



Department of History

# The OWL



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History Department

75 University Ave W.

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

N2L 3C5

Tel: (519) 884-0710 x3389

<[www.wlu.ca/arts/history](http://www.wlu.ca/arts/history)>

## Words of Welcome

Welcome to the twelfth issue of *The Owl*, the annual newsletter of the History Department at Wilfrid Laurier University's Waterloo campus.

Thanks to all who have contacted us in response to previous issues; please keep those letters and e-mails coming in. We especially love to hear from our former students.

Owl Trivia #11: "Unlike Other Owls, the Snowy Owl is active both day and night, sleeping whenever the mood strikes." Canadian Museum of Nature, 2021.

## Faculty Interview

**Dr Darryl Dee** has been teaching French history and military history at Laurier since 2005. In June, 2020, he launched the podcast "Great Battles in History," which aired its most recent episode on July 5, 2021. *The Owl* sat down with Dr. Dee and asked him to reflect on the podcast as a digital humanities tool for sharing his insights with students and wider audiences.



*What originally got you interested in creating a podcast on Great Battles in History?*

 My students. For as long as I've been teaching History 123, they've been suggesting I turn my lectures into a podcast. One student, James

Winslow, introduced me to some of the better history podcasts out there, like Dan Carlin's *Hardcore History*, Mike Duncan's *History of Rome*, and Patrick Wyman's *Tides of History*. In 2019, I finally decided to take the plunge. Starting out, I got some invaluable encouragement and technical support from Mark Humphries and the team at the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies—Matt Baker, Eric Story, Kyle Falcon, and Matthew Morden. I launched the podcast's first episode, *Thermopylae*, on June 20, 2019.

(cont. from pg. 1)

Can you provide a brief overview of the podcast for our readers?

 **DD:** Great Battles in History takes a deep dive into some of history's most famous and most important battles. Each three- to four-hour episode explores the context, course, and consequences of a single battle. Listeners get a cracking good story full of vivid action, colourful characters, suspenseful cliffhangers, surprise plot twists, even the occasional joke. But it's storytelling informed by state-of-the-art scholarship. Too often, battle history has just been about maps and chaps, guns and trumpets.

Great Battles in History makes the case that battles are artifacts—creations of the politics, societies, economies and cultures of their times and places. To investigate great battles is to open up history in its widest sense. For instance, when listeners tune into the episode on Hattin, they learn that one of the causes of the Crusades was climate-change-induced migration. A century before Pope Urban II appealed to Christians to take up the cross and liberate Jerusalem in 1095, a period of bitter cold on the Eurasian steppe forced the nomadic Turks to migrate into the Middle East in search of better pastures. In the process, they conquered the region, pushed its great powers, the Abbasid Caliphate of Baghdad and the Byzantine Empire, to the brink of collapse, and captured Jerusalem.

Can you tell us a little about the course on which the podcast is based?

 **DD:** History 123 covers ten battles from Classical Antiquity to the Second World War. The battles also represent a vast geographical range—Europe, East Asia, Africa, America. The course draws a wide range of students: typically, much less than half of my two hundred or so students are History majors. I try to capture and keep their interest as well as impart a sense of history as a discipline—a way of thinking about and talking about the world. There's also the practical work of drilling reading, critical thinking, and writing. Last but by no means least, I'm a bit of an evangelist for the department. If a student expresses an interest in say, the American Civil War or Samurai Japan, I tell them about my fabulous colleagues and their courses.

Why did you decide on the podcast format over other digital humanities platforms?

 **DD:** Audience and ease of production. Ever since I started as an academic historian, I've heard about the decline in History Majors. In recent years, the decline has turned into a crisis. Podcasts are one place where there seems to be burgeoning interest in history. The audience for podcasts is vast and growing. According to one study I've seen, one-third of Canadian and half of American adults listen at least once a month to podcasts. Some of the longest running and most popular podcasts are history podcasts.

My own experience with Great Battles in History has been pretty encouraging. Since launching less than a year ago, my podcast has received over 12,000 down-

loads. I have listeners in the United States, the UK, Canada, Australia, Ireland, the Netherlands, South Africa, Israel, Singapore and elsewhere.

Producing a podcast has been much easier than I anticipated. I record in Great Battles Studios—the walk-in closet of my bedroom—with a laptop, a microphone, and open-source audio editing software. I'm not particularly good with technology: I often think that "idiotproof" was coined with me in mind. If I can put out a podcast, then anyone can.

What are the main goals of the podcast from your perspective as a historian?

 **DD:** Great Battles in History is my attempt at history for a general audience. In the parlance of the research grant agencies, it's knowledge mobilization (SSHRC, if you're reading this, some money would be nice, please). Producing history for a non-specialist, non-student audience is pretty challenging. It involves much the same kind of work as writing academic articles and books: I evaluate evidence and critically assess competing arguments to come up with what I think is the best interpretation. But then I have to present my interpretation in a way that captures and holds the attention of listeners who may

have little or no prior knowledge of the subject and can turn off the podcast at any moment. So I'm very pleased that I seem to have an audience and that it's growing.

I think more academic historians need to go into podcasting. Already, more people get their history through podcasts than through our classrooms or our books and articles. There are a few academic historians who produce podcasts: Jill Lepore and Patrick Wyman come to mind. But history podcasting is dominated by amateurs. While always enthusiastic and often entertaining storytellers, many lack the training, expertise, experience, and resources (such as access to a good research library) to produce work that's rigorous and reflects the latest scholarship.

Recently, I was listening to a French Revolution podcast's episode on the reign of Louis XIV and, unfortunately, it repeated numerous discredited myths.

*What can listeners expect in future episodes?*



**DD:** More cracking good storytelling with rigorous scholarship. I'm aiming for a three- to four-month release schedule for episodes. The next one, *Agincourt*, will be out in late June. Future episodes will be on *Lepanto*, *Nagashino*, *Malplaquet* (which I'm also writing a book on), *Trafalgar*, *Waterloo*, *Isandlwana*, *Gorlice-Tarnow*, *Jutland*, *Midway*, and *Kursk*.

*Thanks Dr. Dee!*

*Dr. Dee's Great Battles in*

*History* podcast can be found on multiple podcasting platforms including [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

The latest episode tells the story of the battle of Agincourt between the English King Henry V and French forces. From Dr. Dee's description:

"Agincourt would be the last great English victory of the long series of conflicts that came to be called, collectively, the Hundred Years' War. Five years after it, Henry V would claim the throne of France itself. Agincourt is also, thanks to William Shakespeare, the medieval battle with the greatest cultural legacy."

Be sure to tune in!

## Thanks to our outgoing Chair, Dr. Darren Mulloy ... and welcome to our new Chair, Dr. David Smith

We would like to thank our outgoing Chair, Darren Mulloy, whose final term ended on June 30. Thanks Darren for your outstanding leadership, especially through the changes of the pandemic!

### **Words of welcome from our new Chair, Dr. David Smith:**

"One of the best experiences that I had as an undergraduate in History was discovering the community in the department. Whether it was through the history students association or meeting with professors during office hours, these opportunities helped deepen my passion for historical study and to connect with new people. As the incoming chair this year, I hope

to build on the vibrant community in the department and find new ways to connect faculty and students together. Now, perhaps more than ever, we need these connections. Let me know if you have ideas!

In my work as a professional historian I am currently writing a book on corruption in early modern England as well as completing a project on the history of smuggling during the eighteenth century. Smuggling was widespread during this period – perhaps equalling or exceeding the volume of the legal trade in some goods – and came from all backgrounds. Merchants and professional smugglers, aristocrats and naval captains, and (especially)

tourists illegally imported a variety of goods. While these informal networks were global in scale as goods circulated through Asia, the Americas and Europe they also had significant local effects. In Southern England, which I study, smuggling stimulated the formation of fierce criminal gangs. In some places, large groups of smugglers operated in broad daylight, intimidated and assaulted local customs officers, and fought soldiers sent to arrest them. Stop by office hours for more stories about the early modern "running trade."

I wish everyone a great start to the new semester!"

David Smith, Chair

## Tributes to our 2021 Retirees

*2020/21 saw the retirement of three colleagues: Dr. Suzanne Zeller, Dr. Roger Sarty and Dr. Debra Nash-Chambers. On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to thank all of you for your contributions to teaching, scholarship and service to the History Department. We will miss you and we wish you all the best in your retirement!*

**Dr. Suzanne Zeller** joined Laurier's History Department in 1987. As a Canadianist who studies the history of science from the perspective of culture and ideas, her doctoral research explored the connections between the cultural and intellectual history of Victorian science and Canadian Confederation. In the same year, Dr. Zeller published a book based on this research, *Inventing Canada: Early Victorian Science and the Idea of a Transcontinental Nation* (University of Toronto Press, 1987). The book, which became a classic, was reissued by Mc-Gill-Queen's University Press in 2009. Dr. Zeller's research eventually changed course when she joined an international collaborative project focusing on science in the circumpolar Arctic. She is looking forward to continuing this work in her retirement in the form of two research projects: "Animal InSight: Ernest Thompson Seton and the Twentieth-Century Ecological Imagination," to be followed by "Fundamental Forms: The Physical World of Victorian Canadians." Dr. Zeller's most recent publication is the chapter on "Canada," in *The Cambridge History of Science* series, Vol. 8: *Modern Science in National,*

*Transnational, and Global Context* (2020).

Dr. Zeller extends her warmest best wishes to all of her colleagues at Laurier and its students during the challenging times ahead.

You can read Dr. Zeller's reflections on retirement in the Faculty of Arts magazine, *The Bridge*: <https://mailchi.mp/af17d125e4b8/new-faculty-of-arts-research-newsletter-the-bridge-5617224>

Congratulations on your retirement Dr. Zeller!

**Dr. Roger Sarty** started at Laurier in January 2004, coming from the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. Although he was scheduled to begin in July 2003, Laurier kindly allowed him to delay his arrival until his team at the museum had completed the design of the exhibits for the new building at Vimy Place.

Dr. Sarty recalls that the History Department 'was very welcoming, and I certainly needed the support, having taught only three courses previously.' He arrived not long after John Laband, who retired previously, and together they began the work of succeeding Barry Gough and Terry Copp — big shoes to fill! Roger had to hit the ground running, and he told the Owl that John, Barry and Terry gave wonderful help.

Dr. Sarty hopes to pursue three long term projects in his retirement: the early history of Canadian naval forces, the 'pioneering' academic military historians in Canada, and studies of historic military sites on the East Coast. He had 'played with each of these from time to time for decades,' but they have been on

the back burner because of his work as editor of *Canadian Military History* (2006-2014) and *The Northern Mariner/Le marin du nord* (2006-2015), and invitations to join book projects: *War in the St. Lawrence* (2012), *Loyal Gunners* with Lee Windsor and Marc Milner (2016), and the editing of Joseph Scanlon's manuscript on the Halifax Explosion of 1917, *Catastrophe* (2020).

'All these have contributed to my pet projects,' Roger told the Owl, 'but it will be a treat to be able to focus! That said I always worry about getting stale. The joy of teaching and journal work, and my earlier stints as a research manager in the government has been the exposure to all sorts of new topics and approaches. That may be the selfish reason, aside from such good friendships, for keeping in close touch with folks at Laurier and in the Tri-U.'

Congratulations on your retirement Dr. Sarty!

**Debra Nash-Chambers** started teaching as a Contract Faculty member in the Department of History in January, 2005. Dr. Nash-Chambers calls her appointment 'a homecoming of sorts.' Previously she had relocated to the USA after teaching Canadian History on contract at WLU. Following her return to Canada in 2002, she was teaching at St. Jerome's College at the University of Waterloo and was happy to reconnect with WLU in 2005. 'It has been an exceptionally good 16 years,' Dr. Nash-Chambers told the Owl. She enjoyed teaching and mentoring students in the Department of History and North American Studies Program in the Department of Political Science.

## Retiree Tributes (cont'd)

Teaching a wide variety of American History courses over the years offered new challenges and adventures. Dr. Nash-Chambers appreciated the collegiality of both departments, and she will miss socializing with faculty members and Heather Vogel and Sherry Palmer in the two Departmental offices. She also will miss the interaction with students very much.

Reflecting on her experience at WLU, Dr. Nash-Chambers said that 'I loved being an educator and teaching was a passion, so retirement will be quite a challenge at first. My best memory is receiving the 2017 WLU Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award. It was a tremendous honour, and my daughter, son and late husband were able to come to campus and join the students who nominated me and a few of my faculty friends from the two departments for the awards luncheon. It was very moving to receive the plaque at a June Convocation when many of my students were graduating.'

As for life after Laurier, Dr. Nash-Chambers says that it will be an adjustment, but that she will enjoy the greater flexibility in her daily life, as well as nights and weekends without grading responsibilities and fun and relaxation in the Spring and Summer. Retirement also will provide the opportunity to focus on a long-term research project that has been in process for a while.

Congratulations on your retirement Dr. Nash-Chambers!

## Introducing our new Research Centre: The Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada (LCSC)

This past academic year has been a busy one at the Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS). COVID may have kept us away from our physical location at 232 King Street, but it certainly did not slow down most Centre activities.

The Centre has a long and special association with the History Department. One of the first Laurier research centres, it began three decades ago under the leadership of Professor Terry Copp. Professor Copp, once a Chair of History, is a noted historian of the Canadian military experience, and LCMSDS quickly became a leading centre for the study of Canada's military past, in addition to strategic studies and disarmament. Professor Mark Humphries continued this important work during his time as Centre Director, expanding the Centre's academic reach into the implications of war beyond and after the battlefield. With substantial SSHRC funding, Professor Humphries and a legion of undergraduate research assistants undertook the massive task of digitizing the pension files of First World War Canadian soldiers.

Still, a significant challenge confronted the Centre. With fewer military historians at Laurier, it was becoming increasingly difficult to see a sustainable path forward. Professor Kevin Spooner became Director in July 2020 and was tasked with transitioning the Centre's mission in a way that would attract new Laurier faculty fellows, while continuing the important contributions the

Centre makes to Canada's military history.

Consultative focus groups with Laurier faculty were held in fall 2020. From these productive discussions, it was decided to create four research collectives at the Centre: War and Society, Policy Connections for Canada, Communities, and Publics and Social Justice. There are now 20 Laurier faculty, 4 external research fellows, and 4 PhD candidates associated with the Centre's work. Given this widened research mandate, the Centre's new Executive Committee renamed the Centre: the Laurier Centre for the Study of Canada (LCSC).

An official relaunch of the Centre will take place this summer, beginning with its online presence. We're also very excited about renovations that are about to begin to the Centre's space at 232 King Street. Thanks to generous support from the Faculty of Arts, the Centre's main office will be transformed into a multi-purpose space that will inspire and enable students and faculty to work together on exciting, new research projects. During COVID, the Centre's audience for its webinars has been in the hundreds.

The renovated Centre will feature a hybrid space that will allow us to host talks and events that can be live-streamed. This will help us to keep our many new online followers engaged with the Centre's many activities.

## LCSC (cont'd)

Another recent Centre innovation is the creation of the Copp Scholars Program. This new initiative brings Laurier Work Study Program (LWSP) students into the Centre as research assistants for faculty fellows. If you are a LWSP eligible History student, we would encourage you to apply for a Copp Scholar position in late August, early September. Watch for further details on this great opportunity for students to work closely with professors on their research.

We look forward to a time when we can all be back in person, on campus. When that happens, be sure to come and visit us at 232 King Street.

*Kevin Spooner, Director, LCSC*



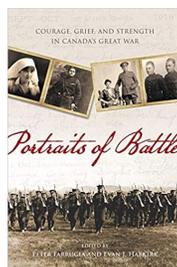
*Inside the LCSC*

## Spotlight on Faculty Research

**Cynthia Comacchio** published two book chapters in 2020-21:

“Scars upon My Heart”: Arnold and Clarence Westcott, Brothers and Soldiers,’ in Peter Farrugia and Evan J. Habkirk, eds. *Portraits of Battle: Courage, Grief, and Strength in Canada's Great War* (UBC Press: 2021)

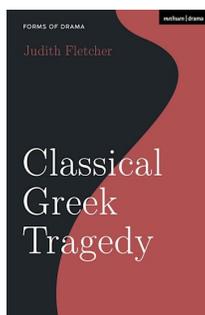
“By Every Means in Our Power”: Saving Mothers and Children in Ontario, 1914 to 1940,’ in Dimitry Anastakis and James Onusko, eds. *Ontario Since Confederation: New Perspectives* (UTP: 2021).



**Judith Fletcher** won a SSHRC Insight Grant (2020-25) for her project, ‘Women and ritual in Euripides.’ Dr. Fletcher also published a book and an article in 2020-21:

*Classical Greek Tragedy* (Methuen Forms of Drama Series, Bloomsbury Academic).

"A Good Gay Odyssey: Andrew Sean Greer's *Less*," *Classical Receptions Journal*, released online, July 3, 2021.



**Jeff Grischow** currently holds five SSHRC Grants (2 as Principal Investigator and 3 as Co-Applicant):

‘A History Disability Rights in Ghana: Transition, Adaptation and Lived Experience’ (Insight Grant, Principal Investigator)

‘Disability Rights in Ghana: Capturing Lived Experiences Through Grassroots Videography’ (Insight Development Grant, Principal Investigator)

‘Fostering Equitable Education Systems for those with Disabilities: A Canada-Ghana Partnership for addressing Indicators of Inclusive Education and Building Training Networks’ (Partnership Development Grant, Co-Applicant)

‘Supporting Inclusive Education in Haiti : Developing a Canada-Haiti Partnership for Research and Teacher Education on Disability and Inclusion’ (Partnership Development Grant, Co-Applicant)

‘Exploring the Psychosocial wellbeing of newcomers amid COVID-19 in Southern Ontario’ (Insight Development Grant, Co-Applicant)

For the Insight Grant, Dr. Grischow recently oversaw a remote videography project in Ghana, which produced ten video vignettes of grassroots stories of disability and COVID-19, recorded with an iPhone by a Ghanaian Research Assistant. He is currently editing the videos for release on social media platforms.

## Spotlight on Faculty Research (cont'd)

Dr. Grischow's most recent publication is 'Methodologically Thinking: Doing Disability Research in Ghanaian Cultural Communities.' *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research* XX(X): 1–11. (with Augustina Naami, Wisdom Mprah and Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy).

His forthcoming publications include:

*Disability Rights & Inclusiveness in Africa: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, challenges & change* (ed. Jeff Grischow & Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy, under contract with James Currey).

'Out of the Shadows': Exploring Disability / Mental Health Stigma in Ghana (Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy & Jeff Grischow, under contract with Lexington Books).

'Social Exclusion and Marginalization of Mental Illness in Ghana' (Mfoafo-M'Carthy & Jeff Grischow, forthcoming chapter in *Handbook of Social Inclusion. Research and Practices in Health and Social Sciences*, edited by Pranee Liamputtong, Springer).

'The Lived Experience of Disability Rights in Ghana: A Case Study from the Eastern Region,' with Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy, forthcoming in the *Journal of Social Inclusion*.

**Mark Humphries** published an article in 2020/21 entitled 'Working the Short-Haul Fur Trade: Voyageurs and the Family Economy at St-Benoît, 1796–1821,' in *Histoire Sociale/Social History*, 54(110), 17-41. He also has several forthcoming publications accepted for publication:

- An article in the *Michigan Historical Review* titled 'A "Pretended Copy Right"? E.A. Kendall and the Writing of Alexander Henry's Travels and Adventures in Canada and the Indian Territories.'

- A book chapter on the memory of the 1918 influenza epidemic in *Pandemic Re-Awakenings: The Forgotten and Unforgotten "Spanish" Flu of 1918-1919* (ed. Guy Bernier, Oxford University Press, Fall, 2021).

- An article on the Canadian pensioning system in the First World War, co-authored with Dr. Lyndsay Rosenthal accepted at the *Journal of Canadian Studies*.

In addition, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, Mark's work on Canadian public health and the 1918 influenza pandemic has been featured in numerous outlets over the past year including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Globe and Mail*, *Macleans*, *Toronto Star*, *CBC*, *National Post*, *CTV*, and a number of local radio stations.

In 2020/21, **Kristin Lord** (CTF) officially became one of the Members at Large for the Classical Association of the Middle West and South (CAMWS), when the Association went to remote voting. We have now had two successful virtual meetings, at which she presented papers on Euripides' Phoenician Women. CAMWS encourages submissions of papers by graduate students, and they also encourage undergraduates to submit ideas for their poster panel. Students who have written successful papers in the CAMWS's Ancient Studies courses should consider applying and should contact Dr. Lord regarding membership requirements.

**Amy Milne-Smith** continues to work on her SSHRC-funded project, 'Before Shell Shock: Madness and Mental Health in the British Army, 1857-1914.'

Three Research Assistants are working on her project: Katrina Van Der Ahe (memoirs), Brianne Casey (court marital records) and Marissa Birkett (transcriptions).

The students' work is being highlighted on Dr. Milne-Smith's website. You can see Katrina's research here:

<https://www.amymilnesmith.com/blank>

She also published a blog post:

<https://www.amymilnesmith.com/post/katrina-s-notes-on-military-memoirs>

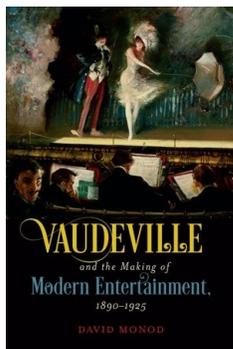
Brianne's work on the courts martial can be found here:

<https://www.amymilnesmith.com/court-martial-records>

## Spotlight on Faculty Research (cont'd)

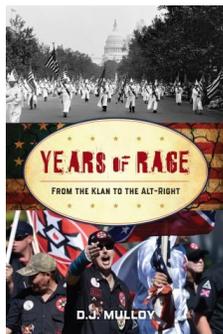
**David Monod's** new book, *Vaudeville and the Making of Modern Entertainment, 1890–1925* (University of North Carolina Press, 2021) has been shortlisted for the Canadian Historical Association's Wallace K. Ferguson Prize.

Congratulations David!



You can find out more about Dr. Monod's Vaudeville project at <http://vaudevilleamerica.org/about/>

**Darren Mulloy's** new book, *Years of Rage: From the Klan to the Alt-Right* (Rowman & Littlefield) is due to be published in October, 2021.



You can read more about Dr. Mulloy's research in the Faculty of Arts newsletter, *The Bridge*: <https://mailchi.mp/f1da9edd9af9/new-faculty-of-arts-research-newsletter-the-bridge>

**Susan Neylan** was a co-applicant on a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant (2020-21), "Locating the Past: Indigenizing The "History of Waterloo County Murals," (partnered with the Region of Waterloo) and she has hired History MA student Graeme Taylor as an RA (Spring 2021) to assist with research and compile bibliographies for a digital timeline.

**Chris Nighman** won two research grants in 2020/21.

The first is an internal WLU Category A Research Grant: "Launching the CLIMO Project". This project will transcribe a portion of a 12th-century Latin translation of a Greek biblical commentary on the Gospel of Matthew written by St. John Chrysostom (d.407).

The entire amount of this grant will be expended on the salaries of three student research assistants. You can view the project here: <https://climo-project.wlu.ca/index.html>

The second is a SSHRC Insight Grant (Stream B, 5 years): "The Digital Auctores Project". This project will develop digital editions of two Latin florilegia (collections of authoritative quotations) and enhance two existing florilegia editions that Dr. Nighman developed previously.

Two student research assistants have been employed on a portion of this project in Summer 2021, working on the Digital Viridarium consolationis Project, and it is expected that about ten more student RAs will be hired and trained to contribute to various components of this project over the next five years.

You can view this project here: Website: <https://viridarium-project.wlu.ca/index.html>

Dr. Nighman's research also was featured in the June, 2021, edition of Faculty of Arts research newsletter, *The Bridge*: <https://mailchi.mp/b6e5b59d550f/new-faculty-of-arts-research-newsletter-the-bridge-5552132>

**Johannes Remy (CTF)** is working on several ongoing projects, including:

- Translating from Russian into Finnish and editing *Nestor Makhno, Russian Revolution in Ukraine 1917-1918*. Makhno was an anarchist leader in the revolution. Forthcoming from Gaudeamus University of Helsinki Press in 2022.

- Writing an article "Ban on the second printing of the History of the Rus in 1858."

Dr. Remy also will present a paper entitled 'Ukrainian Nationally Oriented Intelligentsia and Peasants in 1917: Communication and Its Problems,' at the ICCEES, International Central Council for Central and East European Studies World Congress, Concordia University, August 3-8, 2021 virtual conference).

## Spotlight on Faculty Research (cont'd)

**Roger Sarty** published an edited collection and a book chapter in 2020:

*T. Joseph Scanlon, Catastrophe: Stories and Lessons from the Halifax Explosion*, Roger Sarty (ed.) (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2020).

'The Navy Reborn, an Air Force Created? The Making of Canadian Defence Policy, 1919,' in Tim Cook and J.L. Granatstein, *Canada 1919: A Nation Shaped by War* (UBC Press, 2020), 262-277.

He also has four forthcoming publications:

'The Navy Reborn, an Air Force Created? The Making of Canadian Defence Policy, 1919,' in Tim Cook and J.L. Granatstein, *Canada 1919: A Nation Shaped by War* (UBC Press, 2020), 262-277.

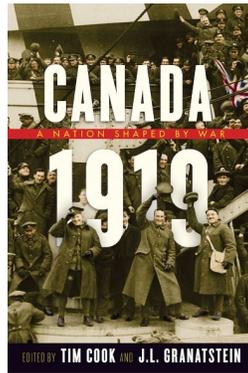
'James Campbell Clouston' [naval officer, 1900-1940], *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (in press)

'C.P. Stacey and the Writing of the Canadian Official History of the Normandy Campaign, 1944-1959,' in Marc Milner and Robert von Maier (eds), *Campaign in Normandy* (Brécourt Academic, accepted early 2020, but publication delayed to 2021 by pandemic)

'The Canadian Garrison Artillery Goes to War, 1914-1918,' in Douglas E. Delaney, Mark Frost, and Andrew L. Brown (eds), *Manpower and the Armies of the British Empire in the Two World Wars* (Cornell University Press, forthcoming shortly)

"The Army Origins of the Royal Canadian Navy": Canadian

Maritime Defence, 1855-1918,' *The Northern Mariner/Le marin du nord* 30, no. 4 (2020). In press (issue delayed).



Dr. Sarty continued his service to the scholarly community in 2020/21. First, he served as the Editorial Board Chair of the team that selected Dr. Peter Kikkert as the Irving Shipbuilding Chair in Arctic Policy at St. Frances Xavier University. He also became the editor of two journals: *The Northern Mariner/Le marin du nord*, the journal of the Canadian Nautical Research Society and the US North American Society for Oceanic History. Dr. Sarty is also the Canadian member of the Editorial Board for *The Journal of Military History*.

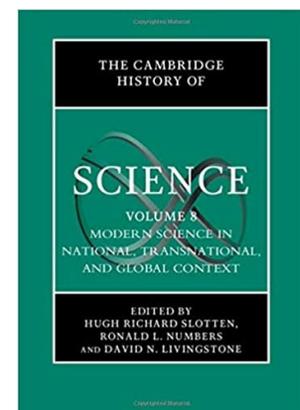
**David Smith** is the principal investigator of two SSHRC-funded research projects. The first uses machine-learning technologies to transcribe a unique record of smuggling prosecutions from 1733 to explore the hidden networks of illicit trade and crime. The second investigates ideas of corporate history and morality in Adam Smith and other classical liberal thinkers during the eighteenth century.

Research from these projects has appeared or is forthcoming this year in *Past & Present*, *Enterprise & Society*, and *Seattle University Law Review*.

**Suzanne Zeller** published a book chapter in 2020/21:

- 'Canada,' in *The Cambridge History of Science series, Vol. 8: Modern Science in National, Transnational, and Global Context* (eds. Hugh Richard Slotten, Ronald L. Numbers & David N. Livingstone, Cambridge University Press, 2020).

Dr. Zeller is also looking forward to two new research projects: "Animal InSight: Ernest Thompson Seton and the Twentieth-Century Ecological Imagination," and "Fundamental Forms: The Physical World of Victorian Canadians."



## History Students' Associations Annual Reports

### ***Undergraduate Students:***

*Report from HSA President,  
Nicholas Morrison*

The end of the 2020/21 academic year marks three years in which I have been involved in the HSA, starting as a first year representative and ending this year as President. I am honoured to have had the opportunity and I am looking forward to continuing working for the club as the VP Administration. I have left the club in the capable hands of Alyssa Firth.

The 2020/21 academic year presented a unique and challenging circumstance for the HSA, with all of the events being held remotely over Zoom due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, with the hard work of the executive team (Noah, Megan, Alyssa, Christopher, Paige, and Tristan) the club preserved and had a successful year. Their hard work and dedication allowed the club to thrive. We kicked off the fall semester with a virtual meet and greet where we selected our two first-year representatives. Our first official event was a Meet the Profs, which was held in conjunction with the Medieval Students Society. The annual Remembrance Day ceremony, held over Zoom, featured a speech from Dr. Roger Sarty covering the 1918 Halifax Explosion and the Canadian war effort in the First World War.

Former president Steph Plante returned to deliver the famous poem In Flanders Fields in French which was followed by Dr. Ivan Joseph, the current VP of Student Affairs, who carried on the tradition of reciting the poem in English.

At the beginning of Winter semester, we strove to introduce a number of new events to add some flavour to the virtual setting. In February, we hosted a murder mystery party set in the Jazz Age. Due to the success of this event, we co-hosted another murder mystery event with the Medieval Students Society set in the Renaissance.

In March, we partnered with the University of Waterloo Undergraduate History Society for a night of trivia which was well attended by both Laurier and Waterloo students. The night turned out to be one of our favourite events we hosted during the year and we are excited to work with their team to host another event in the coming 2021/22 academic year. We also joined the APSS to host a games night catered towards first-year students.

Despite the challenges faced this year with the shift to the online setting, it was a successful year for the club. I and the other executives have gained valuable connections and experience which we will put into practice in the coming year. I am looking forward to returning next year in my fourth year in-person to run more engaging events that bring together the students and the faculty.

*Nicholas Morrison*

### ***MA Students:***

*Report from MA Rep Stephanie Plante:*

Sitting in front of my laptop webcam in my own bedroom and wearing pyjama bottoms is not at all what I had in mind when I pictured my first day of grad school.

This past year has been exceptionally challenging for everyone, and our graduate students have not been an exception to that as we've exchanged classrooms for computer screens. While some grad students have been able to make the best of the switch to online learning, others continue to struggle in this new environment. While it is generally well-known that mental illness (notably depression and anxiety) and distress is on the rise among graduate students, few of us realized the additional toll the pandemic would take on our mental health.

Not only did the COVID-19 pandemic unearth considerable uncertainty about the future, but it introduced a variety of new stressors and lifestyle disruptions into modern life and academia. Whether it be difficulty maintaining productivity at home, accessing source material, collaborating with fellow students and colleagues, or the added pandemic-related struggles of isolation, burnout and incessant stress, this year has affected us all greatly.

In light of these circumstances, I want to express my admiration for all my fellow history grad students for their hard work and successes this past year.

I know many of us never got the chance to meet face to face, but your comradery and support in zoom squares, group messages and email chains has not gone unnoticed.

To our professors and supervisors, we understand that in these trying times it may feel as though your work and efforts go unseen or unappreciated, but we are forever grateful to those who made the time to offer us support and guidance this past year.

### **MA Student Report (cont'd):**

We wanted to extend a special thank you to our Graduate Advisor Dr. Blaine Chiasson for organizing weekly “zoom socials” and his overall dedication, advocacy and compassion for us during these times.

We would also like to thank the WLUGSA for hosting virtual events like writing workshops, trivia nights and their Gather Box campaign that brought students together to complete activities from the comfort of their own homes. Likewise, the annual Tri-University History Conference looked a little different this year as students presented their research virtually. This year’s conference entitled “Looking Back and Leaping Forward: Perseverance in Times of Crisis” took place March 6th 2021.

Being a history grad student in a pandemic has been an interesting experience to say the least, but one to be grateful for. If this past year has shown us anything, it’s that we’re more resilient than we think.

*Steph Plante*

### **PhD Students:**

*Report from PhD Rep Paul Mansell:*

Another locked-down term behind us! This makes two terms for most, although some of us had some practice in March 2020. This has been a challenging school year for PhD research to say the least, some of our cohort must sit and wait for access to those completing elements to their research. Perhaps all of us miss cavorting with an archive. It was also a new challenge to maintain some sense of grad student community in our isolated existence. Still, Zoom was our friend, allowing more opportunities to connect with Guelph and Waterloo students than before the COVID event. The fall 2020 term introduced our first Virtual Pub Night, the Spelling Bee, and our first Pet Photo Contest (Well done Annie, and better luck next time Charlie). The Holiday Social/Drop-In Party wrapped up the term. Many of you donned favorite sweaters and quaffed favorite winter beverages with the history grads.

The winter brought us fun individually-run projects like the Quilting Bee and the Virtual Game Night using JackBox. These sorts of projects represent the future for TUGSA, encouraging interest groups to make a virtual event and anyone to set up a virtual drop-in, or pub game night, or what-have-you. TUGSA has a Facebook page now as another connection point for PhD students to network with the Tri-U grad community.

With Zoom fatigue in mind, the rest of the winter term was limited to March’s Virtual Pub Night. The big event of the term was of course the Tri-U Conference, hosted by Guelph. The conference team did a superb job all round. Congratulations to everyone involved in planning and presenting. The Virtual Cabaret that accompanied this conference was incredible. Thanks for showing us all just what can be accomplished with a Zoom event. Wow, seriously well done. This conference was supposed to be hosted by Laurier! Oops. A simple misunderstanding, but no worries, Laurier will host the Tri-U Conference next March. So, get your papers in for next spring and you Laurier keeners can set up your own panels of related talks, but... virtual or in-person?

Stay tuned because: Who knows?

*Paul Mansell*

**PhD Candidate Cody Groat** is featured in the Research Office’s new Annual Report: <https://www.wlu.ca/academics/research/reports/annual-reports/2020-21/index.html>

Cody also has been appointed to a tenure-track position at Western in Indigenous Studies and History: <https://uwaterloo.ca/tri-university-history-graduate-program/news/cody-groat-appointed-indigenous-studies-and-history-western>

Congratulations Cody!

## Undergraduate and Graduate Officer Reports

### ***Undergraduate Officer***

In July, 2021, Dr. Dana Elizabeth Weiner took over from Dr. Amy Milne-Smith as our Undergraduate Officer. Thanks Dr. Milne-Smith for your excellent service to the History Department!

Dr. Weiner is an associate professor who has been at Laurier since 2008. Originally from the Los Angeles area, she holds a BA in History (Honors) and Women's Studies from the University of California at San Diego and MA and PhD degrees from Northwestern University. Her publications include the 2013 book, *Race and Rights: Fighting Slavery and Prejudice in the Old Northwest, 1830-1870*, as well as chapters in edited collections. Here's Dr. Weiner's welcome message:

'First, I would like to recognize my predecessor in this role, Dr. Amy Milne-Smith, for her exemplary work and service. She left departmental affairs in excellent shape! As I settle in to being Undergraduate Officer, already I have enjoyed meeting with students over Zoom and learning about their diverse study plans and intentions for the future. This year I will be teaching a fourth-year seminar on the Civil War Era. This is an area of the history of the U.S. that elicits massive scholarly interest. New books and new discoveries arise frequently, and it is always fun to see the different areas in which students choose to focus their research.

My own research is about race, identity, debates over rights, and grassroots politics in the U.S. Midwest and the West in the nineteenth century. I am currently working on a

biography of William A. Leidesdorff, a biracial settler of the San Francisco Bay area who died in 1848, just before the gold rush. He left behind a large estate with no clear heir; this caused a major legal uproar and has led him to become a mythical figure in California history. I am enjoying exploring and complicating those myths. When not advising, teaching, or researching, I read a lot, and I love taking backpacking and canoeing trips. In the future, I look forward to once more playing recreational soccer and traveling.'

*Dana Weiner, Undergraduate Officer*

### ***Graduate Officer***

'Unprecedented', 'challenging', 'unique' are adjectives that have been much tossed about this last 18 months. For WLU's History graduate students these words and more unprintable ones have been used to describe the experience of learning and conducting research in the 2020-2021 academic year. Nevertheless, our students have persevered and are on track to complete their MA and PhD milestones. Each group had different challenges. For our 14 MAs it was the pivot to all online courses and adjusting their research topics to the closed libraries and archives. The tight cohort of MA students meant that, even on-line, a sense of collegiality prevailed. Friday afternoon zoom sessions allowed the students to vent their frustrations with the changed learning experience.

It was not all negative- the on-line classes retained their academic vigour and rapid-fire intellectual exchange, and classes at the University of Guelph received an attendance boost since the commute was reduced to the time it took to

walk over to your computer.

Our MAs already have clear research agendas and most had identified their MRPs' source base well in advance of September 2021. The libraries were a challenge but eventually books were released from their Covid prisons and interlibrary loans resumed. As of July, our MAs are now in the midst of writing their MRPs and all look to be on track to defend by September. The pandemic may have brought an unexpected interest boost in an MA in History; over 30 applications were received, and this coming September 17 new MAs will begin their program.

For our PhD students who had completed their field exams and were about to begin research the past academic year has been an exercise in frustration. Libraries and archives were closed, and research travel was forbidden. A number chose to take a leave of absence, effectively stopping the academic clock until that time when institutions re opened and travel was permitted. Most leaves are ending this September and we all hope that research agendas can be resumed, health directives permitting. Three doctoral students, at the beginning and end of their programs, were respectively able to complete the milestones of field courses, fields exams and in the case of one PhD student, submit his dissertation for defence in September. I and the department have great hopes the remaining doctoral students, including two new students arriving in September, will be able to resume their work. On the whole the experience of grad school under covid has turned out better than we thought. At the same time we are all happy to put it behind us and look forward to better days, and the return to face to face intellectual and social exchange.

*Blaine Chiasson, Graduate Officer*

## Current Full-Time Faculty

*In 2020-21, the History Department at Laurier's Waterloo campus had 22 tenured professors, including two who are cross-appointed to other departments or programs:*

**Dr. Gavin Brockett**, Associate Professor & Acting Dean of Arts (cross-appointed: 25% History, 25% Global Studies, 50% Religion & Culture): Middle East & Islamic History, Modern Turkey

**Dr. Blaine Chiasson**, Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor: Modern China, Sino-Russian relations

**Dr. Cynthia Comacchio**, Professor: Canadian History; Gender, Family & Class; Health Care

**Dr. Adam Crerar**, Associate Professor: 20th-Century Canada, Rural Ontario

**Dr. Darryl Dee**, Associate Professor: Early Modern France, Early Modern Europe

**Dr. Judith Fletcher**, Professor: Ancient Greece & Rome; Gender, Law & Culture; representations of the Ancient World in modern culture

**Dr. Leonard Friesen**, Professor: Russia & the Soviet Union, Global Ethics

**Dr. Karljürgen Feuerherm**, Associate Professor: Ancient Near East, Digital Humanities

**Dr. Jeff Grischow**, Associate Professor: Africa (especially Ghana), World History, Comparative Development

**Dr. Mark Humphries**, Associate Professor: Canadian Military History, Epidemics

**Dr. Amy Milne-Smith**, Associate Professor and History Undergraduate Advisor: 19th-century British Social History, Crime in Victorian England

**Dr. David Monod**, Professor, Modern American Cultural & Social History

**Dr. Darren Mulloy**, Professor: Post-1945 U.S. history, Political Extremism

**Dr. Susan Neylan**, Associate Professor: Canadian Indigenous Peoples, Cultural History

**Dr. Chris L. Nighman**, Professor & Co-ordinator of Medieval & Medievalism Studies: Medieval & Renaissance Europe, Digital Humanities



The Tri-University Graduate Program in History combines the faculty and resources of three of Canada's premier universities: Laurier, the University of Guelph, and the University of Waterloo.

Since 1994 our program has been educating students in innovative ways while providing them with a solid grounding in traditional historical methods.

The Tri-University program integrates the scholarship and experience of over seventy graduate faculty, making it one of the biggest graduate history programs in the country. Some 130 History graduate students are currently enrolled in the program and each year we accept up to 20 new Doctoral students and 60 new Master's students.

Because of its impressive size and scope and because of student mobility among the three campuses, we are able to provide courses and supervise research in the widest possible range of areas.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.triuhistory.ca>

**Dr. Eva Plach**, Associate Professor: Modern Europe, Poland, Women's History

**Dr. Roger Sarty**, Professor: Canadian Naval History, Canadian Military History. *Retired, 2021.*

**Dr. David Smith**, Associate Professor & Chair of History: Early Modern Britain, Law & Society, Commerce in Europe & the New World

**Dr. Kevin Spooner**, Associate Professor (cross-appointed to Political Science & North American Studies): 20th-century Canadian Foreign Policy

**Dr. Barrington Walker**, Associate Vice-President, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion & Professor, Department of History: Black Canadian History and the Histories of Race, Colonization Immigration and Law.

**Dr. Dana Weiner**, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Advisor: Pre-1877 US; Women's, Gender & African-American History

**Dr. Suzanne Zeller**, Professor: Canadian History, Science in Victorian Culture & Society. *Retired, 2021.*

**Editor:** *Jeff Grischow*

**Editorial Assistant:** *Heather Vogel*

**Contact:** *jgrischow@wlu.ca or Heather Vogel, Administrative Assistant, hvogel@wlu.ca*

*WLU History Department*

*75 University Ave W.*

*Waterloo, Ontario,*

*Canada, N2L 3C5*

*Tel: (519) 884-0710 x3389 [www.wlu.ca/arts/history](http://www.wlu.ca/arts/history)*