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Canadian Studies Center Report June 2015 Announcing New Fellows!

Dear Colleagues,

Vince and I are pleased to announce the 2015-16 fellows in Canadian Studies. Congratulations to the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows - we are proud to announce that our FLAS Fellows will be gaining increased fluency in French, Nuu-chah-nulth or Inuktitut over the course of the next academic year. On behalf of the Area Studies and Indigenous Ways of Knowing grant steering committee, congratulations to the five graduate fellows. Finally, congratulations to the Corbett and Killam Fellows - UW undergraduate students who will spend much of the 2015-16 academic year at the University of British Columbia. We are very proud of each of you! - Nadine & Vince

2015-16 FLAS Fellows

 Dambro

Branden Audet, International Studies and Technology Entrepreneurship, French Summer and Academic FLAS 2015-16

My aim for this coming year will be to truly immerse myself in a new foreign language as well as explore new courses in foreign policy and security within the Arctic regions. I find Canada and the Arctic a treasure trove of natural resources and am very curious to see/shape the foreign policy and diplomacy in that regions – specifically with major players such as China and Russia eyeing the Arctic. It is my belief that the Arctic may be center stage in the future for irregular warfare and conflict.

 DeJong

Elena Barreto, Public Affairs, French Summer FLAS 2015

I am currently enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at the University of Washington. I applied to learn French in order to serve the Canadian immigrant population since language is such a huge barrier when migrating to another country. Being able to communicate with clients is critical in order to get their basic needs and goals met, and be a support during a time of immense transition. I believe that pursuing education in other languages, starting with French, will help me further develop the professional skills needed to have the most positive impact on immigrant and refugee families' lives.

 DeJong

Amie De Jong, Linguistics, Nuu-chah-nulth Summer FLAS 2015

I'm learning Nuu-chah-nulth, a language spoken on Vancouver Island, B.C. by a declining number of native speakers. This language is a major part of Nuu-chah-nulth people's cultural heritage, and has some rare and interesting phonetic (sound-related) and syntactic (grammatical) features; this FLAS will allow me to study the language and its social context more in detail, and to help in preservation and revitalization efforts.


 DeJong
Taylor Sproed, Law, French


Academic FLAS 2015-16

I am originally from the Seattle area. I received my BA from UW in Environmental Studies, where I also minored in French and interned at the Environmental Protection Agency. I am currently pursuing a Juris Doctor, and I hope to use the FLAS to study the role of Québec in Arctic development and in international negotiations concerning Arctic policy.


 O'Toole
Beth St. Clair, Law, French

Academic FLAS 2015-16

As my francophone studies grew, I became more and more interested in the Distinct Society that is Québec. I was fortunate to spend a semester abroad in Québec City and participate in in-depth studies of both the politics and government of the Province of Québec as well as Canada. I am excited to expand this scholarship into comparative Canadian Law. In the coming year, I hope to focus on the Canadian Constitution, Canadian Commercial Law and Québec-specific language laws. What I learn will empower me to be a diverse and internationally competent attorney.


 Vanlenzuela
Jason Young, Geography, Inuktitut

Summer and Academic FLAS 2015-16

I am a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Washington, with an interest in the political implications of emerging information and communication technologies for indigenous peoples. More specifically, my dissertation research focuses on the use of digital technologies by Canadian Inuit to discuss and implement environmental management strategies in response to climate change in the Arctic. I am using my FLAS to learn Inuktitut and to learn more about Inuit culture and environmental politics in Canada.

2015-16 Corbett & Killam Fellows

UW Corbett Fellow - Siyu Lu, Business Administration

Siyu Lu is a senior at University of Washington, Seattle, where she is studying Business Administration with a concentration in accounting and earning a Certificate of International Studies in Business. Siyu is described as having strong analytical and problem solving skills, as well as having extraordinary perseverance. As a Corbett Fellow, she will study at the University of British Columbia as an exchange student, beginning in September 2015. Siyu's career objectives include earning a CPA license and conducting tax research and analysis for corporations doing business in United States, Canada, and China.

UW Corbett & Killam Fellow - Katelyn Guard, Math; Chemistry minor

As someone who wants to teach, it's important to me to learn about education in other cultures. I adore British Columbia, and this opportunity allows me to experience another culture, while staying on track to graduate.

UW Corbett & Killam Fellow - Trevor McAllister-Day, Linguistics

I'm a linguistics student, and plan to go to graduate school for the cognitive sciences. In the United States, linguistics is very cognitive-based, but in Canada, the perspective is focused on doing more fieldwork, so I'm studying in Canada to do fieldwork on Ktunaxa, an indigenous language in the Okanagan, as a new perspective on linguistics.

UBC Corbett Fellow - Saki Serizawa, Global Resource System

I am currently a student at the University of British Columbia. I am grateful for the Corbett's for supporting my interest in studying at UW. I am extremely excited to be a part of the Arctic Studies program at UW, and to understand where Canada and the United States fall as partners in the context of Arctic politics. As well, I am enthusiastic to explore the beautiful city of Seattle and see what it has to offer this curious Canadian.

2015-16 Area Studies & Indigenous Ways of Knowing Fellows

Iris Crystal Viveros Avendano, Ph.D. program, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (research advisors, Angela Ginorio and Michelle Habell-Pallan, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies)

Title: "Mujer Remolino/Whirling Woman: A Decolonial Reinterpretation of Maria Sabina's Healing Ceremonies and Chants"

Abstract: Area studies have primarily relied on the tools of the modern disciplines of anthropology, geography, history, political science, and linguistics which arose at the same time as colonial expansion. Notions of the rational human underlie the epistemologies of these knowledge projects and are presumed to travel, unproblematically, across sovereign territories. This research project proposes de-colonizing such epistemologies by contextualizing the life of Mexican Indigenous healer Maria Sabina, her encounters with the Life magazine journalist, G.R. Wasson, and the retelling of Maria Sabina's story by contemporary people of her community in Mexico. This paper will intervene in debates around cultural sovereignty in order to construct different ways of interpretation and understanding indigenous ways of knowing.

Laura Maria De Vos, Ph.D. program, English (research advisor, Dian Million, American Indian Studies)

Title: "Coastal and Coast Salish Peoples' Affective Epistemologies And Praxes of Sovereignty: A New Approach For Area Studies"

Abstract: A decolonial understanding of Area Studies organized across Western borders can partner with Indigenous Peoples to grasp the affective relational, reciprocal, responsible understanding of sovereignty which can effectively alter the Western organization of space and territory and allow for a reclaiming of Indigenous rights to territories and self-determination.

Patrick Lozar, Ph.D. program, History (research advisor, Alexandra Harmon, American Indian Studies)

Title: "Behind and Beyond the Line: Indigenous Peoples, Nation-States, and International Borders on the Columbia Plateau, 1890s-1910s"

Abstract: My research advances an indigenous critique of the primacy of the area studies-oriented nation-state. Asserting conceptualizations of indigenous sovereignty and territoriality along the national peripheries of Canada and the US exposes the limitations, artificiality, and presumed centrality of the nation-state. Specifically, I show how native groups contested and transcended the imposition of national borders by engaging indigenous geographies.

Jason Young, Ph.D. program, Geography (research advisor, Sarah Elwood-Faustino, Geography)

Title: "Canadian Governance, Inuit Activism, and Digital Representation"

Abstract: This research examines how Inuit use digital technologies to intervene in international discussions about the Arctic. Broadly, the research asks what types of politics Inuit are practicing through digital media, how these practices compare with the use of digital media by Canadian political organizations to extend governance practices, and how the interaction of these different practices produces globally-accessible representations of the Arctic as an emerging geopolitical region.

Tatiana Kalaniopua Young, Ph.D. program, Anthropology (research advisor, Miriam Kahn, Anthropology)

Title: "Re-making the Passage Home: U.S. Occupation, Abandonment and Reclaiming National Lands in Contemporary Hawai'i"

Abstract: Hawaii's precarious political position as an American outpost in the political and economic affairs of the Asia-Pacific region is an important site for area studies research that includes international relations and indigenous ways of knowing. Growing international pressures to challenge imperialism, austerity and the illegal seizing of lands by colonial powers comports with grassroots concerns and actions operating within the Hawaiian Movement.

Monick Keo, Newsletter Editor, Canadian Studies Center
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This newsletter was sent by:

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