An Interview with LCMSDS Director
Mark Humphries

By Matthew S. Wiseman

WISEMAN: Thank you for taking the time to answer some questions today. I want to ask you briefly about your experience thus far here at [Wilfrid] Laurier [University]. You took over as Director at LCMSDS (Laurier Centre for Military, Strategic and Disarmament Studies) about six or seven months ago, so how have you enjoyed your job thus far?
Humphries: It’s been quite enjoyable so far. For me it’s been a great opportunity to come back [to Wilfrid Laurier University] and be part of an exciting research centre, working with exciting graduate students and fellow faculty members, and working on a wide array of different projects all related to Canada’s military history.

Wiseman: In your mind, why is it important to study Canadian military history?

Humphries: I think studying Canadian military history presents an opportunity to learn from past mistakes that we’ve made during and after previous conflicts. I think if we don’t take the opportunity to learn from some of the things that have happened in the past, it’s not that we’ll be doomed to repeat those mistakes but we’ll lose the opportunity to perhaps make the lives of veterans today for example and their families more manageable. So I think studying Canadian military history presents a unique opportunity to learn about the past and to apply the lessons from the past to the present.

Wiseman: OK, that’s good. If you don’t mind, I want to ask you a few questions pertaining to the Centre. Firstly, what exciting opportunities exist as LCMSDS?

Humphries: Sure, not a problem. We offer experience in all aspects of the publication process, from writing to design work, to actually managing the peer-review process itself. We also have an extensive archival collection which is still growing, and we have literally more than a dozen students right now working on developing that collection, developing the finding aids for that collection, and digitizing large portions of it as well as writing blog entries and putting documents online for the general public and researchers to use. In addition to that we run a very active series of speaking events and conferences, as well as seminars...
Tri-U Success at 2015 Three Minute Thesis Competitions

A number of representatives from the Tri-University community participated in this research communication competition that is held annually on campuses across the globe.

University of Waterloo PhD Candidate Joseph Buscemi was the People’s Choice Winner at the Waterloo competition, while Wilfrid Laurier University PhD Candidate Matthew Wiseman similarly won the Laurier Participants’ Choice Award.

Congratulations!

HUMPHRIES: Right now we’re working on a very large scale project which will see the digitization of roughly two hundred thousand personnel files, or about ten million individual pages of documentation. These are the veterans’ files of First World War soldiers that were created after they came home; they document the lives of those individuals from 1918 through until they died; they provide an unprecedented window into the lives of ordinary Canadians, both from a military history perspective as well as simply from a Canadian social history perspective. I’m right now actively recruiting Masters and PhD students who are interested in working with records like these to explore not just Canada’s military history and the experience of veterans and their families, but also the ways in which war has shaped the lives of ordinary people in not so tangible ways. Everybody who came home from the First World War, for example, was touched in some way by that conflict, as were the lives of their wives or their husbands in some cases and indeed their kids and their grandkids. This is about exploring the ways in which the hidden histories of conflict and war in Canada have sometimes been overlooked and try to bring those things back to light.
WISEMAN: Thank you. That was an excellent answer and I think you touched on many interesting aspects related to not only LCMSDS research but your own as well. With your own involvement at LCMSDS and Laurier in mind, lastly please describe your relationship with Terry Copp.

HUMPHRIES: Sure, I’d be happy to. Terry Copp started LCMSDS back in the late 1980s and founded the journal of Canadian Military History in 1992. Like many graduate students in Canadian military history, Terry has been a role model and an important influence in my professional life. Terry’s been a good friend and a mentor to me for more than a decade. We’ve written books together and worked on a number of projects together; we still are today. For me the opportunity to come and work with Terry on a professional level and to try and fill his admittedly large shoes here at the Centre has been, I think, a dream come true. It’s been an excellent experience and I’m looking forward to being involved with Terry and his research for many years to come.

WISEMAN: Excellent, that’s great. Thanks Mark. That’s all the questions I have for you but thanks again. I really appreciated you answering these questions and best wishes moving forward.

>Matthew Wiseman is a PhD candidate at the Wilfrid Laurier University, and Website and Outreach Manager at LCMSDS <

The Tri-University Graduate Students’ Association (TUGSA) aims to bring all the students of the Tri-U History Program together for social activities (curling!) and learning opportunities.

If you wish to contact TUGSA, please email tugsamail@gmail.com. If you have any issues or questions about the program, or if you want to get more involved with TUGSA, please let us know.

Dr. Susan Nance a finalist for the Wallace K. Ferguson Prize

Entertaining Elephants: Animal Agency and the Business of the American Circus (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013) is shortlisted for the 2015 Canadian Historical Association prize, which recognizes a scholarly book in a field of history other than Canadian history.
Winter Recap - TUGSA Topics on Tap

The Department of History at the University of Guelph welcomes a new Scottish Studies Chair

Dr. James Fraser joined the University of Guelph in January from the Department of History at the University of Edinburgh, which he was a Senior Lecturer in Early Scottish History. Dr. Fraser is also a graduate of the University of Guelph (MA ’99).

January 21, 2015

PhD Candidate Ted Cogan, “Marginal Identities: The 1967 Centennial and the Campaign for a Better Canada.”

PhD Candidate Marian Toledo Candelaria, “He Did Not Follow Her Advice: Malcolm III as the Reformed Barbarian in the ‘Life of Saint Margaret, Queen of Scots.”

Tri-University Faculty Receive Teaching Distinctions

Dr. Greta Kroeker, an associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Waterloo, will receive a 2015 Distinguished Teacher Award.

Dr. David Smith, an assistant professor in the Department of History at Wilfrid Laurier University was awarded the Faculty of Arts Teaching Scholar Award.

Dr. Gavin Brocket, associate professor in the Department of History at Wilfrid Laurier University, was named a Laurier Teaching Fellow.
**Professor Jim Walker receives Oliver le Jeune Award**

Presented by the Ontario Black History Society, the award recognizes Dr. Walker’s career work creating the first Canadian university courses in African-Canadian history at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Walker’s influential work has also been acknowledged for its role inspiring novelist Lawrence Hill, the author of *The Book of Negroes*, which was recently adapted into a Canadian Broadcast Corporation miniseries.

**Rebel Youth: 1960s Labour Unrest, Young Workers, and New Leftists in English Canada (UBC Press, 2014)**

*Shortlisted for 2015 Sir John A. Macdonald Prize*

Dr. Ian Milligan’s book is nominated for the Canadian Historical Association prize which recognizes a non-fiction work of Canadian history judged to have made the most significant contribution to an understanding of the Canadian past.

**Alice Glaze is Women’s History Scotland Essay Prize Winner**

Glaze, a PhD Candidate in the Department of History at the University of Guelph, won the Women’s History Scotland Leah Leneman Essay Prize 2014 for her essay, “Women and Kirk Discipline: Prosecution, Negotiation and the Limits of Control.”

**Mark Sholdice appointed Graduate Student Representative for the Canadian Science and Technology Association**

Sholdice, a PhD Candidate in the Department of History at the University of Guelph, also recently published “‘Patronage, like Hamlet’s ghost will not down!’: The United Farmers of Ontario-Independent Labor Party Provincial Government and Political Patronage, 1919-1923,” *Ontario History* (Autumn 2014): 191-213.
Serving My Time: Adventures in Research

By Ian Muller
@ianwnm

Research trips are an integral and engaging part of the academic experience. For historians, this inevitably means long days in the archives. While the excitement of a promising discovery can invigorate the scholarly process, travel for research work can often stress the graduate student’s budget. In the spirit of adventure (and savings!), I decided to check out a unique accommodation option on my latest research trip to Ottawa, ON.

If you have ever done any travel backpacking you are no doubt familiar with the low-cost option of hostels. The Hostelling International Ottawa Jail, is exactly how it sounds, a former jail converted into a hostel. Located on Nicholas Street adjacent to the Rideau Centre shopping mall, this popular and well-known hostel is located right in downtown Ottawa. This ideal location places you within easy walking distance of Parliament Hill, the Byward Market, several museums, and countless restaurants and cafe’s. If you’re in Ottawa to visit Library and Archives Canada, the hostel is only a scenic twenty minute walk away.
The Carleton County Gaol opened in 1862, and was built in a symmetrical Georgian style to be an imposing, massive, and impressive structure. The conditions are described to have been appalling and inhumane. If lucky, prisoners left their cells to chop wood or clear snow. In 1972 the jail was closed, and the transformation of the building into a hostel began. The hostel was first opened to travellers on August 2, 1973 and shortly after hosted a tour from Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

The hostel retains much of the look and feel of a jail, which is a major draw for travellers. Historic tours are offered every day, and there are of course the obligatory rumours that the building is haunted. A range of rooms are available, including a single “cell,” dormitory style, and larger private rooms. I chose to try the full penitentiary experience, and stayed in a cell. Let me leave no allusions, the cell is tight. At 9’ by 3’ there is barely room for a single bed and a small landing area for your suitcase. If you are at all prone to claustrophobia, this is definitely not the experience for you! Washroom and shower facilities are communal, and a basic continental breakfast is served each morning. There are also kitchen facilities on site, and a pub, “Mugshots,” located in the basement.

As a non-member of Hostelling International, my single cell was $39/night. If you’re adventurous, and can sacrifice certain comforts, it’s a great value. Free Wifi! Saving on accommodation costs allowed me to fly to Ottawa, which eliminated a significant amount of travel time. While it’s far from your typical hotel room, the Ottawa Jail proved to be an affordable and amusing distraction from the rigours of my research trip. Let’s face it, the experience also provides a handy piece of small talk heading into conference season!

Ian Muller is a PhD candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University.
Winter 2015 Event Roundup

A SELECTION OF EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN THE TRI-UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

The History Department presents
RURAL HISTORY ROUNDTABLE:

SPEAKER SERIES
WINTER 2015

LISA COX
Postdoctoral Fellow, Ontario Veterinary College
“Canada’s War Horses: The OVC, Veterinary Medicine, and the Great War, 1914-1918”
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 3:30PM-5:00PM
MacKinnon Building, Room 132

JACK LITTLE
Professor, Department of History, Simon Fraser University
“History of Oxen and Horse Power in Rural Canada from the 17th to the 20th Centuries”
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1:00-2:30PM
MacKinnon Building, Room 132

DAVID ZYLBERBERG
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of British Columbia Okanagan
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1:00-2:30PM
MacKinnon Building, Room 132

MIKE COMMITO
PhD Candidate, Department of History, McMaster University
“Yvon and the Five Bears: Rural and Urban Attitudes Towards Black Bear Hunting in Northern Ontario”
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1:00-2:30PM
MacKinnon Building, Room 132

Sponsored by
The Francis and Ruth Redelmeier Professorship in Rural History
The reception of Thomas of Ireland’s ‘Manipulus florum’ in Walter Bower’s ‘Scotichronicon’

Chris Nighman, Wilfrid Laurier University
Thursday, January 22, 2015, 4-5pm
MacKinnon Room 132

This paper will demonstrate that the most famous abbot of Inchcolm, Walter Bower (d.1449), employed the ‘Manipulus’ in composing his famous historical work, the ‘Scotichronicon’ (1447). This discovery has some significant implications both for understanding Bower’s methodology and for reconstructing the library that he used.
WAR
MEMORY
COMMENORATION

Tri-University Annual History Conference 2015
Call For Papers

Please join us for the 2015 annual Tri-University History Conference to be held on 7 March 2015 at the Balsille School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Organized by the history departments of Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Guelph and Waterloo University, the theme of this year’s conference is “War, Memory, and Commemoration.” The keynote address will be given by Sir Hew Strachan, Chichele Professor of the History of War at All Souls College, Oxford, UK.

We welcome proposals from graduate students as well as emerging and well-established scholars. Please send inquiries or proposals (300-500 words) to Darren Mulloy at dmulloy@wlu.ca by 7 November 2014. All proposals should be accompanied by a brief (50 word) biographical note.

Suggestions for presentation proposals include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- the centenary of World War I
- the politics of remembrance
- technology and commemoration
- the culture of warfare
- education and nationalism
- home fronts
- transnational perspectives

www.triuhistory.ca
#trihconf2015

Laurier
Inspiring Lives

University of Waterloo
STANDING CALL FOR CONTENT

*The Triumvirate*, and the Triumvirate Blog exist to showcase and promote the Tri-University Community. Please contact Ian Muller at mull682@mylaurier.ca if you have contact you would like featured on the Tri-University social media accounts, the Triumvirate Blog, and in future editions of *The Triumvirate*.

- News and updates about faculty members and graduate students
- Lecture/seminar series
- Roundtables/conferences
- Awards, scholarships
- New programs/courses
- Workshops
- General announcements
- Publications
- Events
- Research
- Trips
- Any other relevant or notable information