

Our monthly e-Bulletin provides quick updates on activities of THEN/HiER and its partners.

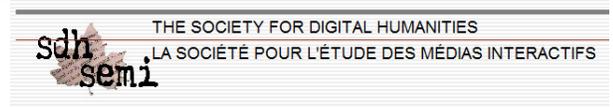


What's new with THEN/HiER?

*** Congratulations to Margaret Conrad, THEN/HiER Executive Board member**, who has won a Digital Humanities Award. At the recent Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, held in Fredericton, Dr. Conrad, Professor Emerita, University of New Brunswick, received the 2011 Society for Digital Humanities/Société pour l'étude des Médias Interactifs Award for Outstanding Achievement, Computing in the Arts and Humanities. The award was in recognition of her work with UNB's Electronic Text Centre in the creation of the Atlantic Canada Portal and the Atlantic Canada Virtual Archives. Dr. Conrad's keynote address to the Society--Rescuing the Humanities One Website at a Time, on 1 June, is available online.



Margaret Conrad



*** Approaching the Past.** The organizing committee for the upcoming *Approaching the Past* workshop series met recently to discuss possible workshop themes and locations. The goal of the series is to create and strengthen ties between history educators working in a variety of contexts in the Greater Toronto Area. We hope to create a template that can be used in other cities and towns across Canada. The committee represents a wide range of history educators committed to developing stronger networks across different fields. In addition to Rose Fine-Meyer and Samantha Cutrara, THEN/HiER Anglophone Graduate Student Committee co-ordinators, the committee includes Michelle Foggett (Archives of Ontario), Katy Whitfield (teacher, Toronto District School Board), Philip Cheong (Museum Services, City of Toronto Culture), Gillian Reddyhoff (City of Toronto Archives), Kate Zankowicz (University of Toronto and Museum Services, City of Toronto Culture), Tom Peace (York University and Active History) and Jan Haskings-Winner (President, Ontario History and Social Sciences Teachers' Association). Details about workshops will appear in the August issue of the *e-Bulletin*.



*** Jocelyn Létourneau, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member**, through his Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) project *Canadians and Their Pasts*, is holding a bilingual conference titled *The Past around Us: Historical Consciousness in the XXIst Century*, in Quebec City from September 29 to October 1, 2011. The conference will focus on the concept of historical consciousness and how representations of the past help us to make sense of the present. Through the themes of *Exploring Historical Consciousness*, *Developing Historical Consciousness*, and *Historical Consciousness and the Future*, conference participants will consider the challenges historians face in engaging the public in a dialogue about the past.

*** Jan Haskings-Winner, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member**, and Ontario History and Social Sciences Teachers' Association (OHASSTA) President, and Ian Pettigrew, Instructional Coordinator for the Peel District School Board, will facilitate a summer literacy camp at Kempenfelt Conference Centre on Lake Simcoe with the Literacy GAINS project. The camp will focus on embedding literacy within the subject disciplines of History, Arts, Geography, English and Science. Jan and Ian will spend time embedding Historical Thinking Concepts into the breakout sessions for grades 7 through 10 history teachers from across Ontario. Teachers will work on developing a thinkaloud literacy strategy using one Historical Thinking Concept and a primary source text.

What's new with our partners?

* **The Historical Thinking Project** concluded a highly successful Summer Institute at St. John's College, UBC. Peter Seixas, Jill Colyer and Lindsay Gibson convened 50 participants arriving from north to Nunavut, south to Mexico, west to Haida Gwaii and east to Nova Scotia (and even Finland!). We spent an intense week exploring the intricacies of historical thinking and how to teach it more. Visits to the Bhangra.me exhibit (Museum of Vancouver, led by Viviane Gosselin) and the Museum of Anthropology (led by Jill Baird and Damara Jacobs-Morris), as well as a tour through Chinatown (led by UBC historian Henry Yu), provided material for teaching about this year's theme: contact, conflict, syncretism and exchange across cultural boundaries. Timothy Brook's masterful *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World* and John Lutz's *Makuk: A New History of Aboriginal-White Relations*, pushed us further on the issue of intercultural contact. A wild party in the St. John's College Dining Hall, with songs by local folkies John Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat, capped the 6-day adventure. With participants returning to classrooms, museums, and ministries of education, the impact of this experience will be widespread.



* **Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS)** recently launched a Museum Services Directory. The directory is a helpful listing of consultants, companies, community-based organizations, and governmental and non-governmental agencies throughout Canada that provide expertise, mentorship and guidance in key areas of arts, culture, and heritage.

* **Ojibwe Cultural Foundation** is hosting several events this August, including:

Aug 2, 6:30 pm DAN COMMANDA - gallery opening night (exhibit runs all August)

Aug 2, noon "MARKS OF LEADERSHIP" museum exhibit opening

Aug 4, 7-9 pm "DRAMATIS PERSONAE: MANITOWANING TREATY OF 1836 (TREATY 45)" - presentation by Shelley Pearen and Alan Corbiere

For information about these and other events, visit their website, or contact them by email.

* **Manitoba Social Sciences Teachers' Association.** History and social sciences teachers have the opportunity to attend a *Teaching History Summer Institute 2011*, titled "Oral History, Story Telling, and Literacy," August 17 to 19, 2011. The institute is jointly sponsored by the Department of History at the University of Winnipeg and Manitoba Education. Click here for more details.

Graduate Student Committees



Rose Fine-Meyer

July has been busy for members of the Anglophone Graduate Student Committee who have been exchanging resources and discussing submissions for next spring's American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in Vancouver. These discussions have inspired us to expand the committee in the upcoming year so that more people can be included in these conversations and brainstorming sessions. Because we are also interested in building our roster of bloggers, we have started networking with students in various universities across Canada who may want to be involved with the committee. If you are interested in being part of the committee and/or a contributing member of our blog *Teaching the Past*, please contact Samantha Cutrara or Rose Fine-Meyer. To stay abreast of our activities, subscribe to our Twitter account and blog.



Samantha Cutrara



Catherine Duquette

Summer has finally arrived, but that doesn't mean that the Francophone Graduate Student Committee is taking a break. *Au contraire*, committee members will be posting articles on the blog *Enseigner l'histoire* all summer long. Bruno-Pierre Guillette has already written the first two articles in a series of four on using iconographic documents in history classes. Julie Ratté provides a snapshot of the blog *Spacing Montreal* which deals with urban development in this Quebec metropolis. And every Thursday, Catherine Duquette invites us on a journey to one region of Quebec to visit its museums and other historic sites. Don't miss the article by Viateur Karwera about political views of history teachers which is a response to a previous article by Catherine Duquette on teaching controversial issues. Wishing everyone a great summer vacation! Catherine Duquette.

Research Snapshots

This section of our monthly e-Bulletin highlights our members' research projects.

**Dr. John Allison, Assistant Professor
Schulich School of Education
Nipissing University**



Imagining the Historical and the International: Education Foundations at Nipissing

History education is one of the ongoing challenges of being a historian of education in a Faculty of Education. Here at the Schulich School of Education at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario, one of my principal missions in life (in my view) is to sensitize education students to the great historical tradition of education into which they are entering. For many pre-service student teachers, they do not see teaching as thinking or being historical in any way. Rather, their prime focus at the beginning of the program is to find out “how to teach.” Through my education foundations course and my international education course, I would like to think that I have contributed to broadening their historical based conception of education and schooling. I also set as an objective to sensitize them to the historical context, both in terms of the past of their world and the fact that they too will become historical! This fall I will also start teaching The History of Education in Canada in the M.Ed. program as well, so I am very much looking forward to this!

As Nipissing University's pre-service B.Ed. program is a “laptop program,” finding new and interesting ways to use the technology to convey the excitement of history education is also very significant. We are not quite at the point of fully functioning holodecks, but the technological possibilities for virtual history continue to unfold. Podcasting is one avenue I would like to explore further in this regard.

In addition to my deep passion for teaching Education Foundations and educating students about historical ways of thinking in that course, my own research looks at Canada's history of education. In particular, my focus is on governance and the politics of education. Arising originally from my doctoral work at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto (OISE/UT), I have continued a project of investigation into the role of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC). The development of “inter-provincial” and “pan-national” education policies, standards and curricula provides a great deal of fascination. Canada alone among the G8 does not have a national ministry of education. What are the historical and contemporary implications of this?



John introducing a speaker for a Canadian International Council (CIC) meeting in North Bay

My other abiding passion is international relations. “Education diplomacy” is an understudied area generally. How do we conceptualize this? What should be included in this moniker? Again, the historical component of education diplomacy is fascinating. This spring I attended for the first time the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES-US) conference in Montreal. There I presented a paper on American professor and education diplomat, R. Freeman Butts. Butts was a long time professor at Teacher's College, Columbia University, travelled widely and was influential in the creation of the International Education Act (IEA) of 1966 in the United States. Regrettably, his powerful legacy is largely unknown to contemporary students and faculty in both the United States and Canada. Here again, sensitization to a historical way of thinking is critical. Lowenthal's expression “the past is a foreign country” will remain all too true, if students, faculty and teachers ignore it in the rush of their daily lives.

Finally, I am excited by the possibilities of oral history. I have done some preliminary work on oral histories of teachers' lives and hope to continue this research in the near future.

I will conclude by quoting from one of my favourite historians from the Annales School, Fernand Braudel. He speaks of “blue water cruising on the high seas of time.” Through history education we can all join this cruise. I hope to see all of you onboard!

*** MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!**