



Vol. 33, No. 1 SUMMER 2017

## Letter from the President

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Summer greetings from Buffalo, We at ACSUS are taking advantage of summer's slower pace to gear up for our 24th Biennial Conference to be held this October. Our theme is "Celebrating Canada's Sesquicentennial Journey" and we will be returning to the Tuscany Resorts & Casino in Las Vegas, NV October 18-21st. Response to our call for proposals was robust and we expect to have between 250-300 participants at the meeting. Congratulations and thanks go out to ACSUS Vice-President and Biennial Program Chair Jim McHugh and to his excellent team of section organizers for their hard work.

Since our last newsletter, along with our colleagues at the International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS) we have been very actively lobbying

Global Affairs Canada officials and their political masters in the hopes of securing a restoration in government funding for Canadian Studies. Despite some initially promising indicators, we regret that our efforts were not successful in the current budget round. We aim to keep pressing for this needed support in the coming year.

On a positive note, the Government of Canada was very present and active at the annual general meeting of the ICCS in Ottawa June 11th and 12th. General Andrew Leslie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland and responsible for Canada-US relations, gave an upbeat keynote talk at the awards reception. He acknowledged the importance of Canadian Studies in his remarks, and

while he explicitly did not make any promises regarding restored funding, he made it clear that he and his colleagues valued and hoped to be able to assist our work.

Further, Laurie Peters, Director of Public Diplomacy at Global Affairs Canada, hosted the ICCS Council at a breakfast in the Lester Pearson Building on the morning of June 12th. Also speaking at the meeting was Deputy Minister for International Development Peter Boehm. Both officials underscored their appreciation for the efforts of Canadianists worldwide in helping advance the understanding of Canada.

So let's hope the restoration of good will on the part of the Canadian government might pave the way for some financial support in the future!

I wish you a productive and enjoyable summer, and look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas in October!



## Myrna Delson-Karan to be awarded 2017 Donner Medal in Canadian Studies

Former ACSUS President Dr. Delson-Karan (2011-2013) will be awarded the Donner Medal in Canadian Studies at the 24th Biennial conference in Las Vegas this October. She has been actively engaged in scholarship on French-Canadian writers and in the promotion of Canadian studies and French-Canadian studies in the United States for over three decades.

Dr. Myrna Delson-Karan has earned her reputation as an indefatigable promoter, contributor to, and admirer of Canadian studies by bringing people together and helping to provide outstanding opportunities for the study and advancement of Canadian

As a professor of French at a number of universities in New York and in Texas, Professor Delson-Karan exposed her many students to the richness of Quebec literature and to the multidisciplinary study of Canadian culture and society.

Similarly, at an impressive number of association meetings and conference events, she exposed American colleagues and graduate students across the country to the voices of over 100 Quebec authors reading from a broad range of their works. This remarkable contribution to the field is a hallmark of Myrna's personal dedication to the promotion of French-Canadian literature and a tribute to her

Myrna has made many positive contributions to fund-raising efforts, even in the most challenging of times, on behalf of ACSUS and ACQS. Her numerous connections with both federal and provincial officials in Canada and Quebec are noteworthy and long-standing, which has benefited both organizations in a variety of ways.

Congratulations, Myrna, on this richly deserved recognition.

## Sake and the Advancement of Cultural Diplomacy—The Birth of Canadian Studies in Japan by John W. Graham

**Editor's note:** John W. Graham is a former Canadian diplomat who has been a strong supporter of our Canadian Studies community globally. In this excerpt from his recently published memoirs entitled *Whose Man in Havana? Adventures from the Far Side of Diplomacy* (University of Calgary Press, 2015), he details the formation of Canadian Studies in Japan. Recently, Mr. Graham has been assisting ACSUS and ICCS in lobbying the Government of Canada for a restoration of funding for Canadian Studies academic activities and programs. Excerpt used with author's permission.

### Whose Man in Havana?

Following two years as speech writer to Mitchell Sharp, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I became head of the Academic Relations division. This was a sleepy section of the department which was, by no stretch of the imagination, at the centre of Canada's foreign policy. However, it had advantages. There were agreeable colleagues in neighbouring divisions who let me have funds that they could not spend. In Patrick Reid I had an exceptional director general who had the rare ability of making good ideas happen. Together, with a tiny but first class staff, we developed Canadian Studies Abroad as a new dimension of Canadian cultural foreign policy – an initiative which became one of the department's most cost-effective programs. This story traces the unconventional beginnings of Canadian Studies in Japan.

Anyone who thinks Canadian diplomats are a collection of nerds and dandies has never met the late Dick Gorham. Of Dick's many strengths, several stand out. He was a superb diplomat, a delightful and considerate person. He had the most extensive repertoire of semi-obscene stories of anyone I have ever met. A former boxer, he could and did drink bigger and tougher characters under the table. And he spoke fluent, idiomatic Japanese. Not understanding a word, I observed this last skill near the end of a pub crawl in Tokyo.

Dick was minister, or number two, at the Canadian embassy in Tokyo. I was in Tokyo with an ambitious and modestly funded plan to establish Canadian Studies in Japanese universities. Following a visit to a university on the outskirts of Tokyo, Dick proposed an evening of quiet carousing. Joining us was Jack Dirksen, the embassy third secretary, assigned by Dick to be my interpreter. Our final bar was Dick's favorite – a tiny place with paper walls and Dick's own bottle of Suntory whiskey on the shelf. The proprietor welcomed Dick and placed the Suntory on our table. It was Dick's because the bottle bore his character in Japanese script on the label. By the time the Suntory was demolished and a jug of sake was partially emptied, an argument had erupted between Dick and Jack about an obscure point of Japanese

grammar. The argument, which was in Japanese with occasional asides to me in English, grew in intensity. The bar's literate clientele were evidently fascinated by the debate and not least that it was being conducted in their language by two gaijin (foreigners). There were five; each one took sides and joined the debate. The jug was soon emptied and it was time to leave. But no syntactic consensus had been achieved and the debate broke out again on the subway platform. To my astonishment, two travellers standing nearby, caught the drift of the argument and offered their points of view. This was an augury of interesting times ahead. Two days later Jack and I took the bullet train to Kyoto where we were hoping to promote the concept of Canadian Studies to one of Japan's most prestigious universities. Graciously received, we were invited to lunch with a vice president and two academics at the university's private restaurant. The dining room was traditional. The windows were set low as everyone dined on cushions in the seiza (kneeling) position. Through the windows we could see a beautifully manicured formal garden complete with stone water basins and stone lanterns. Course after course was served by geisha in kimonos who seemed to float around us in a perambulating version of the seiza (modified lotus position). And, of course, sake was served. Following lunch Jack and I returned to our hotel – selected by Dick, it was a traditional Japanese inn, featuring very thin reed mattresses. An essential part of the Canadian Studies plan was to have three basic texts, one on the Canadian economy by Ian Drummond, a digest of Canadian history by Ken McNaught, and another on Canadian political governance by John Saywell, translated and published in Japanese. For this purpose we had invited a Kyoto publisher for tea. External Affairs would subsidize, Japan 61 but his firm would have to take on the project and eventual distribution. Because the inn was seriously traditional, tea was served to us seated in the seiza position. Unaccustomed to being folded under my knees, my leg muscles were in rebellion. However, the tea and discussion went well – so well that the publisher invited us both to dine with him that evening in his private restaurant.

While not as posh as the university restaurant, it was elegant and totally Japanese, which meant, of course, that dining was again in the seiza position. It was a lovely dinner, but attempting to anaesthetize my legs, I drank large quantities of sake. Unaccountably, this did not prevent our host from suggesting that, after dinner, we should head to his private bar for more drink. This establishment was nearby and turned out to be a karaoke bar, but this was early karaoke, which involved only a microphone, which was passed from cubicle to cubicle, and a public address system

tune can charitably be called insipid and it received polite, tepid applause from the surrounding tables. My turn. My song repertoire was extremely thin and I was determined not to sing "Alouette." Gurgling with litres of sake, I heard myself saying "No, no, I will not sing a Canadian song, I will sing a Japanese song." This was translated by Jack and followed by loud intakes of breath and people saying (according to Jack) in reverend tones "Ohh! You sing Japanese!" In high school I had been in the chorus of Gilbert and Sullivan's Japanese spoof "the Mikado" and for some odd reason I could remember Gilbert's apparently faux Japanese lyrics. With only a moment of sober thought I would have realized that singing an elaborately phony Japanese song in a real Japanese bar full of partially inebriated Japanese citizens could result in my being torn to pieces or at the very least terminating any chance that our host would publish the Canadian texts. In the absence of sober thought I belted out:

Miya Sama, mia sama  
On n'm-ma no mayé ni  
Pira-Pira suru no wa  
Nan gia na  
Toko tonyaré tonjaré na.

As I had been taught in the chorus, I followed immediately with a repetition of the verse. What happened next? To my surprise and confusion, I brought the house down – and incidentally saved the publication of the Canadian texts. Loud applause from all corners of the bar. Why was there such an undeserved happy ending? I didn't find the answer until nearly forty years later when doing some minor research for this chapter. Google then informed me that Gilbert had actually lifted the words from an ancient Japanese military marching song.



ICCS President Susan Hodgett presents John Graham with a "Certificate of Merit" recognizing his many contributions to Canadian Studies at the ICCS Awards Reception, University of Ottawa, June 11, 2017.

## ACSUS Councilor Jane Koustas Elected ICCS Treasurer



Jane Koustas, former President of the Canadian Studies Network and current ACSUS ExCo member was elected to the post of Treasurer at the June 11th meeting of the ICCS Council at the University of Ottawa. Jane replaces Danny Ben-Natan of the Israeli Association for Canadian Studies. She is shown here (right) addressing the ICCS Annual General Meeting at the University of Ottawa, June 11th. Congratulations,



Dr. Peter Boehm, Deputy Minister for International Development was a guest speaker at a breakfast hosted by Global Affairs Canada for ICCS visitors on June 12th.

## ACSUS Councilor Awarded an Honorary Doctorate



Pamela D. Palmater, ACSUS ExCo member, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of New Brunswick in recognition of her many contributions to Canada's First Nations communities. Pamela is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Ryerson University. In addition to her faculty appointment as an Associate Professor she holds the Chair in Indigenous Governance. The degree was conferred at UNB's convocation May 18th, 2017.

Pamela is Mi'kmaw citizen and member of the Eel River Bar First Nation in Northern New Brunswick. She has practiced law for more than 18 years and began her activism as a law student at UNB in the 1990s. Pamela has been studying, volunteering and working in First Nation issues for over 25 years on a wide range of social and legal issues, such as poverty, housing, child and family services, treaty rights, education and legislation impacting First Nations.

She has been recognized with many awards for her social justice advocacy on behalf of Indigenous women and children, and most recently for her work related to murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls.

Palmater has used her four university degrees (bachelor of arts, bachelor of laws, master of laws, doctor in the science of law) to help empower First Nations. Palmater came in second place in the Assembly of First Nations election for National Chief in 2012 and was one of the spokespeople, organizers and public educators for Idle No More movement in 2012-13.

Her work with First Nations has earned her the 2012 YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in Social Justice, the 2012 Women's Courage Award in Social Justice, Bertha Wilson Honour Society 2012 and Canadian Lawyer Magazine's 2013 Top 5 Most Influential Lawyer in the Human Rights category.

In addition to publishing numerous magazine articles, legal academic journals and invited news editorials, Palmater has also published two books: *Beyond Blood: Rethinking Indigenous Identity* by Purich Publishing and *Indigenous Nationhood: Empowering Grassroots Citizens* by Fernwood Publishing. In addition to being called as an expert witness at Parliamentary and Senate committees, she is also a well-known speaker, presenter and educator on Indigenous issues across Canadian and international audiences, having spoken in Samoa, Hawaii, Peru, Switzerland and England.

On behalf of all ACSUS members, let me convey our heartfelt congratulations on this signal recognition.



John Graham, Susan Hodgett (ICCS outgoing President), Stewart Gill (current ICCS President), and Andreas Weichert of Global Affairs Canada at the breakfast reception hosted by GAC on the 9th floor of the Lester Pearson Building, Ottawa, June 12th.



Maeve Conrick, UC Dublin, receiving the ICCS Governor-General's Award for Canadian Studies from Stewart Gill (center) and the Irish ambassador to Canada (left) Jim Kelly.

## ACSUS Elects Three New Councilors and a New Vice-President

October 2017 will see some changes with respect to ACSUS governance. At the 24th Biennial conference in Las Vegas, current Vice-President James McHugh (University of Akron) will assume a two-year term as President, replacing outgoing President Munroe Eagles. ACSUS Councilors Patrick Coleman, Robert Smith, and Carolyn James will all step down after serving four-year terms. On behalf of our ACSUS members, I'd like to extend a warm thanks to all of these individuals for their dedication and hard work—these have not been easy times for ACSUS, and our leadership team has responded effectively and enthusiastically to the challenges our Association has faced. Thank you to all!

Past President Kenneth Holland chaired our Nominations Committee and advanced the names of three Canadianists from around the country to fill the open slots for Councilor. One person was nominated to serve a two-year term as Vice-President (to be followed by a two-year term as President). In an election held in late May/early June, each of these individuals was supported by an overwhelming majority of those casting ballots.

So it is with pleasure that we introduce the newest members of our governance team. We look forward to the energy, commitment, and expertise that they bring to our leadership team.

### Vice-President—Christopher Kirkey,

SUNY Plattsburgh



Chris is Director of the Center for the Study of Canada and Institute on Quebec Studies at State University of New York College at Plattsburgh. He is a graduate of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, where he trained as a scholar of comparative foreign policy and international relations theory. His initial faculty appointment was at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts, where he was instrumental in growing that institution's profile in the Canadian Studies community. While there he also served as the (then) Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's "land mines scholar" - a position that took him to many campuses around the US to explain Canada's initiatives in this area.

Partly as a result of this experience, Chris has developed an extensive array of contacts in the US academic community and with the foreign affairs community in Ottawa.

Chris has been very active professionally, organizing conferences, providing professional service, and publishing his own work. Some of his more recent works include a book volume (co-edited with Michael Hawes) titled *Canadian Foreign Policy in a Unipolar World* (Oxford University Press 2016); a second edition (co-edited with Gervais and Rudy) of *Quebec Questions: Quebec Studies in the Twenty-First Century* (Oxford University Press, 2016); the co-edited Winter 2015 special issue on Quebec (with Cheryl Gosselin) of the *Journal of Eastern Townships Studies* (Vol.45 Fall 2015); the co-edited special issue (with Tony McCulloch) of the *British Journal of Canadian Studies* (Vol.28 Issue 2, September 2015); "Systemic Forces and Canadian Foreign Policy," (with Michael Hawes) in *Readings in Canadian Foreign Policy: Classic Debates and New Ideas* (Oxford University Press, 2015); and, the co-edited special issue (with Michael Hawes) "CONNECT/Fulbright Canada - New Scholars Issue," of the *American Review of Canadian Studies* (Vol.44 No.3 September 2014).

He maintains an active scholarly agenda and is currently working on several projects, including co-editor (with Hawes and Kenneth Holland) of upcoming special issues of *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal* and *the American Review of Canadian Studies*. He currently serves on the editorial board of the *American Review of Canadian Studies*, *Quebec Studies*, *the International Journal of Canadian Studies*, and *the London Journal of Canadian Studies*. He is co-editor of the *Journal of Eastern Townships Studies*. His service to ACSUS has

been similarly extensive. He served under Kenneth Holland's tenure as President as Special Counsel to the President of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, a position that the current President, Munroe Eagles renewed when he took over the ACSUS Presidency. Also, Chris is a member of the Fulbright National Student Screening Committee and the Fulbright Scholar Program on Canada for Research Chairs.

### Councilors



#### Dr. Shannon Risk, Niagara University

Shannon is a doctoral graduate of the Canadian-American Program (History) at the University of Maine, Orono, where she worked on Women's Suffrage with longtime Canadianist historian and ACSUS supporter Dr. Scott See. She has taught History at Niagara University since 2009 and is currently a tenured Associate Professor at that institution.

Shannon has been very active in Canadian Studies and has published extensively on woman's suffrage movements in Canada and the US.

## ACSUS Elections (continued)



**Dr. Christopher Sands, Johns Hopkins University**

Chris is Senior Research Professor and Director of the Center for Canadian Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Chris is one of America's most visible and productive academics who are focused on the study of Canada. He is constantly in the media offering commentary on a variety of issues on Canadian and Canada-US relations. He writes prolifically and sensitively about these issues. He has deep roots in the Washington public policy community, having been a Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for North American Competitiveness at the Hudson Institute for many years. He is well-known and highly regarded within Canada's foreign policy community. He currently teaches in, and directs, one of the most prominent and active Canadian Studies centers in the world.



The Honourable Andrew Leslie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Canada-US Relations) addresses the ICCS Award Reception, University of Ottawa, June 11, 2017



**Dr. David Yerger, Indiana University of Pennsylvania**

Dave is Chair of the Department of Economics at IUP. He is a scholar of economic linkages between Canada and the United States, with an emphasis on the energy sector. He has received several grants to fund his research and published extensively in journals such as the *Journal of the Academy of Business and Economics*, *Journal of International Business and Economics*, and *Journal of International Finance and Economics*. He is an active member of both the MiddleAtlantic and New England Council for Canadian Studies (MANECCS) and ACSUS.

### Happy Milestone Birthday, Canada!

On July 1st, Canadians around the world will celebrate the country's 150th birthday. We at ACSUS extend our best wishes to Canada and to Canadians on this special anniversary. And we look forward to celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial journey at our 24th Biennial Conference this October.



## Bridgewater State Happenings

Members of the Canadian Studies Program at BSU report a very busy spring semester in 2017. While Brian Payne (BSU History) completed his stint as a Fulbright Chair at Carleton University in Ottawa, the program welcomed former CBC television investigative journalist (*the fifth estate*) and award-winning author (*The Bishop's Man* [2009]) Linden MacIntyre as the sixth holder of the endowed Killam Visiting Professorship in Canadian Studies. Linden taught an upper-level course in Communication Studies on journalism and social justice, which was well received. The program also hosted three significant extra-curricular events. In February, the program co-sponsored (with the Canadian Consulate in Boston) "In Business with Canada," a gathering featuring presentations by and for southeastern New England businesses and government officials on the subject of American trade with Canada. In early April, Dr. Allan Downey from McGill University's History and Classics Department and Indigenous Studies Program delivered the fourth annual BMP Lecture in Canadian Studies. His talk on aspects of the history of lacrosse and Indigenous nationhood was enthusiastically received. Later that month, BSUCS hosted its



### BSU Canadian Studies Spring Symposium

seventh annual spring symposium, focusing this year on the timely subject of Radicalization and Home-Grown Terrorism in Canada and the U.S. Among the panelists were Canadian terrorism experts Dr. Wesley Wark (University of Ottawa) and Dr. André Gagné (Concordia University); the American perspective was covered ably by Seamus Hughes from George Washington University's Program on Extremism and Dr. Carolyn Petrosino from BSU's Criminal Justice Program. Linden MacIntyre steered the discussion deftly as the program's moderator.



BSU faculty member Brian Payne experiencing Canada's national sport.

## Think Canada!



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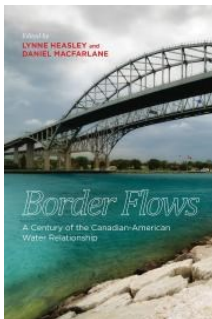
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The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States (ACSUS) is a multi-disciplinary membership based organization committed to raising awareness and understanding of Canada and its bilateral relationship with the United States. ACSUS supports research and academic activity through its publications, conferences, and grant programs; promotes the academy through active advocacy and outreach; and positions the community by profiling the scope and diversity of research undertaken by the ACSUS membership in the humanities and social sciences.

## Brief Announcements and Upcoming Events

### ***Join us for the 24th Biennial ACSUS Biennial Conference***

The 24th Biennial conference of ACSUS will be held October 18-21, 2017 at the Tuscany Suites & Casino, Las Vegas. The theme for this year's meeting is "***Celebrating Canada's Sesquicentennial Journey.***" ACSUS Vice-President Jim McHugh is the Program Chair. Full conference details are available at [www.acsus.org/conferences](http://www.acsus.org/conferences).



**Lynne Heasley and Dan Macfarlane**

have published a co-edited book with the University of Calgary Press entitled *Border Flows: A Century of the Canadian-American Water Relationship* (2016).

Thanks to ACSUS Councilor Carolyn James, participants in the upcoming 24th Biennial conference can get some inside travel tips to help make the most of their time in Las Vegas. Her travel guide can be found at:

[http://www.acsus.org/sites/acsus.org/files/LasVegas\\_Travel\\_Information\\_Carolyn\\_James.pdf](http://www.acsus.org/sites/acsus.org/files/LasVegas_Travel_Information_Carolyn_James.pdf)

Anne Trépanier (Carleton University) reports that she is teaching an "Introduction to Quebec Studies" course online, has given talks in Italy and Germany, and has recently published an encyclopedia entry on "Jocelyn LéTourneau" in Lamonde *et al.*, eds., *Dictionnaire des intellectuelles au Québec*, Montréal, Presses de l'université de Montréal, collection «Corpus», p. 213-214. Professor LéTourneau will present a keynote address at our 24th Biennial conference in October. She also published three chapters and revised a script for a four-hour documentary on Canada (entitled *Canada: un viaggio di*

*cinquemila chilometri*) that aired on RAI Television in the Fall of 2016.

ACSUS nominee Richard Tomczak, doctoral candidate in History at Stony Brook University (SUNY) was awarded an ICCS Graduate Student Scholarship to support his research on French Canadian peasant labor and the British imperial law in 18th century Quebec. Congratulations, Richard!

### **Please share you news!**

Announcements/news items for the next edition of "Think Canada!" should be sent to Munroe Eagles, [eagles@buffalo.edu](mailto:eagles@buffalo.edu)