

### *This year in history:*

313: The Edict of Milan by which the Roman emperor Constantine legalized Christianity

1313: Birth of Giovanni Boccaccio, the author of The Decameron

1513: Vasco N. de Balboa discovers the Pacific Ocean

1613: The beginning of the Romanov dynasty in Russia

1713: Birth of Denis Diderot, the editor of The Encyclopedia

1713: Treaty of Utrecht – France cedes both Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to Great Britain

1813: Birth of Giuseppe Verdi, Italian music composer

1913: Creation of Albania



Gary Kinsman Talk  
February 14, 2013

## Message from the Chair: Sam Kalman

Since its inception shortly after World War II, the Department of History at St. FX has been proud to combine a dedication to teaching excellence and community university service with an active faculty research program that collectively contributes to the high level of intellectual achievement of our students. As an academic discipline, History is unique in its ability to combine the necessary tools for a future career while encouraging students to understand their present world in the context of the past. From MA/Ph.D. programs to law schools, from government service and the business world to teaching, our graduates have experienced great success. Yet our curriculum is not simply job training. We seek to impart important knowledge and academic development, while encouraging our students to become more informed about the historical forces shaping their society. History graduates are lifelong learners, possessing superior critical thinking and communication skills.

The department also presents a learning experience relevant in an increasingly multi-cultural world. This means going beyond traditional approaches, to courses that engage in a global curriculum, from Latin America to Asia, and from North America to Europe, including: Canadian Immigration and Ethnic History, Canadian/European Women's and Gender History, Modern Mexico and Cuba, Modern Japan and China, the Place of Race in the United States, American Social Movements, US Immigration

and Ethnicity, the Medieval Body, Explorers and Exploration, the Sixties, British/French Imperialism, European Fascism and the Holocaust, and the History of Sexuality. It also includes an increasing focus on the role of technology in teaching and learning. Historians may study the past, but their methodology is becoming more online and digitized every year, a fact increasingly apparent in classroom presentations and faculty pedagogy.

This program is reflected in various departmental accomplishments and events during 2012-2013. Faculty teaching, service, and research continued to be very prolific. Last spring, Dr. Nancy Forestell won the coveted University Outstanding Teaching Award. She is also participating as a Faculty Leader on the university's Immersion Service Learning trip to Guatemala. In addition, Dr. Chris Frazer continues to serve as one of St. FX's LGBTQ advisors. In terms of research, Dr. Robert Zecker's *Race and America's Immigrant Press* was issued in paperback (Bloomsbury Press, 2013), while Dr. Sam Kalman has produced two works that will be published in coming months: a monograph entitled *French Colonial Fascism: The Extreme-Right in Algeria, 1919-1939* (Palgrave, 2013) and a co-edited collection on *The French Right Between the Wars: Political Movements and Intellectual Trends from Conservatism*



*to Fascism* (Berghahn, 2013). In addition, department members published journal articles in *Markers* (Dr. Laurie Stanley-Blackwell), the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Society* (Dr. Donna Trembinski), and the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* (Dr. Rhonda Semple).

We were also fortunate enough to benefit from two excellent speakers. In October, the department partnered with the Committee for Regional Studies to present Ian McKay (Queen's University), who gave two lectures: "Extreme Makeover: Canada's New Conservative Nationalism" and "Imagining a Liberal Enlightenment: D.C. Harvey and a 'Laboratory for History' for Nova Scotia". Then in February, the department hosted Gary Kinsman from Laurentian University, who spoke on "Queering History: Activism, National Security and Homonationalism". On the student side, two of our top majors, Mariah Fleetham and Katelyn Arac, were accepted to speak at the Atlantic Universities Undergraduate History and Classics Conference held on 15-17 March in Fredericton. Needless to say it has been a very exciting year, filled with significant student achievement and much faculty accomplishment.

## History Society News from the President-- Jürgen von Schoner



**Frank Slide Alberta  
April 29, 1903**

The History Society has sponsored a few events during the academic year, - spanning from the Membership Meet & Greet at Dooley's to Society Meetings. The first semester offered a great opportunity for many individuals to meet and mingle with old and new friends alike. The History Society executive has already planned another Membership Meet & Greet in the second semester, and we are hoping to host a few lectures presented by various professors from the History Department on past or present research. We will be having another Society Social on the 18th of April, while

our Treasurer, Jack Keilty hopes to book a few trivia nights this semester before the year ends. We hope to see you there!



**Jürgen von Schoner (L)  
Angus MacLellan (R)  
St.F.X. Student History  
Society Leaders  
2012-2013**



**Tom Richards  
receiving history prize**



**Original St.F.X. College  
Building, 1850s**

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

### Jim Cameron

**Dr. Cameron** completed a 4<sup>th</sup> year as chair of the Department of History in July 2012 when he was replaced by Dr. Samuel Kalman. Cameron's courses this year are pre- and post-confederation Canada, Prairie History, BC story and a seminar on Canada's history of immigration, race and ethnicity. His current research projects include (1) illegal immigration amnesties in Canadian History, (2) episodes of illegal immigration on Canada's west coast, and (3) case studies in the history of Canada's equity markets. As well, he is planning a new project related to the history of "white collar" crime in Canada. Last June he

completed a 3-year term on the Committee on Academic Reviews, but remains a member of the Humanities Colloquium Advisory Committee.



**Meaghan Cormier  
posing as Joseph Howe**



**St.F.X. Dorm life, 1940s**

## Nancy Forestell

**Nancy Forestell** who is currently the co-ordinator of the Women's and Gender Studies Program and teaches a number of HIST/WMGS cross-listed courses including Sexuality, Gender and the Body in Historical Perspective, and Canadian Women's and Gender History: Modernity. In 2012, Dr. Forestell received the University Outstanding Teaching Award, and recently co-facilitated a session with Dr. Rachel Hurst as part of Unioniversity. She will be participating in a roundtable at the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association entitled, "Feminist Approaches to Transnational History," to be held at the University of Victoria.



**Dr. Nancy Forestell  
wins the Outstanding  
Teaching Award.  
Presented at Spring  
Convocation, May 6, 2012**

## Guy Lalande

In 2013-2014, **Dr. Lalande** will likely be teaching HIS 390: World War I to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its outbreak in 1914, as well as HIS 220: Russia, 862-1917.



**Gavrilo Princip  
(1894-1918)**

## Peter McInnis

**Peter McInnis** continues researching 1960s-era organized labour. This is part of a larger initiative looking at trade unions, student groups, and New Left actions across North America during the Sixties and Seventies. Dr. McInnis is the primary investigator in a project – partnering with the Antigonish Women’s Resource Centre – funded by the StFX Centre for Regional Studies that analyzes social (low income) housing policy in Guysborough County. A Service Learning - Faculty Development project to develop a course-based component in oral history/public history, with the assistance of the Concordia University Oral History Research Laboratory, completed its initial round of interviews. A new course development for a 300-level survey for a History of World War Two is underway. Dr.

## Sam Kalman

In addition to Chairing the Department of History, **Dr. Samuel Kalman** is currently researching and writing a manuscript on crime and criminal justice in colonial Algeria from 1870-1945. His book *French Colonial Fascism: The Extreme Right in Algeria, 1919-1939* will be published this summer by Palgrave, and he has co-edited a collection (with Sean Kennedy) entitled *The French Right Between the Wars: Political Movements and Intellectual Trends From Conservatism to Fascism*, that will be published by Berghahn Books in the fall. The latter contains a chapter by Dr. Kalman entitled “*Avec une brutalité toute particulière: Fascist Sympathies, Racial Violence, and the Municipal Police and*

*Gendarmerie in Oran, 1936-37*”, and he has been invited to publish a chapter entitled “Criminalizing Dissent: Policing Banditry in the Constantinois, 1914-1918” in the collection *Algeria Revisited: Contested Identities in the Colonial and Postcolonial Periods*, to be published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2014. He is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Historical Reflections/Réflexions historiques*, and will be presenting a paper at the 2013 gathering of the Society for French Historical Studies in Boston.

McInnis continues on the Editorial Board for the journal *Labour/Le Travail*. He is the current President of the StFX Association of University Teachers, sits on the Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, and is a delegate to the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers.



## Rhonda Semple

Aside from teaching one of the sections of the Department’s first year Global History survey, last year **Dr Rhonda Semple** taught Victorian Britain at the third year

level, and a 200-level Imperial History course. In the latter students’ groups represented European colonial powers at our own Congress of Berlin. Despite very good negotiating by both Britain and France, relatively small Portugal and Italy both did very well at the conference, and Belgium ended up better off than usual. In this semester’s 20<sup>th</sup>-c. British History course she is valiantly attempting to convince students that both Ireland and class difference matter. As a testament to the level of commitment of History students, roughly half of this class continued to read and discuss course readings throughout the strike – kudos to them all! Dr. Semple served as Chair of SSHRC Committee 2 for the last time last spring, and continues as co-editor of the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association (JCHA)*, and is a member of the newly formed steering committee for the Canadian Friends of the Institute for Historical Research (IHR, London). Last year she presented papers at



**Poster, Paris  
May 1968**



**Barricades Week - Algeria  
January 1960**

the American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting and at the North American Conference on British Studies. Going into her sabbatical year, she has committed to conferences at University of Alberta (on Masculinity and Religion), at Yale (Health and Religiosity), and Sheffield (Religion and Sexuality). She is also looking forward to research in various UK archives, and in northern India. An article, “Christian Model, Mission Realities: the business of regularizing family in mission communities in late 19<sup>th</sup>-c. north India” is forthcoming in the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* Special Issue “Imperial Families”.



**Dr. Rhonda Semple and her  
student Tom Richards**

## Laurie Stanley-Blackwell



Catherine the Great  
Tsarina of Russia

Dr. Laurie Stanley-Blackwell's article (co-authored with Dr. Brenda Appleby), "Romancing the Stone: Female Figural Monuments in late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Nova Scotian Cemeteries", was recently accepted for publication by *Markers*, the premier North American journal in *Gravestone Studies*. She will continue her research collaboration with Dr. Appleby on a project entitled "Gone Home: Scottish Ethnicity and

Eastern Nova Scotia Cemeteries", which is currently being funded by the Centre for Regional Studies. This project examines the role of cemeteries in Eastern Nova Scotia as repositories of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Scottish immigrant identity. In March, Dr. Stanley-Blackwell delivered the StFX Faculty of Arts Lecture. This invited lecture, entitled "The Giant MacAskill and Cape Breton's Cabinet of Curiosities", stems from a larger, ongoing study of the significance of physical strength as a cultural marker among immigrant Scots in

Nova Scotia. Last Spring, she participated in the Learning Lunches series at People's Place, co-presenting with Dr. Appleby, "Remains of the Day: Researching 19<sup>th</sup>-century Cemeteries in Eastern Nova Scotia". This May, Dr. Stanley-Blackwell has been invited back to give another presentation, "The Victorians: Everything Old is New Again."

## Donna Trembinski



Medieval bench

This year, Dr. Trembinski taught *Crusades and their Cultures* for the first time. It was so successful she is looking forward to making it a permanent part of her course rotation. It was also quite a productive year for her research. In the spring she presented at three conferences: at the Medieval Academy of America in St. Louis, at the Annual Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo and at the Canadian Society of Medievalists in Waterloo. She also has two articles forthcoming, one exploring how modern ideas of how pain is experienced has allowed for scholarly misunderstandings about how medieval understandings of pain were shared across disciplinary boundaries. This is forthcoming in the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Society*. A second article, this one about how the illnesses and disabilities of St. Francis may have forced him to resign as the leader of the Franciscan Order will shortly come out in an edited collection entitled *Medicine and the Law* forthcoming from Brill. Dr. Trembinski will be on sabbatical from July 1 2013 until June 30 2014. She plans to complete a book about Francis' disabilities and will divide her time between

Antigonish; Hamilton, Ontario; St. Bonaventure, New York; and Paris, France.

## Robert Zecker

This year Dr. Zecker had a chapter in a book published by George Mason University Press, *Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts*. His chapter focuses on the xenophobia faced by Slavic immigrants to the United States circa 1900 and the ways in which Slavs organized in industrial unions to win economic security, democratic rights and a measure of respect. Dr. Zecker also has a chapter in a volume by the University of Virginia Press that is in galley and will be published in 2013. The volume is *Swift to Wrath: Lynching in Global Historical Perspective*, edited by William D. Carrigan and Christopher Waldrep. His chapter is titled, "Let Each Reader Judge: Lynching, Race and Immigrant Newspapers." The volume explores extralegal mob violence in a variety of contexts, from medieval witch lynchings to Japanese and Soviet critiques of lynchings in the United States, to immigrants' encounters with America's racial order. In addition, this year the paperback edition of

his book, *Race and America's Immigrant Press*, came out from Bloomsbury. (Buy two; they're small.)

In addition, his article, "They Roamed All Over Fixing Things': The Migratory Tinkers of Slovakia Discover Class Consciousness," is under consideration by the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Dr. Zecker's latest research, which has kept him in the archives in New York (and under constant FBI surveillance) is an exploration of radical immigrant organizations such as the American Slav Congress, the International Workers Order and the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born. He is looking at the activities of such groups during the 1930s-1950s, and how these leftist organizations dealt with McCarthyism. Dr. Zecker also attended the conference of the American Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he delivered a paper titled, "A Black Spot on America's Honor': Slavic Newspapers Confront Race and Colonialism During the Popular Front." He also attended a conference in Boston to celebrate the launch of *Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts*.



Emily Stowe (1831-1903)  
First Female Doctor  
in Canada

## Chris Frazer

**Dr. Chris Frazer** will be on a half-sabbatical July 1 to December 31 2013 and has received a grant of nearly 5000.00 from the StFX Centre for Regional Studies to conduct research on the history of drag performance in Halifax. The research will involve oral interviews with current and former performers, as well as archival research. Dr. Frazer will also begin work on developing a larger scale project about the relationship between the drag/LGBT communities of San Diego, USA, and Tijuana, Mexico. When Dr. Frazer returns to teaching in January 2014, he will offer courses on Modern Latin America (HIST 256), Cuba from Independence to the Revolution (HIST 326), and Modern Mexico (HIST 337). 2013-2014, will also be Dr. Frazer's 10<sup>th</sup> year of service as faculty advisor for LGBTQ students at StFX.

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### The Rev. A.A. Johnston History Award

The family of the late Diocesan Historian, Rev. A.A. Johnston (1897-1977), generously donated funds in his memory which can now be used for two annual awards: (1) a senior research paper (20-25 pages) on diocesan or religious history (\$300), and (2) an honours thesis (about 75 pages) also about diocesan or religious history (\$800). History students can obtain further information from the Chair of the Department about these awards, as well as about the annual Hogan-Phillips Prize in History and the Dr. Marguerite Michaud Prize in Canadian Studies.

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## Student News and Happenings

As reported by Jürgen von Schoner and Angus MacLellan above, the History Society has presented a full slate of activities this year. As usual, the department will have a substantial presence at the annual Atlantic Universities History and Classics Conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Held on March 16-17, speakers include our own Mariah Fleetham ("Y autrement bougrenie sera': La Chanson d'Yde et Olive and Attitudes Towards Female Cross-Dressing in Late Medieval Northern France"), Josh McGrath ("The Cistero Rebellion") and Katelyn Arac ("Ukrainians in Canada: "Enemy Aliens" in a Time of Fear for National Security"). Katelyn also presented a paper entitled "Contact with the Inuit and Déné: A Process of Change through the Centuries" at the Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society conference on 8 March.

## Prize and Scholarship Winners

### Hogan-Phillips History Prize Winner, 2011-2012:

Robert Thomas Richards

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With Graduate School Plans  
for 2013-2014:

Mariah Fleetham

## Thesis Presentation Day

### March 8, 2013



Mariah Fleetham



Josh McGrath

## GRADUATE NEWS / COMMENTS

"I think about my time at X everyday. It was a phenomenal experience and the four years that I spent at StFX are amongst the best in my life. Inside and outside of the classroom, I was challenged and pushed out of my comfort zone. My professors in the History Department nurtured my interest in history and exposed me to different ways of looking at the past and types of history that I didn't even know existed. I was taught how to read against the grain, write clearly and concisely, and to consider alternative analyses. My interest in Atlantic Canadian history was encouraged and subsequently led me on an exciting journey. I even got an opportunity to present a paper about Maritime universities during the First World War at Cambridge University. Today, I am living proof that you can do anything and go anywhere with a history degree. I was extremely fortunate to be supported throughout my time at X by the professors of History Department and I thank them for setting me on the path to success."

**Scott Matheson, '09**

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My experience as a history student at St. F.X. prepared me well for graduate studies. The faculty with whom I worked were interested in my work, encouraging of my plans for further study, and some have even expressed an interest in what I have been up to since leaving X in 2007. I consider myself privileged to have been afforded the opportunity to study at St. F.X., and would relish the opportunity to return there someday to teach.

In 2012, I curated, for the Fredericton Region Museum, a travelling exhibit on Royal Tours of New Brunswick from 1794 to 2012. During the course of my graduate career at UNB, I have been assisted by a Graduate Research and Teaching Assistantship, and have been the recipient of the Malcolm Somerville Prize for New Brunswick History, and the Folster Memorial Scholarship.

**Barry MacKenzie, '07**

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My honours history thesis discussed Anglo-American relations during the Suez Crisis. This topic ignited my interest in policy-making and diplomacy. As a result, I am now completing a Masters of Public Policy at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. In addition, I have completed internships at KPMG and Germany Trade & Invest where I focused mainly on health care advisory, outsourcing and Public Relations. Currently, I am doing Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at APCO Worldwide.

History introduced me to the notion of policy making and the volatile relationship between government and business. My background has proven valuable at Hertie and the companies where I have worked, for one must understand the past in order to prescribe policies and strategies for the future.

**Sophia Cote, '11**

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I am finishing up my last year of a four-year joint J.D./M.A. program in Ottawa. I continued to engage in history through topics studied at NPSIA during the M.A. and participation in the History and the Law Society at UOttawa. I will be heading back to my adopted province of Nova Scotia to article with the law firm Cox and Palmer in Halifax starting June 2013.

**Emily Racine, '09**

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A history degree is not just degree for obtaining really expensive reading and writing skills but as I've learned in the work world, and sometimes I have to explain what those skills and attributes are. I graduated in May of 2011 and right away managed to get in as an Executive Assistant to a real estate agent. The skills I learned from all my researching and analytical work have helped me greatly in this position. Now after just shy of two years I am starting in mid March with KPMG. A history degree is a wonderful asset and it is one that you may have to explain in an interview. In my interviews, when asked to explain a bit about my research work and I explain my Advanced Major paper on the Boer War and my position everyone has said "well I can't say I know anything about History but that seems very complex." And that is what a history degree gets you: a complex set of skills, knowledge and view of the world that most cannot contend with.

**Leslie Tucker, '11**

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I graduated last spring from the honours history program at St. FX, and it was a great experience! After graduation I was accepted to the Masters of Library and Information Studies program at Dalhousie University in Halifax. I am currently working on the second semester of my first year, and so far I have learned a lot about technology and the importance of information not only in a library setting, but also in society in general. In such a fast-paced world, the methods we use to access information are very diverse! I will graduate from this program in 2014, and hope to work in public libraries.

I attended St.FX because I loved the community atmosphere when I came for my tour. I had also heard good things about it not only from friends, but family as well. My father and cousin attended St.FX, and I had stayed in residence for swim meets before, having a blast each trip!

Hope everything is going well at X, and that the history program is thriving with students! You never know where you'll meet an X graduate. In terms of what you can do with an undergraduate degree from St. FX, the sky is really the limit!

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### **Breanna MacLeod, '12**

Completed a Masters in Library and Information Science at the University of Western Ontario in August 2012. Obtained the position of Campus Librarian with the Nova Scotia Community College Strait Area Campus in October 2012.

I had many wonderful experiences at St.FX, including falling in love with Medieval History - thanks to both Pat Hogan and Donna Trembinski (I will never forget Pat Hogan's description of Charlemagne's handsome features, nor will I soon forget my cheese-making experience for Donna's material history assignment). Among the most memorable of my experiences at St.FX was my participation in the immersion service learning program. The 2009 trip to Romania introduced me to new cultures, gave me a new understanding of social and cultural conflict, and allowed me to experience some of the history, art and architecture that I learned about in my classes at St.FX. I now work at a college that actively promotes life-long learning and I thoroughly appreciate the experiences I had at St.FX, both inside and outside of the classroom, and recognize their role in my continuous learning.

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### **April Sampson, '09**

Graduated with MA from U of T (Canadian History) 2011

Graduated with Advanced Diploma in Public Relations from NSCC 2012

Now working as Marketing and Communications Coordinator for Pete's

As for something interesting... I'm not too sure! I always loved being involved on campus/with the university (student union equity advocate, history society president, service learning Romania trip, theatre, volunteer etc) and hope to someday find my way back to StFX to work. Without sounding too cheesy... without the support and guidance that I received from the faculty in the history department I know I wouldn't have pursued the academic opportunities that I have over the last few years (applying for scholarships, or applying to grad school for that matter) - so who knows where I'd be right now if it wasn't for them!

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### **Maureen Overmars, née Armour, '09**



I received my BA with High Honours in History from St. Francis Xavier in 2010. I benefited from the great support of the Department and my supervisor, Dr. Rhonda Semple, and applied successfully to multiple graduate schools. I chose to undertake an MA in History at the University of Calgary. There I specialized in Modern British Diplomatic History. This degree involved a heavy workload but was very rewarding. Under the supervision of Dr. John Ferris I completed an extensive research thesis based on archival evidence from the National Archives in Kew, which examined the role of secret intelligence in British diplomacy toward Italy, 1935-1940. I successfully defended this thesis and

received my MA in May 2012. Since then I have been accepted to PhD programs, including the London School of Economics to study International Relations and the University of Calgary to study History. The quality and breadth of my education from St. Francis Xavier, and particularly that in history, has helped me to pursue these courses with confidence and success.

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### **Matt Hefler, '10**



## Honours History Theses 2011-2012

**Matt Cullen**

"A Collaborationist Regime: The Role of Vichy France in the Persecution of French Jewry"  
(supervisor: Dr. Sam Kalman)

**Annie Ewing**

"'Be realistic, demand the impossible': France's Non-Revolution of May and June 1968"  
(Dr. Sam Kalman)

**Christine Krause**

"In the National Interest? The Transformation of the War Against Communism into the Canadian War on Terror"  
(Dr. Peter McInnis)

**Breanna MacLeod**

"Politics and Virtue: The influence of 12th century Scotland on the *Vita Sancti Niniani*"  
(Dr. Donna Trembinski)

**Elizabeth O'Brien**

"Fatness, Femininity, and the Female Teenage Body, 1950-1970"  
(Dr. Nancy Forestell)

**Tom Richards**

"Maintaining a British Soul? Challenges to, and Transformations in, International British Identity"  
(Dr. Rhonda Semple)

## Honours History Theses 2012-2013

**Mariah Fleetham**

"Female Crossdressing in the Literature, History, and Rumours of Late Medieval Northern France"  
(Dr. Donna Trembinski)

**Chris MacLellan**

"Historical Arguments in the Defense of Slavery in the British Empire"  
(Dr. Rhonda Semple)

**Joshua McGrath**

"The Cristero Rebellion of 1926-1929"  
(Dr. Chris Frazer)