

The International Canadianist



International Council for Canadian Studies

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Seminar on Canadian Studies in Latin America

The first Interuniversity Seminar on Canadian Studies in Latin America (SEMINECAL) was held in Mexico City, February 13-14, 2003. The conference was organized jointly by the Universidad de La Habana, Universidad Evangélica de Paraguay and Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM). Assistance was provided by **UAM, ICCS and Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade**. Fifteen masters and doctoral students from several Latin American countries attended the sessions that focused around five important themes in Canadian studies: economy, politics, migration, education and culture. All of the papers given at the conference will be published this year. The final session sought to develop a strategy to engage more Latin American students to work cooperatively in this initiative; to develop joint programs in order to create a continuity to Canadian studies in Latin America, enabling the participants to establish directions for future research; and to work towards the development of a network. Several initiatives were proposed for SEMINECAL to maintain the momentum of the conference: the development of a website to disseminate information about activities resulting from the conference, publish documents and eventually to have discussion forums on a variety of subjects relating to Canada; the establishment of an annual award to recognize the best masters and doctoral theses on Canada by Latin American students; and an invitation to students to continue their collaboration, by working on a joint project, to be presented at the next SEMINECAL conference in Paraguay.

Canadian Cultural Festival Week in South Korea

Chungnam University, in Daejeon, Korea, hosted its first Canadian Cultural Festival Week, Nov. 4-7, 2002. The Festival's aims were to share Canada's cultural diversity with the Korean people and to uphold Canada's positive image. Canada's Ambassador to Korea, **Denis Comeau**, kicked off the week of events focusing on Canada's culture, with a speech entitled: "Enriching Canada-Korea Bilateral Relations." Other events during the week included: a lecture by **Joan Baron**, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Korea; a photo exhibition by the Canadian Tourism Commission; a festival of Canadian animation from the National Film Board of Canada; and concerts by Canadian musicians.

Canadian Literature Book by Greek Canadianists

More than 80 people, including the Canadian Ambassador to Greece, **Philip Somerville**, attended the launch of the first English-language edition of "Canadian Identity through Literature," in April 2003 in Athens. The book is the brainchild of **Mary Koustoudaki**, a professor of English at the University of Athens who developed the first Canadian Literature course at a Greek university. Ambassador Somerville remarked on the growing popularity of Canadian literature in Greece, noting that books by several Canadian authors have been translated into Greek, including Margaret Atwood and Yann Martel. Other speakers included: Professor **Konstantine Evangelidis**, Head of the English Language and Literature Department, who announced that the new book would be required reading for senior students in the Department's Canadian Literature course; and author **Nikos Papandreou**, who read from his contribution to the book describing his experiences growing up in Canada while his father Andreas Papandreou, the former Greek Prime Minister, was in exile.

Australia: Canada-Australia Institute Announced

Canada's High Commissioner to Australia, **Jean T. Fournier**, announced in February 2003 plans for the establishment of the Canada-Australia Institute (CANAUSI) in Melbourne. CANAUSI will be an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting closer trade, economic, educational and cultural relations between Canada and Australia. It is expected that chapters will be established in all Australian states. **David Doherty**, former Chairman of CSL Limited, has been named chair of this new Institute.

New Canadian Studies Centre in Petrozavodsk

Petrozavodsk State University and the Northern European Open University have joined forces to launch a new Canadian Studies Centre in the Russian Federation. The Centre, located in Petrozavodsk in northeastern Russia, was established with the help of the Canadian consulate in nearby Saint Petersburg. **Anna Biolik**, Canada's Consul General in Saint Petersburg, attended the opening ceremonies in September 2002. The Centre's goal is promoting cooperation between Petrozavodsk State University and research, educational and public organizations in Canada.

The Centre administers academic and professional exchange programs with Canada, and assists Russian students and faculty developing Canadian-oriented research programs and projects. It also provides information and assistance to local businesses seeking Canadian partners, and in developing and managing joint-projects. The Centre's director is **Mikhail Oshukov** of Petrozavodsk State University.

Third Asia-Pacific Conference Held in India

The Association for Canadian Studies in India held its 19th International Conference and hosted the third Asia-Pacific Conference on the theme of "Globalization and Consumerism: Canadian Studies in the Asia-Pacific Context," in January 2003 at Mysor University. Key speakers included Canadian Secretary of State, the Honourable **David Kilgour**, the Deputy High Commissioner of Canada, **Brian Dickson**, University Grants Commission, **Arun Nigavekar**, ICCS President, Prof. **Serge Jaumain**, and **Alan Bowker**, Director, International Education and Academic Relations Division (DFAIT).

Workshop on Canadian Design in Beijing

Two scholars from Vancouver's Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design gave a workshop entitled "Canadian Design Past and Present" at the Academy of Art & Design of Beijing's Tsinghua University in March 2002. **Sam Carter**, Director of the Centre for Asia and Pacific Art and Design at the Carr Institute, and Director of the Canadian Society for Asian Arts, gave a session entitled: "A History and Development of Applied Arts in Canada from Earliest Times to Present." He also spoke about the influence of art and design on the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games throughout history. **Allyson Vanstone**, Dean of Design at the Institute, gave a presentation entitled "A Contemporary Portrayal of Canadian Graphic Design, Animation and Video Games."

Symposium on Multiculturalism in Moscow

Vassili Sokolov, Executive Director of the Russian Association for Canadian Studies, reports that some 40 Canadianist scholars and students from universities and research institutions across Russia, gathered on February 27-28, 2003 at Moscow's Institute for US and Canadian Studies for a multidisciplinary symposium entitled: "Cultural and Ethnic Diversities as a Basis for Canadian Identity." Twenty-two papers were presented in four themed sessions: Canada's ethno-cultural mosaic and multiculturalism policy, Canadian literature as a reflection of national identity, linguistic aspects of multicultural dialogue in Canada, and Quebec's role in the formation of Canadian identity. Following the main workshop sessions, graduate and post-graduate students from Moscow and Saint Petersburg presented reports,

followed-up by comments from senior scholars. Proceedings from both events will be published in Moscow and Saint Petersburg.

Canadian Ambassador at Plattsburg

Ambassador **Michael Kergin** delivered a speech on Canada-U.S. relations at the SUNY Plattsburgh on March 31, to a crowd of over 170 people, including representatives from American and Canadian Press. As the inaugural speaker of the *Distinguished Canadian Address Program* of Plattsburgh's Canadian Studies Centre, directed by **Chris Kirkey**, the Ambassador spoke on Canada-U.S. security cooperation, bilateral trade ties, and Canada's multilateral approach to dealing with global challenges. He expressed confidence "that Canadians and Americans will meet the challenges which lie ahead of us. We will confront them by being strong at home and by being strong internationally. But most importantly, we will triumph over them by being strong in partnership."

Did you know...

- ❖ *Summer Seminars in Canadian Studies are gaining popularity. Adding to the list of "established" seminars such as the Summer Exploration in Canadian Cultures, organized by Trent University, the Ontario Summer Seminar and the Quebec Summer Seminar, by the Center for the Study of Canada, Plattsburgh State University and ICCS' own Ottawa seminar, are the Canadian Culture and Values seminar organized by Laurentian University (Sudbury, Ontario), ICCS' second seminar, the Western International Summer Seminar; and the "stage de perfectionnement destiné aux professeurs de français de l'Asie-Pacifique" by the Direction Asie-Pacifique du ministère des Relations internationales du Québec.*
- ❖ *ABECAN, the Association for Canadian Studies in Brazil is organizing the first Latin-American Canadian Studies congress to be held in conjunction with ABECAN's Annual International Conference November 11-14 2003 in Belo Horizonte. One of the aims of this first congress is to create a Latin-American network in Canadian Studies.*
- ❖ *In conjunction with the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD), the ICCS invited fifteen Canadianists from Canada and abroad to discuss the role of Canadian Studies in Canada's foreign policy. The roundtable, held April 5, 2003 in Ottawa, was co-chaired by ICCS executive director **Catherine Bastedo-Boileau** and executive director **Steven Lee** of CCFPD, and included ICCS President **Serge Jaumain** and President Elect **Zila Bernd**, as well as other experts representing various disciplines, regions of Canada and parts of the world. The ICCS presented to the honourable **Bill Graham**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, a report containing the highlights of this round table discussion.*



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