Reconciling Canada 150: Launching Canada by Treaty and Words to Form

This spring we are privileged to organize two initiatives focused on educating campus community members on the centrality of Indigenous communities to the making of modern Canada. Canada by Treaty: Negotiating Histories is a new pop-up exhibit that will travel between the University of Toronto’s three campuses. Words to Form is a proposed monument devoted to residential schools and the issue of reconciliation. The exhibit and proposed monument respond specifically both to the celebrations surrounding Canada 150 as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Committee’s (TRC) call to better educate Canadians on treaties, residential schools and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canadian history.

Canada by Treaty was co-curated by Professors Laurie Bertram and Heidi Bohaker as well as James Bird (Nehiyawak/Cree), an outstanding mature undergraduate student with a background in design and fine carpentry. Together the team spent hundreds of hours pursuing partnerships, consulting with community experts and researching, drafting and revising the exhibit’s content and design. The exhibit shape resembles a broken circle to reflect the current state of the treaties in Canada today. The exhibit draws on content created by students in Bohaker’s joint undergraduate/graduate seminar Canada by Treaty: Alliances, Title Transfers and Land Claims.

Stories emerge from Canada by Treaty through a blend of maps, paintings, text and archival photographs. These include that of Honoré Jaxon, a former student at the University of Toronto. Jaxon sympathized deeply with Aboriginal grievances and in 1884 became Louis Riel’s personal secretary. Other stories include Nahnebahwequay, who travelled to England while heavily pregnant to discuss the “wholesale theft” of lands in Southern Ontario to Queen Victoria. Also in the exhibit is the account of Shingwaukonse and Nebanachoging, Anishinaabe leaders who negotiated an ‘escalator clause’ in 1850 that proposed an increase to annuity payments as land was developed (although it never surpassed $4 per person).

Words to Form is Bird’s moving proposed monument design that responds to the TRC’s call to “develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian Heritage and Commemoration.” Bird developed Words to Form as part of an independent study with Bohaker and Jill Carter (Drama) and based his design and use of material and space on traditional Nehiyawak principles, language, and perspectives. The monument encourages viewers to think critically about the work required to improve Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relations in Canada. “‘Reconciliation’ suggests a return to a once positive relationship,” cautions Bird. “My work proceeds from alternate ideas of ‘conciliation’ using space to produce affect, critical engagement, and reflection.” Continued on page 2.
It’s been a busy year full of developments that we are happy to share with you here—new colleagues, new publications, and many new ways of bringing History to a broader public through conferences, lectures, workshops, and exhibitions. Please join us in celebrating the ongoing work of our students, faculty, and alumni, and the life and legacy of a great friend and colleague, Craig Brown.

Nicholas Terpstra, FRSC  
Professor & Chair  
Department of History

**Inside the Issue**

1. Canada by Treaty: An Exhibit (p. 1)  
2. Dr. Rebecca Carter Chand: *War and Genocide* by Doris Bergen: The Impact on the Field (p. 3)  
3. Professor Julie MacArthur: Encountering Giants in the Field (p. 4)  
4. UofT Data Rescuing Hackathon (p. 5)  
5. Faculty News (p. 6)  
6. Recent Faculty Publications (p. 6-7)  
7. Professor Elspeth Brown: Creative Non-Fiction Writing for Academics (p. 7)  
8. Julia Rombough, PhD Candidate: Studying Sound in the Archives (p. 8)  
9. In Memory of Professor Craig Brown (p. 9)  
10. New Faculty Profile: Professor Tamara Walker (p. 10)  
11. Alumna Profile: Dr. Camille Bégin (p. 10)  
12. Donor Profile: Jeanne Armour (p. 11)  
13. Graduate History News (p. 12)  
14. Undergraduate History News (p. 14)  
15. History Department Pledge Form (p. 15)

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**Chair’s Message**

**Canada by Treaty Continued**

The *Canada by Treaty* curatorial team wishes to extend sincere thanks to their many partners and supporters, including the Department of History, the Centre for Indigenous Studies, the Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto Libraries, University College, Hart House, the Jesuits, and the Government of Ontario. A special sneak preview of *Canada by Treaty* will be available on April 22 to attendees at the Department’s upcoming conference, *The Other 60s: A Decade That Shaped Canada and the World*. *Canada by Treaty* will be featured in the Map Room at Hart House from 28 April to 26 May 2017, before it moves to University College. *Words to Form* will be available for viewing from 27 April to 2 May 2017 at the east end of the second floor of (near the doors to Gallery Grill).  

*This article was written by Professor Laurie Bertram.

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**Upcoming Events**

April 22, 2017: Conference, *The Other 60s: A Decade That Shaped Canada and the World*  
May 4-7, 2017: Techniques of the Corporation Conference (Professor Michelle Murphy)  
May 11, 2017: TDSB @ UofT History Conference  
May 11-12, 2017: *Canada 150: Defining the Nation in a Transnational World*, 13th Graduate History Symposium

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**New Chair of Estonian Studies: Andres Kasekamp**

We are happy to share that Dr. Andres Kasekamp, University of Tartu (Tallinn), will be joining the University of Toronto as the holder of the Elmar Tampold Chair of Estonian Studies, based in both the Department of History and the Munk School for Global Affairs. Dr. Kasekamp took his PhD at the University of London in 1996, and began teaching at Tartu University. He was Director of the Estonian Foreign Policy Institute in Tallinn (2000-14), and head of the Institute of Government and Politics at Tartu University (2008-11). He is the leading expert on the radical right, populism, and authoritarianism in the Baltic area and north-eastern Europe generally, and he is frequently consulted by international media about developments in the area.
War and Genocide by Doris Bergen: The Impact on the Field

Dr. Rebecca Carter Chand,
Department of History, Lakehead University

On September 12, 2016, colleagues, students, alumni, and members of the community gathered to celebrate Doris Bergen, Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies, and the widespread success of her book, War & Genocide. First published in 2003 by Roman & Littlefield, and now in its 3rd edition, War & Genocide has been transformative in the field of Holocaust history and the teaching of the subject in North America and beyond.

Hosted by the Centre for Jewish Studies, an international and interdisciplinary panel of scholars was assembled, which included a Department of History alumna, Tatjana Lichtenstein (PhD 2009, now University of Texas at Austin), fellow faculty member James Retallack, and former students and colleagues Scott Spector (University of Michigan), Barry Trachtenberg (Wake Forest University), Dorota Glowacka (University of King’s College), and Omer Bartov (Brown University).

Each of the panelists offered warm personal reflections on Doris Bergen as a colleague, a scholar, and an educator. Several people highlighted the fact that this book is used widely as a textbook but that it also offers an interpretive framework for understanding the Holocaust in the context of World War II. Dorota Glowacka applauded the new edition’s expanded focus on photographs and how Bergen brings her historian’s gaze to analyze complex visual sources.

Chairing the event was Professor Michael Marrus, the inaugural Wolfe Chair of Holocaust Studies and among the guests was the late Chancellor Emerita Rose Wolfe. Their presence, along with representatives from community organizations (the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Centre and Facing History and Ourselves), highlights the strong relationships that have been built between the Wolfe Chair at the University of Toronto and the wider community around Holocaust education and remembrance.

*Dr. Rebecca Carter Chand is Doris Bergen’s former PhD student. She has recently accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Continuing Conversations: Building Intellectual Community

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the Intellectual Community Committee has been able to provide support for nearly 20 local and international speakers. We owe many thanks to faculty and graduate student organizers. The time and work they give to bringing these speakers into our Department provides us with opportunities to listen to and learn from these important voices. Here’s a highlight:

GADI ALGAZI
Tel Aviv University
Master Class with Graduate Students and talk “Humanists and Time, or Kepler Wagging his Tail”
27 February 2017

LEWIS DEBASSIGE
Elder, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, M’Chigeeng First Nation
Talk: “Working Together: Organizing & Activism for Indigenous Rights & Control of Indigenous Education”
16 November 2016

PATRICIA HEBERER RICE
US Holocaust Memorial Museum
Reception for Graduate Students following talk “Putting a Face on Faceless Crimes: Profiles of Nazi ‘Euthanasia’ Victims during the Third Reich”
31 January 2017

KRISTIN ROSS
New York University
Workshop for Graduate Students following talk “Writing the Commune: The Lived and the Conceived”
22 March 2017

For more information on talks supported by the Department of History please visit: www.history.utoronto.ca/events/
Encountering Giants in the Field

When Bob Dylan was announced as this year’s Nobel Prize winner for literature, there was perhaps no contingent more gutted than those who thought it was finally the year for Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o. Shortlisted for decades, and with numerous other accolades to his name, Ngũgĩ is a giant in the literary world. He began his remarkable career in the waning years of empire in colonial Kenya, was variously lauded and imprisoned for his postcolonial critiques of power and the “colonization of the mind”, and continues to innovate new genres and live his politics through his vigorous commitment to writing in African languages. His response to the “snub”? My readers have already given me multiple “Nobels” over the years.

I cannot quite express the deeply humbling experience of having the opportunity to work with Ngũgĩ over the past few years. His writings, both literary and theoretical, inspired me to pursue this career, to believe intellect, argument, and creativity mattered. Our collaboration emerged out of a project that came to me unexpectedly, when I found the trial of executed anti-colonial rebel leader Dedan Kimathi, an archive long thought lost, hidden, or purposefully destroyed. The dreadlocked Kimathi is a towering figure in the postcolonial imagination, in Kenya and beyond. And Ngũgĩ, along with the equally brilliant Mīcere Gīthae Mūgo, was responsible for imagining a Kimathi for a postcolonial world through the ground-breaking play “The Trial of Dedan Kimathi” from 1976. So when I “found” the missing archive of Kimathi’s trial, I felt compelled to reach out to Ngũgĩ and Mīcere.

Last December, Ngũgĩ and Mīcere graciously delivered a special guest lecture at the African Studies Association annual conference in Washington to help promote the launch of our project. The night before, I finally met the giant face to face, cognac to cognac, and was overcome by being in the presence of living history. And I was not alone: after their masterful lecture on the “power of naming”, hardened academics from all walks of disciplines rushed the stage to get selfies with these two living legends. Giants live among us, and everyone once in a while, “history” affords us the opportunity to sit down with them, soak in their wisdom, and dream of one day standing as tall.
In December 2016, Michelle Murphy and Matt Price, along with Patrick Keilty from the Faculty of Information, organized a "Guerilla Archiving" event at the University of Toronto. The event aimed to identify, preserve and archive data from the United States' Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that was under threat of being lost or compromised by the then incoming Donald Trump administration. The 150 volunteers undertook a variety of tasks: volunteers helped to archive the websites and datasets of EPA programs targeted for cuts by the incoming administration into the Internet Archive, they built a toolkit that could be used by future community archiving events, and members of the Toronto coding community worked with Price, a course instructor in the History Department, to develop tools to help preserve U.S. climate and environmental data.

The effort in Toronto was in collaboration with the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative (EDGI), a network of academics, scientists, and non-profits that rapidly assembled in the days after the U.S. election to respond to threats to environmental and climate science and governance. Murphy, Price and their other Canadian counterparts knew only too well the need to preserve environmental data. Under Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Canadian government scientists were largely prevented from speaking publically about climate change, many lost jobs, and some programs were shuttered. Murphy explains, the Trump government has taken “anti-science or non-evidence based approaches to their vision of environmental and climate regulation.” The work to preserve documentation has recently become even more pressing in recent months: the Trump administration has signaled their aggressive pursuit of environmental deregulation; and the newly released budget proposal by the Trump Administration threatens major financial cuts to the EPA.

“ This is a moment where we have to trust our research and empirical practices, and not the doublespeak coming out of politicians,” Murphy explained. “This is a moment when universities are needed profoundly.”

Murphy and Price have continued to work as core members of EDGI. The toolkit that was developed in Toronto has supported scores of DataRescue events in locations across the U.S. In particular, the chrome extension tool built in Toronto, and which is used to preserve materials in the Internet Archive, is also used to identify those datasets that need to be harvested in other ways. Working with colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania who have established a DataRefuge repository, DataRescue events now also harvest these datasets with the collaboration of tools largely put together through work led here by Price and the social justice coding organization Civic Tech TO.

In addition to this community and grassroots archiving work, EDGI is also monitoring tens of millions of government webpages concerning environment and climate governance, identifying both subtle changes to language, as well as deletions. Working with journalist colleagues, this work is creating new digital infrastructures for holding governments accountable.

For their efforts, the UofT hackathon has been featured in Wired, BBC, Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, Toronto Life, CBC News, CTV News and Global News, and their Guerilla Archiving event was even mentioned in the opening monologue for The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and on the Daily Show with Trevor Noah.
**Recent Faculty Publications**

**SIDNEY ASTER**  
*Power, Policy and Personality: The Life and Times of Lord Salter, 1881-1975.*  

**KENNETH BARTLETT**  
*The Experience of History.*  

**DANIEL BENDER**  
*The Animal Game: Searching for Wildness at the American Zoo.*  

**NICHOLAS EVERETT**  
*Patron Saints of Early Medieval Italy AD C. 350-800.: History and Hagiography in Ten Biographies.*  
Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, 2016.

**JENS HANSSSEN**  
*Arabic Thought Beyond the Liberal Age: Towards an Intellectual History of the Nahda.*  

**FACULTY NEWS**

**Faculty Awards**

**Mark Meyerson** won a 12-month Jackman Humanities Institute Research Fellowship, and **Elspeth Brown** and **Stephen Rockel** each won 6-month Fellowships. JHI Fellowships provide faculty with the resources to pursue a research intensive agenda. **Jeffrey Pilcher** was named one of three 2017 UTSC Research Excellence Faculty Scholars, recognizing his pioneering scholarship and leadership in food studies. **Li Chen** has won the 2017 UTSC Research Recognition Award for his outstanding scholarship and academic achievement within two years of tenure. **Margaret MacMillan** will be recognized with an honorary degree from the University of Toronto in a spring convocation ceremony. Noted for her academic work and as a public intellectual, Professor MacMillan is perhaps best known for her award-winning book *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World.* **Michael Marrus**’ *Lessons of the Holocaust* was honoured with a 2016 Canadian Jewish Literary Award, History. The CILA recognizes Canadian writers whose books examine Jewish themes and subjects.

**Faculty in the News**

**Michael Gervers** has helped to launch a new course on the ancient Ethiopian language of Ge’ez with a $50,000 donation and request to the Ethiopian community in Toronto to match his donation. With a matching donation from the singer The Weeknd, Professor Gervers’ efforts to launch the course in Ge’ez and even further to kickstart Ethiopian Studies at UofT has been featured in the *Toronto Star*, the *CBC, Macleans, UofT Magazine* and *Now Toronto*. **Daniel Bender** was featured in *UofT Magazine* for his midterm that saw students prepare curry and explain the historical significance of the dish. **Nhung Tran** was featured in *FAS News* for her experiential learning project where students adopted the diet of a person living in Southeast Asia during the seventeenth- and nineteenth-centuries. **Ron Pruessen** is in the midst of writing a book on President Barack Obama, and also teaches a first-year course, “Barak Obama as History- Barack Obama in History.” With the end of Obama’s Presidency, Professor Pruessen has been featured in articles in *Newsweek* and *UofT Magazine* as well as an interview with *CBC’s Power & Politics.*
The Toronto Workshop: Creative Non-Fiction Writing for Academics

Professor Elspeth Brown, Department of Historical Studies

In May 2016, Professors Elspeth Brown (History) and Eva-Lynn Jagoe (Comparative Literature) convened a week-long, intensive workshop on “Creative Non-Fiction Writing for Academics.” The workshop was sponsored by the Jackman Humanities Institute. Both Brown and Jagoe are committed to engaging non-academic audiences with their research and writing, and both have taken creative non-fiction classes to train in literary non-fiction techniques. However, almost all non-fiction writing courses are in fact memoir courses; there are few places where academic writers can go to learn new prose strategies for non-memoir, humanities research. They decided to convene their own workshop with a specific audience in mind: research-focused faculty scholars.

The workshop received 78 applications from scholars in Canada, the U.S., and Europe, and accepted 16 applicants. In addition to Brown, three other history professors participated in the workshop: Alison Smith (The Dead Cheese Master and Other Stories), Sean Mills (working on a book about jazz pianists Lou Hooper and Oscar Peterson), and Kevin Coleman (Burnt in Effigy: The Photographs of Archbishop Oscar Romero).

The workshop had two accomplished instructors, both of whom had academic backgrounds (Professor Catherine Taylor who has a PhD in Literature from Duke; Professor Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich with a J.D. from Harvard Law) but who have since shifted their professional careers to non-fiction writing. The workshop was intense and action packed. Meeting all five days, we broke into smaller workshops to cover areas such as identifying narrative elements and relationships, understanding the narrator (voice/persona) and essay structure with the personal narrative. Each workshop was accompanied by in-class writing exercises and required readings. The workshop was an astonishing success, and surpassed the conveners’ highest hopes.

Recent Faculty Publications

CHARLIE KEIL, eds.
Co-edited with Kristen Whissel. Editing and Special/Visual Effects.

LAUREL SEFTON MACDOWELL
Nuclear Portraits: Communities, the Environment and Public Policy.
University of Toronto Press, 2017.

SEAN MILLS
Une place au soleil: Haiti, les Haitiens et le Québec.

CECILIA MORGAN
Commemorating Canada: History, Heritage and Memory.
University of Toronto Press, 2016.

RUTH SANDWELL, ed.

Participating in the Creative Non-Fiction Workshop, Professors Kevin Coleman, Sean Mills and Alison Smith.
2017 is the 150th Anniversary of Confederation in Canada, and Canadians are engaged in a yearlong reflection on the history of their country. To mark this important anniversary, the History Department organized a series of Ten Minute Talks, which saw faculty members present brief but informative introductions to key issues surrounding Confederation. Perspectives were often critical, and many speakers drew attention to what Confederation did not do as much as what it did. Podcasts of these talks are now available here, allowing members of our community to learn about the complexities of this anniversary in Canadian history.

In 2015-2016, with the support of the Craig Brown Travelling Fellowship, I spent eight months conducting archival research in Florence, Italy. My research examines Florence’s sonic past, analyzing efforts to control noise pollution in the early modern city and the medical, gender, and social histories these efforts reveal.

My weekdays were devoted to engaging with Italy’s historical past, but I spent my weekends and evenings experiencing as much of current day Italy as possible. Like many eager travellers to Italy before me, much of this centred around food and drink. Over plates of pasta or aperitivo, new friends and colleagues would ask how one studies sound in an archive.

Indeed, the irony of studying noise in the silent, and at times intimidatingly studious, archives was clear. As I spent my days in the silent reading room analyzing records of sixteenth-century shouting, noise complaints, urban din and racket I often had the sense that my historical subjects were shouting through the pages and filling the air with their stories, squabbles, and complex lives.

Leaving the archives at the end of the day jolted me out of the past and into Florence’s vibrant present. On my daily walk home I would pass through the same squares and streets I was researching in the archives. Historical sounds, by their ephemeral nature, do not survive over time, but the spaces in which these sounds were made often do. Listening to the sounds of Florence I came to realize that the sonic past and present remain linked through the city’s architecture and its residents.
Our former colleague and long-serving department chair, Robert Craig Brown, passed away on September 22, following complications from surgery.

Craig was a generous, spirited, and loyal colleague. He was passionate about history generally and about our History Department in particular, and he worked hard to advance both.

Born in Rochester, New York, on 14 October 1935, Craig took his MA (1958) and PhD (1962) at the University of Toronto, working with Donald Creighton.

He began his teaching career at the University of Calgary, and in 1966 returned to the University of Toronto. He was made full professor in 1970, and he served our Department in many ways: as director of graduate studies in 1972-1973, as associate chair from 1974-1977 and as chair from 1992 to 1998, which was the year he retired from the University of Toronto.

Beyond our own Department, Craig was a generous University citizen who gave his energies to an extraordinary number of committees and senior administrative appointments in the Faculty of Arts & Science, the Faculty Association, University of Toronto Press, the University generally, and many academic and professional groups.

Outside the university, he was an appraiser of numerous history departments across the country, served as editor of the Canadian Historical Review (1968-73), president of the Canadian Historical Association (1980), and chair of the Joint Committee of the Canadian Historical Association/American Historical Association. In 1984 he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada. Through all of this, Craig Brown also found time to publish extensively: single and co-authored books, beginning with Canada’s National Policy, 1883-1900 (1964), including a two-volume biography of former Prime Minister Robert Laird Borden (1975 and 1980), and extending most recently to a history of the Faculty of Arts & Science at the University of Toronto (2013). Beyond this, Craig wrote numerous articles, entries for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, and countless reviews.

Craig was always especially generous and supportive of his students. In 1998, the Robert Craig Brown Travelling Fellowship was created and has since helped over 80 graduate students travel for dissertation research. The family has asked those who wish to honour Craig’s memory to do so with a donation.

“As Chair, Craig Brown changed the demographics of the faculty in our Department. He hired women.”

-Nakanyike Musisi, Professor, Department of History
Studying the Lives of Black Hopefuls and Travellers: A New Faculty Profile

Professor Tamara Walker, Department of History

Growing up in Colorado, I spent summers at my grandparents’ house, which was filled with pictures and souvenirs from their travels around the world. As a sergeant in the US Army, my grandfather had fought in WWII and served on military bases in Austria, France, Korea, and Turkey. The decision to join the military had been a practical one: as a black man from the US South, enlisting was an opportunity to escape the daily threats and indignities of life under Jim Crow, and provided him with the means to care for his wife and nine children. But to my young mind, all his time abroad sounded utterly romantic, and cemented my desire for a life built around travel.

To that end, I majored in History and Spanish while an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, and spent a semester abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After that, the decision to pursue graduate study in Latin American History was both a natural and easy choice. As a PhD student at the University of Michigan, I wrote a dissertation on slavery and dress in colonial Peru, which formed the basis of my forthcoming book, *Exquisite Slaves: Race, Clothing, and Status in Colonial Peru* (Cambridge University Press, May 2017).

I am now at work on a second book project, titled *Black Channels of the Pacific*, which focuses on African descent captives, go-betweens, and their routes during the Southern Pacific’s Age of Privateering. Because of its attention to the men and women who put their lives at risk in pursuit of freedom and self-determination, I see the project as a kind of homage to my grandfather and the other black travelers whose journeys made mine possible.

*Professor Tamara Walker will be joining the Department of History in July 2017. Her position is in Colonial Latin America-Hispanic World.*

Public Historian and PhD: An Alumna Profile

Dr. Camille Bégin, Historical Plaques Coordinator, Heritage Toronto

I came to the University of Toronto as an exchange student from Paris I Pantheon Sorbonne for the second year of my masters in North American history and stayed on to do my PhD under the supervision of Professor Dan Bender, graduating in 2012. The next three years were a whirlwind: I became the Berkshire Conference Program Coordinator, managed the development and writing of a food studies SSHRC partnership development grant, taught courses at the Scarborough campus, applied for jobs and for postdocs (successfully!), and finished my book manuscript, *Taste of the Nation: The New Deal Search for America’s Food*. These varied experiences made it clear to me that I enjoyed a mix of research, writing and managerial work, putting together grants, events, and programming.

In late 2015, as I was putting the finishing touches on my book, I was hired as Heritage Toronto’s Historical Plaques Program Coordinator. Heritage Toronto is a charitable agency of the City of Toronto with a mandate to enhance the understanding and appreciation of Toronto’s past and present among residents and visitors through education, commemoration and celebration of the city’s diverse people, places and events. My position combines historical research with project management, event coordination, financial stewardship, and public speaking. It allowed me to develop as a well-rounded public historian while continuing to grow roots in Toronto. In fact, the past year has been something of a rediscovery of the city in which I had been living for a decade as I dived into its history and the various communities and groups that work to bring it to life to ensure that we build a sustainable, enriching, compassionate city.

My commitment has always been to history, and graduate school was an exceptionally satisfying way to explore and tell stories. Learning how to use different historical media from plaques to exhibits, and how to make these projects happen is a new chapter in my growth in the profession. Oh, and I still get to work with students, speaking to public and local history classes and managing placement students.

* Dr. Camille Bégin is also currently a lecturer with the Culinaria Research Institute, UTSC.*
Who was Jeanne Armour? A Donor Profile

“Thank you Jeanne Armour.” If you are a graduate student focused on Canadian History at the University of Toronto, you’ve probably uttered those words at one time or another. And if you’ve read any work on Canadian History by a graduate of the University of Toronto you should be thanking her as well, because in one way or another she probably helped bring that work to you.

Established by the Jeanne Armour estate in 2005 and matched by the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund and the Endowed Adjustment Fund, the Jeanne Armour Award in Canadian History helps students entering the Department of History and supports their research during the completion of their degree. Over the past eight years dozens of students have benefited from this award leading directly to books and articles that have expanded our knowledge of Canada’s past.

But who was Jeanne Armour? She was a Torontonian, born in 1913, and not surprisingly she was someone with a long relationship with the University of Toronto. Armour graduated from Victoria College, University of Toronto, with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in household economics, and went on to complete postgraduate work at Columbia University and earn her Master of Science from the University of Wisconsin. Armour developed a strong sense of university community: she was a member of the Victoria Sketch Club, and following graduation, Armour became involved with the Victoria Alumnae association. As a member of the Young Business Women’s Canadian Club, Armour also served as director on at least one occasion and helped the group raise money in support of the Second World War effort.

But Armour’s career was in home economics. In 1952 she was appointed home economist in home furnishings, Women’s Institute branch, Department of Agriculture. The position had Armour designing courses for use by Women’s Institute branches across the province. As part of her job, Armour guided the department’s outreach into communities across Ontario. The novelty of the projects brought her media attention on several occasions, such as when The Globe and Mail dropped into the department’s office to find out about a lampshade-making course. As Armour expressed to the Globe home design was, at its best, a combination of aesthetics and practicality and her job was educating people to do both: “It’s not just a matter of teaching people to make a pretty shade or a cute base …. Our main purpose is to stress good lighting in the home. We try to teach them to make shades which will increase the volume of light and to improve the proportions of their lighting equipment, such as the proper height for reading or work purposes.”

As an educator, Armour helped play the role of gatekeeper for new immigrants coming into Canada during the 1950s and 1960s. She was photographed as part of a class of 200 home economics teachers brought together by the Ontario Educational Association in 1964 to discuss new education courses. Part of the goal of the program was to help the teachers educate young women about how to work and interact with Canada’s changing ethnic immigrant population. So the new courses were to focus on textiles/sewing, early Canadian life and studying “foreign customs, foods and holy days.”

Education and the University of Toronto meant a lot to Jeanne Armour and when she passed on she left a legacy that will continue to benefit graduate students and the development of Canadian history in the Department of History in perpetuity.

Thank You Jeanne Armour

Joel Dickau, PhD Candidate, Department of History

While I’m not the jaunty world traveler that many of my colleagues are, receiving the Jeanne Armour Award has made living in and studying Toronto a little bit easier. With funding as tight as it is, every extra dollar helps, whether it goes toward transit to Toronto’s many neighbourhood archives, or to expanding my spice collection. (Essential for sensory research, I assure you.) It’s not always easy, but as doctoral students we must admit that we are rather privileged to be doing work that is driven by our own interests. This award gives me confidence in my interests, especially as I develop coherent research questions, and makes me hopeful that they might one day make a useful contribution to the field of Food Studies.
The Graduate History Society (GHS) has been busy again this year fulfilling its goal of creating links between graduate students and the wider History Department, as well as hosting various social activities. Our holiday party in December was highly successful, featuring a talk by Prof. Steve Penfold on his new book, with many in attendance. The GHS has facilitated numerous social events, such as a movie screening and game board night, providing the graduate student body with fun ways to relax. In January, a pizza social brought together a large number of grad students, lured from their carrels and study spaces by the prospect of free food. The GHS has also been busy with more serious endeavours and has been involved in contributing to the intellectual community of the department — chiefly through groups such as the Annual Graduate History Symposium, and Past Tense, the peer-reviewed journal. Members have also been advocating for open communication between faculty and graduate students particularly in the graduate students’ roles as teaching assistants. The GHS was also recently involved in the consultation with the Graduate Student Union about the upcoming graduate student census, which will collect data on a wide variety of important topics from all faculties. The GHS has several more social events planned for the rest of the year, including a year-end mixer to be held in conjunction with the AGHS. Spring and summer should also bring the return of the history students’ baseball team. The GHS will continue to strive to represent the graduate student body and build academic and social links between its members and the Department of History.

Wrong & Careless Sessions

The “Wrong and Careless Living History Series” is an effort to foster closer intellectual community between graduate students and faculty. The series is named after G.M. Wrong, the Department’s founding Chair in 1894, and J.M.S. Careless, our Chair from 1959-67. Meeting once a month, the informal gatherings feature faculty, visiting scholars, and guests. Below is a photograph from the February 2017 session featuring Professor Natalie Zemon Davis.

Past Tense: Graduate Review of History

Katie Davis, PhD Candidate & Co-Editor of Past Tense

The editorial board of Past Tense Graduate Review of History is busily working towards the publication of its fifth volume in April this year. Co-Editors Katie Davis and Laurie Drake, in collaboration with Associate Editors Susie Colbourn and Erica Toffoli, have overseen a complete re-design of the journal that will feature the academic work of graduate history students in a visually appealing, reader-friendly format. The upcoming issue will be published online at www.pasttensejournal.com, featuring four research articles, four book reviews, and two critical commentary articles written by graduate students from universities across North America. The issue includes a piece by Kelsey Kilgore, a PhD candidate in our department. Kelsey’s article explores her experience adjusting her research approach in response to non-traditional archival sources.

Past Tense is a graduate history journal created and produced by graduate students in the Department of History. Created in 2011, Past Tense provides a platform for young and promising historians from around the world to showcase their original research in a peer-reviewed publication. The journal is published in collaboration with twenty-one graduate student peer reviewers and copy editors from our department, as well as faculty reviewers. The editorial board looks forward to sharing the new issue of Past Tense with the rest of the department.
Graduate Associate Chair’s Report
Professor Adrienne Hood, Department of History

In fall 2016, the Department welcomed 19 PhD students and 36 MA students into the program. Taking up the role of Associate Chair Graduate in fall 2016, one of the objectives in our office has been to help better prepare graduate students for a variety of career options within and outside of academia.

On 29 April 2017, we invited four panelists to share their experiences about the non-academic job market with our graduate students. Each of the panelists had earned their PhD in History: Alice Taylor, Senior Writer in Advancement, Communications and Marketing at the University of Toronto; Alison Norman, Research Advisor in the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Toronto; Camille Bégin, Heritage Toronto; Jonathan Turner, Career Educator at the University of Toronto. The panelists discussed that one of the biggest hurdles for them was the period of adjustment as they reimaged their career pathways. This often involved reframing their CVs to meet the different expectations of non-academic work, conducting informational interviews, taking business and writing courses outside their direct studies and building LinkedIn Profiles. Even as they made the decision to take-up non-academic positions, each of the panelists still finds time and space to engage their passion for history. Taylor wrote an award-winning series on World War I for UofT Magazine. Norman is currently the Book Review Editor for Ontario History and Bégin published her book with the University of Illinois Press.

Undergraduate Associate Chair’s Report
Professor Jennifer Mori, Department of History

The undergraduate programme is doing well, with 89 Specialists, 741 majors and 810 minors. Additional requirements have been added to the Specialist programme effective in September 2017 in response to student requests for more and better contact time with instructors. All Specialists will now choose one of two options in their upper-years: a Methodology option requiring them to take a 300 or 400 course from a list of methods-driven courses OR a Thesis option, which enables them to work on a specialized project with a faculty supervisor. They will also participate in a Senior Thesis seminar.

This year the senior thesis seminar ran on a trial basis with all students undertaking a fourth-year independent study project. The seminar met weekly with Professors Jennifer Mori and Nicholas Terpstra to discuss covering all aspects of the dissertation research and the writing process. Projects ranged from charitable uses of space in tenth century monasteries to the siege of Sarajevo, Hong Kong’s Jewish refugees during World War II, feminist post-autobiography in modern Uganda and First Nations’ residential school experience in western Canada during the later nineteenth century.

The Department launched the seminar to help prepare students for graduate study in History and to create a greater esprit de corps in the Specialist programme. Students felt that the seminar helped keep them on track with their research projects, and explain their findings better to a wider audience.

13th Annual Graduate History Symposium

The 13th Annual Graduate History Symposium will take place on May 11-12, 2017. This year’s theme “Canada 150: Defining the Nation in a Transnational World,” explores ideas about national identity, the nation state and the significance of the 150th Canadian Anniversary of Confederation. The Symposium will welcome over 60 Canadian graduate students from Canadian and international universities, a scholars’ roundtable on Indigenous histories and keynote speakers highlighted below. For more information, please visit www.aghstoronto.com.

Professor Mary Jane McCallum is a member of the Department of History at the University of Winnipeg. Her scholarship is focused on Indigenous-state relations, Indigenous women’s history and modern Indigenous history, especially in the fields of health, education and labour. She is of Lunaape heritage and a member of the Munsee Delaware Nation near London, Ontario. Professor McCallum’s talk will feature her new research on women First Nation’s chiefs and is titled, “Miss Chief: The Obscure History of First Nations Female Band Suffrage and Leadership.”

Professor Ian McKay is the L.R. Wilson Chair in Canadian History at McMaster University and a Member of the Royal Society of Canada. His primary research interests include Canadian cultural and political history, the economic and social history of Atlantic Canada and the movements for socialism, both in Canada and internationally. In 2000 he published a thought piece, “The Liberal Order Framework: A Prospectus for a Reconnaissance of Canadian History,” that would be required reading in most graduate seminars on Canadian history and credited with informing discussions on Canadian history thereafter.

Professor Adrienne Hood, Department of History

Alison Norman, Jonathan Turner and Camille Bégin speak at a workshop on careers beyond academia.
The History Students’ Association has had another successful year! Throughout the year, the HSA made the effort to reach out to undergraduate history students with a range of academic interests and backgrounds. The year began with the launch of The Future of History, our new journal featuring a collection of undergraduate essays to be published biannually. We are very pleased to be able to showcase the course work of our colleagues in this peer-reviewed journal. The HSA also hosted academic lectures on a series of wide-ranging topics including the Kashmiri resistance, Indian occupation, the history of early Hollywood and research methodologies in the visual archive. The HSA collaborated with nine other Arts & Science department course unions for our annual social, “License to Thrill”. The HSA’s Mentorship program matched up dozens of first year students with upper year mentors, and provided a series of workshops, including: “How to Research at U of T,” “How to get into Graduate School” and our upcoming panel “Careers after History”. It is clear that both our junior and senior colleagues benefit from these relationships, finding spaces to discuss history courses, writing and research in history and how to become involved in the Department.

Our journal and conference teams worked together to produce a special-edition journal: “The Colonizer and the Colonized: Decolonization, Identity and Nationalism” in January 2017. Our keynote, Professor Subho Basu from McGill University, provided an incredible introduction to the legacy of colonialism through a Marxist lens. The panelists brought histories from the Mediterranean, Asia and the Americas in dialogue with one another, and gave U of T students the opportunity to engage with History professors outside of the classroom. Our Conference was sponsored by the Department of History, Bill Graham Centre for International History, the Arts and Science Students’ Union and the Latin American Studies Department.

Follow our Facebook for updates about our events and other history-related opportunities on campus and in Toronto! Our special edition and other journals featuring student work can be accessed on our website.

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Welcome to History!

Thank you to all of our contributors! The next issue of the History Current is slated for Fall 2017. If you have ideas for stories or information about your achievements, please share them with us at history.chair@utoronto.ca.

For frequently updated information about news and events in the Department of History, please visit our Department website at http://history.utoronto.ca. Please feel free to share your feedback with us.