

# MANECCS NEWS & VIEWS

The Newsletter of the Middle Atlantic and New England Council for Canadian Studies August 2012

## Canadian Studies: Alive and Moving Forward

**From the Editor:** On May 1, 2012, Canadian Studies associations throughout the world received the worst news possible, viz., the Canadian government would no longer be funding the *Understanding Canada* program which provided a financial foundation for scholarly research on Canada by 7,000 faculty in 55 countries. Not only did this program promote the exchange of ideas between Canadian and foreign scholars, it helped promote knowledge and understanding of Canadian ideals, values, and perspectives across the globe through conferences, symposia, artistic performances, and scholarly publications. In this issue we hope to show our readers that **MANECCS**, like many other Canadian Studies associations and programmes, will push forward to do what can be done to continue and build upon what has been accomplished by these endeavours over the past thirty-five years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeanne McGinn and her associates at the [Curtis Institute of Music](#) in Philadelphia and Patricia Kennedy and her fellow board members at the **Pennsylvania Canadian Studies Consortium** for their efforts in helping to establish partnerships with **MANECCS** to ensure the success of the upcoming biennial conference in Philadelphia. One of the strongest features of the Canadian identity is its sense of community, and here we see the a community of scholars coming together to pursue a common good, viz., sustaining Canadian Studies through a period of unexpected challenges and transition.



The *Understanding Canada* program has its share of critics, both past and present. But one cannot help but wonder if a major portion of this criticism has been produced by mistaken perceptions of the nature and benefits of this program. Success in global business requires an understanding of and a respect for differences as well as similarities in global trade partnerships. Not the least of these differences will be found in the diversity of cultural identities, economic philosophies, and foreign policy initiatives which characterize global partnerships. Working toward such understanding and respect was and is a primary objective of Canadian Studies programs throughout the world. That goal, that objective, cannot be abandoned. It is time to gather our resolve in meeting challenges as they arise.

It would be a mistake to assume that the challenges now faced are due entirely to the cancellation of the *Understanding Canada* program. For the last decade, Canadian Studies programs in the United States have

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faced decreases in funding and the loss of Canadian Studies faculty. As universities faced decreases in public and private funding, and as faculty began to retire, smaller programs were the first to feel the consequences. The value of programs came to be measured entirely in the amount of majors they were likely to attract and the size of their classroom populations. The quality of a program and the long range benefits of a program were made less prominent

in standards used for assessment. Class size and its accompanying revenue came to be the dominant factors when assessing the value of an academic program and the scholarly research that it fostered. The dedicated students and teachers of Canadian Studies began to become more vocal advocates and small scale entrepreneurs as a matter of survival. The resolve began to build and will not and should not fade with the latest round of challenges. This issue is dedicated to highlighting that resolve as it is manifested in some past and current efforts of **MANECCS** and its individual members.

Hopefully, one reward for the exercise of this resolve, this dedication to promoting an understanding and appreciation of Canada and its ideals and values, will be the restoration, in some form, of the *Understanding Canada* program.

*Dr. Robert M. Timka*, Editor

### **Around MANECCS**

#### ***At Millersville University***

Charles Greenawalt reports that student interest in taking Canadian government courses remains as strong as ever. These courses have been filled to capacity for 20 years and show every indication that the demand for their presence will continue for years into the future.

Millersville continues to participate in the Ottawa Internship program. Its two most recent interns in Parliament were Ms. Bree Bolin and Ms. Caroline Greenawalt. Ms. Bolin served with a Liberal Party member, and Ms. Greenawalt served with a Conservative Party member.

#### ***At Bridgewater State University***

Andrew Holman published an article in the July 2012 issue *ISTOR*, a leading Mexican journal on international history. His essay, "*Una bandera de tendones: el hockey sobre hielo y la historia de Canada*" ["A Flag of Tendons: Ice Hockey and Canadian History"], explores the meanings that Canada's national winter game has had for Canadians over the past 125 years. *ISTOR* devoted its whole July 2012 to Canadian history topics.

In July, Andy was interviewed on CBC Radio (Prince George, BC and Whitehorse, Yukon) on the connections between hockey, family and community in Canadian culture.



#### ***At Edinboro***

Jan Kinch reports that Edinboro University is currently having conversations with Canadian authors Wayson Choy and Lawrence Hill. It has hoped that both will be able to visit the campus in the coming academic year to present readings of their works and writing workshops.

#### ***At Princeton***

Jeremy Adelman, Director of Canadian Studies at Princeton University, reports that invitations have been extended to Margaret Atwood, Ron Ellis, and Stephen Clarkson to visit the Princeton program during the 2012-2013 academic year. Atwood will give the J. Edward Farnum lecture on October 16, 2012 at 8:00 PM in McCosh 50. More details of these visits will be available in the September issue of *MANECCS Updates*.

#### ***At Mansfield***

*(Jonathan Rothermel as the new Director of Canadian Studies, reports on the dilemmas he faces and solicits readers' advice: [jrotherm@mansfield.edu](mailto:jrotherm@mansfield.edu).)*

As director of Canadian studies at Mansfield University, I face a dilemma. How do I convince faculty to offer courses to support Canadian studies when it is not evident that a demand exists for such courses? This dilemma is particularly acute as programs and departments face pressure to increase class sizes.

Ironically, the demand for Canadian studies probably suffers from the relatively tranquil history of US-Canada relations. Today students aspire to be experts in Chinese or Middle Eastern studies. Universities are expected to offer

language course offerings in Chinese, Arabic, and even Pashto. Conflict or potential conflict begets interest, and it is doubtful that the debate over the Keystone pipeline captures the imagination of adventurous undergraduates the same way as the conflict in Syria does.

Although it is unlikely that Canada will be a security threat to US interests any time soon, one only needs to look beyond the surface of Canada to realize that US-Canada relations is not as straight forward as many think. I was reminded of this fact after participating in the Quebec Summer Seminar, which is organized by the Institute of Quebec Studies at SUNY Plattsburgh. The seminar was an incredible opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Canada's rich history and diversity. Student strikes over nominal increases in tuition, an unpredictable provincial election in Quebec, and support for a separatist movement are among a few ongoing issues in Canada that should pique the interest of both faculty and students.

In fact, it could be that Canadian Studies is more relevant than ever, but how can I convey this notion to my fellow faculty and students? I am happy to solicit advice or comments from my colleagues.

### ***At the Center for the Study of Canada, Plattsburgh***

The Center for the Study of Canada and Institute on Quebec Studies at SUNY Plattsburgh has a variety of significant program initiatives upcoming in fall 2012. The Center, in partnership with the Center for International Development at Ball State University, will convene an international conference titled "Canada and Afghanistan: A Political, Diplomatic, Security, Economic & Social Assessment" at the Ball State Indianapolis Center, October 11-13, 2012. The conference, involving scholars from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, is designed to examine and comprehensively evaluate the impact of Canada's engagement in Afghanistan. A collection of revised contributions will be featured as an issue of *International Journal* in 2013.

The Institute, in partnership with the Quebec Studies Programme at McGill University and the

American Council for Quebec Studies, will convene a colloquium on November 7<sup>th</sup> in Sarasota, Florida for new scholars working in Quebec Studies. Edited papers from the colloquium will form the basis of a special dossier for the journal *Quebec Studies*. The Institute will also be engaged, in partnership with McGill University, Université de Montréal, and École nationale d'administration publique (ENAP), in hosting an author's workshop/colloquium (November 15-17 in Montreal) for scholars from Canada and the United States on the theme of "Quebec and the World: Foundations, Regions, Actors and Issues." Selected works from this scholarly gathering will appear as a book in 2013.

Finally, the CONNECT program will be releasing two calls for papers – one, for a joint CONNECT-Fulbright Canada colloquium in 2013 (the best essays of which will form an issue of the *American Review of Canadian Studies*) and a conference, dedicated solely for CONNECT program participants in fall 2013, leading to a book publication.

### ***Feature Article: "Uniting Classrooms across the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel"***

*Stephanie Bangarth, Department of History, King's University College at the University of Western Ontario*  
*Andrew Holman, Department of History, Bridgewater State University*

In March and September 2009, students in two upper-level Canadian history courses on opposite sides of the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel took part in two interesting experiments in Canadian-American student colloquy. In March, Dr. Andrew Holman's HIST 488 "Canadian History since Confederation" class at Bridgewater State College (Massachusetts) was linked via Skype and a web camera to Dr. Stephanie Bangarth's HIST 4701E: "Topics in Canadian-American History" class at King's University College at Western University to discuss the subject "Multiculturalism versus the Melting Pot." Both classes read the same set of scholarly articles to prepare them for the discussion. A roundtable format was employed.



The discussion was followed by an open floor period, when any student could approach the camera and offer his or her ideas or pose his or her questions. In September 2009, the experiment was repeated, this time linking a Bridgewater State class on “War and Canadian Society” with the Canadian-American History class at King’s University College and focusing on a tighter subject: the War of 1812 (the war that both sides won!). The students performed very ably and professionally and asked to continue the discussion beyond the planned schedule so that they could talk informally about the (then) current health care debate in the U.S. and the Canadian model.



Scholars of Canadian-American relations have long asserted that citizens of these countries see things differently. “I wonder what ‘they’ study about ‘us?’” posed one of the Canadian students; the student might have spoken for her American counterparts as well. To a considerable degree, these two “webinar” sessions helped Canadian and American students answer that question. By engaging with their counterparts on common scholarly subjects, these students began to see how “the other” is viewed in our respective societies and to see how “otherness” has coloured the writing of Canadian and U.S. history.

These two pilot web conferences were successful beyond what could have been anticipated. Assessment questionnaires filled out by participating students in these classes were enthusiastically positive about the experience. Almost all of the respondents found the differences in perspective both jarring and enlightening. And every one of them felt that it would be worthwhile to repeat the exercise. *“The webinar is worth doing again... and again... and again,”* one Bridgewater State student noted. *“It was exciting and encouraging to be involved in a classroom that was so actively thinking, contributing, and listening,”* noted a KUC student.

Since that time we have repeated this ‘experiment’ on a number of occasions and have branched out to other topics: Quebec, WWI and Conscriptation, King and Roosevelt and WWII, and Sport Culture in North America. In the 2010-2011 academic year, we included the use of a web-based

chatboard where students could pose questions about the readings and discuss them beyond the webinars.

This is a highly innovative project. We know of no situation where two classrooms are linked in a regular fashion, on both sides of the Canadian-American border, to engage in discussions of mutual historical interest. By embracing new technologies and applying innovative pedagogy, two classrooms, one in Ontario and the other in Massachusetts, are making a difference in promoting understanding and continuing the long friendship between our two nations. That we are both faculty members at MANECCS member institutions emphasizes the continuing benefits of Canadian-American academic cooperation.



### **Preview: MANECCS 2012 Biennial Conference September 27-30 Loews Hotel, Philadelphia, PA**

MANECCS has released a draft preview of its upcoming conference in Philadelphia. There will be eleven scholarly panels with thirty-one individual presentations. Additionally, the conference will include six special events which include a concert of Canadian music, a distinguished keynote address, a book-signing, and a moderated forum on challenges and opportunities in Canadian Studies.

#### **MANECCS Conference Panels**

##### ***Friday September 28***

- Art, Culture and Identity (8:30-10:00 AM)
- Gender, Governance and Politics (8:30-10:00 AM)
- Ethnicity Race, and Justice (10:30 AM-12:00 PM)
- Citizenship, Immigration, and Security (10:30 AM-12:00 PM)
- Russia, Canada, and the United States (2:00-3:00 PM)
- Performance, Art, and Theatre (3:30-5:00 PM)
- History, Memory, and Its Keeping (3:30-5:00 PM)

**Saturday September 29**

- Perspectives on the War of 1812 (8:30-10:00 AM)
- Issues in Health Care (8:30-10:00 AM)
- Tales of Two Wars (10:30 AM – 12:00 PM)
- Boundary Crossings (10:30 AM – 12:00 PM)

The opening panel is itself an exercise in understanding diversity. It explores the work of First Peoples artist Kevin Cranmer, ponders design differences in 18<sup>th</sup> century French and English silver work and reflects on the work of the iconic Group of Seven. In a concurrent opening panel participants will explore the future of the Liberal and NDP and be asked to consider electoral reform in Canada and the case of gender equity in the NDP.

Late Friday attendees are again faced with a difficult choice. On one hand, they will have an opportunity to examine human rights activism, the role of black Canadian women warriors, and explore Japanese Canadian history in British Columbia. On the other they can choose to engage in a media analysis of the Omar Khadr repatriation process, examine Canada's failed bid for an UN Security Council seat while comparing provinces and states on the para-diplomacy of immigration policies. Friday afternoon begins with a general session which examines the role of the U.S. in Russia-Canada Relations and presents a comparative analysis of language tolerance in Russia and Canada. This panel is itself a reminder of the cooperation of scholars from across the globe cooperating in the promotion of Canadian Studies. MANECCS has for many years invited Russian colleagues to participate in our conference and has sent US and Canadian scholars to Russia in response to invitations to participate in their national and regional Canadian Studies conferences.

After a short break, attendees once again have a choice. They can engage in a comparison of mummer traditions in Newfoundland and Philadelphia while learning about Canadian Patronage and the funding of convergence theatre, or they can participate in a discussion of the interactions of First Nations and Museums while revisiting Laura Secord in the context of web based historical resources and analyzing the

relationship between women, historical memory and national identity in English Canada and the U.S.

Saturday begins with concurrent discussions of two specific topics: the War of 1812 and current issues in Health Care. Isaac Brock and the Battle of Detroit, Queenston Heights, and Lundy's Lane play prominent roles in the reflection on 1812 while the role of medical humanities and long-term care for the elderly are featured discussions in the examination of Canadian health care.

The final set of panels on Saturday morning brings us another encounter with difference and identity. One panel examines American boys' serial fiction between 1870 and 1940 and examines the militarization of boys' work in American and Canadian YMCAs during WWI. A second panel examines disputed North Atlantic geography and a fisherman's national identity, Canada's investment in Pennsylvania's natural gas industry and takes a close look at sanctions and the attempt to market vacation packages from Canada to Rhodesia and South Africa.

**Special Events**

**Thursday September 27**

- Opening Reception and Video Presentation (6:00-9:00 PM)

**Friday September 28**

- Distinguished Artists Concert: *Music in the Key of Canada*, Adrian Anantawan (Violin) and Amy Yang (Piano) CO-sponsored by the Curtis Institute of Music (8:00-9:00 PM)
- Meet the Artist's Reception (9:00-10:30 PM)

**Saturday September 29**

- Keynote Address: Karolyn Smardz Frost, Harriet Tubman Institute, York University, Toronto, "Digging for African Canadian History: The Story of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn" (1:30-3:00 PM)
- Reading and Book Signing, Karolyn Smardz Frost, *I've Got a home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground*, (3:30-4:15 PM)
- Moderated Forum: New Funding Challenges and Opportunities in Canadian Studies (4:15-5:15 PM)

As is part of our tradition, the conference opens with a reception on Thursday evening where everyone has a chance to renew old friendships and begin to build new ones.

On Friday evening the conference moves from Loews Hotel to the Field Concert Hall at the Curtis Institute of Music for a performance of "Music in the Key of Canada." The performers are Adrian Anantawan (violin) and Amy Yang (piano). You can read about Adrian in the March issue of [MANECCS News & Views](#) or visit his website at [www.adriananantawan.com](http://www.adriananantawan.com) You can find more information on Amy Yang at [www.amyjyang.com](http://www.amyjyang.com) A reception with the artists will be held after the performance.

Immediately following luncheon on Saturday will be the conference keynote address. Invited scholar Karolyn Smardz Frost will speak on "Digging for African Canadian History: The Story of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn." Karolyn Smardz Frost is a Senior Research Fellow in the Harriet Tubman Institute at York University in Toronto. She has been selected as the 2012-13 Canadian Bicentennial Visiting Professor for Canadian Studies at Yale University where she will be working in association with the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. Following the keynote Karolyn will read from and sign copies of her book *I've Got a home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*. - winner of the Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction in 2007.

The conference ends with a moderated forum on new funding challenges and opportunities in Canadian Studies.

### ***Additional Conference Information***

#### ***Conference Registration***

The [Conference Registration Form](#) can be found on the MANECCS website ([www.maneccs.org](http://www.maneccs.org)) or by clicking on the link above.

#### ***Hotel Reservations***

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Loews Philadelphia Hotel** for a special MANECCS Conference rate of \$179/night. Reservations can be made by calling (888) 575-6397 or online at <http://www.loewshotels.com/Philadelphia-Hotel>

You must provide the MANECCS Group Code **MAN27S** and make your reservation before **September 6, 2012** in order to receive the conference rate.

#### ***Getting to the hotel from the airport or from the Amtrak station***

If you are arriving by air, the airport SEPTA high speed train (operates from 5:25 AM until 11:25 PM daily, every 30 minutes,) can take you to Market East station and then follow the instructions below. If you are coming in on Amtrak take the SEPTA regional rail from 30<sup>th</sup> St. to Market East (it is just a couple of minutes). Take the exit toward the Convention Center On ground level exit to Market Street. Loews Hotel should be to the right diagonally from you. The cost of the Airport train is \$7 US.

#### ***MANECCS Membership***

We would like to remind all members that the biennial dues are payable by September 1 of even numbered years. You can renew your membership with the conference registration or mail your dues to Joan Whitman Hoff at the address on the membership form. Members have access to the **eJOURNAL** section of the website and to the *Membership Directory*. In the **eJOURNAL** section of the website, members can find archived newsletters, abstracts of past conferences, and information about dining out in Philadelphia during the 2012 conference.

#### ***ACSUS Has Moved***

ACSUS is pleased to announce that they have relocated to Johns Hopkins SAIS. ACSUS wishes to recognize Professor Charles Doran and Associate Dean John M. Harrington, Jr. for hosting the Association.

#### ***The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States***

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