decades it has become more common for historians to act as the sub-contractors of large engineering design and consulting firms. In the absence of large bodies of in-house historians, it is less evident how aspiring public historians will develop the expertise and thoroughness that the discipline requires.

In this environment a program like Dalhousie's Certificate in Heritage Studies can justify itself.

Individual strengths and talents that are developed beyond what is offered in formal history programs can open doors to new roles or special assignments. One needed skill is an understanding of governance. In cultural heritage, governance is the web of laws, regulations, orders-in-council, agreements, relationships, policies, international charters and conventions, strategic plans, codes of ethics and other instruments that tell you and your partners and clients what you must, may, or must not do in carrying out work. Knowledge of geospatial data tools is another excellent example of a body of knowledge that many social scientists possess, and historians could adopt as tools of analysis and communication. For many historians, travel is its own reward, but a knowledge of the world outside one's home province or country can develop crucial insights and skills. The great intangible benefits, though, come from enjoying the work and the company of colleagues. These are gifts, and are among the things that open doors to long and satisfying careers.

VISITING SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

DR. WILSON BELL, THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY (DAL/KING'S BA, 2000)



Q As a Dal/King's undergrad alumnus, how did it feel to come back to the university from the perspective of a scholar instead of as a student?

A I love Halifax, so it was fun to be back in the city and live in the general area (Quinpool) where I lived for much of my time as a student. As an undergraduate student I was intimidated by professors (even the kindest ones!), so as a visiting scholar I enjoyed getting to know the department on a different, colleague-to-colleague level. Everyone was very friendly and welcoming.

Q What brought you to Dalhousie this year in particular? Was there anything about the timing or circumstances that made travelling across the country especially appealing to you right now?

A I earned tenure and promotion at Thompson Rivers University

(Kamloops, B.C.) in July 2019 and also applied for and was granted a sabbatical starting at the same time. My family and I wanted to have an adventure, and we wanted to give our children some more time with my parents, who now live in Halifax. We already knew we were likely to travel to Europe in Spring 2020, but we wanted to try something new for the whole year. Aside from its location, Dalhousie also has advantages for my research since under Professor Emeritus Norman Pereira (who had been my honours' thesis advisor, by the way) the Dal Library had acquired a strong collection on the history of Siberia.

Q What were you working on while at Dalhousie? Can you tell us a little about your current project?

A My current project is a history of western Siberia, from the 1890s to the present, as told through a close examination of events that took place in the same building in Tomsk. The building was built by the Orthodox Church as an educational institution, and during the Soviet period it became headquarters for the local NKVD (a precursor to the KGB) and later an apartment building. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the building has had a variety of commercial enterprises (including a casino and a bank), as well as a commemorative component (a museum dedicated to the memory of Soviet repression in the region). The building encapsulates much of Siberia's history over the last 130 years. I have received a SSHRC Insight Grant for the project, which

also builds on some of my previous research on the Gulag in the region during the Second World War. At Dal, I used the library's resources and interlibrary loan for research, and also was able to consolidate research from a 2016 trip to Russia, and begin writing what I plan will be a book-length manuscript.

Q You kicked off the Stokes seminar series for the 2019/2020 year – how was that experience? Did you find attending and speaking at Stokes helpful, either academically or socially?

A The Stokes seminar was a great introduction to the department. Lawrence Stokes had been one of my favourite professors as an undergraduate student, so I felt honoured to present. I admit that I've never been so thoroughly questioned about my research in any conference setting, so it was both fun and a challenge to defend some of my research and narrative choices. I received some great suggestions, too. It always amazes me how connected research can be. For example, Krista Kesselring's research on early-modern murder methods made me think differently about a murder that I'm researching that took place in Tomsk in 1909.

I'm also very happy that I went first, in the sense that it was a good way to meet faculty and graduate students in the department (even though I was somewhat unsure of the seminar's format). A few weeks later I was also able to guest lecture (or lead the seminar, really) in the honours' methods course, a course

Continued on next page

that didn't exist when I was a King's/Dal student. So, by the end of the first month of classes I felt like part of the department. I then made an effort to attend many of the Stokes seminars and after-seminar social events, which was also a good way to get to know faculty members and graduate students.

Q I understand that COVID-19 unfortunately ruined your plans to travel to Europe this summer. How has that impacted your researching, writing, and teaching for the near future?

A Yes, I was set to be a Visiting Scholar at l'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris, which would have been a lot of fun and a great opportunity for my career, as I would have had the chance to work with some of the top Russia scholars in France. After one month in Paris, I had planned for 1.5 months of research in libraries and archives in England and Russia. All of that was, of course, cancelled. While my research certainly has been set back and the situation is frustrating and disappointing, I also feel incredibly fortunate to be in the

situation that I'm in (a tenured job), given the uncertainty of the times. I'm much more worried about the state of academia in North America moving forwards – particularly for graduate students, precarious faculty, and those on the tenure track – than I am about my own research, which I'm confident will come together at some point in the not-too-distant future.

PHD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CHIOMA ABUBA



My research is on the dynamics of Igbo ethnic identity between the late-nineteenth and late-twentieth centuries. I am interested in unpacking the changing constellation of Igbo social practices to show the complex details of local agency in the construction of ethnic identities. This past year I wrote my comprehensive exams and started my preliminary research survey. That took me to Nigeria in the middle of last Fall, where I spent the most part of two months at the Nigerian National Archive, Enugu, Southeastern Nigeria, thumbing through colonial and local records on Igbo communities. Currently I am concluding my thesis proposal, "Constructions of Igboness: Ethnic Identity and Social Change in Southeastern Nigeria, 1850-1980," and gearing up for further archival research and oral field work.

ASIDE FROM RUMMAGING

through the archives and burying my head in piles of interesting history books and journals, I seized the opportunity while being in Nigeria last Fall to visit with family and friends and, most importantly, get married to my heartthrob, Ifeanyi, late in December. It was a "typical" Nigerian wedding with hundreds of guests and well-wishers and, of course, lots of food, drinks, and cultural music. It was the highlight of my two-month trip

to Nigeria and the best part of the Fall for me. I had very little time to spend with family, however, as I had to return to school barely three days after the wedding to resume the Winter semester and to teach my first class, INTD 2106: Africa, An Introduction.

If I felt nostalgic about leaving "home" soon after my nuptials, I found a whole new family in the class that I taught. It was like leaving Africa and going straight to the classroom to talk about

Africa to a class of intelligent, inquisitive, and interactive students – I must say it was refreshing. My winter academic routine was alternating between writing my thesis proposal and teaching this multidisciplinary, multiracial class of over fifty students whose composition, questions, and contributions reinforced my interest in ethnic diversity, cultural heterogeneity, and individual agency in identity formation. I was especially reminded of the need

to retrieve and incorporate Igbo women's voices in the broader Igbo historiography – to treat women's history as Igbo history, and vice versa.

My plan moving forward is to get done with my proposal and begin the writing stage of my dissertation. That plan is sadly not unfolding as envisaged, given the pandemic situation. My “Pandemic PhD,” as my supervisor and I have hilariously dubbed it, has had to follow the restructured academic model imposed by COVID-19. Accessing the Killam Library and other Novanet libraries is now almost impossible. Although Killam offers a wide range of electronic materials and have been immensely helpful in offering alternative research strategies to grad students, most of the works I need for my research are not in the electronic format at Dal's Killam Library and the Document Delivery service is not available as a result of social distancing measures. Other than that, I am gradually

adjusting to virtual research and correspondence, while warding against the anxiety and uncertainty of COVID-19.

My ability to sustain the sudden transition caused by the pandemic is largely tied to my Killam scholarship. Being a Killam Scholar was one of my greatest dreams come true. As is well known, the bane of intensive, path-breaking research and innovations in Africa is lack of adequate funding opportunities. With 16.72% of the total world population and enduring social crises, aspiring graduate students from Africa are structurally handicapped and many have died without fulfilling their dreams and innate skills because of insecurity, famine, and other avoidable misfortunes. Being able to come to Dal on the prestigious Killam Predoctoral Scholarship was a phenomenal breakthrough for me, and one for which I am immensely grateful to the Killam Trust and the History Department

which nominated me. As a Killam Scholar, I am inspired by the generous will of Izaak Walton Killam and Dorothy Johnston Killam to promote graduate research and innovation in varied fields of study. Their generous fund is enabling me to confront conventional narratives on Igboness with new questions of change, engagement, tension, agency, adaptability, and continuity from a micro-historical framework, to show the varied ways in which individuals and groups understood and defined their responsibilities and benefits as members of Igbo culture, and how these tensions shaped the content of Igboness over time.

Outside of academia, I like travelling, watching volleyball, basketball, football and lawn tennis. Thanks to Dr. Philip Zachernuk's annual curling adventure, I have added curling to the waitlist of my favorite sports, pending when I master the art of playing on ice.



UNDERGRADUATE HISTORY SOCIETY UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, KRISTEN BECKER

The Undergraduate History Society was created to provide history students with a community in which they could discuss historical themes and cultures with their peers. Furthermore, it was also meant to bring other students with an interest in history into the history community, spreading the love and appreciation for history. In September, the society was revived by the elected executive who managed to put on a few events before the chaotic end of term. The main events put on by the society were the Trivia Night and Roaring 20's Gala. The trivia night was a great way to bring together students of all backgrounds, no matter their major, allowing for a great amount of knowledge to be spread and some excellent mingling

between students and staff, with a couple drinks helping things along! Our Roaring 20's Gala, put on with the Costume Studies Society, was, in my opinion, the best way to end the year, producing a fun environment in which students could dress up and send themselves back into the 1920's. What a great success!

Our other initiatives such as the Faculty Networking Event, the clothing order, and the journal were also successful in allowing the history community to spread and showcase students within the Dalhousie community. Although the clothing order and journal have been disturbed by the COVID-19 crisis, both will be available in September 2020. A special thank you to the students within the

Honours Program who put the journal together this year – it will be fabulous! We cannot wait for you to see how the logo and clothes look, read the excellent pieces of writing in the journal, and see the society continue to grow and flourish. Also, a special thank you to the faculty members who attended the networking event and gave students the opportunity to ask questions regarding faculty members and the department! We, the executive, are so grateful to the participation and eagerness of students within the History Department to have allowed for the success of our events and create an environment in which we hope other students will take on this responsibility.



EXECUTIVE TEAM:

Kristen Becker, President

**Ronny Blanchard,
Vice President**

Samuel Eisner, Treasurer

**Jonathan Duru,
DASSS Representative**

**First Year Representatives:
Olivia Landon, Amy Paleczny**

Dr. Chris Bell, undergraduate advisor, and a group of senior and honours BA students enjoying a games night together

**STUDENTS
ENJOYING
THEMSELVES AT
THE ROARING
20'S GALA:**





UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JACOB BOLTON

I recently completed my Honours BA in History with a minor in Classics at Dalhousie University. History, especially Roman history, has both fascinated and challenged me since I was a little boy. When I was seven years old and our family lived with my grandparents in Montreal, I would regularly stay up past my bedtime reading Astérix and Obélix comic books. As I got older, my interest in ancient Rome deepened and I began to read more detailed works of historical fiction that vividly portrayed a traditional, violent, and scheming ancient world. This literature nurtured and developed my interest in the ancient world and led to my decision to study history at university.

IN ADDITION TO MY INTERESTS

in history and the ancient world, I have long had an interest in competitive sport. As a young kid I played a lot of street hockey, ice hockey, and soccer. In 2011 our family spent a year in New Zealand where all sport is second to rugby. There I decided to focus on soccer. When I came to Dal I played soccer for the Tigers and worked hard to succeed at my studies while juggling the responsibility of playing varsity sport. The difficulties associated with excelling in the classroom as well as on the field were a constant struggle and presented me with a number of challenges surrounding work-life balance. Fortunately, I succeeded and qualified as an Academic All-Canadian during my three seasons of play, from 2017 to 2019.

My final year as an undergraduate student was bittersweet. On the one hand, it was a grueling and difficult year in terms of both academics and athletics, topped off with the stress of completing a thesis. On the other hand, there was joy in the culmination of four years of hard work and effort. These emotions were complicated by the COVID-19

pandemic. This threw a wrench into my, and I'm sure many others, end-of-year plans as the home stretch of the school year was forced indoors and final exams were moved online. It was especially frustrating to lose the last month of school with my friends and classmates. The pandemic took away many of the Class of 2020's opportunities for camaraderie and celebration.

I will be returning to Dalhousie in the fall of 2020 to begin my MA in History with Dr. Colin Mitchell as my supervisor, and I hope to play a fourth year of soccer with the Dalhousie Tigers. Questions surrounding course instruction

and the ability of the AUS to have a varsity season, however, highlight the uncertain and trying times in which we now live.

I am incredibly thankful to Dalhousie University for providing me with an opportunity to pursue my passion for history and my passion for sport. I am grateful for all the amazing staff, coaches, and professors who have guided me through my undergraduate degree. A specific thank you goes out to Dr. Jack Mitchell who supervised my honours thesis and helped shepherd this to its successful completion.



GRADUATE HISTORY SOCIETY UPDATE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, JAMES LEES

In September, a new GHS executive was elected, with myself, James Lees, as President, Conor Hubley as Vice President, Craig Boehmer as Treasurer and Raymond Moylan as Secretary. As President, I would like to thank both the executive members and the general membership of the society for their contributions to graduate student life this year.

At Christmas, the GHS executive cooked what was widely reported to be a delicious turkey and beef roast for the department potluck.

Throughout the year leading up to March, the GHS planned the 22nd History Across the Disciplines Conference with the theme of "History as Queen of the Humanities." We were very fortunate to have Dr. John Reid, professor emeritus of St. Mary's University, scheduled as our keynote speaker and were grateful to receive funding from the Dean's Office, various departments within

FASS, and the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society. Our slated participants included graduate students from across Canada and the US, with research in a wide variety of disciplines.

Unfortunately, as with many other events at Dalhousie, the conference was ultimately cancelled owing to COVID-19. Nevertheless, the process of planning the conference was both an enjoyable and valuable experience, and the executive would like to thank all who helped along the way. Presently, the GHS is exploring the option of publishing submitted papers in a collected volume at a future date.

Even in a year cut short in some ways by momentous events, the department's graduate students have much to be proud of, and their contributions and outstanding personalities have made the 2019-2020 academic year one which was decidedly bright.

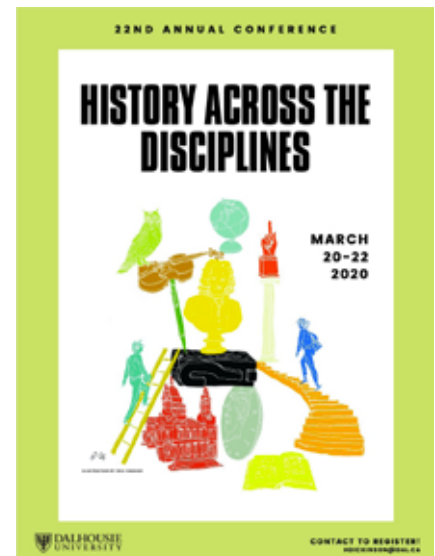
EXECUTIVE TEAM:

James Lees, President

Conor Hubley, Vice-President

Raymond Moyland, Secretary

Craig Boehmer, Treasurer



Some grad students (Betsy, Melissa, Carli, and Katherine) at the Holiday potluck



RECENT GRADUATES

BACHELOR OF ARTS (DAL OR KING'S), WITH A MAJOR OR HONOURS IN HISTORY:

October 2019:

Julian Clifford
Joseph Dickson
Benjamin Fraser
Trevor Gardiner
Meghan Headrick
Mackenzie Jones
Seth Madeiros
Kydra Mayhew
Miranda Vivarias

May 2020:

Elise Battson
Kristen Becker
Jacob Bolton
Rachele Conway
John Cooke
Jonathan Duru
Patrick Festeryga
Rebecca Field
Catherine Frawley
Graydon Gardner
Sebastien Gibson
Matthew Glover
Christine Hughes

Adam LeBlanc
Jacob Macdonald
Daniel Mallov
Anja McLeod
Colin Miniou
Taryn Neufeld
Cameron Riegel
Gibson Savell
Matthew Scott
Leah Skinner
Omar Sweidan
Eleanor Willner-
Fraser

MASTERS OF ARTS:

October 2019:

Claudine Bonner
Dana Campbell
Aonghus Garrison

May 2020:

Carli LaPierre
Randal Westhaver



AWARDS AND PRIZES



Huge congratulations to Valerie Peck, the department's beloved Graduate Secretary, for winning Dalhousie's 2020 FASS Staff Award for Excellence in Service!

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Melissa Glass won the 2019 **NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES (NACBS) M.A. ESSAY PRIZE** for a paper titled "'The Rust of Antiquity': Print Culture, Custom, and the Manorial Court Guidebooks of Early Modern England." Melissa attended the conference in Vancouver in November, where she accepted the prize and displayed a poster related to the essay.

Madison Gateman placed in the top 25 finalists of the **SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL (SSHRC) STORYTELLERS COMPETITION**, which challenges SSHRC-funded postsecondary student researchers to share how their work is making a difference in the lives of Canadians. Madison submitted a three-minute video that encapsulated her MA thesis research on Vietnamese immigration in a way that was accessible to as broad an audience as possible.



DEPARTMENTAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS, 2018/2019:

THE EDITH AND ROSE GOODMAN PRIZES

for the best essay in the field of Canadian history:

CHRISTINE HUGHES AND JAMES LEES

THE GEORGE E. WILSON PRIZE

for the most meritorious essay by a first-year student, in a first-year class: **SOPHIE WOOD**

THE GEORGE E. WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS,

for returning History Major or Honours students now in the second or third year:

CATHERINE CHARLTON AND CHRISTINE HUGHES

THE TOM AND ADA JENNEX UNDERGRADUATE

SCHOLARSHIP IN HISTORY for a student finishing third year who demonstrates academic excellence in the study of the Atlantic World: **CATHERINE FRAWLEY**



- ▲ **THE LAUREL V. KING SCHOLARSHIP** for second year students who excel specifically in History: **HANNAH WYGIERA**



- ▲ **THE SUSAN BUGGEY ATLANTIC WORLD HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP**, created by Dalhousie History graduate Susan Buggy to encourage excellent senior students focusing on the history of the Atlantic World: **SAMUEL EISNER**

THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL IN HISTORY, awarded on the basis of the best undergraduate record among graduating Honours students in History: **JAMES LEES**

The HISTORY DEPARTMENT would like to offer its gratitude to the alumni and donors who, through their generous contributions, have made the above prizes and scholarships possible. Their support enables the continued celebration and encouragement of academic excellence within the student body of the department.

AWARDS AND PRIZES (con't)

DEPARTMENTAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS, 2019/2020:

THE EDITH AND ROSE GOODMAN SCHOLARSHIPS:
TALINE SELMAN AND ERIN RIEHL

THE GEORGE E. WILSON PRIZE: to the most meritorious essay by a first-year student, in a first-year class. **ANNA SHUBALY**

THE GEORGE E. WILSON FIRST YEAR PRIZE:
for highest standing in an introductory History course.
ASHLEY LEON

THE COMMONWEALTH HISTORY PRIZE: to facilitate and encourage the study of Commonwealth or British history, this prize is awarded annually for the best undergraduate essay on a topic relating to the history of Britain and/or the Commonwealth countries. This prize is funded by a gift from Dr. David Jessop and D. Karen Ostergaard. **JACOB BOLTON**

THE GEORGE E. WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:
to the best returning History Major or Honours student now in the second or third year. **HANNAH WYGIERA**



▲ **THE TOM AND ADA JENNEX UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN HISTORY:** scholarship for a student finishing third year who demonstrates academic excellence in the study of the Atlantic World.
MATTHEW ZOLKIVSKI



▲ **THE LVK SCHOLARSHIP: CHIARA POWER**

James Lees, now a Dal MA student, was also awarded the 2019 David Alexander Prize from *Acadiensis, Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region*. This prize recognizes his excellent essay "Shipbuilding, Steel, and a False Inauguration: The Launch and Celebration of the James William in New Glasgow, c.1908," written while he was an undergraduate student.

Catherine Charlton's history essay on coal mining in Springhill, N.S. won a student essay prize from the Modern Language Association (MLA). The only Canadian student of the five winners, Catherine's essay will be used by the association as a model example of the application of MLA formatting and style.



▲ **THE SUSAN BUGGEY ATLANTIC WORLD HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP:** scholarship was created by Dalhousie History graduate Susan Buggey to encourage excellent senior students focusing on the history of the Atlantic World. **Catherine Charlton**

THE UNIVERSITY MEDAL IN HISTORY: awarded on the basis of the best undergraduate record among graduating Honours students in History.
Christine Hughes

IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL CROSS



LONG-TIME DAL HISTORY

professor, Dr. Cross, died in Halifax in September 2019. Born in Toronto in 1938, he later entered the University of Toronto, graduating with a doctorate in 1968. Michael then taught at the University of Calgary, Carleton University, and the University of Toronto before joining Dalhousie University's History Department in 1975, where he remained until his retirement as full professor in 2002. While at Dalhousie, Michael excelled as a teacher at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, a performance that in 1995 earned him the Alumni Association's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Michael's research interests initially focused on the timber frontier of pre-Confederation eastern Ontario, but he had wide-ranging scholarly interests that included numerous publications in the field of modern labour history. Active as a researcher and writer well beyond retirement, in 2012

Michael published what is regarded as the definitive biography of Robert Baldwin, the complex personality that helped usher Canada into the age of responsible government. Michael made a major contribution to the field of Canadian studies while directing a host of MA and PhD dissertations, with the result that several of his students today are prominent members of the Canadian historical profession. He also worked diligently as an editor of multiple historical publications, contributed to organizations such as the Canadian Historical Association, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Canada Council, all the while acting as reviewer for *Acadiensis*, the *Canadian Historical Review*, *Histoire Sociale*, and other scholarly publications. At Dalhousie Michael served two terms as Chair of the Department of History as well as being sometime Dean of Henson College and Associate Dean

of the Faculty of Arts and Science. Michael helped bring the union movement to the university and on two occasions functioned as chief negotiator for the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

Other memorial notices about Michael, written by a former colleague and a former student, can be found at the [Nova Scotia Advocate](#) and on the [Acadiensis](#) site.

A fund to establish an undergraduate essay prize in Canadian or labour history in Michael's memory has been started. Donations can be made at giving.dal.ca/MichaelCross

IN MEMORIAM (con't)

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT LOST TWO OTHER LONG-TIME FRIENDS THIS PAST YEAR AS WELL:



BRIDGLAL PACHAI: Dr. Pachai, affectionately known as “Bridge,” passed away in November 2019. A native of South Africa, he earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in History (Honours) from the University of South Africa, as well as a Ph.D. in History from the University of Natal. He made his journey to Canada in 1975 as Visiting Senior Killam Professor of History at Dalhousie University. He was also involved with St Mary’s University and Mount St Vincent University.

He had a passion for teaching and sharing the rich heritage and culture of peoples of the African Diaspora. As an historian and author he penned over 20 books that shared a great knowledge of African Canadian history and culture. Recipient of many awards and honours, Dr. Pachai will be sadly missed by all those whose lives he touched.



MAX SUTHERLAND: A pillar of the Canadian public history community, Max Sutherland died in December 2019. Max attended Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia graduating with a B.A. (Honours) and a M.A. (Honours) in History. He then attended Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, completing a second M.A. (Honours) in History. Max and his wife Marilyn settled in the Ottawa area, where Max worked as an Historian for Parks Canada for 35 years. Max had no formal

connection to Dal but constructed a pipeline for Maritime historians to Parks Canada over the years, where he hired and mentored a good many of our grads who remember him fondly and miss him greatly. He was a man of few words at times, but was truly an orator. He had an innate ability to mesmerize his audience, whether describing an early settler’s trials and tribulations or giving a eulogy for a lost friend.



STOKES SEMINAR SERIES

2019/2020 SCHEDULE

Sept. 20 — “A Murder Most Siberian: The ‘Bad House,’ Crime, and Punishment in 1909 Tomsk”

Wilson Bell, *Thompson Rivers University*

Sept. 27 — “James Barry, Emotion and the Making of a Modern Self”

Danny Sampson, *Brock University*

Oct. 4 — “*Chattel: Slavery in England’s Tropical Empire, 1600-1713*, ‘Plantations and Factories’”

Justin Roberts, *Dalhousie University*

Oct. 11 — “A Common Situation? Canadian Technical Assistance and Popular Internationalism in Tanzania, 1961-1981”

Will Langford, *University of Alberta*

Oct. 18 — “Abandoning ‘Yankeedom’ in Canada West: Mary Ann Shadd Cary’s Emigration Activism for Free Black Americans”

Melissa Shaw, *Queen’s University*

Oct. 25 — Roundtable on “Digital Scholarship in Medieval and Early Modern Studies”

AMEMG Conference, *University of King’s College*

Nov. 8 — “Imperial Encounters in Sri Lanka: Pluriversal Sovereignty and the State”

Ajay Parasram, *Dalhousie University*

Nov. 22 — “Fireplaces (And Stoves) As Icons Of Comfort: Picturing Early Modern Domestic Energy Transitions”

Jack Crowley, *Dalhousie University*

Nov. 29 — “Freedom’s Carceral Landscapes: Counter-Insurgency, Incarceration, and Race after the Civil War”

Max Mishler, *University of Toronto*

Dec. 6 — “The Logical Systematist: George Bentham and His *Outline of a New System of Logic*” – Special joint session with the Philosophy Department

Gordon McOuat, *University of King’s College*

Jan. 10 — “Historians and the Evolutionary Approach to Human Behavior”

Greg Hanlon, *Dalhousie University*

Jan. 17 — “Genocide Studies and the Korean Civil War: Gender and *Taesar*”

Brendan Wright, *University of Toronto*

Jan. 31 — “The Portuguese Immigrants of British Guiana and the Wider Caribbean in the 19th Century”

Joanne Collins- Gonsalves

Feb. 14 — “Report on Lord Dalhousie’s History on Slavery and Race: A University Engages with its History of Exclusion”

Afua Cooper, *Dalhousie University*

Feb. 28 — “Traces of Liturgy: Analysing Manuscript Fragments from the Binding of the *Riesencodex*”

Jennifer Bain, *Dalhousie University*

Mar. 6 — “The Gifts of Erasmus”

Bill Barker, *University of King’s College*

Mar. 13 — “Nostalgia and the Shuttle: Weaving Stories of Place and Belonging in Cape Breton”

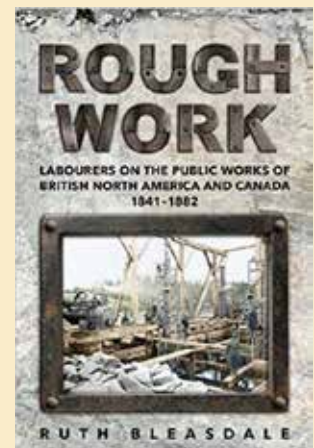
Hilary Doda, *Dalhousie University*

FAREWELL

RETIREMENT OF DR. RUTH BLEASDALE



WITH THE YEAR ENDING in a COVID-19 lockdown, we haven’t yet had a to bid a proper farewell to Ruth. (Maybe that means she can’t really leave us just yet?) When we do get a chance to reconvene, we’ll have much to celebrate. With a scholarly expertise in Canadian labour history, Ruth has taught at Dal since 1981. She has contributed to our community in many ways, serving as Secretary of Senate, Chair of the Department, and more besides. Above all, she has long been a much-loved and indefatigably dedicated, creative teacher, one who will be much missed. **Congratulations, Ruth!**



MACKAY HISTORY LECTURE

DR. JOAN M. SCHWARTZ, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY



IN MARCH WE WELCOMED

Dr. Joan M. Schwartz to present this year's MacKay History Lecture, which was a stimulating (and well-attended) discussion of the material and photographic history of nineteenth-century British Columbia. Dr. Schwartz is a Professor in the Department of Art History and Art Conservation (cross-appointed to Geography) at Queen's University, where she teaches courses in the history of photography. Her lecture told the story of the young Englishman, Frederick Dally, who in 1866 opened

a photographic studio in Victoria. In the remarkable visual legacy he produced over the next four years, Dr. Schwartz argued, we can discern the origins of an enduring vision of British Columbia as an outpost of empire, gold rush colony, royal navy station, and the home of indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest. We can also recognize the power of photography as a tool of documentation, visualization, and imagination. We are very grateful to Dr. Schwartz's for coming and sharing her thoughtful work with us.

AMEMG CONFERENCE AND PERFORMANCE

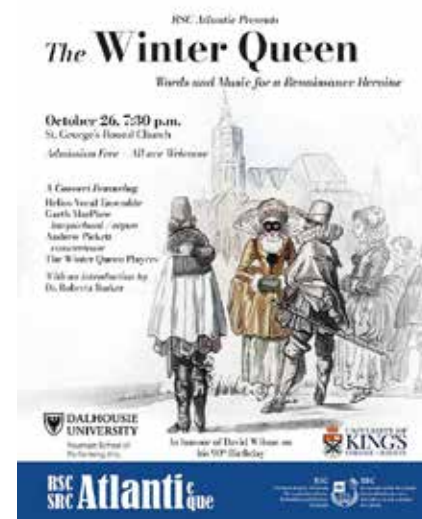
THE 7TH ANNUAL MEETING

of the Atlantic Medieval and Early Modern Group (AMEMG) was successfully held this year at the University of King's College on October 25 and 26, 2019, with significant participation from the Dalhousie History Department, and especially from Dr. Krista Kesselring who organized the conference. The AMEMG focuses on promoting the multi-disciplinary activities of scholars and students researching Medieval and Early Modern Studies throughout the Atlantic region. The conference was kicked off with a roundtable discussion on the state of digital scholarship projects within Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Dr. Roberta Barker (Dalhousie, Theatre Studies) then gave the Keynote Address: "The Apprenticeship of Richard Robinson: The Making of an Early Modern Boy Actress."

A number of Dalhousie History graduate students and

alumni presented their research and benefitted from the robust discussions that were stimulated by the gathering of like-minded experts. For example, Mahira Qadri (MA student) presented a paper that she wrote for a seminar class entitled: "Monarchs Demystified: English Depictions of Shah Tahmasb and Shah Abbas, the Great 'Sophies' of Persia," and Melissa Glass (MA student) presented some research related to her thesis project on women at the early modern English manor courts. The conference concluded with a beautiful performance from the Helios vocal ensemble at Halifax's historic St. George's Round Church. The group performed music from the 1613 wedding festivities and later coronation of the 'Winter Queen', Elizabeth Stuart of England, and Frederick V, Count Palatine of the Rhine. The performance and reception was free and open for all to attend due to the generous

support of the RSC Atlantic, Dal's Fountain School of Performing Arts, and the University of King's College. The event was extremely well attended and was a beautiful end to a productive and supportive conference.



24TH ANNUAL CURLING BONSPIEL

A NEW PLAQUE WILL AUGMENT the ever-growing list of “The Best Curlers in History”. The 24th edition of this longest of department traditions took place this year on February 1, 2020, when eight teams of history-loving students and faculty competed for various awards and distinctions. A lovely potluck was then generously hosted by the Zachernuk family.

The “**Best Curlers in History**” were led by Blake “Back Swing” Brown, who teaches history at Saint Mary’s, leading curlers from his former school: Krista Kesselring, Brennan Dempsey, and Aaron Wright.

Most decisively, with zero points, the last-place “**Losing with Grace**” trophy was awarded to the Classics Curlers: Chris Austen, Michael Fournier, Brigid Garvey, and Thomas Mitchell.

Aaron Wright, one of the “Best Curlers,” also won “**Best Fall**” by a landslide, revealing yet again how history can surprise. Aaron went home with chocolates and a certificate for an hour of restorative massage at Lifemark Physio.

Thomas “Take Out” Mitchell, repeated his achievement as **MVP** from 2019, separating himself from his team members with whom he won the “Losing with Grace” Trophy.

Arthur McCalla, on the runner up team from MSVU, earned the “**Lukewarm Shots**” award with a skillful draw to the back 8.

Thanks in part to some generous donations, \$100 was raised to support the Graduate History Society’s activities.

Many thanks to Katherine Crooks for the work figuring and gathering prizes and to the businesses who contributed prizes: East Coast Bakery (the bagel place on Quinpool), Lifemark Physio Clinic at the SMU Homburg Center, and the new Tart and Soul Café at Cobourg and Oxford.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have an interesting story to share?
Know of a former classmate who is doing
something exciting and newsworthy?

Email us at:
HISTORY@DAL.CA

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