

I am very pleased to be reporting news of the Graduate History Program to you for the first time. The last you heard from Carolyn Podruchny, the previous director, was in January. Since then we have had numerous PhD completions, students passing their comprehensive exams in the spring, and recent awards.

Since last January, nine students successfully defend their doctoral dissertations:

1. Joseph Tohill, "A Consumer's War": Price Control and Political Consumerism in the United States and Canada During World War II, supervised by Molly Ladd-Taylor
2. Daniel Bullard, "Vergiss nicht unsere Kolonien!" German Colonial Memory from 1919 to 1943, supervised by Irmgard Steinisch
3. Patrick Connor, "The Purest of Gifts": Royal Clemency, Patronage, and the Politics of Identity in Upper Canada, 1791-1841, supervised by Doug Hay
4. Alia Paroo, Aga Khan III and the British Empire: The Ismailis in Tanganyika, 1920 - 1957, supervised by Paul Lovejoy
5. Jay Young, Searching for a Better Way: Subway Life and Metropolitan Growth in Toronto 1942-1978, supervised by Marlene Shore
6. Elizabeth Polak, Conventual Contracts: Power and Property in Oaxaca, supervised by Anne Rubenstein
7. William den Hollander, From Hostage to Historian: Josephus, the Emperors, and the City of Rome, supervised by Jonathan Edmondson
8. José Cairus, The Gracie Clan and the Making of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: National Identity, Culture and Performance, 1905-2003, supervised by Anne Rubenstein
9. Francis Peddie, Young, Well-Educated and Adaptable People: Chilean Exiles, Identity and Daily Life in Canada, 1973 to the Present Day, supervised by Roberto Perin and Anne Rubenstein

I am pleased to announce that four students passed their comprehensive exams in April 2012:

- Ashlee Bligh (Early Modern Europe)
- Mark Dorsey (Canadian)
- Mary Franks (Ancient)
- Carly Murdoch (Ancient)

In awards and appointments news, I am delighted to report that we have won another Vanier. This time it is Doug Hunter (supervised by Carolyn Podruchny),

who is working on how historians of the past have interpreted crypto-historical claims of Pre-Columbian European arrivals in North America by mis-interpreting indigenous technological and artistic feats. Doug also won SSHRC's William E. Taylor Fellowship, awarded each year to the most outstanding SSHRC doctoral award recipient.

The Program won two additional SSHRC awards (which is a significant accomplishment considering the cutbacks to SSHRC this year):

- Erin Dolmage
- Gilberto Fernandes

The Program won 12 OGS awards (again a significant achievement with the cutbacks to OGS):

- Michael Ainsworth
- Hayley Andrew
- Mathieu Brulé
- Tyler Chamilliard
- Dagomar Degroot
- Tristan Ellis
- Mary Franks
- Mackenzie Gott
- Jeff Gunn
- Brittany Luby
- Brandon Morris
- Allison Vandervalk

First-year PhD student Lydia Wytenbroek, arriving from British Columbia, was presented with the 2012 Margaret M. Allemang Scholarship at the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) Conference in June. The scholarship is presented every year to a graduate student (MA or PhD) doing history of nursing research.

Doctoral candidate Karlee Sapoznik (supervised by Michele Johnson and Annie Bunting) has won the newly created Provost Dissertation Scholarship. This award allows York students going into their fifth year of their PhD to concentrate exclusively on writing and competing their dissertations. Only ten were awarded across the university. This remarkable young woman has a long string of accomplishments that both demonstrate her impressive array of skills and her great intellectual promise. She has turned her MA Major Research Paper into a book that is accepted for publication by Princeton University Press. She has published three academic articles on widely divergent topics (one from her BA research) and has authored curriculum for Manitoba's Board of Education. In her spare time Ms. Sapoznik has founded a major national charitable organization: the Alliance Against

Modern Slavery. For more information see <http://allianceagainstmodernslavery.org/>.

Graduates of our program have won 4 Postdoctoral Fellowships:

- Kristine Alexander, who defended her PhD in 2010 (supervised by Bettina Bradbury), has been awarded a second postdoctoral fellowship. Kristine's PhD dissertation was entitled "The Girl Guide Movement, Imperialism and Internationalism in Interwar England, Canada, and India" and was awarded the 2011 Governor General's Gold Medal. Kristine just completed a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow in the Department of History at the University of Western Ontario. In September, she took up the Elizabeth & Cecil Kent Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Britain and the British World at the University of Saskatchewan.
- Dr. Jim Clifford (PhD 2011, supervised by Stephen Brooke) has won a two-year postdoctoral fellowship on a Digging into Data Project called "Trading Consequences." The project, a major research collaboration between York University, the University of Edinburgh, and the University of St. Andrews, examines the environmental consequences of commodity trading during the nineteenth century. See <http://www.jimclifford.ca/2012/02/10/trading-consequences-a-digging-into-data-project/>. Dr. Jim Clifford defended his doctoral dissertation, entitled "A Wetland Suburb on the Edge of London: A Social and Environmental History of West Ham and the River Lea, 1856-1914", on January 5, 2011.
- Dr. Valerie Deacon, who defended her PhD dissertation in February 2011, has just won a position at New York University as the Elihu Rose Assistant Professor / Faculty Fellow in Military History. The position is for one year, and renewable for three years. Dr. Deacon's dissertation, "The 'Other' Resistance: The Extreme-Right in France during the Second World War," was supervised by Professor Bill Irvine.
- Dr. Ian Milligan (PhD 2011, supervised by Craig Heron) won a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship to work with William Turkel at the University of Western Ontario for his project or his project "Postwar English-Canadian Youth Cultures: A Digital History, 1945-1990." His PhD dissertation was entitled "Rebel Youth: Young Workers, New Leftists, and Labour in English Canada, 1964-1973."

One of our graduate students has won 2 very prestigious awards for his doctoral dissertation: Bradley Skopyk, who earned his PhD from the Graduate History Program in December 2010, has won the 2012 American Society for Environmental Studies Rachel Carson Prize for the best dissertation in environmental history AND the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Outstanding

Dissertation Prize for 2012! Dr. Skopyk's dissertation, "Undercurrents of Conquest: The Shifting Terrain of Indigenous Agriculture in Colonial Tlaxcala, Mexico," was supervised by the late Elinor Melville and Richard Hoffmann. The prize committee members were impressed by "the scope of the dissertation, which covers more than three hundred years of colonial history and is based on extensive research on unpublished sources in both Náhuatl and Spanish. [Dr. Skopyk's] remarkable command of primary sources is combined with a deep grasp of theoretical literature in a wide range of fields, including history, environmental studies, demographics, and political economy. The result is a unique and original scholarly work, a model of interdisciplinary research that makes a number of relevant contributions to the history of colonial Mexico and Latin America and that has significant comparative Value for other regions of the world and historical periods." Only three students from outside the U.S. have ever won the 2012 American Society for Environmental Studies Rachel Carson Prize, and they have all been from York's Graduate History Program: Matthew Evenden in 2001, Liza Piper in 2006 and now Bradley Skopyk. Nor has any university ever had students win this prize more than twice. Dr. Skopyk's excellent work is bringing great prestige to our program!

Our students and Postdoctoral Fellows have also done well on both the academic and non-academic job markets:

- Recent graduate Ian Milligan (PhD 2011, supervised by Craig Heron) was hired into a tenure-track position in Canadian history at the University of Waterloo.
- Recent graduate Alia Paroo (PhD 2012, supervised by Paul Lovejoy) was hired into a tenure-track position in African and Islamic History at Texas A&M International University (Laredo, Texas).
- SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow Susan Roy (supervised by Carolyn Podruchny) was hired into a tenure-track position in Canadian history at the University of Waterloo.
- Recent graduate Susana Miranda (PhD 2010, supervised by Roberto Perin) is a Senior Information and Privacy Advisor for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

William Jenkins
Director, Graduate Program in History
October 1, 2012