

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



What's new with THEN/HiER?



* **Margaret Conrad, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member**, has recently published "It Was All About Me: Making History Relevant," as part of a new regular series in the *Canadian Historical Review*, 'A Life in History,' where recently retired Canadian historians reflect upon their careers, including influences which led them to take up their profession. They also touch on continuities and changes they have perceived over the years, and provide their views on the current state of affairs.

* **Jocelyn Létourneau, THEN/HiER Executive Board Member**, presented a talk at the University of Ottawa on January 26 titled, "Quebec's Past and the Consciousness of Young People." The talk was part of a series in the Education Research Unit *Making History: Narratives and Collective Memory in Education* at the University of Ottawa.



* **Reminder: THEN/HiER Visiting Doctoral Student Program and Bursary for the Historical Thinking Project Summer Institute.** The deadline for applications for these two programs is March 5, 2012. Apply for both here.

Small Projects Grants

Ten HerstoriesCafé events over the past year were funded through a THEN/HiER Small Projects Grant. This series brought together interested individuals, history teachers, and other history educators to think about history, history education and heritage issues through activities such as viewing archival materials for classroom use (two talks showcased the collections held in the Toronto Archives), or by listening to presentations from, and networking with, local historians. [Read more.](#)



THEN/HiER recently awarded two Small Project Grants:

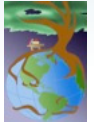
- *Museum/ArchaeoCaravan Project.* In this project, the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society will develop guides and other resources for museum staff, teachers, and members of the public to identify and interpret archaeological artifacts.
- *Map-Centred History Teaching.* Three faculty members at the University of New Brunswick – Emmanuel Stefanakis (Geodesy and Geomatics Engineering), Bonnie Huskins (History), and Theodore Christou (Education) – will design and implement a prototype web-based map application to be used as an educational tool for exploring the history of the city of Fredericton, with a focus on the Loyalist settlement of the city and surrounding areas.

Graduate Student Projects

THEN/HiER has awarded a Graduate Student Project Grant to members of our Graduate Student Committees to hold workshops at five different Canadian universities on Heritage Day, February 20, 2012. *Let's Talk History!* involves matching history graduate students with social studies and/or history education students, to learn (and talk) firsthand about how they (history graduate students) DO history (as opposed to just what they know about their topic). The intent is to engage the next generation of social studies teachers and historians in informal (one-on-one) discussions about pedagogical-content knowledge. They will also be given an opportunity to network, dialogue, make friends and share within the specialised discipline of history.

What's new with our partners?

* **The British Columbia Social Studies Teachers' Association (BCSSTA)** has announced its upcoming conference in October 2012. *Rights and Responsibilities – Acting Locally, Thinking Globally* will include a well-known keynote speaker. Who is it? Watch this short video to find out! Call for proposals.



* **The Begbie Canadian History Contest**, an annual national competition which challenges secondary students to use both their knowledge of Canadian history and skills of critical thinking and interpretation, will take place on April 18, 2012. The application deadline is March 9.

* **The Société des professeurs d'histoire du Québec (SPHQ)** is in the process of compiling volume 50 of its newsletter, *Traces*, and invites submissions from teachers about classroom experiences, book reviews, or any other article that may be of interest to your colleagues. Advertising space is also available. Please contact Llamontagne@cslaval.qc.ca.



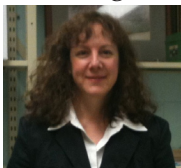
* **The Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness** is holding its next Historical Thinking Project Summer Institute at OISE/UofT, July 9-14, 2012. This coincides with forthcoming curriculum revisions in History and Social Science in Ontario that integrate historical thinking into curricular expectations. The Institute combines morning sessions that are an intensive immersion into the historical thinking concepts developed by Peter Seixas, and afternoon guest speakers and off-site visits to key museums and heritage sites. As noted on page one, travel bursaries are available. More information and registration.



THE
Historical Thinking
PROJECT

Graduate Student Committees

The Anglophone Graduate Student Committee is planning a new Book Reading/Responding Club which will begin with THEN/HiER's first book, *New Possibilities for the Past: Shaping History Education in Canada*, edited by Penney Clark. Through this pilot project we hope to generate broad interest in new scholarship in history education. Three students will read each book and participate in an e-conversation structured around questions to generate comments on THEN/HiER's blog. We will also include a podcast with the book's author or editor. Visit the Anglophone Graduate Student Committee webpage for further updates and to read about who we are, what we're up to, how you can get involved, and events happening in your province. To contribute an upcoming event, give us feedback, or become a member – we're especially looking for representatives in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, and the Yukon – contact Samantha Cutrara or Rose Fine-Meyer.



Rose Fine-Meyer



Samantha Cutrara

It is with great pleasure that I write my first monthly report as Coordinator of the Francophone Graduate Student Committee. Thanks to Penney Clark, Anne Marie Goodfellow, and members of THEN/HiER's Executive Board for giving me this opportunity – I am really looking forward to working with you on many projects! Since the holidays, Catherine Duquette has been my mentor in the transition to the Coordinator position. A big thank-you to Catherine for all her hard work on the committee over the past years. Thank you for your energy, wealth of ideas, and our very productive meetings. All committee members congratulate you and wish you the best of luck in your new position at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi. We are confident that your personal and professional qualities will guide you in this new challenge. We would also like to congratulate Viateur Karwera who submitted his dissertation last fall; he has written a blog post about his recent research. Bruno-Pierre Guillette has also posted several audiovisual resources on the blog for teachers to use in the classroom. As for future committee projects, we have planned a committee meeting to be held in Trois-Rivières to jump start the very busy year ahead in 2012. For example, we are planning THEN/HiER's Annual Regional Conference which will be held in conjunction with the International Didactics of History, Geography and Citizenship Education Symposium, October 26 to 28, 2012 in Québec City. We also welcome two new committee members, Vincent Boutonnet and Chantal Rivard, doctoral students in history education at the Université de Montréal. Contact Marie-Hélène Brunet.



Marie-Hélène Brunet

Research Snapshots

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

Alan Sears
Professor, Social Studies Education
University of New Brunswick



Connecting the Diverse Parts of My Scholarly Life

I have heard many academics say something like, "I came to my research area by accident" or, "My research focus found me, I didn't find it." This has certainly been true for me. The focus and direction of my research and scholarship have often been altered by personal connections and unexpected opportunities.

As I was preparing to leave for PhD studies at UBC in the early 1990s, a New Brunswick Senator I knew called to say the Senate Committee he sat on was about to embark on a study of Canadian Citizenship and he wanted to know if I would do some background research for them. The fact that the position came with some money and I was leaving my job to become a student again was a key factor in my saying yes. I also saw an opportunity to combine the research for the Senate with my doctoral studies and so completed a dissertation on federal policy in citizenship education. That laid the foundation for a body of comparative international work in citizenship education, as well as my current focus on student thinking about civic concepts and ideas.



Alan Sears with Penney Clark

While at UBC I shared an office with Penney Clark and taught a course with Peter Seixas who was a new faculty member at the time. Peter also served on the supervisory committee for my dissertation research. Both Peter and Penney went on to become leaders in history education research and development in Canada and my continued association with them led to my involvement with the Historical Thinking Project and The History Education Network (THEN/HiER).

More recently, I returned from a sabbatical overseas to find a new colleague, Mark Hirschhorn, had joined the faculty of education where I teach. Mark is a science educator so I didn't anticipate that we would become research collaborators. It turned out, however, that Mark's particular research focus was teacher education and I was certainly a teacher educator although I hadn't thought much about research in the field. As Mark and I became friends we spoke more about our respective areas of scholarship and I joined a research team he heads investigating teacher education in Canada.

One of the most exciting recent developments for me has been the way projects sponsored by THEN/HiER have drawn together what seemed disparate parts of my scholarly life. In the broad field of social studies education there has often been tension between the areas of history and citizenship. Because of this, as a citizenship educator, I had always felt on the periphery of the history education community. I was a bit surprised, then, when Penney Clark asked me to join the team of chapter writers for THEN/HiER's first edited book, *New Possibilities for the Past: Shaping History Education in Canada*, that was to map the landscape of history education in Canada. I wrote a chapter exploring the connections between history and citizenship education and since have followed up with more research and writing on that theme.

When Ruth Sandwell and Amy von Heyking, colleagues from the THEN/HiER Executive Board, asked me to join a project to produce an edited book on history teacher education, another thread of my scholarship was woven into the history education tapestry. The work I had been doing with the UNB teacher education research group laid the basis for my chapter for Ruth and Amy's book, and that productive collaboration with history education colleagues fed back into the broader work on teacher education we are pursuing at UNB.

Research is often characterized as being driven forward almost solely by important questions and I am sure there are researchers for whom this is true. In my case, however, collaborative relationships have proven at least as important as burning questions in setting directions for my scholarship. Over my career I have written a range of articles, chapters, and books, some as a single author and some written with others. Even those that carry my name alone have been influenced and shaped by the colleagues and students with whom I have had the privilege to work.

*** MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!**