



News from the Department

Summer 2009 saw the Department of History achieve another milestone in its ongoing development. At the June 2009 Convocation Ceremony three graduates—Katie Caines, Kyla Farquhar, and Brian Woelders—completed the B.A. program with a major in history, less than one year after the official launch of the program.

We anticipate that several more students will complete their degree requirements

prior to the next university convocation ceremony in October.

The History Major program is continuing to draw new students due to its focus on small seminar classes, innovative new courses, and a dedicated work/study space for history faculty and students on the Surrey Campus (see story on page 2).



The History Department's first B.A., History Major, graduates: Kyla Farquhar, Katie Caines, and Brian Woelders (l-r)

New Courses Introduced

As the department continues to grow and develop its programs, new courses are being added at all levels.

In the Spring 2009 semester our innovative new "Applications of History" course was offered to a full compliment of degree students.

The summer semester saw the launch of a new first year course: "Introduction to African History". Senior students were able to take a seminar course on "China and the West".

In Fall 2009 the department will offer new courses on Terrorism in the Twentieth Century, Colonial America, and Canada's role in World War II.

Additional courses are planned in all three degree streams: Asian history, military history, and the general B.A. stream.

For more information on upcoming course schedules see the Department of History web site: <http://www.kwantlen.ca/history>

Research and Professional Development

Frank Abbott has been a leading member of the team developing a new Bachelor of Arts Degree in Asian Studies. The degree will offer both East Asian and South Asian streams. In the fall Frank will continue his involvement in the TALK lecture series and in his 'spare' time he is putting the finishing touches on his Ph.D. dissertation.

Thor Frohn-Nielsen is continuing his research into British popular culture during the Second World War, research which informs one of our new senior seminar courses: The British Home Front. Thor is also the new History Department Chair for 2009-2012.

Bob Fuhr was elected as one of the department's representatives to Faculty Council and continues his work with the Kwantlen Faculty Association. He will be attending the Anglo-American Conference for Historians at the Institute of Historical Research, London, England.

The topic of the conference is cities. Bob will also be going on Goodenough College's Battlefield Tour of D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy. He is designing a course on the era of the American Revolution, 1760-1791.

Colin Green has recently returned from conducting archival research in Taiwan, research that will serve as the basis of a conference paper to be presented at Queen's University at the end of the summer. Colin is also working on a number of book reviews and short articles. During his educational leave he will be completing a monograph based on his Ph.D. dissertation.

Tracey Kinney is completing the second edition of her document collection, *Conflict & Cooperation*, and will be taking over as second author on a twentieth century world history textbook published by Oxford University Press. She is working on two book reviews over the summer and

will be attending the annual World History Association Conference in Salem, MA. The topic for this year's WHA Conference is 'Merchants & Missionaries in World History.'

Tom Thorner's research interests will take him to the National War Museum, the National Archives and the Supreme Court of Canada Archives in Ottawa. Time permitting he is also planning to work at the McCord Museum in Montreal. The great bulk of the material Tom is collecting will be compiled into new course manuals for History 4497, 3390 and 3313.



The Pod



Thanks to some incredibly quick work by the Kwantlen planning and facilities departments, the History Department was able to complete its move to a new, dedicated space on the Surrey Campus in time for the spring semester. The department now calls the second floor of Surrey Main its home.

Department members now enjoy single faculty offices, a dedicated space in which history students are welcome to study, and a purpose-built library/common area. Our thanks to the many people who helped to achieve the department's vision of a functional space in Kwantlen's newest LEED-certified building.

Kwantlen History Students' Society (KHSS)



The Kwantlen History Students' Society was founded in 2006 to promote activities related to the study of history. It is a student-led

club which welcomes all Kwantlen students, staff, and faculty to participate.

The fundraising successes of the KHSS have facilitated the creation of an endowed scholarship which will provide, on an annual basis, two scholarships and a bursary to future Kwantlen history students. Any-

one wishing to assist the KHSS by donating to this endowment can do so through the Kwantlen Foundation Office.

The KHSS has raised the majority of its funds BBQs, pub nights, and several highly successful silent auctions.

Special thanks to students Kim Schweighardt and Andrea Summers for all of their hard work with the KHSS over the past few years.



June 2009 Fundraising BBQ

Conferences Past & Future

Spring 2009:

The department was pleased to host the Chinese Military History Society for a very successful conference in the spring. An evening reception in the history pod capped off a full day of paper presentations by numerous participants.

Spring 2011:

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Republican Revolution in China the department is planning to host a major conference examining the revolution, its nature, and impact.

Colin Green and Frank Abbott will be the primary coordinators for this conference, but the department anticipates widespread participation by the Kwantlen community.

Shuffling the Furniture—A New Chair Takes the Helm

After three years of what has been charitably described as “herding cats”, Tom Thorner relinquished the helm of the department to Thor Frohn-Nielsen at the end of May 2009.

Under Tom’s leadership the department launched the history major, piloted over a dozen new courses, moved into its new office space, and hired a new faculty member: Colin Green.

Though he is no longer Chair, Tom can still be found in his corner office at all hours of the day and night.

Thor has already contributed a new department motto—“Bene edamus!

Bene bibamus!”—and has numerous other plans in mind for his tenure as Chair.

OTHER CHANGES

Colin Green will be on educational leave for the Fall 2009 semester.

Tracey Kinney will be on educational leave for one year, beginning in January 2010.

The department would like to welcome Dr. Cedric Bolz and Dr. Jake Whittaker who will be joining us as sessional instructors during the upcoming academic year.



The incoming and outgoing Chairs

Kwantlen

POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY

Langley Campus:

20901 Langley Bypass, Langley, B.C.

Richmond Campus:

8771 Lansdowne Road, Richmond, B.C.

Surrey Campus:

12666 72nd Ave., Surrey, B.C.

Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Department of History

12666 72nd Avenue

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History at Kwantlen Polytechnic University

The study of History is an essential part of every student's education. History students learn to think critically and creatively, to evaluate many different viewpoints, and to apply their knowledge of the past to produce an informed and articulate analysis of contemporary global issues. We do not expect that every student will pursue a degree in history; rather, we hope that the skills learned in our courses will contribute to a deeper understanding of today's world.

<http://www.kwantlen.ca/history>

Bits and Pieces

KUDOS

Continued kudos to our new assistant deans—Farhad Dastur and Elaine Decker. Both have contributed greatly to the rejuvenation of the history department.

THE FUTURE

The department is now poised to attract more students, to encourage more research among senior students and faculty, and to provide more opportunities for student and staff interaction, thus moving far beyond the physical separation that now hampers the growth and development of many departments within our division.

FEATURED FACULTY BIO:

Bob Fuhr:



Bob has been teaching history at Kwantlen Polytechnic University since 1987. He was born in New Westminster, raised in Coquitlam, and attended the University of British Columbia, Laval University and McGill University in Montreal

where he earned his M.A. in American history in 1984. After further graduate training at the University of British Columbia, Bob joined the Kwantlen history department as an American specialist. His main field of interest is the United States since 1945, particularly the Nixon administration.

Most recently Bob has developed two new upper level courses on Colonial America and the US during the Civil War and Reconstruction era.

Bob is a member of the Organization of American Historians, a Canuck season ticket holder, and an avid collector of American political memorabilia and British rock music.