



CANADIAN STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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WINTER 2002

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This fall the Canada-US Studies Program—a joint venture between the Canadian Studies Centers at the University of Washington and the University of British Columbia—offered its first joint course at the undergraduate level entitled, “Puget Sound/ Georgia Basin: Managing an International Ecosystem” and taught by Ann Lesperance, Batelle Senior Research Scientist. The course linked up with a Canadian Studies offering at UBC taught by Richard Cavell, Chair of the program at UBC. Western Washington University offered a similar course with students linking up with components of the Canada-US Studies Program.

The course is the outcome of a joint agreement signed between the presidents of both institutions in June 2000 for a joint Canadian-American studies program to enhance cross-border opportunities for students and faculty. The goal is to foster understanding of how numerous, and often competing, economic, environmental, and political agendas affect the shared international ecosystem. “This course has served as a pivotal point in my education and career,” said a UW student, “It highlighted the importance of international communication regarding shared ecosystems.”

The joint course involved student weekend exchanges, lectures and field trips. The exchange weekends allowed students on both sides of the border an opportunity to discuss shared sustainability issues. Said one student, “The weekend gave me invaluable insights into the importance of cross-border collaboration.” The course included a five-part public lecture series offered at both institutions and sponsored by Weyerhaeuser. The lecture series, serving more than 500 students, staff and community members, focused on competing interests of stakeholders on both sides of the border and examined resolution efforts.

Also held in the Fall was a cross-border international seminar focused on environmental sustainability which brought together scholars, students and decision makers from Canada, Mexico and the United States. The unique seminar, sponsored by Western Washington University, Simon Fraser University and El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (Tijuana) was truly cross-border as it was



“UW and UBC students on an exchange weekend field trip to study the environmental impact of industry on the Duwamish River in Seattle. This course has served as a pivotal point in my education and career...exchange courses introduce the importance of international communication regarding shared ecosystems.” – UW student

actually conducted in two countries—one day at WWU and the following day at SFU in Vancouver. It included a “two-nation” field trip focused on watershed management, tourism and land use planning in the Canada-US borderland. Papers focused on environmental challenges facing two of the most rapidly growing coastal corridors in North America, Vancouver-Portland and San Diego-Tijuana.

Faculty from WWU and UW were among the participants. A group of WWU students from a Borderlands course joined the seminar and traveled with the participants. The students, already engaged in comparative study of North American borderlands, read and critiqued assigned papers. Students commented on the value of first-hand observation and examination of transboundary environmental issues in both Canada and the US.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY DON ALPER, CENTER FOR CANADIAN-AMERICAN STUDIES, WWU

As center directors, we receive numerous requests from the media for information about Canada. The major topics are trade, fluctuating exchange rates, Canadian elections and the Quebec separatist movement. Following the terrorist attacks in September, the media in both countries became fixated on a new issue—border security.

This issue, unlike most others in Canada-US relations, got the strong attention of the media. We Canadianists have wanted more attention focused on Canada, but not necessarily as a result of crisis-charged events. I was dismayed that most US journalists almost immediately defined the issue as a “Canadian problem” and took for granted that American security from terrorists would require stricter border controls and bringing Canadian immigration practices into conformity with those of the US. This knee-jerk reaction—which closely resembled what many in the Bush Administration were saying—ignored the fact that none of the terrorists had been linked to Canada, that Canada and the US already borrow immigration best practices from each other, and that both governments’ border agencies have been working together for years to develop new and innovative risk management measures.

Our Centers were also barraged by calls from the Canadian media interested in American perspectives on the border, the effect of the attacks on Canada-US relations, and how Bush views Canada. For Canadians, the chief concern was that tightened border security would disrupt the flow of commerce and people and thus seriously damage the Canadian economy. Some Canadian journalists suggested that the 9/11 crisis would set in motion a more integrated set of border policies between the two countries.

Worrisome in all of this is the possibility of Canada being identified by Americans as a security risk. Clearly our job as Canadianists has become more difficult but also more important.

URBAN DESIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM – UW/UBC

For two consecutive weekends in the Fall Quarter 2001, Oct. 26-27 and Nov. 2-3, 10 students from the University of Washington’s College of Architecture and Urban Design (UDP) engaged in an Urban Design Exchange with two faculty and 11 graduate students in the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. The exchange was organized by UDP Assistant Professor Daniel Abramson, in collaboration with Architecture Assistant Professor Ellen Do, and Professors Penny Gurstein and Elizabeth Macdonald from UBC. The program is part of the Canada-U.S. Studies program, a joint program linking the Canadian Studies Centers at both institutions.

The theme of the exchange was “intensification of the urban fabric” - in particular the integration of high-density housing with other uses in areas where former industrial uses or auto-oriented suburban development has left large tracts of vacant land in close proximity to expanding urban or transit centers - and the implications of intensification for streetscape design. In addition to study tours in Vancouver and Seattle involving site visits and presentations by public and private-sector planners and designers, the exchange required students from the two universities to work together in teams for quick, one-day policy and design charrettes on a specific problem in each city.

The UW group visited the joint Insurance Corporation of British Columbia-Technology BC campus-office-shopping site in Surrey Centre; Burnaby’s Metrotown; and Vancouver’s False Creek North area. In Vancouver, the subject of the charrette was Pacific Boulevard as it passes BC Place stadium. Through the tours and charrettes, the two universities gained insights on the differences between U.S. and Canadian municipal approaches to engaging the market and private developers in the pursuit of amenable public space and services.



Vancouver City Planner Michael Gordon comments on student work at the UBC Charrette, as Profs. Tony Dorsey (Director of UBC’s SCARP), Allan Jacobs (visiting from UC Berkeley), and Penny Gurstein look on with CAUP students Chris Meek, Morgan Elliott, Joanna Day, and Dominik Bueckers.

RENOWNED WRITER, PERFORMER AND STORYTELLER JOINS WWU AS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF CULTURE

Lee Maracle was appointed the third Distinguished Visiting Professor of Canadian Culture at Western Washington University in Fall 2001.

Professor Maracle is an award-winning poet, novelist, performance storyteller, scriptwriter, actor and keeper/mythmaker among the Squamish People. She has taught at the University of Toronto and received the Stanley Knowles Visiting Professorship in Canadian Studies at the University of Waterloo. She was founder of the En'owkin International School of Writing in Penticton, BC, and Director of the Centre of Indigenous Theatre in Toronto.

A prolific writer and a much-in-demand speaker, Maracle's work includes more than 100 articles, poems, short stories and several books, the most widely known being *Ravensong*, *I Am Woman*, *Sojourner's Truth* and *Bobbi Lee, Indian Rebel*. Her most recent publication is *Daughters are Forever*, the subject of a recent national book tour. She has given hundreds of speeches on political, historical, and feminist sociological topics related to native people, and conducted dozens of workshops on personal and cultural reclamation.

Lee has served as a consultant on First Nations' self-government and has an extensive history in community development. She has been described as "a walking history book" and an international expert on Canadian/First Nations culture and history.

The Distinguished Visiting Professorship of Canadian Culture was established through an endowment by the Government of Canada, the State of Washington and the Western Foundation. The holder of the professorship engages in teaching, research and performance related to Canadian culture, including ethnicity, art, literature, music communications, history and philosophy and plays a key role in fostering awareness of Canada's cultural landscape and enriching cultural activities on the university campus and in the community.



INTRODUCTION TO CANADA Teaching Assistants Have New Insights

BY NOVA GATTMAN, WWU STUDENT

The "Introduction to Canada" course at Western Washington University had five Teacher's Assistants—Nova, Uhura, Javari, TK and Dan—with majors ranging from Canadian-American Studies to Business to Political Science. We were selected because of our knowledge of Canada and our ability to facilitate small discussion groups.

Our experiences and contact with the students gave us new insight into Canada and particularly US perceptions of the country, and our skills in leading small group discussions were greatly enhanced. Being a TA was also immensely entertaining. Daily, we had contact with students who were delightful and, after getting past some general hesitation, open to learning more about their northern neighbor. But educating students about Canada is certainly not simple. One student actually believed that the reason the Canadian birth rate differs from that of the US is because sex drives are lower in colder climates. That was without a doubt the highlight of grading papers all year! We all agree that a class such as this is very valuable to US students. The opportunity to influence the students' understanding of Canada has been an amazing experience and I would highly recommend it to others.

Welcome New Affiliated Faculty, Charlotte Cote

The UW Canadian Studies Center welcomes Charlotte Cote, a member of the Tse-shaht Tribe, which is part of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation on Vancouver Island.

Cote was recently hired on as a faculty in American Indian Studies with a research focus on Makah/Nuu-chah-nulth contemporary whaling. Cote examines how this tradition has been rearticulated in these contemporary communities and serves as a symbol for tribal resiliency and nation-building. In particular Cote compares the differences between federal Indian policies on both sides of the border and the impact of those policies on community building.

Cote will be teaching American Indian Studies courses in aboriginal gender roles, sovereignty issues, and Indian education in both Canada and the US.

Welcome New Affiliated Faculty, Daniel Benjamin Abramson

Dan Abramson joined the UW faculty of Urban Design and Planning in September 2001, having conducted research and taught classes as a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of British Columbia's Centre for Human Settlements and School of Community and Regional Planning. He obtained his doctorate from Tsinghua University.

Abramson continues to be a partner with UBC in a Ford Foundation-funded community-based preservation and revitalization planning project in the city of Quanzhou, Fujian Province.

At the University of Washington he teaches urban design studios and site planning, methods of urban neighborhood surveying and environmental interpretation, and issues in Pacific Rim cities and urban planning practice including the Urban Design Exchange with UBC.



A TANGIBLE BRUSH WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR WWU INTERN

BY MATT GRINDY, WWU STUDENT

During my Summer 2001 internship at the Canadian Consulate General, Seattle, I worked on several projects including the compilation of an emergency duty officer manual and preparation for the 2001 Canada Gala. The most compelling project was a comparison and report on the development of Forest Stewardship Certification standards in BC versus the US. FSC regulations are the wave of the future, as they serve as a non-biased third party in sound forest practices and receive international recognition.

My experience at the Consulate was incredibly valuable. It gave me a tangible brush with international relations; a welcome alternative to only reading about international politics. I learned about the important role a consulate serves for political, economic, and trade relations. This internship was the first step in my career path and I am grateful for the opportunity.

GEORGE MACDONALD NEW DIRECTOR OF THE BURKE MUSEUM



Author and anthropologist, MacDonald, has spent the past two decades creating and heading major museums in Canada and Australia including the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa. He pioneered the Museum of Civilization as, "a museum devoted to intercultural understanding, in a facility that is itself a global village."

His most recent book entitled *Haida Art* (Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia), published by University of Washington Press, presents the most treasured works in what is considered the world's best collection at the Museum of Civilization. MacDonald has more than 150 publications focusing on native cultures in the Pacific Northwest.

The Canadian Studies Center is delighted that MacDonald will also be teaching at the UW in the Department of Anthropology.

The Pacific Northwest National Resource Center for Canada, formed in 1988, is a joint center linking the Canadian Studies Center, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, with the Center for Canadian-American Studies, Western Washington University. The mission of the National Resource Center is to respond to the challenges and demands of the region and nation for knowledge and understanding of Canadian affairs. The Center aims to strengthen and expand undergraduate and graduate instruction, professional teacher training and to organize activities pertaining to business, cultural and civic communities.

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