

Remembering Dr. Jack Gaston

July 15th, 1943 - September 17th, 2024

I was among those hired by Jack, when the department consisted of him, Bob Smith, and one other sessional instructor. Robin Anderson and Chris Leach soon followed. Faculty members who did—and still do-- much to shape UFV were hired by Jack: *emeritus* History professor and former VP and provost, Eric Davis, and Dean of Arts Sylvie Murray, who came to administration from the History department, and Professor Daniel Kwan, who spearheaded an entirely new area of the program. Jack was always supportive and encouraging, both to students and other faculty, and was unfailingly kind. One day, he flagged me down in the hallway to alert me to a Call for Papers from the University of Edinburgh for a conference in my field of study. I duly sent a proposal, was invited, and later decided that Edinburgh would be the place to do my PhD studies. Jack's habitual attentiveness to opportunities for others had a strong impact on my life.

-Dr. Barbara Messamore, Chair and Professor, UFV History Department

When Chris Leach and I first arrived as History sessionals in fall of 1993 (and Barbara Messamore a year before...), Jack was the person in charge of History courses and instructors, and the growth of our department through the 90s was huge – the number of courses largely increased and Jack allowed Chris and I to build some courses that became enormously successful! Not to get too historical, but Jack truly built the foundation of our History Department, and his passing is significant....

-Prof. Robin Anderson, Professor Emeritus, UFV History Department



Featured Professor

Professor Jack Gaston helped build the UFV History Department and was instrumental in developing UFV as a full university. He taught British history and worked at UFV from 1975 through 2008. His “passion project” was helping to make the University College of the Fraser Valley into a University, which it achieved in 2008.

The feature article for this issue of the History Department newsletter *Now & Then* consists of commemorative reflections from current and/or recently retired history faculty, UFV administrators, as well as former students who knew Dr. Jack Gaston well in their time teaching, working, and learning here in the valley. As a Department, we wish to extend our sincere condolences to Dr. Jack Gaston's family and friends.

Continued on next page...

[HTTPS://WWW.UFV.CA/HISTORY/](https://www.ufv.ca/history/)

Faculty Recollections

Very sad to lose such an important part of the Fraser Valley College to UFV story and one who was so very supportive of a young and naive instructor leaping into the classroom for the first time. Jack created a culture of collegiality and his ambition to see FVC and then UCFV grow into something bigger affected both the department and institution profoundly. That ambition was largely based on his sense that academic excellence could be achieved by local students when mentored by instructors that were supported to do the same. Not everyone agreed with his vision of a larger and elevated institution, but his positive demeanor and hard work clearly paid off – the department grew, we independently granted degrees, and finally UCFV became a university. A great legacy of a kind man.

-Dr. Chris Leach, Professor Emeritus, UFV History Department

I first met Jack when I walked into History 109 at UCFV. He was an amazing storyteller, bringing history to life. As someone who did not particularly enjoy history as a high school student, Jack's approach drew me in; while political and economic history were part of the overall picture he drew, it was his attention to social, cultural, and gender history that made me fall in love with the discipline. Jack would go on to become a significant person in my life. His mentorship of me – both as an undergraduate student and later as a sessional instructor – was transformative. I am forever grateful for what he gave me: his time, encouragement, support, and guidance. He saw possibilities for me that I did not envision for myself and was there as I took steps towards realizing a new vision for my life. When I stand before people to share my story and the people that helped me get here, Jack is always included. Cheers to an amazing man.

-Dr. Alisa Webb, Vice-President, Students, University of the Fraser Valley



Former UFV History Department chairs and professors Sylvie Murray (current UFV Dean of Arts), Dr. Eric Davis (Prof. Emeritus) and Robin Anderson (Prof. Emeritus) attended Dr. Gaston's celebration of life this past Fall in Victoria, B.C. **(above left)**; Dr. Jack Gaston's memorial pamphlet **(above right)**.

Faculty Recollections

Jack was a dear, dear colleague and mentor who was, in every way, a lovely man. He hired me to join the History Department at UCFV in 1992 just when Fraser Valley College became a degree-granting university-college. He quickly became my role model for professionalism and academic leadership. He was in every way a class act. I will never forget his kindness, sense of humour, and passion for education. Students adored him. The warm and welcoming hospitality that he and Nicole offered to his colleagues and their partners helped make our department into a happy family and a wonderful place to build a career.

Dr. Gaston joined Fraser Valley College in 1975, shortly after it began. As the founding member of the History Department, Jack played a pivotal role in both its development and that of the institution. Jack was a visionary and a change-agent who foresaw and successfully advocated for the dramatic transformations that lay in the College's future. In his role as Chair of the Access Committee that led the campaign to turn FVC into the University College of the Fraser Valley in 1991, Jack drew on his great political skills to collaborate with colleagues, students, and community members in making the successful case to government and realizing the dream of a generation of students who aspired to complete a university degree without leaving the Valley. But Jack's vision of the institution's future did not end here. He firmly believed that the University College was just the first step on the road to full university status—a status that he, as much as anyone, helped make possible.

-Dr. Eric Davis, Professor Emeritus, UFV History Department

Jack Gaston represented good luck to me. He was the first person I met at what was then University College of the Fraser Valley. He phoned me to give me the news that I was selected to be interviewed for a sessional position, and he was a member of the interview committee. Jack phoned me with the news that I was a successful candidate. From the first time I taught at UCFV Jack represented a welcoming presence. He always went out of his way to ask if everything was going ok and if there was anything I needed. On one occasion I happened by Jack's class and stopped by to ask a question on something or another. It was packed with students, a happy buzz in the air as they waited for class to begin. On the lectern there was a pile of lecture notes- typed text with so many added handwritten annotations I don't know how he could follow them. He was surrounded by students getting in last questions about assignments before class began. If I had to describe the atmosphere of Jack's class that day, 'joyous learning' comes to mind. If I had to describe what he meant to me the word mentor comes to mind.

-Dr. David Milobar, Associate Professor, UFV History Department

Faculty Recollections

In the fall of 1989, I enrolled in Fraser Valley College as a university transfer student. That semester, I took 3 courses, one of which was Dr. Jack Gaston's British history course. From Dr. Gaston, I learned two things that would impact my academic trajectory and thus my career in post-secondary education: (1) how to interpret documents analytically and (2) how to engage, meaningfully, in scholarly and public domains. During this course, students were paired up and asked to lead a discussion of a primary source document. I very nearly quit college, I was so terrified at the thought of leading a discussion, that is, of speaking for more than a moment in public. But, Dr. Gaston was patient and trusted in my ability to offer insights. In turn, he helped me overcome what could have been a real obstacle to my learning and later participation in academic life. I walked away from his course a more confident, invested student, as did many of his students. I took another British history course with Dr. Gaston the following semester. He was clearly passionate about his area of expertise and channeled that passion into interesting lectures that I still remember nearly 35 years later. I also had the good fortune to work with him during our bid to turn Fraser Valley College into a university college. In my capacity as Chair of the Community Coalition to Support the University-College Proposal, a grassroots community and student alliance that advocated for university college status, I sought out his advice about which community leaders and politicians our coalition should approach, and he helped me fine tune my messaging to them. He was clearly dedicated to the promise of UFV—its potential for faculty, staff, students and the communities the university-college would serve.

-Dr. Jaclyn Rea, Associate Professor of Teaching, Chair in The School of Journalism, Writing, and Media at the University of British Columbia

I was really saddened to hear the news about Jack Gaston. I recall clearly the first time we met. I had travelled out to UFV for a job interview that was to be preceded by Jack's campus tour. I had a sense of what to expect from all the positive feedback I'd received from faculty at other universities. He was universally liked, regarded with warmth and a deep respect by his historian colleagues. That day we met he more than lived up to his reputation, giving me a wonderful introduction to UFV, one filled with the intense pride that he felt for the department and for the university that he had done so much to create and build. While we only overlapped for a few years after I was hired, I did have the opportunity to work with Jack as a History Department member. He was an outstanding, caring instructor, clearly dedicated to facilitating students' success in course work while also seeking to provide opportunities for student involvement in projects outside of the classroom. Jack was such a great guy and an excellent colleague, engaging, encouraging, and supportive. As one of the founders of UFV's History Department, he established and exemplified the model of collegiality that is highly valued amongst current department members.

-Dr. Geof Spurling, Professor Emeritus, UFV History Department

Faculty Recollections

When I was an undergrad student at the University College of the Fraser Valley in 2001, I took a History 109 course being taught by Dr. Jack Gaston. At the time I was completing an English major, and this course was rounding out my semester. Jack made history come alive for me. I don't recall him using any special teaching techniques; he simply stood at his lectern and shared from his vast knowledge of English history while occasionally referring to his extensive collection of hand-written notes. It was Jack who taught me the important differences between suffragists and suffragettes, a distinction that I still remember because it planted the seeds for my future research. Over the next two years I took three of his upper-level history courses, leading to a decision (at Jack's urging) to add history as a second major to my degree. From 2002-2003, I had the privilege to work with Jack as his research assistant. To this day, I am convinced that I developed dust allergies that year after pouring over so many volumes of dusty Victorian periodicals in the basement of UBC's archives! But it was this work with Jack that ultimately formed the basis of my Master's thesis titled *Print and Protest: A Study of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Nineteenth-Century English Periodical Literature*. The experience not only reinforced my love of research, but it taught me the importance of historical collaboration and highlighted the exciting possibilities that graduate work presented.

Jack remained an active advisor throughout my graduate career writing a number of reference letters for scholarships including two successful SSHRCC applications for both my master's and doctoral degrees at SFU. Indeed, he was instrumental in walking me through my first SSHRCC application, a daunting experience for even the most seasoned academic. More importantly, Jack mentored me. He spent time with me when he didn't always have it, patiently answered my endless questions, and offered words of encouragement and wisdom. We remained friends for years after I left UFV and he was one of my biggest cheerleaders. When I published my book *Silenced: The Untold Story of the History of Women in the RCMP* in 2014, Jack and Nicole attended my book launch in Victoria, BC in support. Lunch and a pint at the historic Bard and Banker pub with both of them is a fond memory I have of our time together during his retirement years. I learned so much from him, both inside and outside of the classroom. I will always remember Jack's quiet manner, his love of all things British, his integrity, patience, thoughtfulness, and his strong intellect. He was so inspiring. I will miss him.

-Dr. Bonnie Reilly Schmidt, author of *Silenced: The Untold Story of the Fight for Equality in the RCMP*.

Faculty Recollections

I was extremely saddened by the news of Jack's passing on September 17. And I felt so lucky to have the opportunity to pay my respect and visit with his wife Nicole and their two children, Paul and Jennie, at his celebration of life in Victoria in October. Jack was a passionate historian and a dedicated educator. Before completing his doctorate in the early 1970s, he had worked as a high school teacher and he never lost his student-first orientation. He also loved archival work and, true to his commitment to research as core to a university, even one devoted to teaching as its primary mission, he returned to an active research agenda a few years prior to retirement. In fact, he was one of the early faculty members at then UCFV to earn a SSHRC research grant. Jack was above all a leader and a do-er. That UFV was granted university status in 2008 is due to his vision and his determination. To me, Jack was a generous host, and a guide and mentor in university leadership. As a fresh-out-of-grad-school new hire in 1994, and someone who was new to BC, I will be forever grateful to him and Nicole for inviting me to stay in their beautiful home while I looked for an apartment in Abbotsford. This was the kind of place that UCFV was, and it is still part of UFV's DNA—inviting, hospitable, friendly and unassuming. I also learned from Jack that service for the common good is a key part of an academic career well lived. Teaching, research and service were all essential elements of a balanced career for Jack, and it continues to be for many of us who follow in his footsteps. He was a giant in so many ways, personally and professionally, and we dearly miss him.

-Dr. Sylvie Murray, Dean of Arts, University of the Fraser Valley

Dr. Geoffrey Spurling Retires

Dr. Geoffrey (Geof) Spurling took an academically circuitous route to UFV. He completed a BA in Archaeology at SFU and an MA and PhD in Anthropology at Cornell, spending years carrying out anthropological and historical research in Latin America. When Geof came to UFV's History Department in 2004 he had already taught for 16 years at Trent, SFU, OUC, and UBC. In his two decades at UFV, Geof developed a wide range of courses in Latin American history, teaching well over two thousand students with enthusiasm and dedication. He was particularly interested in promoting interdisciplinarity and internationalization. Working closely with John Potts, UFV International, he initiated active student exchange agreements with four Spanish universities. In 2015, Geof, with his late colleague Gayle Ramsden, took 15 students on an ambitious 3 1/2 week study tour to Peru. In the History Department he had an important role in key committees, facilitated invited speakers' series, and helped organize departmental events. He was a constructive contributor to UFV's Latin American Studies Program, as well as a member of a number of university-wide committees. In retirement, he will miss students and teaching, but he hopes to keep in touch with alumni and his colleagues. Geof looks forward to more opportunities for international travel and to having additional time to pursue his ongoing research projects.



Prof. Spurling in
Arequipa, Peru

Conferences and Accolades



Home

Sponso

MGSA Symposium 2024

Prof. Aleks Jovanovic attended the 28th Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium which took place at Princeton University this past October. He presented a paper entitled: "Imagining a Community for Oneself: The Case of 15th-Century Chronicles from Ioannina."

Prof. Keith Thor Carlson helped support artist Ivan Rosypsky at Powell River's Public Library foyer in November (2024) where Rosypsky carved a slab of red cedar as part of an exploration project called: "Carving Lost Family History/Carving a Path to Reconciliation." The project is sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, and the University of the Fraser Valley.



Alumni Highlights

A tribute to Geof Spurling

By Kelly Miles-Haire

From our first meeting in HIST 161: Aztecs, Mayans, and Spaniards—a class I'd looked forward to long before becoming a student at UFV—Geof's engaging teaching style hooked me on Latin American history; so much so that I added an Extended Minor in Latin American Studies to my Honours History Major, just to fit in more of his classes— all ten of them! Among his classes, HIST 358: African Slavery in the Americas and HIST 460: State Terror, Human Rights, and the Politics of Memory in Latin America were the most challenging yet intellectually rewarding. Geof created space for reflection on heavy course material, guiding discussions while allowing his students the freedom to make their own observations and come to their own conclusions.

Geof cares deeply for his students' academic and personal growth. He supported and engaged with his students' research interests and supervised my Honours Directed Study course, a deeply fulfilling academic experience. Additionally, he often wrote letters of support for me and other students, for scholarship, grad school, and law school applications, which often contributed to successful applications. He encouraged his students to participate in the History Department's extracurricular activities, and, as president of AHS, I always appreciated Geof's enthusiasm and steadfast support of our events, particularly when we were working to reestablish the association.



Above: Geof “Jefe” Spurling and Kelly in the Cusco Region, on the UFV Peru Study Tour, Spring 2015.

Below: At graduation.



Continued on next page...

Alumni Highlights

Geof is a curious traveller and an advocate for travel as education. Not many classes passed by without Geof regaling us with a story or two about his travels through Latin America, which had a profound impact on the course of his education and career. He often encouraged his students to incorporate travel into their own education. To this end, Geoffrey's passion for research and travel resulted in the ambitious 25-day Peru Study Tour in 2015, which I was fortunate to be a part of. The countless hours he poured into organising this tour were evident in its success and impactfulness. Somehow, despite what must have been several sleepless nights and a few stressful moments, his energy never lagged, and he frequently outpaced the students on the daily excursions and hikes. It was in Peru that he earned the nickname "Jefe," a term of endearment that has stuck.

Geof always made himself available to his students, freely offering insights through email, office hours, and Zoom calls.

Geof always made himself available to his students, freely offering insights through email, office hours, and Zoom calls. Post-graduation, Geoffrey has continued to stay in touch, checking in to ask about my family, work, and especially my travels. Geof loves exchanging travel stories and tips, debriefing after each of my YVR Deals trips, and reminiscing about the Peru Study Tour. With tales of his student days at Cornell, research stints in Spain, and adventures through Latin America at the height of political turmoil, he brought history to life. As he embarks on his well-earned retirement, I wish Jefe countless YVR Deals adventures travelling the world without the constraints of an academic calendar. ¡Gracias por todo, Jefe, y buen viaje!

Conferences and Accolades



Prof. Adrianna Bakos presented at the 16th Century Society Conference, which took place in Toronto this past November (2024). She gave a paper entitled "Joined at the Hip: Twins as Metaphors of Destruction and Reconciliation in the French Religious Wars"



Prof. Steven Schroeder helped organize an event on Nov. 6 entitled: "Palestine: International Law and Politics," featuring UFV faculty. Prof. Schroeder teaches History 335 "History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." The event was sponsored by the UFV School of Social Justice and Global Stewardship in community partnership with Fraser Valley Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights.

Faculty Highlights

Literatures of Mining and Other Journeys

By Prof. Juan Hernandez

I came to Vancouver to pursue my PhD in Hispanic Studies (one of those wide-open disciplines or quasi-disciplines, somewhere between literature studies and cultural studies) at UBC in 2014. My intention was to write a thesis on the issue of social collective memory specifically as it related to Latin American post-dictatorship or post-conflict cases.

Soon I discovered that I could do something much more original and excited and that Vancouver would be the perfect place to embark in this new research.

The lightbulb went up during a chat with Dr. Erin Baines my Human Rights and Justice class professor at the time. She suggested the idea of writing a dissertation about mining in South America from my field of literary/cultural studies.

My mind stopped for a second and I said to myself, yes! This could be a project where I could discuss the richness of subjective experiences, environmental factors, and historical layers and events that have decisively marked the region.

I brought this up to my advisor Dr. Jon Beasley Murray which he approved, and soon afterwards I started placing requests order and interlibrary loans requests on every book about mining in South America I could locate! The list grew and grew and I started creating lists and sub-lists arranging the titles by fiction or non-fiction, Colonial Era, 19th Century or 20th Century, country, type of ore exploited, etc. The issue of mining once so apparently easy to capture and analyzed kept expanding and growing out of any parameter I designed.



Photographs from Potosi, Bolivia
taken by the Dr. Hernandez.



Faculty Highlights Cont'd

Five years later I defended my dissertation at UBC, specifically in the Liu Institute for Global Studies, where the idea was first revealed with the help of Professor Baines. The five years of writing were marked by all sorts of ups and downs (like every PhD journey) and a few exciting and university funded trips to Bolivia, Peru and Colombia where I met miners, writers, engineers, made ephemeral friendships and learned a lot about the history of metals and money in the region but also at global level.

Writing from Vancouver allowed me the opportunity to meet with local activists –indigenous and otherwise–, international academics, speakers –academic and not– from the Global South who contributed a lot to forming a more human and less academic understating of mining as it was practiced in the past and as is practiced still today.

Writing from Vancouver allowed me the opportunity to meet with local activists – Indigenous and otherwise–, international academics, speakers – academic and not – from the Global South who contributed a lot to forming a more human and less academic understating of mining as it was practiced in the past and as is practiced still today.

My resulting work is entitled “Mineral Narratives: Affects, Multitudes, and Accumulation in The Andes.” It examines Twentieth-Century Latin American novels and poetry concerned with mines, miners, metals, and minerals. Focusing on texts from Bolivia, Chile and Peru, I analyze the effect and the affect that global mining exerts over human and non-human bodies. I examine the ways in which the intensities of the mineral and the metallic have shaped modern Latin American History, highlighting the impact of extraction on spaces and subjects over long temporalities, politics and representation. I conclude by showing how literary texts reveal this affective side to the extractivist project, and its impacts on the shaping of shared subjectivities and desires, in a way that other types of texts do not.

My aim is to revise my dissertation and publish it in an academic press. I hope my work would contribute to an increasingly important conversation about the historical role of extraction processes and its consequences social and environmental.

Currently working at UFV teaching Latin American History courses and constantly learning from my students. I have learned a lot from informal conversations about interesting topics such as the social history and economic dynamics of the Fraser Valley. I hope to keep contributing to UFV and send my students off with more tools to understand and analyze the past and the present.

Faculty Highlights

Canadian History of Education Association Conference Ottawa, 2024

By Prof. Chris Hyland



History faculty at UFV frequently attend conferences in Canada and around the world to share their research and liaise with their colleagues. In October 2024, I had the pleasure of attending the Canadian History of Education Association Conference in Ottawa. The conference was held at the Lord Elgin Hotel and there I gave a paper which focussed on truth and reconciliation efforts at private degree-granting colleges and universities in British Columbia. In my paper I wanted to make the important point that private degree-granting colleges are not fully understood in an academic sense. They require far more scholarly study and attention, especially because of the number of international students involved, some 23,000. Further, the academic community knows almost nothing about how truth and reconciliation ideas are formed and implemented at these private colleges. My paper took a case study approach and explained how reconciliation initiatives unfolded at Alexander College, a private degree-granting college in Burnaby, from 2019-2024. Overall, the conference was a great experience as I got to meet with colleagues from across Canada and the United States and learn about their latest research. It was time well spent during a busy semester. My thanks to the university for funding the trip and to my students whose patience is appreciated as they had to watch a pre-recorded lecture instead of having a full class.

Faculty Highlights

Celebrating Gifts from Japan

By Prof. Eiji Okawa

UFV Library received 27 new books on Japan from the Read Japan Project with the support of the Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver. Covering a range of themes including history, culture, art, and politics, these books are a fantastic new resource for our diverse UFV community. To mark the occasion, UFV Library hosted Celebrating Gifts from Japan as part of UFV Welcome Back 2024 and invited Deputy Consul General Satomi Okagaki to join us. With craft stations, culinary delights from Yummy Sushi in Abbotsford as well as Kanadell Japanese Bakery in Vancouver, and speeches by the DCG Okagaki and university representatives, the event was stacked with exciting components, but a highlight of the day were insightful talks by history students! No doubt, an event like this would be much better with students showcasing their talents and ideas – so thought a history faculty involved with the planning. Thankfully, Jenna Strickler, Armaan Gill, and Andrew Kelly stepped up and delivered a History Students Roundtable talk, and what a smashing success it was!

Jenna talked about her experience working with film in modern Japanese history, Armaan discussed his research on Japan rearming in recent times, and Andrew shared his History Honours project on Motoori Norinaga, an early modern Japanese scholar. We also showed amazing interpretive artworks by Summer Halfnights, Mackenna True, and Jenna. You'll find their provocative works in this edition of the newsletter, and soon they will be decorating the walls of UFV libraries!

Congrats to our students who helped to make the event a great success.

See here for photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ufv/albums/72177720320429927/with/54004169197>



History students Jenna Strickler, Armaan Gill, and Andrew Kelly give their Roundtable Talk at the Gifts from Japan event at the UFV Library in September, 2024.



Student Highlights

By Jenna Strickler



The initial conceit for this drawing was “What if Godzilla was roughly 100% less of a metaphor?”; and amidst the acknowledgement of the tragedy that preceded the metaphor was the irresistible siren song of getting to draw a massive lizard made of nuclear fire. Granted, it’s not as if the metaphor is couched in secrecy and ambiguity, but I thought it’d be fun to explore. It’s been a while since I’ve done any digital artwork, and this took me much longer than I thought it would. I drew the monster literally as the bomb, since there was no way I could make it any more of a direct metaphor than what the film already presented. He already breathes radiation in the movie, so I just added that much more of a connection and made him the actual explosion. It was a fun exercise.

**The artwork that appears on the next three pages is reproduced with written permissions.*

Student Highlights

By Mackenna True

“Hidden Sacrifices”: How to Balance Motherhood and Activism



My final project is an art piece that is predominantly inspired by Vera Mackies, “Embodied Memories, Emotional Geographies: Nakamoto Takako’s Diary of the Anpo Struggle.” The piece depicts many little vignettes that would have been relevant to Nakamoto’s life as described throughout her diary, “these embodied memories, in turn, were tied to places which were particularly meaningful for Nakamoto’s personal history and for the broader history of twentieth century Japan.”[1] Towards the beginning of her diary, she notes that “there are not enough hours in the day.”[2] This sentiment stuck with me throughout reading the article and learning more about her life and experiences. At the top centre of the piece, there is a clock with arrows spinning rapidly to show how quickly time is moving. There are far too many things to do and not enough time. It is placed at the top because everything somehow fits within the time given, even if it must be bent and twisted to do so. Time is overseeing life, overlapping everything...

The most prominent aspect of the piece is Kanba Michiko’s memorial. Killed at the Diet Building, her death “symbolised the death of democracy, and mourning for Kanba as an individual is inextricably linked with mourning for democracy.”[3] The lives lost, not just due to death, but also the dramatic alteration of previous ways of living, should be front and centre when thinking about these protests and uprising.

[1] Vera Mackie, “Embodied Memories, Emotional Geographies: Nakamoto Takako’s Diary of the Anpo Struggle,” *Japanese Studies* (2011) 31/3, 319.

[2] Nakamoto cited in Mackie, 321.

[3] Mackie, 329.

Continued on next page...

Student Highlights

By Summer Halfnights

The Metaphor Behind the Monster: Contextualizing the Construction of Godzilla



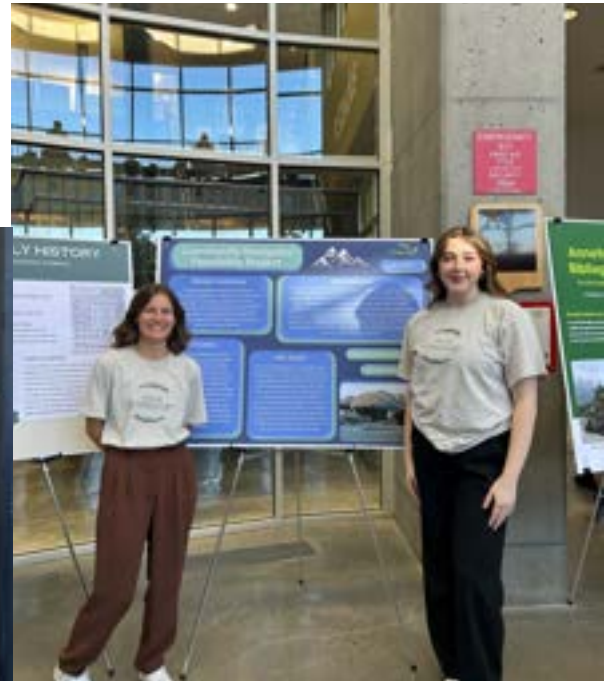
Following the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the United States' military occupation in Japan arose "Godzilla." This film was made to express the aftermath of the atomic bombs experienced by the Japanese people, while simultaneously creating "a form of cultural therapy" to help the people of Japan cope with trauma and rebuild their lives.[1] It is through my artwork that I attempt to highlight the metaphor for the monster, the hopes for the future with the oxygen destroyer, and the personification of the fears and projections developed in both the US and Japan, following the release of Godzilla. My hope is to spark a sense of empathy for the realities of the past while curating a piece that unmasks the political agendas within the film.

[1] Susan Napier, "When Godzilla speaks," in *In Godzilla's footsteps: Japanese Pop Culture Icon and the Global Stage*, eds. W. Tsutsui and M. Ito (Palgrave MacMillan, 2006), 10.

Student Highlights

Reflecting on work with UFV's PARC Collaboratorium

By Tristan Wilson-Vouri



Tristan (on right) in front of her poster at the Collaboratorium Gala, October, 7 2024

This past summer, I had the chance to be part of the PARC Collaboratorium. As someone studying history, it was exciting to finally apply what I have learned in a way that felt meaningful. The work I did this summer, Community Navigator Feasibility, was part of the Hope Inclusion Project. I worked alongside my partner, Alexis Klassen, and our community partner Free Rein Associates. One of the most memorable parts of the project was connecting directly with the community of Hope. I got to talk to people in the community, hear their stories, and conduct interviews that helped shape our research project. Using the skills I have gained from courses and developing upon them — like analyzing patterns and thinking critically—helped address challenges in society and promote change in meaningful ways. Working with Alexis and our community partners made the experience even better. We bounced ideas off each other, tackled challenges together, and supported each other throughout the process. It really allowed me to work, collaborate, and create life-long connections. History is not only about studying the past, its about applying what we already know and seeing how we can make a difference. Being part of this project has showed me how impactful research and listening to people's stories can be to contributing. Looking back, the PARC Collaboratorium was not only a chance to grow academically but also personally. It was fulfilling to know that the work we did might actually help the community, and it is something I will carry with me as I continue my studies and future projects.

.

Retired Faculty Reflections

Prof. Emeritus Dr. Daniel Kwan



-When did you start teaching history at UFV?

August 1995, and retired from full-time teaching after 23 years.

-What drew you to History as a discipline ?

I was deeply motivated by my former professors at Loyola, Montreal, who always encouraged us to read, apart from official documents, contemporary literature as major source in the study of history. My initial academic interest was in economics. But my history professors at Loyola changed my mind.

-What was special about working for UFV?

It was a small campus with small class enrolment. We could easily get to know colleagues from other departments. Most of them were very friendly and supportive to one and other. It was a very pleasant working environment.

-What role has the history department played in the UFV community?

If I remember correctly, some of my former history colleagues involved in developing the university archives, or engaged in research on local history. One of them in fact published a book about the small Chinese community in Chilliwack.

-What will you remember most about your career?

I always appreciate all my former history colleagues both in Abbotsford, and those at Hong Kong Baptist University (formerly known as Hong Kong Baptist College until 1994), where I taught for 15 years before moving to UFV, for offering me a friendly working environment. I must admit that I was privileged to be able to work in a non-competitive workplace. I also remember with great pleasure that one of my UFV history students received a full scholarship from University of Hawaii for his MA degree study in modern Japanese history in the year that I retired from full-time teaching. It was also in that year, 2018, that I was unexpectedly invited to attend the 40th anniversary celebration of the history department at Hong Kong Baptist University. It was a delightful reunion event to see former colleagues and some former students.

-What will you remember most about your colleagues?

Friendly, supportive and non-competitive in a highly competitive profession.

-What will you remember most about your students?

Very polite, quiet, and responsible. I seldom encountered students with unreasonable demands, such as revising their final grades. We always maintained a stimulating learning environment in class on the basis of mutual respect.

-What do you do in retirement?

Fortunately, I am still remembered by other people who recognize my past publications, I continue to receive invitation to write book reviews, or assess journal article manuscripts. Partly due to my participation in this type of academic service, I remain active in some small projects, which are based on the documents about Chinese labour history that I have collected from China's libraries and archives prior to my retirement. One of my current projects is to prepare an article on "workers as writers in the post-Mao era". Apart from keeping in touch with my academic community, I also play table tennis 3-4 times weekly, and pick up travel and street photography as a new hobby. With a lot of gratitude, I am able to keep myself active, both mentally and physically, in my retirement.

UFV's Association of History Students (AHS) Events



UFV's Association of History Students got involved with lots of things this term, organizing the usual donut and coffee socials as well as helping with campus student events like the UFV engagement Expo! If you want to get involved with AHS, they are always looking for new volunteers! Email them at ahsufv@gmail.com or check them out on socials: @ahs.ufv
No, we are not sponsored by Tim Hortons!

Pictures from Majors, Awards, and Graduating Student Celebrations (May and June 2024)



UFV Peace and Reconciliation Centre Collaboratorium Gala 2024



Above: UFV PARC hosted a gala in the foyer of the UFV Library on October, 7 2024 to celebrate student work at the annual Collaboratorium. History students were well represented in this important community-engaged work to build a healthier and more just society (*photos by Prof. Alessandro Tarsia*)



Above: The “Beyond Blankets: A Stó:lō Lands Exercise,” which was performed in Prof. Alessandro Tarsia’s HIST-103 Stó:lō History sections in Chilliwack (November 26) and AB1 (November 27). Xwi’yólemtéł (Kat) invited Professor Keith Carlson to develop a locally grounded replacement for, or supplement to, the Kairos Blanket Exercise for us to use here in Stó:lō Téméxw. Kat wanted something that was Stó:lō specific and that, instead of dealing with broad Canadian laws and policies and broad pan-Indigenous traditions, provided particular examples from Stó:lō history and culture.

History Ice Hockey Night 2024



Profs. Sebastian Huebel and Eiji Okawa coordinated with the Association of History Students to attend an Abbotsford Canucks hockey game earlier this Fall, which was very well attended by faculty and students alike. Even though Abbotsford lost the game 5-2, it was a lot of fun!

(photos by Prof. Alessandro Tarsia and Department Coordinator Nicole Kungle)

Faculty Hikes



Faculty have kept up a tradition of Spring and Summer hikes and walks, which helps keep our hearts and minds in order! (photos and hikes organized by the Spurlings).



Above left and below left: Coqualeetza Grounds Field Trip. Prof. Si:yémiya (Albert "Sonny" McHalsie) speaks to History 103 (Stó:lō History) in Chilliwack as part of Stó:lō Tours. September 24, 2024.

Above right: Students from Prof. Alessandro Tarsia's History 103 in Abbotsford wait for office hour meetings in D building.

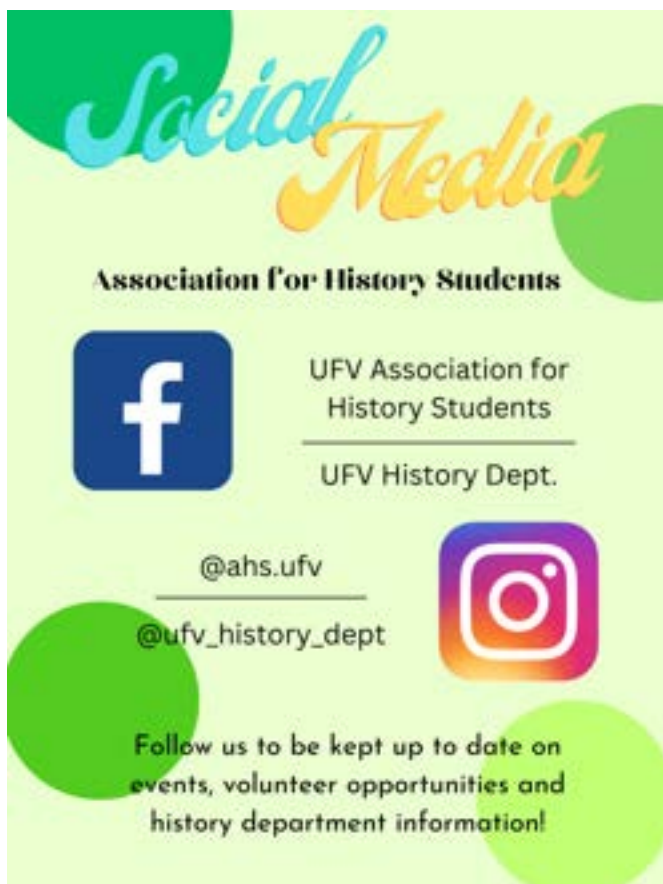


Above left and above right: Sumas Tour with Stó:lō Tours (History 103, Abbotsford campus). October 10, 2024; Prof. Si:yémiya (Albert "Sonny" McHalsie) guest lectures for History 103..



Above right: Prof. Keith Carlson with UFV students at a naming ceremony for Prof. Carlson in honour of Grand Chief Clarence Pennier at Shxwhá-y Village, October 15, 2024.

(photos by Prof. Alessandro Tarsia)



photos by Department Coordinator Nicole Kungle

Center right and below right:
Prof. Jennifer Frost from the University of Auckland in New Zealand gave a visiting scholar talk at UFV on November 14, 2024.

about her latest research, which is biographical history, entitled: “Mother of the Equal Rights Amendment: Martha Griffiths.” Griffiths was a U.S. congress person from Michigan who championed equal rights for women. Students from Prof. Ian Rocksborough-Smith’s History 454 (Gender in America) research seminar were joined by faculty and students from other history and political science courses. It was an engaging affair!

If you are a current student or alumnus and are working on something you might like to have profiled in this newsletter, consider submitting ideas to *Now and Then*. We would love to hear from you! **Contact: historyinfo@ufv.ca**