

Scottish Studies Program News

by M. Cameron and R. Falconer, University of Guelph Scottish Studies Office

The Scottish Studies Program was started in 1967 and has since garnered a reputation for academic excellence. The Scottish Studies Program is generously supported by the Scottish Studies Foundation. Considered the most comprehensive of its kind outside of Scotland, the Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph produces a host of talented and successful graduates. Currently, there are eleven History graduate students in the Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph. The program offers two graduate degrees, the MA and the PhD. James Davies and Natasha Kuran, the two most recent graduates of the program, are profiled below.

JAMES DAVIES, M.A. HISTORY/SCOTTISH STUDIES

Age: 23

Home: Calgary, Alberta

James came directly to Guelph after receiving his first degree in History (AB) from McGill University in Montreal.

Major Paper:

"Tobias Smollett, Principal Personage: An Example of a Scottish Intellectual's Response to the Issue of National Identity in Eighteenth-Century Britain."

Abstract:

The works of Dumbarton-born author Tobias Smollett (1721-1771) are examined in an 18th-century British historical context taking into account intellectual immigration, Scottophobic prejudice, and debates concerning national identity that preceded the Union of Great Britain (1707). Smollett, more so than fellow Scottish writers in London like David Hume and James Boswell, is revealed to be a writer concerned with the position of Scots vis-à-vis their English and Welsh brethren as he argued that a true union of the people of Great Britain, rather than their assimilation by the English, would build a commercially successful and morally superior nation.

Future plans:

Open

NATASHA KURAN, M.A. HISTORY/SCOTTISH STUDIES

Age: 27

Home: Hudson Heights, Quebec

Natasha worked for McNeil Consumer Healthcare after receiving her first degree in Biology at the University of Guelph, but "chose to return to school to pursue a topic which interested me immensely."

Thesis:

Medical Practitioners and the Treatment of Disease in Eighteenth-Century Scotland

Abstract:

An analysis of the apothecaries and folk medicine practitioners who provided healthcare to the majority of the Scottish public. The thesis also investigated the types of herbal medications used in Scotland in the eighteenth century and their perceived use. The results of the thesis broadened the category of culturally-acceptable medical practitioners to include more than physicians, and identified that the majority of healing plants used at the time continue to be recognized for similar properties today.

Future Plans: Natasha has been accepted to pursue doctoral studies at the University of Stirling in Scotland but has chosen to defer for one year while she takes a job as a technical writer in Ottawa.

Students currently enrolled in the Scottish Studies program and their prospective thesis topics:

MA:

Susan Banks, 2nd year

Education and Heritage in Nineteenth-century Scotland.

Morna Cowan, 2nd year

The Labouring Poor in late Nineteenth-century Scotland.

Michelle Lambe, 1st year

Bastardy in Nineteenth-century Scotland.

Heather MacDonald, 2nd year

Cáin Adomnáin: The Familia Columbae and the Politics of Piety.

Samantha Miller, 1st year

Scottish Emigration to Canada.

Suzanne Thill, 1st year.

The Act of Union, 1707.

PhD:

Mairi Cowan, 3rd year

Popular piety in Medieval Scotland.

Shannon Creps, 3rd year

Women and the Scottish Reformation.

Rob Falconer, 1st year

For King or Kirk: Scottish Identities during the Long Sixteenth Century.

Scott Moir, 5th year

The Justice of the Peace in Seventeenth-century Scotland.

Janay Nugent, 2nd year

The Family in Early Modern Scotland.

For a full list of those graduates, visit the Scottish Studies Program website at: [http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/scotstudy/pages/academic info.htm](http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/scotstudy/pages/academic%20info.htm)

Fall Colloquium to be held on October 13

The Scottish Studies Foundation and the Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph will be holding the annual Fall Colloquium at the University of Guelph on October 13, 2001.

As usual, this conference is open to the public and all members and friends are encouraged to attend. More details will be made available closer to the event

The theme for this year's colloquium is *Regulating Culture and Society in Scotland*. Researchers from across Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom will present papers on all aspects of social, political, economic, religious, legal and domestic regulation within Scotland.

The Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph is an interdepartmental group established to co-ordinate graduate studies in the history, literature and culture of Scotland and Scottish settlements in Canada.

As such, we have strongly encouraged participation from both graduate students and faculty members.

At this year's colloquium, the Scottish Studies Foundation will be presenting the Frank Watson Prize in Scottish History honouring the best book, monograph, dissertation or edited set of papers on Scottish history published between 1999-2000.

For more information please contact:

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