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Welcome to the Fifth Year of “Canadian Connections @ UB”

Munroe Eagles, Director, Canadian Studies Academic Program

In its fifth year of full-time operation, the Canadian Studies Academic Program is maturing rapidly into a dynamic and exciting enterprise. However, 2011-2012 has seen mixed news for the Program, and a brief recap is in order to bring you up to date on developments. Starting with some good news, the joint Masters Degree Programs in Canadian-American Studies with Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, that we have been working on for the past couple years, has received all necessary approvals (the Ontario Council of Graduate Schools in Ontario, and SUNY, State Education department, and the Middle States on the New York side) and is ready for launching in the Fall of 2013. This joint degree, where students will register in either Brock or UB, complete roughly half their academic work on each campus, and receive a single degree issued by both universities, will be the first such initiative that involves universities in different countries.

For this edition of the Newsletter I have asked Dr. Gregory Betts, Director of Canadian Studies at Brock, to contribute a piece describing their program. He outlines their considerable success in identifying an impressive level of financial support for Brock participants in the program. For my part, I am now seeking

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various opportunities to support students in the program (paid internships, etc.) that will help Buffalo students pursuing the joint degree. In March, Robert Skerker – a founding member of our Community Advisory Board - kindly agreed to serve as the Board’s chair (see the piece by Mr. Skerker in this Newsletter).

More ominously, we learned in May 2012 that Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) was immediately terminating all funding support for Canadian Studies worldwide. It turns out that UB – historically the most active and successful campus participating in these programs - was one of the very few schools to receive any funding at all for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Many programs in the US did not learn that they would not receive awards for the past year until DFAIT’s final announcement about the termination of the Programs. This shocking news means that the core funding for the CSAP is now in jeopardy. In recent years, the Canadian-American Studies Committee has coordinated UB’s participation in these funding programs and has met with unprecedented success in obtaining financial support. These program grants have been matched dollar-for-dollar by the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. Fortunately, in a July 2012 meeting, Dean Bruce Pitman of the College of Arts and Sciences agreed to provide some interim funding to keep our programs afloat until we are able to put them on a more solid financial footing.

A second set-back followed closely on the heels of this development. In late May DFAIT announced that it was closing its Buffalo Consulate. This astonishing decision represents a setback of enormous proportions for all our Canada-related programming on campus and takes the jobs of a highly professional and energetic group who have championed and facilitated our efforts for three decades. We are currently trying to make sense of these decisions and to assess their impact on the future of our CSAP program. In this Newsletter and with barely two weeks left in his tenure as our Academic Relations Officer, I took the opportunity with Dan Kolundzic and ask him about his experiences and reflections on his time at the Consulate.

There were many positive developments over the past year. CSAP Associate Director Professor Jean-Jacques Thomas was elected to a renewable two-year term on the Executive Council, the primary governance body for the Association of Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS). He joins Munroe Eagles in serving in this capacity.

I hope you enjoy this edition of our Newsletter. Thank you for your interest in Canadian Studies at UB.

CSAP Director Munroe Eagles with Prof. Mildred Schwartz at the Biennial ACSUS conference, Ottawa, Ontario, November 2011. Professor Schwartz is a noted political sociologist who has contributed greatly to Canadian studies over the years, and in 2011 she was awarded the Seymour Martin Lipset “best book” prize by the “Canadian Politics” section of the American Political Science Association.

Update on Quebec Studies

Prof. and Associate Director of CSAP Jean-Jacques Thomas

During the fall of 2010 Canadian Studies wrote a grant proposal for a prestigious PIRQ grant, a major grant given by the Quebec government to a US University. In the spring of 2011 we received word from the New York Quebec Délégation Générale that our grant proposal
had been chosen by the Quebec government for an award. We received the full amount requested ($20,000) for two academic years (2011-2013). In the fall of 2011, Alain Olivier (Director, Communications, Government Relations and Academic Affairs, Québec Government Office in New York) came to UB to deliver the 2011-2012 check and to meet with Munroe Eagles (Canadian Studies), Jean-Jacques Thomas (Associate Director Canadian Studies for Quebec Affairs and Programs) and Laure Bordas (Graduate Assistant to the Quebec Studies program).

Thanks to the award, academic year 2011-2012 was rich in Quebec related activities. During the international colloquium Oulipo@50 organized by the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and the Melodia E. Jones Chair, we were able to invite Dominique Raymond, professor at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières who gave a talk entitled “Etre et ne pas être une contrainte : L’étrange cas du Canada-dry” (https://vimeo.com/35809587 ). Jean-Jacques Thomas traveled to Ottawa to the 2011 ACSUS Biennale Conference (November 16-20) where he met with several representatives of the Québec government including Maryse Gaudreault who represented the Québec Ministère des Relations Internationales.

As part of the Francophone community outreach, this year, the PIRQ award was used to sponsor the annual Excellence in French Studies Competition on Saturday, March 31st. The competition attracted 14 students from across Western New York who completed a rigorous French dictée excerpted from the famous novel Les Misérables (V. Hugo). The winners were: Elizabeth Baker, first place, of Clarence High School, Niamh Durfee, second place, of City Honors School at Fosdick-Masten Park, and, Jonathan Er of Williamsville East High School, who shared third place with Allison Gillet of Starpoint High School. The winners were invited to attend the commencement ceremony of SUNY at Buffalo’s Department of Romance Languages and Literatures on May 11th.

During the Digital Exhibit “Language to Cover a Wall” organized at the UB Center for the Arts by Prof. Loss Glazier (Visual Studies) and The Poetics Program, Québec Studies sponsored a two week visit at the UB EPC by the Québec digital poet David Jhave Johnston who, on February 4, 2012, during the “Digital Poetry Spectacular” presented several of his extraordinary digital creations (http://glia.ca/2012/mups/). In February, as part of our partnership with Canisius College, we contributed to the “2012 Canisius College Québécois Film Festival” organized by Prof. Eileen M. Angelini. On Wednesday, February 8, Jean-Jacques Thomas presented the film Aurore directed by Luc Dionne and UB Quebec Studies sponsored the visit of Prof. Michel Vigneault (Université du Québec à Montréal) who presented the film Maurice Richard by Charles Binamé (Prof. Vigneault was an adviser on the set of the film devoted to the legendary hockey player who brought the Montréal Canadiens to an unrivaled record of five consecutive Stanley Cup Championships).
One activity that is part of the description of the PIRQ involves student support; the PIRQ allocation was used to support Laure Bordas who, during the full academic year, was the Research Assistant (RA) for Quebec Studies. Also, PIRQ funds support the Summer Study Abroad stay at Université Laval in Québec by Nicole Lucey. At Laval, Nicole is enrolled in the graduate program where she will familiarize herself with Québec history, culture and literature with the hope that her Ph.D. research will include a special Francophone option (Québec).

Finally, because one of the goals of the grant proposal was to establish the foundation of a permanent Québec Studies program within UB Canadian Studies, a certain amount of the funds provides office space to the program and establishes a web presence of Quebec Studies on the UB web site. Room 902 in Clemens Hall will become the home of Quebec Studies and will be officially open in the fall of 2012. Debra Kolodczak has been busy since March preparing a prototype of the future web site. Recently, Canadian Studies has approved the following proposal:

It is expected that the site will be developed during the summer and that it will be ready for active use in the fall, at the start of the fourth year of the establishment of Quebec Studies on the UB campus following the visionary creation of Canadian Studies by Munroe Eagles. As I have been renewed as Associate Director of Canadian Studies for Quebec Affairs and Programs for three more years by the Dean of Arts and Sciences, it is my firm conviction that Canadian Studies will continue to grow on the UB campus and that, year after year, UB will become a well recognized center of excellence for this type of studies, both in the US and internationally.
Second “Binational Executive Seminar” (BES) Held at Niagara Falls, June 4th – 8th, 2012

Munroe Eagles, CSAP and BES Director

In early June Brock University and UB once again teamed up to present the second annual “Binational Executive Seminar” at the “Sheraton at the Falls” in Niagara Falls, NY. This intensive five day workshop on Canada-US relations attracted 13 Fellows (including 2 UB graduate students) from all over Canada and the US (Fellows came from Nova Scotia, Ontario, Ohio, Mississippi, Connecticut, Maine, and Colorado). Visiting faculty included a Brigadier-General from NORAD in Colorado, a former Canadian ambassador to the US, a think tank expert from the Hudson Institute, and a variety of academics and practitioners from both countries.

In the lead-up to this event, CSAP and BES Director Eagles and Dan Kolundzic from the Canadian Consulate visited with DFAIT officials in Ottawa to secure core funding for this program ($25,000 in total from Ottawa and the Buffalo Consulate), and topped this up with $5,000 (cash) each from the Niagara Falls and Peace Bridge Commissions. The former added $1,000 to this amount to assist with the set-up for our meetings at their Rainbow Bridge Promenade in Niagara Falls, ON. These organizations also offered up their meeting facilities for Seminar sessions, and each provided a lovely lunch for Seminar participants. So, with the value of their in-kind contributions included, each contributed approximately $6500, making the total Seminar budget approximately $38,000 (and this does not include the value of the travel support most Fellows obtained from regional Consular offices of the Canadian government all over the US). We are very grateful to our sponsors for this wonderful support.

Immediately following the event, surveys were emailed to each Fellow and Faculty presenter. The results over convincing evidence of the positive experiences enjoyed by both groups. For example, one of the Fellows wrote: “Every session was very informative and constructive conversations where had during each one. Seminars related to NAFTA, global trade/economics, and politics between the U.S. and Canada stood out the most to me. These topics relate to my line of work the most and the seminars where very informative with great discussion afterward.” Another Fellow from the Governor’s Office in Ohio was equally enthusiastic:

“For me the best part of this intense week was more than what I learned (which was a lot); it was the way in which it made me want to know even more, launching what may be many years of mindfulness and exploration of the Canadian-US relationship, its complexities, its importance, and the subtle differences and complementary qualities that sustain and make any enduring and mutually beneficial partnership worthwhile. I have a new appreciation for Canada and the value of America’s many ties to it.

Faculty presenters were equally enthusiastic about the Seminar. Professor Geoffrey Hale (University of Lethbridge, Alberta), Faculty presenter and author of So Near, Yet So Far: The

Public and the Hidden Worlds of Canada-US Relations, offered the following commentary on the Seminar:
"The Binational Executive Seminar provides an outstanding program for political and policy practitioners interested in various aspects of US-Canada relations. Its programs are topical and timely, doing an effective job of connecting “big picture” overviews with detailed discussions that address the day-to-day realities of business and policy interaction. It also provides participants with practical opportunities to connect with one another in a relaxed environment.” Another participant in this year’s BES was Michael Kergin, former Canadian Ambassador to the United States, and he has described the Seminar in these terms: “The establishment of the Binational Executive Seminar on Canada-United States Relations” is precisely the type of professional development programming that is needed in order to respond to the growing challenges faced by legislative decision-makers in both Canada and the United States.”

With the closure of the Canadian Consulate in Buffalo, NY, the Seminar will lose the services of Dan Kolundzic and Dayle Cotter, two superb professionals who worked tirelessly to ensure that this event was a great success. We are currently seeking to secure the kind of financial support, from public and private sector actors, to enable us to continue to offer this innovative and important service to the binational relationship.

Fellows and Faculty of the Binational Executive Seminar gather on the observation tower at Niagara Falls, NY as we prepare to embark on a cruise on the “Maid of the Mist” – June 2012

More information on the first two offerings of BES can be found at: www.binationalexecutiveseminar.cas.buffalo.edu

Reflections of An Academic Relations Officer for Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

An Interview with Dan Kolundzic

Munroe Eagles, Buffalo, NY, August 2012

In May 2012 a web page on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) site unceremoniously announced the phasing out of the “Understanding Canada” program. This program, in place for 40 years, provided about $5 million annually to Canadian Studies activities in 55 countries all over the world. These programs, which helped fund Canada-related courses, conferences, research, and academic centers and institutes, was intended to help non-Canadians understand the country and to come to know its cultural and artistic products. Supporting this effort to support academics with research and teaching interests in Canada was a host of “academic relations officers” (AROs). These individuals were employees of the Government of Canada who were attached to Canadian Embassies and Consulates all over the world.

UB as a campus was – by a considerable margin – the most active campus in the world in the various “Understanding Canada” programs, obtaining well over $500,000 over the approximately 3 decades of the program’s existence. This success would not have been possible without the tireless and enthusiastic support of our local AROs, Ms. Kerry Mitchell, and Mr. Daniel Kolundzic (for about the last 6 years). We sincerely appreciate the support these two individuals have given to all our Canada-related programming here at UB. It is no understatement to acknowledge that without them we would not have our program today.

Sadly, the news of the termination of “Understanding Canada” was quickly followed by news of another astonishing decision on the part of the Government of Canada. In a story...
leaked to CBC News on May 25th, both Kerry and Dan learned that they were losing their jobs as a result of the decision to close the Canadian Consulate in Buffalo. This development sent shockwaves through the entire community since the Consulate was one of the oldest and most active in the US, and it had sunk deep roots in Buffalo. Just two weeks before the Canadian Consulate offices in Buffalo were to close for good as another casualty of the Canadian government’s deficit cutting plan, Dan Kolundzic agreed to sit down to talk about his experience as an Academic Relations Officer and reflect on his 14 years of service at the Consulate in Buffalo. Here is an edited version of our interview.

ME: Could you generally describe the Consulate in Buffalo and its role in Canada-US relations?

DK: The areas that the Consulate worked in were, first of all, consular, which was the fundamental responsibility; assisting Canadians who are in distress, in emergency situations. That was the core service. Another area where we also had impact was immigration. It was a regional processing center. So you had all applications that were coming out of the US for Canadian visas would be – at one stage or another – would have come through Buffalo. Earlier on Buffalo was a global center. If you were anywhere in the world and you felt uneasy walking into a Canadian mission, it could be Senegal, it could be anywhere, you were open to apply through Buffalo. In its most vigorous years, the Buffalo Consulate issued 20% of all the visas issued by Canada. With immigration, you also had trade, which was essentially business development, and you also had Public Affairs, which included (unique to the US bureau) political and economic relations. This activity was essentially advocacy. You can’t lobby, but you can be an advocate for Canada’s interests within the US. Public affairs also included cultural, media, academic, relations. We dealt with upstate New York, down to Albany, which we shared with New York City, to west-central Pennsylvania. Buffalo had Harrisburg, the state capital, but not Philadelphia. We had Pittsburg and West Virginia. We had Appalachia! ... It was not a territory of particular ‘glamour.’ We did not have the LA’s, the New York City’s, the Washington’s. We didn’t have those large centers where one can cultivate a wide range of activities.

ME: What would describe as the distinctive features of Buffalo’s Consulate.

DK: We were like Detroit in that we were one of the only two of the total of 160 Missions where you could see Canada from the office. Two-thirds of Canada’s GDP comes through these two crossings. These two border points are the heart of Canada’s trade and economic relationship with the United States. And so you’re at the front line of that relationship. You’re at the front line of the integrated nature of the North American economy. You simply don’t get that in Beijing. You don’t get that in Paris or wherever else you might be in the world in terms of Canadian interests. So the Mission was unique in that way. Certainly the border, the Great Lakes issues, all of those issues that really rely on the integrated context of our relationship, all dominated the files we dealt with on a regular basis. It was really the ‘meat and potatoes’ of the relationship,
meaning that those day to day aspects that were – not overlooked – but they don’t dominate the scene in Ottawa or Washington, or in other national capitals. Because of the nature of the integrated relationship between Canada and the United States, in many cases you had relationships form between departments on either sides of the border that were more vigorous than the State Department-DFAIT relationship. So it’s a unique relationship in that you didn’t need to go through the State Department of Foreign Affairs in an active way to engage with your neighbors. That certainly adds a layer of complexity to the relationship.

**ME:** So you would work directly with the Department of Agriculture in Ontario, for example.

**DK:** Absolutely. A very good description of this is when we had the 1996 immigration reform act (IRA was the acronym), when we were trying to deal with the Section 110 issue, which was well before 9/11, when we were trying to get rid of the requirement to register before leaving the country. So I was sitting with the person who was managing the border for the Department of Foreign Affairs. He had the border file on his desk, and as we were sitting there, he took a call and said to someone over the telephone, ‘My God, I have the entire domestic agenda sitting on my desk.” This is literally the case, then and now. And in an important way, he did. The border is so critical in so many ways that Canada’s entire domestic agenda, not simply the international agenda or the relationship with the US, has been dominated by that single file. Not just federally, but provincially as well.

**ME:** Were Buffalo – and Detroit – the “go to” offices on the border file?

**DK:** I think for particular areas of the border file, certainly that was the case. From the period of the signing of the Free Trade Agreement [1988], right through to the most recent period 10 years after 9/11, and I heard this for the first time from Jim McConnell [emeritus professor of Geography] at UB, the word “border” does not appear at all in the 1988 Free Trade Agreement. And I’m not sure it appears in the 1994 NAFTA. But in the years after free trade, Detroit and Buffalo were leading voices in the search for what was called “a new border management regime.” These were ‘heady days’ in terms of figuring out how to navigate economic integration. The border was seen as an impediment that led to inefficiencies, which led to a lack of competitiveness. We certainly were at the front lines of that. Once 9/11 occurred, you had a fundamental change, in the sense that, all well and good for regional and local interests and dynamics, but everything got bumped up to very high levels in Washington and Ottawa, ensuring that security was as high or higher than trade facilitation. The dynamics in this period was certainly different. Buffalo was critical in communicating out what the local stakeholders were feeling, however, the ability to drive the agenda was different.

**ME:** Thinking about the challenges moving forward, Canada appears to be moving less in the advocacy enterprise. How will this impact Canada’s profile, and all of the objectives you and your colleagues pursued.

**DK:** Two areas have impacted Buffalo directly. One is the closing of the mission. But second, the termination of “Understanding Canada” is certainly a blow. Not simply because of the amounts of money that came out every year. I think that the challenge with the termination of the program is the investment over the last 30-35 years or so that the program ran where a very significant network of expertise was built up, and a network of contacts within various countries that were very effective in advancing Canada’s interests in various ways, some subtle, and some not so subtle. And it’s a network that is not easily replaced. I know that other countries have restrained similar programming. However, I know that in the US “Understanding Canada” has a kind of impact that is not easily
replaceable. The return on that investment is quite significant. And you never know how that will pay back, and what type of benefit you’re going to get from that. That’s a loss to Canada.

On the closing of the Consulate, that’s a tough one. Certainly for WNY and Southern Ontario, it is a significant loss. It is an institutional structure that has benefited the region on both sides of the border in a very significant way. The kinds of benefits that Canada has seen from the mission have been largely unnoticed. The type of activities we were able to cultivate not so much flew under the radar, but it was assumed that these type of benefits are sustainable on their own. For example, getting a Governor Manchin from West Virginia, or Congressman Owens, these political actors from within the US now understand Canada and take the lead in their legislative bodies federally, those types of benefits will be impacted down the road.

**ME:** Thinking about your work with academics and academic institutions, perhaps you could reflect on this.

**DK:** On the academic file, I’ve worked about 6 years as ARO. About 14 years with the Consulate off and on, but only the last six on academic relations. Very much engaged on a variety of fronts. The core of our activities was the “Understanding Canada” program. The program had been built up before I took over, so it wasn’t hard to take it on. And I was able to grow it somewhat. Certainly, we had some academic champions along the way. UB was one such champion – really stood head and shoulders above other US programs in getting funds from – and giving back to – the program. But there are other people in our territory as well. Chris Kirkey is one – who not only developed programs that benefited SUNY Plattsburgh [his home campus] but also developed innovative programs that benefitted the entire network in the United States. So “Understanding Canada” was easy to manage, sustain, and build.

What I did specifically was to look beyond the grants program and reach out to those areas of the institutions that were not necessarily well served by the grants programs directly. My areas, on the economic side, included energy, agricultural issues, trade, economic relations, so I would look to academic institutions within our territory to see where there might be connections or good matchups with Canadian institutions – and in some cases engineers – where cross-border collaboration would be active and fruitful. One such collaboration was on “sustainable energy” and involved bringing engineers and public policy people at Queen’s University in Ontario together with academics from Syracuse University (along with academics from Clarkson and the University of Ottawa as
well). We have an integrated energy grid, as we found out in 2003.

Another success was the negotiation of the general collaborative agreement with Brock University in St. Catharines, ON. This was a very broad agreement that was successful in many ways, not least of which was establishing a stable home for “Crossing Borders”—our annual student conference that has been around for 15 or so years. And it supported various collaborative teaching initiatives between the two campuses and ultimately anticipated of course the Joint Masters degree in Canada-US Studies that will launch next fall. We have all kinds of good ideas, but my experience has shown that you really need to have faculty champions for all these things to happen. Ultimately, they have to have relationships in a cross-border context, and that is at least 50% of the problem.

**ME:** These cross-border initiatives require cultivation—they are not self-generating.

**DK:** Yeah, there are a few highlights! Certainly, the Binational Executive Seminar on Canada-US Relations has to be one of the highlights. I have recently received notes that this seminar will be an enduring legacy of the Buffalo Consulate, so it looks like this may survive the closure of the office. I’m very happy that it is viewed positively and hope that it will continue.

Personally, it was wonderful to get to know and travel with then-Governor, now Senator, Manchin (D-WV), on a tour of Montreal, Ottawa, and Cambridge. I was very impressed with him and he was a tremendous friend and ally for Canada. He was interested in Canada, and eager to learn. That was a real highlight for me.

Finally, I was fortunate in being able to secure Canada’s participation in the Congress of State Legislators in the sub-organizations dealing with agriculture. Canada’s provinces are now active in these programs on agriculture and rural development. Actually, I am on the steering committee of these efforts now so my involvement there will continue.

**ME:** Dan, you’ve had a great run and served Canada with enormous distinction. We at UB are very appreciative of all you have done to help us build out our Canada programs. We couldn’t have done it without you. And I will close by saying that it has been a great personal pleasure and privilege to have worked closely with you over the years. I look forward to continuing our interaction as you enter your new ‘life’ as Vice President of Nanos America.

**DK:** Thank you.
Profiles in Canadian Studies - Certificate Program Student Dylan McLean

Dylan McLean is a fourth year PhD student in the Department of Political Science. He currently holds a MA and a BA (summa cum laude), also in Political Science, from the University at Buffalo. Dylan is a past recipient of UB’s CAS Dean’s Fellowship and is a current Teaching Assistant with the Political Science Department. He has independently taught undergraduate courses in comparative and international politics at UB. Dylan’s research and teaching interests are rather broad, spanning the fields of international and comparative politics. He is particularly interested in the broad categories of political culture, political development, and political violence, including but not limited to terrorism. He has also become interested in the management and governance of binational infrastructure; and he has conducted research with Munroe Eagles, which was presented at a conference on cross-border governance in Luxembourg, on the management of the 24 vehicular bridges and 1 vehicular tunnel spanning the Can-Am border. Dylan has presented his academic research at several conferences including the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association and the Midwest Political Science Association. He has also participated in two separate Crossing Borders conferences, presenting a paper on the incidence and character of domestic terrorism in Canada and the United States in 2009 and a paper on the Canadian public’s reaction to the new terrorist threat environment since 9/11 in 2012.

The more Dylan has learned about Canadian Politics, especially the Can-Am relationship, the more interested in Canadian Studies he has become. He is one course away from completing the CSAP advanced graduate certificate and has not only enjoyed every minute of it but has learned a tremendous amount of valuable information. In fact, it was during discussion in one such seminar where the seeds of his doctoral dissertation truly began to germinate! Dylan is very interested in Can-Am political differences, especially differences in political culture. In his dissertation he will evaluate some competing theories regarding the origin of those differences and attempt to determine if any of those theories also apply to the other former English settler societies, particularly Australia and New Zealand. The primary instruments he will use in this endeavor are the legal and political-culture environments around guns, gun control, and self-defense thereby developing an
understanding of one aspect of the relationship between the individual and the state.

Upon completion of his graduate work Dylan plans on an academic career that balances teaching and research.

Gregory Betts, Director, Centre for Canadian Studies and Graduate Program Director of Canadian and American Studies, Brock University

Things are well afoot at the Centre for Canadian Studies, as we prepare for the first round of applications for the new MA in Canadian-American Studies that is being jointly offered with UB. It seems especially appropriate that our cross-border partnership pact will begin around the bicentennial of end of the War of 1812. This historic agreement certainly develops from the goodwill of our two countries, and has also begun to create new linkages and goodwill of its own. Everybody at Brock, from faculty to the students to the administrators, is encouraged and excited about the new program.

The expansion into graduate studies connects well with our broader reimagining of Canadian Studies at Brock, in which international alliances will play an ever-greater role. We have recently negotiated a faculty and student exchange with the University of Mainz in Germany, who will be sending students and faculty to Brock annually beginning in 2014. Mainz is renowned in Europe for both its Canadian Studies and its American Studies (the American program at the university hosted Pres. George W. Bush in 2005), making this an ideal partnership to cultivate broader perspectives on both fields. The visiting professor will teach in our undergraduate program and possibly the graduate program as well, bringing an additional international perspective to the program. We are also currently negotiating a faculty exchange with Sorbonne University (Paris III) in France.

The Centre for Canadian Studies at Brock has also recently become the home of an annual Fulbright Visiting Research Chair in Transnational Studies. The recipient of this $25,000 or $50,000 award will come to Brock for 1 or 2 semesters, teach one class per term, and give a keynote lecture at one of our two annual conferences. We are delighted to announce that this year’s recipient is Dr. Susan Grey, an Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University. She will be teaching CANA 3P95: Foreign Ventures: Canada’s Changing Global Role in the Winter term, and presenting a lecture on transborder First Nations experience at the Crossing Borders conference in the spring.

Our other annual conference, Two Days of Canada, will happen as usual in the Fall on 1-2 November and will build on all the interest surrounding the commemoration of the War of 1812 to offer a distinctly academic perspective on the conflict and its impact. The conference is popular and attracts participants from across Canada and the United States. Last year, the conference series celebrated its 25th anniversary, making it one of the longest standing conferences in the field.

With all of this activity, we are quite excited and enthusiastic about the future outlook of Canadian Studies at Brock. We are particularly excited about the implications of shifting the program’s focus to borders and international contexts for the study of Canada. The partnership with UB opens up important new networks of critical enquiry and we hope that our two schools can become a hub of and portal for cross-border scholarship.

Canadian Studies at Brock: Our Changing Global Role
“Crossing Borders 2012” Student Conference – The War of 1812 and Canada-US Relations

Munroe Eagles, CSAP Director

In October 2007, then UB President John Simpson and Brock President Jack Lightstone signed a sweeping collaborative agreement that envisioned a number of exciting cross-border initiatives involving the two universities. As part of this, each university agreed to alternate as hosts of the long-standing annual student conference called “Crossing Borders.” This year it was UB’s turn to play host to the event, and for the first time we decided to do this at the recently renovated Sheraton at the Falls hotel, just blocks from the falls themselves in Niagara Falls, NY. The theme of these conferences is Canada-US relations broadly construed, but this year we decided to showcase the bicentennial of the War of 1812 – the last time armed conflict took place across the Canada-US border.

This year’s meeting opened Thursday evening, March 22nd, with a reception sponsored by the Canadian Consulate in Buffalo. We were joined by David Rotterman, Executive Producer, and Beth Critoph, Education Director, of WNED who shared with us a presentation on “The Making of ‘The War of 1812’” - an impressive documentary on the last conflict that involved Canada and the US. They shared a trailer of the documentary.

Panel sessions were held all day on Friday, the 23rd, and featured presentations by students from Brock University, Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, UB, York University, SUNY Plattsburgh, and the University of Minnesota. The keynote address entitled “Choices and Consequences: Haudenosaunee War of 1812 Experiences” was offered by Mr. Rick Hill. Mr. Hill is a citizen of the Beaver Clan of the Tuscarora Nation, residing at the Grand River Territory of the Six Nations. He is the former Assistant Director of Public Programs at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, and is a lecturer in Indigenous Studies. He attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and holds a Master’s Degree in American Studies from SUNY-Buffalo, where he taught for two decades.


The “best paper” award ($250) for papers presented at the 2011 “Crossing Borders” conference held at Brock University in March, 2011, went to UB undergraduate student Nikolas Steriovski for his excellent paper entitled “How Can-Am Relations Moulded the 2011 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship.”

The cover of his Haudenosaunee passport.

Part of Mr. Hill’s excellent talk touched on the issue of First Nations/Native American citizenship. Pictured here is the cover of his Haudenosaunee passport.
Profiles in Canadian Studies - Certificate Program Student Megan Gall

Megan Gall, CSAP student and PhD candidate, Political Science, UB

Megan Gall, a PhD candidate in the UB department of Political Science, pursued the Advanced Graduate Certificate in Canadian Studies as a complement and area-specific focus within her program. Coupled with hands-on experience, an area-focus is highly valued in the Comparative research tradition of political science. The Canadian Studies curriculum offers a multidisciplinary approach to studying the geopolitics of Canada and the dynamics of the Canadian/American relationship. Megan’s Canadian research interests include cross-national crime trends and Canadian political culture.

Megan is a multidisciplinary scholar. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Shepherd College in West Virginia after which she worked in cultural resource management as an archaeologist. Her graduate work includes a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GISy) and a Masters Degree in Geographic Information Science (GISc) from the University of Denver where she earned the Outstanding Women Award. She came to Buffalo to use GISc methods and perspectives within political science research. The thesis for her Masters of Arts in Political Science investigates crime policy and reduction in the United States and is currently under review for publication. Last year she was invited to participate in a prestigious workshop on spatial statistics at Pennsylvania State University.

Currently, she is working towards her dissertation on political realignments and serving the Political Science department through research and teaching.

In her free time Megan reads, enjoys nature and pursues travel. Last winter she spent time in Thailand visiting the cities and the northern hill tribes in the Mae Hong Son province. She also spent time last summer in a solitary exploration of the deserts of the American southwest. She has traveled throughout the Caribbean and Eastern Europe and visits family in West Virginia often.

Students in CDN 500 – An Overview of Canadian Studies enjoy a tour of the Ontario Provincial Legislature (Queen’s Park) with Jerry Richmond, Ontario Legislative librarian and 2011 BES Fellow (5th from right)

Catching up with Kathryn Bryk Friedman and the Regional Institute’s Canada-Related Activities

Kathryn Bryk Friedman, Regional Institute

Kathryn Friedman, director of cross-border and international research, engaged in myriad Canada-related activities between 2010 and 2012. The IBM Center for the Business of Government awarded a $20,000 grant to Friedman as principal investigator and Kathryn A. Foster, director (and since July 2012 President of the University of Maine at
Farmington), to investigate the effectiveness of current models for environmental collaboration across international boundaries in North America. The research evaluated selected case studies of cross-border environmental collaboration along the northern and southern boundaries of the United States. The research article, “Environmental Collaboration: Lessons Learned about Cross-Boundary Collaborations,” was published in February 2011 in the center’s Collaborating Across Boundaries journal series. The effort is part of a series of research efforts sponsored by the center to advise local, regional, state and federal government officials with practical strategies for moving forward on cross-boundary collaboration in diverse policy areas. Friedman also wrote a chapter for the Oxford Handbook of New York State Government and Politics (Gerry Benjamin, ed.) (2012) on New York’s foreign policy – much of which detailed New York-Canadian collaboration in the executive, legislative and judicial channels at the state and local levels. In addition to this research, Friedman presented in various international forums. In winter 2010-2011, she was invited to present research on the Canada-US relationship and border security at the Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas; the Frank Church Symposium, International Affairs Council, Idaho State University; and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Canada Institute, Washington, DC. In summer 2011, Friedman served on a keynote panel at a forum sponsored by Brookings to discuss cross-boundary collaboration in the Great Lakes region; in fall 2011, at the invitation of the Foreign Policy Association and the Canadian Consulate-New York City, she discussed Canada-US trade in the post-9-11 environment; and in spring 2012, Friedman was invited to speak to the Advisory Board of the Woodrow Wilson Center Canada Institute. She also led seminar sessions on North American governance at the inaugural and second meetings of the Binational Executive Seminar in June 2011 and 2012. Finally, Friedman serves as US Co-lead on the Great Lakes Water Stewardship Project, organized under the auspices of the Transborder University Research Network and as US Principal Investigator for Networks and Institutional Analysis on a SSHRC international partnership development grant, led by Carolyn Johns at Ryerson University, to establish a Great Lakes Policy Network.

Canadian Studies students enjoy an October field trip to the McMichael Gallery in Kleinberg, ON. The gallery is home of an extensive collection of Canadian art, including an impressive array of “Group of Seven” pieces.

**Introducing Bob Skerker, Chair of our Community Advisory Board**

Munroe Eagles, CSAP Director

In August 2010 a group of community leaders from both Canada and the United States gathered at the Official Residence of the Consul General of Canada, Ms. Marta Moszczenska, in order to form a “Community Advisory Board” to help advise the program directors at Brock and UB and to support their individual and joint programs in Canadian Studies. Although he was travelling at the time and couldn’t make the inaugural meeting, Bob Skerker kindly agreed in March of 2012 to serve a term (3 years, renewable) as Chair of this important body. Mr. Skerker brings a wealth of experience and insight to this position. A graduate of Bradley University and Harvard, he is President of “Think Solutions,” a consulting firm in Buffalo, and he formerly served as CEO of Robinson Home Products in Buffalo, NY. During his years with Robinson Home Products, he managed an
extensive importation operation that moved consumer goods from Asia through Canada to Buffalo. And as a long-time resident of Buffalo, he appreciates the importance and reality of cross-border ties in the Niagara region. In 2011, he co-chaired the highly successful National Preservation Conference that showcased the city’s wonderful architectural heritage. In naming Mr. Skerker (and his conference co-chair) “Outstanding Citizens of 2011,” The Buffalo News (May 18, 2011) wrote:

“The conference co-chairs' tireless efforts -- together with the convention and visitors bureau, dedicated volunteers and donors -- played a decisive role in making the prestigious National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference, the first set in Buffalo and the first to be binational, an unqualified success.”

We are honored to have Mr. Skerker as the first chair of our CAB, and I asked him to make a brief introductory contribution to the Newsletter. His response to this invitation follows. Reading it, you can see how fortunate we are to be able to count on his wisdom, passion, insight, and energetic leadership:

Buffalo/ western New York and Toronto/Southern Ontario have been linked by trade, commerce, culture and transportation since both nations were formed. As stewards of shared resources like the Great Lakes and the St Lawrence Seaway, Canada is the most important trading partner we have. The rules have changed over the last 50 years and Toronto’s rise in prominence both in Canada and globally makes it the single most important economic partner we have. Buffalo’s future is tied to supporting the growth of our region building on the natural strengths Toronto offers us and sharing the rewards that a more transparent border and shared goals can give us. On the cultural side we share water and land resources which makes us a joint tourist destination and a convenient place to transact cross border business. Buffalo offers a wide away of educational opportunities to students from both countries and the technology developed by the US medical industry is adopted by the Canadian health care system. We are joined by a long peaceful history which produces trust and common interests which together we can exploit to both of our advantage.

On the cultural side both Buffalo and Toronto boast a superb selection of art, music, theater and heritage opportunities which enhances to lives of all of us who live here.

Bob Skerker

Canadian-American Studies Committee 2011-2012

Dr. Lorraine Oak, Associate Dean and Chair, Canadian-American Studies Committee

During 2011-2012, The Canadian-American Studies Committee supported a wide variety of Canada-related activities. In November, the tenth Niagara Colloquium was well attended by scholars from the Niagara Region, as well as US and Canadian Consular representatives. The theme was our shared responsibility for Great Lakes management and the threat posed by Asian Carp. The group heard an informative and alarming presentation by Helen Domske, Associate Director of UB’s Great Lakes Program
Once again, we were pleased to help support a university-wide resource, the UB Poetry Collection. More than 70 books and broadsides were purchased from over 30 different Canadian poetry presses, and also acquired was a complete backlog of poetry broadsides and poetry chapbooks from High Ground Press (Vancouver). The availability of these resources encourages the study of Canadian literature.

Although the Committee fosters and supports a wide variety of activities, the largest investment category continues to be the university-wide grants program that provides a small incentive for faculty and graduate students to undertake Canada-related scholarship and incorporate Canadian content into their research and teaching. Thirteen projects were supported:

- Professor and Chair Peter Biehl, Anthropology, received funding to support Canadian participation in the Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, held at UB in May.
- Professor Loss Glazier, Media Study, was funded to defray the costs of a one-week intensive workshop on humanistic programming, exposing the cutting-edge level of Canadian literary programmers working in the digital field. The event was held in March, 2012, and is documented by an online publication.
- Professor and Chair Robert Granfield, Sociology, received support for his presentations at conferences in Toronto and Ottawa on his research on Canadian pro bono legal services. This work was conducted in 2011 while he held a Fulbright Research Chair in Humanitarian Law and Social Justice at the University of Ottawa.
- Doctoral student Montgomery Hill, Linguistics, received funding to document the critically endangered Tuscarora language in collaboration with two of the five remaining speakers of the language. The Tuscarora Nation is present in both the US and Canada, and one speaker acquired language in Canada and the other in the United States.
- Professor Maria Horne, Theatre and Dance, received funding to support UB student attendance at the International Artistic and Cultural Exchange Creative Research Lab at College de Valleyfield, Quebec, December 2011. This event presents an exceptional opportunity for creating links between US and Canadian artists, and promotes future cross-border cultural exchange.
- Master of Fine Arts student Sarah Kolberg, Media Study, was supported to inaugurate a creative exchange, engaging artists and scholars of all media practices, between the UB Department of Media Study and the Brock University (St. Catharines, Ontario) Department of Communication, Popular Culture, and Film.
- Professor Lynne Koscielniak, Theatre and Dance, received funding to facilitate PROJECT MIST, celebrating the power and poetry of Niagara Falls --a workshop to bring together Canadian and American students to explore dynamic visual methods of presenting regional history.
- PhD student Paul Sargent, Media Study, received support to defray the travel expenses associated with his research into historic and contemporary trade routes in southern Canada and the northern United States.
- Laura Lewis, Director of Field Education, School of Social Work, received support for the placement of a UB Social Work student in a practicum in Canada. This will expose students to an array of public policy and practice issues that
are unique to both countries, and encourage cross-border collaboration.

- Master’s student Gordon Djong, Graduate School of Education, was supported to participate in the meeting of the Comparative International Education Society in Puerto Rico, April 2012. He presented his work on the comparison of bullying policies in New York State and Ontario.

- Professor Brian Carter, School of Architecture and Planning, received support to assist in defraying the costs associated with travel to Vancouver during the summer of 2012. Professor Carter is preparing a book on new architecture in Canada, focusing on the work of two Vancouver architects. The book will be published in 2013 by TUNS Press.

- Professor Joseph Conte, English, is conducting research and also teaching on the topic of Canada and US Security Relations in Documentary Film. He received support to bring to UB the distinguished filmmaker, Professor Brenda Longfellow, York University, Toronto, to screen a film and deliver a lecture on post 9/11 security relations between Canada and the US.

- Professor Teri Reub, Media Study, received support for her project “Trace (Revisited) & No Places With Names.” Her work explores cross-cultural perceptions of landscape and wilderness in the US and Canada.

Short Notices

CSAP Director Munroe Eagles was busy last year. In addition to his teaching for the Canadian Studies Academic Program and hosting “Crossing Borders 2012”, Eagles, along with Katie Bryk Friedman of UB’s Regional Institute, are participants in a “Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada” (SSHRCC) “Partnership grant” on Great Lakes water issues. The PI is Professor Carolyn Johns of the Department of Political Science at Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, and other participants are drawn from the University of Michigan, Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Montreal, and Brock University. There will be a series of workshop meetings in the next two years, one of which will be hosted by UB. Eagles is also a member of a “ Cultures of the Canada-US Border” working group led by academics at the University of Kent at Canterbury and the University of Nottingham in the UK. The activities of this group are funded by a multi-year grant from the Leverhulme Foundation in the UK, and UB will host a small conference as part of the programming next year. See http://www.kent.ac.uk/ccusb/index.html

Last fall, he completed a preliminary paper based on research undertaken with the support of a Faculty Research Grant from the Canadian Embassy in Washington. This research explored how MPs allocate their annual expense allowances since 2000. This paper, entitled “Representing Constituencies: Variations in MP Expense Allocations, 2002-2004,” was presented at the biennial meeting of the Association of Canadian Studies in the US in Ottawa, Ontario, in November 2011. He extended this research in the final paper he submitted to the Canadian Embassy in late February, 2012 and presented this final version when he visited the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri – Columbia as part of their “Canada Days” program. Using a unique set of ‘exit interviews’ with former Canadian MPs collected by Samara Canada, he co-authored with Royce Koop and Alison Loat entitled “ MPs and Their Constituencies – Evidence from “Exit Interviews,” and they presented this paper at the Canadian Political Science Association conference, University of Alberta, Edmonton, June 2012. This paper will appear in a forthcoming book on Canadian politics.

During the summer of 2012, Eagles worked with Dylan McLean, a doctoral student in political science (see his profile earlier in this Newsletter) to produce a comparative study of the administration of the 25 bridges and tunnel that carry vehicular traffic across the Canada-US border. These facilities exhibit a wide variety of governance models, and he and Dylan interviewed operators at a variety of border facilities through the summer. He and Dylan will present the resulting paper at a conference on “Unpacking Cross-Border Governance” to be held September 6 and 7th in Luxembourg. It will also appear as an “Occasional Paper” for the Institute of Transnational
the University of Louisville in Kentucky. Good luck, Tasha!

Brock University has been named as the host of the 2014 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The largest multidisciplinary academic conference in Canada is expected to draw as many as 8,000 delegates to Brock and provide a hefty boost to the local economy.

"Winning a bid to host Congress 2014 is like winning a bid to host the intellectual Olympics," stated Noreen Golfman, president of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

"Congress will help put both Brock and the surrounding region on the map as an international destination for knowledge and research." Congress 2014 will correspond with Brock’s 50th anniversary, and will come shortly after the completion of the school’s current construction projects. [Congress] will enhance our profile as a research-intensive university in a region with a great quality of life in a beautiful setting," said Liette Vasseur, vice-president of Research at Brock. "Brock is very happy to have been selected as the host for 2014.

This summer CSAP lost a valued supporter. Dr. Ruth Bereson, Director of our highly successful Arts Management Program, has accepted a position as Dean at an art institute in Singapore. During her years at UB, Ruth was exceptionally successful in developing links with top Canadian arts and culture institutions and individuals, including David Mirvish in Toronto, the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake, and the Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, to name a few. We congratulate Ruth on her exciting new position and wish her all the very best for continued success in her career.

Upcoming Events/Deadlines

The first Culture and the Canada-US Border workshop entitled “Indigeneity, Hemispherism, and the Arts” will be held September 18, 2012 at the Torrington Room, Senate House, London, England. The CCUSB workshop will feature presentations and discussion from Dylan Robinson (RHUL), Padraig Kirwan (Goldsmiths), James Mackay (European University of Cyprus), and Catherine Bates (Huddersfield University). These talks will focus on aspects of Indigenous culture and politics relating to...
the Canada-US border and/or Canada and the US in comparative perspective.

Brock University will host “Crossing Borders 2013” student conference next March. Papers on a wide range of topics dealing with Canada or a part of Canada (whether as a case study or in a comparative analysis including other countries) or the Canadian-American relationship. Proposals should be submitted to Dr. Gregory Betts, Director, Canadian Studies Programme, Brock University, 573 Glenridge Avenue St. Catharines, ON., L2S3A1 gbetts@brocku.ca

Check for more information on this year’s conference, as well as information on previous conferences - http://www.crossingborders.buffalo.edu/

Brock University’s 26th annual “Two Days of Canada” conference will be held at Brock University on 1-2 November 2012. Appropriately, this year’s theme is “Canada’s Blooding: the History, Mythology, and Remembrance of the War of 1812.” More information on this event can be found at http://www.brocku.ca/webfm_send/22239 or by contacting Professor Renee Lafferty, c/o The Centre for Canadian Studies Brock University 573 Glenridge Avenue St. Catharines, ON., L2S3A1

Call for paper proposals: The inaugural conference sponsored by the “Culture and the Canada-US Border” network will focus on ‘Straddling Boundaries: Hemispherism, Cultural Identity, and Indigeneity.” It will be held May 25-27th at Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. We seek contributions that examine issues raised by the cultural implications of the Canada-US border in Canadian and/or American literature, television, cinema, visual art, music, and other cultural forms, as well as the significance of such cultural forms within other discourses—truth and reconciliation, health policy, security, foreign policy, and so on. We particularly encourage papers focusing on the following issues, though submissions on any relevant area of interest are welcome:

- cultural cross-fertilization
- militarization of the border
- cultures and architectures of surveillance
- racialisation along the border
- américanité and the Québec-US border
- Canada and hemispheric America
- language and regionalism
- the culture of leisure on and across the border

Please send proposals for 20-minute papers and a brief CV to CCUSBorDer@kent.ac.uk by 30th November 2012. Panel proposals of 3 papers (for a 90 minute slot) should include paper proposals plus a brief (100 words) summary of the panel’s theme.

May 12th saw the third annual “Alan MacPherson” memorial golf tournament. A former chair of UB’s Geography department, and a director of the Canada-US Trade Center (CUSTAC), Alan was a long-time supporter of Canadian Studies at UB (see his obituary in Newsletter #2, 2009). The tournament continues to grow and gives us an occasion to remember Alan on a course that he loved to play (Ironwood), and that is located only a mile from his farm in Wyoming County.

With special thanks to Ms. Kerry Mitchell, Mr. Dan Kolundzic, Ms. Dayle Cotter, and Mr. Bryan Roth at the Canadian Consulate in Buffalo who worked so hard over the years to support our Canada-related programs at UB. We wish you all the very best as you begin new chapters in your professional lives.

Digital copies of this newsletter are available for downloading at: www.canadianstudies.buffalo.edu/newsletter