

This year in history:

315: The Arch of Constantine is completed near the Colosseum at Rome

1115: Peter Abelard meets Héloïse d'Argenteuil

1115: After conquering 94 cities the Mixtec military leader Eight Deer Jaguar-Claw is defeated and killed by members of his own family

1215: Signing of the Magna Carta

1415: Battle of Agincourt fought on St. Crispin's Day (October 25)

1615: Tokugawa Ieyasu and his forces win the Battle of Osaka, founding the Tokugawa dynasty and inaugurating 250 years of peace

1815: Napoléon Bonaparte is decisively defeated at the Battle of Waterloo

1915: Beginning of the Armenian Genocide

1915: Einstein's theory of general relativity is formulated

1915: The Political Equality League presents the Manitoba government with a formal petition requesting women's suffrage

1915: Canadian Soldier John McCrae pens *In Flanders Fields*



Message from the Chair:

DONNA TREMBINSKI

It has been a busy and exciting year so far in the History Department! Between new courses, a new discussion series and a new student journal, there is a lot of energy on the fifth floor of Nicholson Tower.

This year, we were pleased to **welcome back** several faculty members who had previously been with us, including **Bonnie White**, who teaches modern European History, with an emphasis on WWI, **Igor Knezevic**, who teaches Imperial Spain and **David Swain** who teaches American History. We are once again lucky to be able to take advantage of their immense expertise, and especially to celebrate **Dr. White's new book, *The Women's Land Army in First World War Britain***.

The Department also welcomes back **Dr. Paul Phillips** as the **Father Edo Gatto Chair in Christian Studies**. As a part of his research program while occupying this prestigious chair, Dr. Phillips gave two lectures, the first entitled *Lord Action: The Historian as Moralist* and a second entitled *Arnold J. Toynbee: The Historian as Prophet*. We are also lucky to have had Dr. Phillips teach two seminars which were cross-listed between History and Religious Studies.

Finally, the Department also welcomes our new administrative assistant, **Joanne Bouchard**. Joanne arrived in August, but has already become an indispensable part of the Department for both students and faculty alike.

In the midst of welcoming several individuals back to the Department, we also have an occasion to congratulate an individual who is leaving, but in the best of circumstances. After

twenty-five years of research, writing and teaching history at St. Francis Xavier University, **Dr. Jim Cameron will retire** in June of 2015. We will miss Jim's steadfast presence and quiet humour, as well as his tremendous ability in the classroom and in research. Dr. Cameron authored the official history of St. FX after all!

The History Department, along with the History Student Society, hosted several **events** this year. To mark the centenary of WWI, a **film series** was hosted at the People's Place. Also reflecting on WWI, the Department hosted a panel entitled **Religion and the First World War**, with panel presentations by Dr. Guy Lalande, Dr. Rhonda Semple and Dr. Bonnie White. The Department also began a new series dedicated to contextualizing current events. Four were held successfully this year: Contextualizing **Ferguson**, Contextualizing **Ebola**, Contextualizing **Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Charlie Hebdo**. This series, which invited scholars from other disciplines to present their perspectives while the historians and other audience members participated in lively discussions were well attended and instigated insightful discussions and observations.

The **History Society** has also been very active this year. Along with hosting several of the events described above, the **History Society**, led by President **Christopher Greencorn**, has inaugurated a student-led history journal, **The Killick**. The Killick in an open access e-journal and it publishes undergraduate student essays that are written from an historical perspective. The Killick is peer reviewed, edited, copy edited and mounted almost entirely by students. The journal provides an excellent opportunity for students to share their research

and to learn the ins and outs of publication at all stages. The Department congratulates the Student Society, members of the editorial and review boards, and the authors who submitted articles to the Killick. Great student research and great initiative!

Looking forward to **next year**, we will miss Dr. Forestell, Dr. McInnis and Dr. Zecker who will all be conducting research and writing while on sabbatical. We will welcome two new historians to our department on a temporary basis to replace them. We look forward to the energy and knowledge that our new colleagues will bring to St. Francis Xavier University. Keep a look out for descriptions of the new and exciting courses they will be teaching. As soon as we have them, we will post them on the Departmental website.

Possible events for next academic year include a **symposium discussing Magna Carta on the occasion of its 800th anniversary**, a continuation of the History Department's successful **Contextualizing series** and more **lectures and panels on the topic of WWI**.

See you in class and at events next year!



Audience participants at *Contextualizing Ferguson*, hosted by the History Department and the History Society on September 11, 2014



Samantha Cussen found pictures of her family members at the online Canadian Virtual War Memorial, including pictures of the gravesite for the great-uncle who was killed during the war. She shared this material with her grandparents as part of her interviews with them.

History Made Real—Learning the Methods of History from the Start

One of the challenges of writing an undergraduate History paper is to begin the process from primary source material and work towards an argument from there. It can be even more difficult to find primary material that excites the variety of students in any given class. One of our Global History sections manages to do just that, however. In it, students conduct interviews with family members, analyze those, and construct a paper based on the material they collect. Many of the students interview family members about their experiences living through WWII, but students have also investigated immigration experiences,

talked to informants about having lived through various revolutionary moments, about working in the past, and about gender issues relating to health and well-being. Student research projects have been innovative and even cutting edge: they have investigated rationing and women's experiences on the home front, the experience of combat including injuries, 'friendly' fire and combat stress or PTSD. Several students have also ended up examining childhood and history since now many of their relatives were children during the war, and also history and the senses. Almost all students report having learned things about their family through the interviews that

they had previously not known, and that their family members were moved by the process of being asked to share their memories, so there are positives all round. The papers produced by students through this process tend to be of a very high quality, but most importantly, it is history 'made real'.

Contributed by:
Rhonda Semple



FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Jim Cameron

After teaching through the academic year 2013-2014, **Dr. Jim Cameron** enjoyed a six month sabbatical from teaching (July 1--December 31, 2014). His research project on the Vancouver Stock Exchange's strategies for survival during the tough years of the Great Depression required a trip to archives and libraries in Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia. As well, he initiated a new project about the movement in the 1920s to federate all the universities in Atlantic Canada. Currently he is teaching a History of Canada: Post-Confederation (215), Canadian Business History (227), and Canadian Immigration, Race and Ethnicity from 1896 (323). In closing, Cameron will resign from his full-time

appointment in the Department of History at the end of May. While anticipating new adventures and pursuits ahead, Dr. Cameron says he will no doubt miss the many fulfilling activities—teaching high among them—experienced during a 25 year career at St.F.X.

Goldmining Industry, 1936-1955," at the Social History of Medicine Conference in Oxford University. Along with Jane McMillan of the Department of Anthropology she organized a Centre for Regional Studies sponsored workshop, "Building Alliances and Seeking Reconciliation with Mi'kmaq Women," which was held in November 2014. Dr. Forestell embarked on a new research project, "Global Imaginings and Activism: Canadian Feminist Boundary Crossings, 1945-1970." She presented some of her initial research at the StFX Hive for Feminist Research in April 2014 and is in the midst of writing a chapter on historical feminisms for *The Companion to Canadian Women's and Gender History* to be published by the University of Toronto Press. Dr. Forestell will be on sabbatical in 2015-2016.

Nancy Forestell

Dr. Nancy Forestell is cross-appointed between the Department of History and the Women's and Gender Studies Program. She is completing her third year as Co-ordinator of WMGS. Last summer she presented a paper, "Combatting a Hazardous Work with Hazardous Scientific Solutions? Occupational Disease Prevention in the Canadian



CONGRATULATIONS!

After many years of dedicated service to the History Department, **Dr. Jim Cameron** is retiring this year. We'll miss him, but we wish him the best as he moves on to new and exciting things.

Chris Frazer

After teaching in the fall term, **Dr. Chris Frazer** has been on leave. He will return in the summer of 2015.

Guy Lalonde

In late May of 2015, **Dr. Guy Lalonde** will give a paper at the University of Ottawa entitled "The Death of Mao Zedong as Commented in Canadian Newspapers". In 2015-2016, he will teach Western Civilization (100), Imperial Russia (222) and World War I (390).



Revisited: Contested Identities in the Colonial and Postcolonial Periods, to be published in fall 2015. He is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Historical Reflections/Réflexions historiques*, and will be presenting a paper entitled "The Criminalization of Anti-Colonial Resistance: Violence and Police/Administrative Responses in Interwar Constantine", at a conference entitled *Violence, Colonialism, and Empire in the Modern and Contemporary World*, to be held in June 2015 at the British Academy of London.



French tanks in Algeria during the Algerian War of Independence

Samuel Kalman

Dr. Sam Kalman is currently researching and writing a manuscript entitled *Law, Order, and Empire: Policing and Criminal Justice in French Algeria, 1871-1962*. He published a co-edited volume last spring (with Sean Kennedy) entitled *The French Right Between the Wars: Political Movements and Intellectual Trends From Conservatism to Fascism*, which 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". He further contributed a chapter entitled "Criminalizing Dissent: Policing Banditry in the Constantinois, 1914-1918" in the collection *Algeria*

Peter McInnis

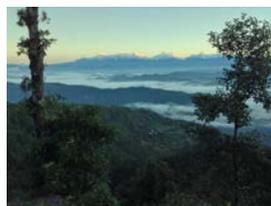
Dr. Peter McInnis continues researching 1960s-era organized labour. This is part of a larger initiative looking at trade unions, student groups, and New Left actions across North America during the Sixties and Seventies. Research includes investigating American sources located at the Reuther Archives, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. Dr. McInnis is also working at the Nova Scotia Museum of Industry (Stellarton) and the Canadian Museum of History (Ottawa) to analyze the commemoration of industrialization and de-industrialization. Dr. McInnis continues on the Editorial Board for the journal *Labour/Le Travail*. He is Past-President of the StFX Association of University Teachers, is an executive member of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, currently

sits on the CAUT Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee, and is on the executive of the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers.

I also examined PhDs at Stavanger, Norway and University College London, and serve on scholarship selection committees.

Rhonda Semple

While students see academics primarily in the classroom, we are busy year-round engaging in research and writing, attending conferences, and providing service to our discipline. Last year I finished up a sabbatical which allowed me to further my research in north India and in the UK on Protestant missions and faith communities. I also presented my research at several conferences: one on missions and masculinity and one on clinical/faith perspectives on leprosy in Norway, one on missions and adoption in London, and one on aging



The Himalayan Range in Uttarakhand
Rhonda Semple (2013)

and missions in Edinburgh. These papers are in various stages of the publication process. Last year I taught our Global History survey as well as Victorian Britain and a senior seminar on Violent Decolonization. Next year my plans are to teach Twentieth Century British History, a course on the Tudors, and one on the British Empire. My former thesis students have engaged in advanced training in Library Sciences, the Law, and in Graduate Studies at Dalhousie University of Calgary, the LSE, and Oxford. Last year

Laurie Stanley-Blackwell



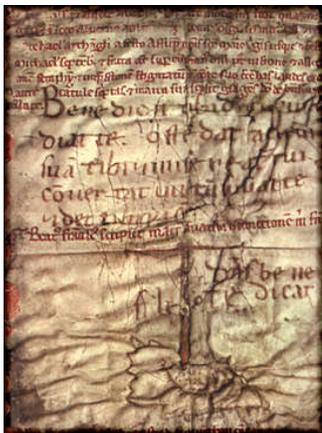
Garrison Cemetery,
Annapolis Royale,
Nova Scotia

This past year, **Dr. Laurie Stanley-Blackwell** continued her research into the material culture of Scottish immigrants in Nova Scotia. In June 2014, as Chair of the Broch Research Collective, she was lead organizer of a two-day workshop at StFX, “R.I.P.: Research, Innovation and Preservation in Nova Scotia’s Historic Cemeteries”, at which she presented a paper, “A good daughter, a good wife, and a good mother’: Scottish Women and Death in Victorian Antigonish and Pictou Counties”. This year, with Centre for Regional Studies

funding, she is again lead organizer of a three-day workshop, “Stones, Bones and Smartphones: Investigating Nova Scotia’s Cemeteries”. In October 2014, the Broch Research Collective, a research cluster at StFX exploring the beliefs and practices surrounding death and dying among Maritime Canada’s early immigrant Scots, was profiled in the *Chronicle Herald*. In April and May 2015, Stanley-Blackwell is scheduled to speak to the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia and Pictou Academy respectively. In July 2015, she will be attending the International Congress of Celtic

Studies in Glasgow, Scotland, where she will be presenting, “Grist for the Historian: The Quern and Nova Scotia’s Scots”. This past year, she served as one of the judges on the panel adjudicating the Canadian Historical Association’s Clio Award for the best book on Atlantic Canada. Stanley-Blackwell is looking forward to teaching “Gravely-speaking: Death and Dying in Canadian History” as the Canadian Senior History Seminar in 2015-2016.

Donna Trembinski



Blessing written by St. Francis for his companion, Brother Leo, near the end of Francis’ life. Note that the saint’s writing is at least twice the size of Brother Leo’s much neater writing, in red above the blessing. Francis’ drawing here has also inspired much debate. No one is quite sure what it is! The Blessing is now housed at Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

This year **Dr. Donna Trembinski** became Chair of the Department of History. She has enjoyed her new role, especially as it has allowed her to meet students who are studying in all of the various streams of history. When not doing administrative work, Dr. Trembinski is finishing a book about how the many infirmities Francis of Assisi experienced during his life negatively impacted his ability to lead his new Order. The book, entitled *Illness and Authority: Reading Disability in the Life of Francis of Assisi* will be reviewed by the University of Toronto Press. She is also writing an article about how theories of psychological trauma can be used as a category of historical analysis which enables better understanding of past events and persons. This article will be published in an edited collection entitled, *Trauma in Medieval Society*. She is also looking forward to attending a conference on early Franciscan history this summer in Siena, Italy, after which she will travel to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Next year, Dr. Trembinski is looking forward to teaching an introductory history course, Western

Civilization (100) and an upper level course, Explorers and Explorations Before Columbus (353).

papers and presentations at the American Studies Association; Oxford University in England; the Keweenaw Copper Country National Park; and the Canadian Historical Association.

Robert Zecker

Dr. Robert Zecker has a chapter in an e-book, *Whiteness 4* (Inter-disciplinary.net Publishers, Oxford, England) on radical Slavs and race in Cold War America. He has also published an article in the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, “They Roamed All over Fixing Things’: The Migratory Tinkers of Slovakia” as well as another article in the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*. This article, “We Dare Entertain Thoughts Not to the Liking of Present-Day Bigots’: Radical Slavs, Race, Civil Rights and Anti-Communism in Red Scare America,” is the small version of his longer project, which he is hoping to turn into a book. This is tentatively titled “*Giving Reaction the Jitters*”: *Radical Slavs, Race, Civil Rights and Anti-Communism in McCarthy’s America*. In addition, Dr. Zecker delivered

History Society Executive 2014-2015

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Rachel Burton
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Member-at-large

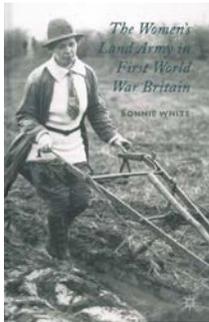
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Faculty Publications

Monographs



Dr. Bonnie White

Articles and Chapters

- Jean-Guy Lalande, "On Suffering and Consolation in Times of War" Review Essay in *Social History/Histoire Sociale*
- Rhonda Semple, "Missionary Masculinity" in *Religious Studies and Theology*
- Laurie Stanley-Blackwell and Brenda Appleby, "Romancing the Stone" in *Markers*
- Donna Trembinski, "An Infirm Man" in *Medicine and the Law*

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Prize and
Scholarship Winners

Hogan-Phillips History Prize
Winner, 2013-2014:

Katelyn Arac

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.

Honours Theses

2014-2015

- Justin Baird, *The Economics of French Imperialism: Algeria, Indochina, and West Africa*
- Rory MacLeod, *Selling conflict: Propaganda and the Spanish Civil War*
- Mark Riseborough, *Canada's Cold Wars: The 'National Security' Complex and the Creation of Enemies*
- Amanda Thomas, *Hagiography and Holiness: An Analysis of Gender and Authority in the Lives of Two 13th Century Female Saints*

**Fire Rocks from a medieval bestiary.**

MS St. John' College Library
(Cambridge), A.15, f. 103v

HISTORY @X ON THE WEB

<http://sites.stfx.ca/history/>



@History@X



Department of History, St. Francis Xavier University

GRADUATE NEWS / COMMENTS

I graduated in May 2013 from St FX with a joint major in history and philosophy, with a concentration in European Medieval History and Women's Studies. In September of 2014, I began my MA in History and Women's Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia. I decided to attend X after applying to schools all over the Maritimes, and when I visited it immediately felt like home. After my first year in the Humanities Colloquium program, Dr. Trembinski's class helped me to recognize my passion for history, especially the elements which aren't often taught, and I haven't second-guessed myself since. The history program at X allows students to explore all different facets of world history, and with small class sizes and excellent professors, students who work hard are bound to succeed. Students are left with countless useful skills and lifelong connections. If you are interested in the program, I highly suggest it.

Elizabeth Gunsinger

I graduated from St. FX with his Bachelor of Arts with high honours in History in 2010. I went on to complete a Master's in History at the University of Calgary, where I specialized in international relations and secret intelligence. At the moment I am considering undertaking my PhD at either the International Relations at the London School of Economics and War Studies at King's College London. I am appreciative of the tremendous support I've received from the St. FX History Department over the years toward my academic and professional successes.

Matt Hefler

It has been two years since I graduated from StFX, and I am currently completing the last few months of the Master of Public Administration Program at Dalhousie University. I have really been enjoying my time in the program, and have been able to work on a number of projects for the local, provincial, and federal levels of government. This past summer I completed a placement as a Junior Analyst with the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, in the Strategic Policy and External Relations Branch. In my position, I had the opportunity to communicate with prospective immigrants from across the globe, draft briefing notes and discussion papers for senior management, and draft correspondences on behalf of the Minister of Immigration. My time at StFX played a large part in preparing me for graduate school. The basic research and analysis skills I developed at X have been absolutely essential in the projects I have worked on during my Master's. Oftentimes, course work is for real government programs within the province, and all reports and recommendations must be based in strong research and logic to help ensure the best available actions are taken. I owe much of current success to everything I learned back at StFX.

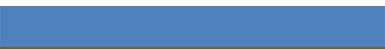
Andrew Bucci

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

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



History Courses 2015-2016

History 100/Western Civilization (Samuel Kalman, Guy Lalande, Donna Trembinski)

History 110/Global History Since 1300 (Chris Frazer, Rhonda Semple, TBA)

History 209/ The Maritime Provinces 1500-1950 (Laurie Stanley-Blackwell)

History 213/A History of Canada: Pre-Confederation (TBA)

History 215/History of Canada: Post-Confederation (TBA)

History 222/Imperial Russia (Guy Lalande)

History 256/History of Modern Latin America (Chris Frazer)

History 262/Europe in the 20th Century (Samuel Kalman)

History 283/ The British Empire (Rhonda Semple)

History 300/A Cultural and Intellectual History of Canada (Laurie Stanley-Blackwell)

History 326/ History of Cuba from Independence to the Revolution (Chris Frazer)

History 337/History of Modern Mexico (Chris Frazer)

History 353/ Explorers and Exploration Before Columbus (Donna Trembinski)

History 364/The Holocaust (Samuel Kalman)

History 384/ Britain in the 20th Century (Rhonda Semple)

History 386/ Tudor England (Rhonda Semple)

History 390/World War I (Guy Lalande)

History 401/Seminar in Canadian History (Laurie Stanley Blackwell)

Gravely Speaking: Death and Dying in Canadian History

History 461/Seminar in Modern European History (Samuel Kalman)

(De)constructing the Imperial Nation State: Race, Gender, and Violence in the French Empire, 1830-1962.

There are also several courses to be announced as the department will welcome two new members next year to replace those going on sabbatical. We expect courses in American and transnational American histories to be taught along with other Canadian and History of Gender courses. As soon as we know what will be offered, we will update our course offerings on our departmental website at: <http://sites.stfx.ca/history/>