

# Welcome to our inaugural newsletter

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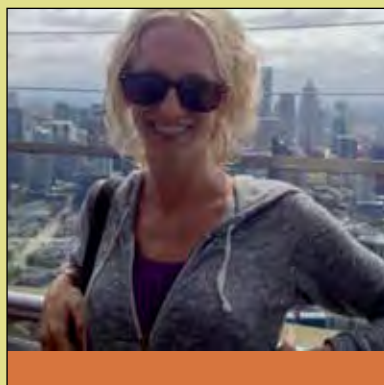


Our  
new logo  
will be arriving  
in January

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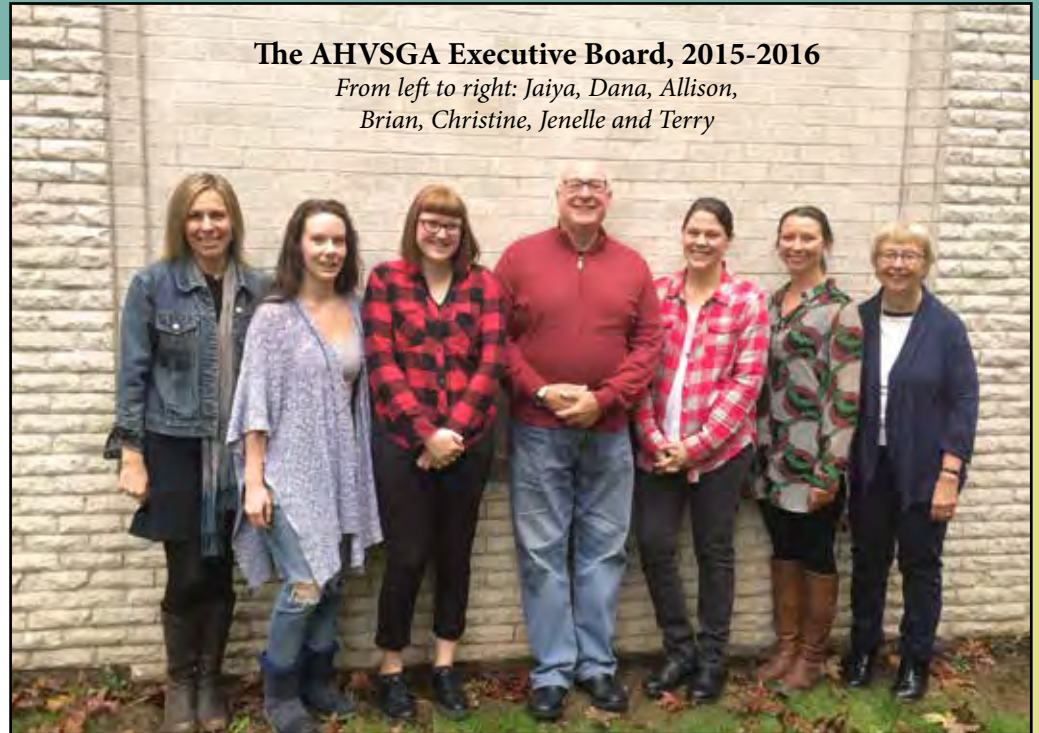
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Art History and Visual Studies  
Graduate Association  
email: [ahvs@uvic.ca](mailto:ahvs@uvic.ca)

Photo Credit: Dr. Astri Wright



## Message from AHVSGA Co-Chair, Brian Pollick

Dear Colleagues,

As you know I represent the doctoral student component of our new Art History & Visual Studies Graduate Association. I bring to this position a passionate belief that in spite of the often solitary nature of our program, that we are bound together as a community of scholars with similar aspirations, interests and challenges. The Association now gives us a vehicle for collective communication and interaction with the Department, the University, and one another. The

Association is not intended to displace individual relationships but rather to find ways to support and assist each other as we go through the long process of course work, comprehensives and writing our dissertations. My deepest hope is that in this, our first year of existence, we will be able to establish the Association as a visible and meaningful entity to our Department's graduate students, so that it will be a positive asset to the present and future generation of graduate students.

Conferences play a major role in the professional development of scholars, and this is particularly true for us as graduate students.

Over the course of any year several of our department's doctoral students will present papers related to their research at various conferences organized by general and field area organizations. I am hoping that we can publish a list of these papers and ask the presenter to share what were the highlights for them of their conference experience.

Let me close by wishing you all the best as we head into the Holiday Season.

Brian

# issue one december 2015

Message from AHVSGA Co-Chair,  
Terry Rodgers

Dear Fellow Graduate Students,  
As the Co-Chair for the Master's Student component of the newly formed Graduate Association, I would like to warmly welcome everyone through this first edition of our AHVSGA Newsletter. As many of you know, the idea of a Graduate Association for Art History & Visual Studies students began to 'ferment' last spring after the Faculty Symposium placed a focus on the developments within the field of Digital Humanities and academic scholarship. Many of the presentations emphasized how technology was changing both methods of scholarly instruction and learning methods within academia. As graduates, we wanted to embrace these changes within scholarly research and to better understand and communicate new ideas around art historical analysis

Over a number of months during the winter term, a number of Graduate Roundtables were hosted by Natalie Massong and myself to bring forward ideas, issues, concerns and innovative ideas for our graduate community within Art History & Visual Culture. Through these meetings and our Board elections in September, the Art History & Visual Studies Graduate Association was born and we were thrilled! Since September, the Executive

Board has met a number of times to structure the organization and begin to take a leading role within the Department and Fine Arts Faculty. In October the AHVSGA hosted a Halloween Social organized by our intrepid events co-ordinator Jenelle Pasichnik, and planning is well underway for the Visual Impetus Graduate Symposium taking place January 22nd and 23rd, 2016. The response to the callout for papers within our department is outstanding this year and under the guidance of the VI coordinator, Christine Oldridge, I believe this bodes well for the inclusive and supportive nature of the association for our graduate community. As well, we are reaching out in mentorship to the undergraduate body to play a role in the VI Poster Fair.

Two other major AHVSGA activities are now in the planning stages.

A committee has been struck to publish the next edition of our graduate peer-reviewed journal, ARTiculate (hopefully in 2016) under the leadership of PhD candidate, Behrang Nabavinejad. We are also in the process of having a website designed for the Association by Dana Harold under a work studies programme. At this point I would like to extend our many thanks to Dr. Campbell and Dr. Wright for their kind support of the AHVSGA.

In closing, I want to again thank everyone for helping to establish the AHVSGA. I wish you all some restful and relaxing holiday time with friends and family.

Terry

*Villa Barbaro, the site of  
Terry's research, in Maser, Italy*

*Source: Wikimedia Commons*

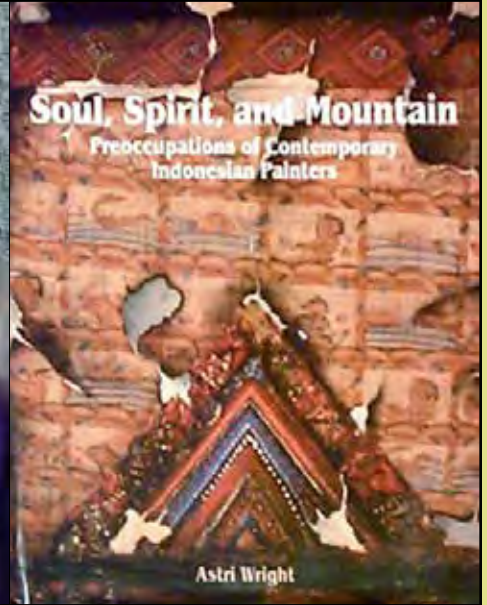


*Dr. Astri Wright, Graduate Advisor  
Professor of Southeast Asian Art  
Department of Art History and  
Visual Studies*

Greetings, Graduate Students of AHVS, one and all!

Thank you to the AHVSGA for providing the department with a Graduate Association (new this year!), for producing this newsletter and for inviting me to say a few words here. First of all, welcome to December, and the end of term. Soon you will have finished all of your assignments or have met some of your research and writing deadlines: Kudos, pat yourselves on the back!

It has been a pleasure speaking with many of you this fall. For those of you who are not familiar with the role of the Graduate Advisor, let me just summarily



say that, teamed up with Debbie Kowalyk in the main office, and the Department Chair, I am here to discuss your academic studies with you, to brainstorm about your program, to explain how procedural matters work, and to liaise with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, when need be. I also am here just for you to drop in, if you have a question you're not sure where to take, and we will figure it out.

Your time as a graduate student at UVic is a precious time in your life. It is a time when you will be working very hard, perhaps harder than ever before. But these years are very fruitful, both professionally and personally; you

grow dramatically as a scholar and as a human being. I also think that this is a really good time to be a Graduate Student in our department, with a great group of fellow students, and faculty who care deeply about mentoring as well as their own research and who fully enjoy being lifelong learners.

I wish you all the best for your studies! Have a joyful holiday break, however you celebrate it; treat yourself in good ways, and come back, well-pampered, to a Happy New Year!

Astri Wright

**Please see [page 11](#) for our Question of the Month!**

The Sixteenth Century Society and Conference (SCSC) is a scholarly society that is interested in the early modern era (ca. 1450-ca. 1660). The SCSC holds one annual meeting a year with approximately 170 sessions for papers.

*Notes from the Field:  
Attending the SCSC in  
Vancouver, October 2015.*

This year's event in Vancouver provided a great opportunity to hear world-renowned scholars present research on areas of study pertaining to my own work on gender identity and social hierarchy within the Early Modern Period.

In this four-day conference there were over 200 hundred presentations to choose from! Over my two days there I managed to hear seven panels ranging in subject matter from aspects of Early Modern Torture and Italian Palaces to the Senses in Italian Art and Material Culture, 1300-1600,

What was intriguing and different from art historical conferences is that the fields of study covered all the Humanities and beyond as an interdisciplinary sharing of knowledge. Following the panels, the discussions afterward led to a specific sharing of knowledge and collaboration between scholars of different

disciplines. One specific panel resonated with my interests: 'Engaging Objects: Materiality, Mobility, and the Senses in Italian Art and Material Culture, 1300-1600.' Organized and chaired by Dr. Erin Campbell, the four panelists provided very intriguing ideas regarding different aspects of material culture.

I was especially interested in the presentation by Dr. Liliana Leopardi entitled 'Materiality and Magic: Camillo Leonardi and Engraved Magic Rings.' Leopardi's analysis of jewellery as having talismanic powers of healing through the sight and touch of the objects by their owners added agency to PhD Candidate Brian Pollick's work on the Venetian Zibaldone. These illustrated texts used by the maritime Venetian merchants in the late Medieval period, Pollick argued, specifically

the Zibaldone da Canal, acted as amulets for travellers and were used as self representations for Venetian merchants when away from home.

Unfortunately, attending international conferences requires both time and money, two hindrances for most graduate students. In the future, it is my hope that the AHVSGA will be able to facilitate more opportunities for students to attend these invaluable conferences and to assist in the development of research opportunities for our graduate community. I have a copy of the conference programme if anyone is interested in reviewing the presentations.

- Terry Rodgers

*Image: Sheraton Wall Centre*



# Biographies

Brian Pollick, Co-Chair

Brian returned to the University of Victoria after 40 years working primarily in the justice system for both the Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as the non-profit and private sectors. Brian finished his MA from the Art History & Visual Studies department in 2011 and started a PhD program in 2012. Brian holds a SSHRC Armand-Bombardier Doctoral Fellowship and expects to be finished his PhD in 2016.

*A page from Zibaldone da Canal. This early 15th century manuscript page has been reproduced courtesy of Yale University.*



Terry Rodgers, Co-Chair

Terry is a Masters Student in the Department of Art history & Visual Studies at the University of Victoria. Her main area of research focuses on aspects of gender construction and ideology during the Italian Renaissance using family portraits in the 16th century Villa Maser as a case study. In her spare time, Terry enjoys attempting to recreate a Renaissance garden in Victoria and to traveling to England and Italy for research and for family visits.

*Ceiling vault, Villa Barbaro, ca. 1561, Maser Italy.  
Image courtesy of DIDO, UVic.*



Jenelle Pasiechnik, Special Events Coordinator

Jenelle's research focuses on contemporary artists of the West Asian diaspora and de-centering colonial narratives. She recently defended a Masters of Arts, in Art History & Visual Studies at the University of Victoria.

*A snapshot from the photo of the Executive.*



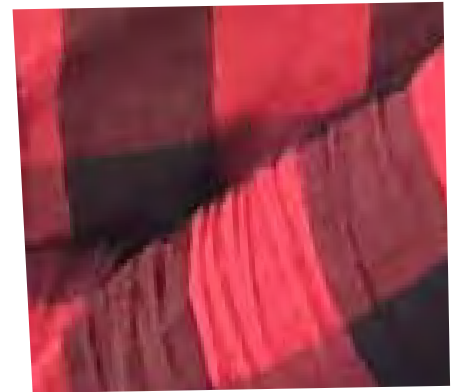
Introducing our  
**Executive**

**issue one**  
**december 2015**

Allison Grey-Noble, Alumni Relations Coordinator

Allison is a recent graduate with an MA in Art History & Visual Studies from the University of Victoria. The focus of her research was Late Antique Jewish Iconoclasm. Currently she is hoping to enter the field of Cultural Heritage Management as a Heritage Planner and Educator. In her spare time Ali loves getting outdoors and exploring the island and plans to get back into art-making!

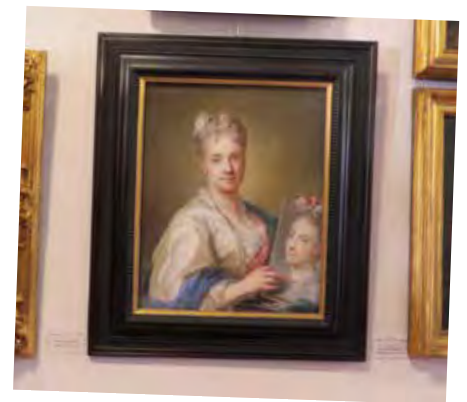
*A snapshot from the photo of the Executive.*



Christine Oldridge, Visual Impetus Coordinator (2016)

Christine is a Masters candidate in Art History & Visual Studies, and is the 2016 coordinator for Visual Impetus. Her current research focuses on the self-portraiture of Rosalba Carriera, a pastel portrait painter active in eighteenth-century Venice.

*Photo taken by C. Oldridge at The Uffizi Gallery, Florence.*



Jaiya Anka, Communications Coordinator

Jaiya returned to school five years ago to study textile art and design where she worked with natural dyes and materials. She is a Masters candidate, studying the role and meaning of textiles and dress in those spaces of inter-cultural dialogue in the early modern period.

*Caterina Cornaro, ca. 1542, Titian, The Uffizi Gallery, Florence. Image courtesy of ArtStor.*



# GSS Update



I recently assumed the Graduate Student Society (GSS) representative position; this entails assisting with communication between graduate students in the Art History & Visual Studies department and the larger community of the University of Victoria. Part of my role is to attend monthly Graduate Representative Council (GRC) meetings, as well as serve in an additional graduate society committee. These monthly meetings provide an outlet for discussing larger issues at the University of Victoria that impact graduate students. Recently, GSS has focused on the Referendum voting. Provided that it goes

through, future meetings will certainly address how to proceed with a renovation of the Graduate Centre, as well as implementing the minor fee increases to support services such as the radio station, food bank, and WUSC (World University Services Canada).

The meetings provide an opportunity to raise attention about different issues that graduate students encounter within their own department, as well as more general concerns at the University. As the GSS representative, part of my job will be to report back information from the GSS meetings to other

graduate students in Art History & Visual Studies. In addition, I can present department related news and announcements, raise new topics for discussion, and also share any concerns of graduate students in this program at the meetings. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any concerns that you would like me to bring up at the next meeting, or questions about the GSS.

Astara Light, M.A.  
GSS Representative  
Art History & Visual Studies  
[alight@uvic.ca](mailto:alight@uvic.ca)



# The TAC Report

# issue one december 2015

The four official workshops for TA's in the Department of AHVS have now wrapped up for the term (although there will be a fifth 'bonus' workshop in the new year) and I am happy to report that we experienced record turnout and garnered some very positive feedback.

The first workshop, 'Orientation and Time Management,' as expected, ran over time. Nevertheless, we were able to navigate some of the thorny political scenarios that TA's are likely to face as well as garner an understanding of the multiple series of outcomes that Graduate Students/TA's must readily accomplish in their term at the University. We also took the time to discover a little about our own strategic strengths and weaknesses in a process of developing activities to put student competencies to their most valuable use. We were fortunate to be joined by two graduate students from the Writing Dept., Annabel Howard and Stephanie Harrington, who brought some insightful new perspectives to our discussion. It was my pleasure to meet all of the TA's; I particularly enjoyed a mountain-based anecdote shared with me by Alicia Hagy.

In the second workshop, 'Making Yourself Visible/Available/Approachable,' we navigated

some of the professional best practices now in place for TA's to have more productive contact with their students.

Our third meeting, 'Lesson Plans and Public Speaking,' explored a number of preparation tactics available to TA's and began an introspective analysis of which strategies were most suitable for the specific constraints of varying positional parameters. India Cornell bravely faced some of her public speaking demons with grace and composure; Jaiya Anka demonstrated some much-needed focusing techniques; and Kristen Matulewicz was literally kicking with energy.

In our last session, 'Marking: Consistent, Effective, Efficient,' we looked at the need to balance analytical and holistic grading approaches to best attain

the goal of fostering student improvement. On this occasion we were fortunate to be joined by Ph.D. Candidate Brian Pollick who shared his experience with the many vicissitudes of marking that TA's are likely to face, and Dana Harold ensured that what appeared to be easy answers were mined to their fullest.

Overall, I get the sense that the TA's felt much of the workshop content was valuable and served their professional development well. I would like to express my gratitude for the strong participation and positive attitude displayed by all who participated. I look forward to meeting with you again in the New Year.

David Christopher,  
Ph.D. Candidate



## UPDATE: Chair of AHVS Search

The search committee for the new Art History and Visual Studies Chair has officially come to a close and the process is in the final stages of ratification. With the interview process complete, we should know who our new chair is by the end of December!

- Ali Macdonald

## A New Website:

Dana Harold, a second-year MA student studying Islamic Art History, is creating a new website for the AHVSGA.

The website is an opportunity to show the community what the University of Victoria's Art History & Visual Studies graduate students and department are accomplishing throughout the year. The website will be under heavy construction throughout the months of December, January and February, launching in March of 2016.

Design by  
Cliff Haman & Jaiya Anka



*The Gore Family with George, Third Earl Cowper*  
Johan Zoffany, c.1775

Source: Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

Second-year MA student Ali Macdonald will be giving a presentation at the 41st Annual University of Victoria History Department's Qualicum Conference, held January 29th -31st, 2016. Titled "Reading Portraiture through the Lens of the Personal and the Particular: Johan Zoffany's *The Gore Family with George, Third Earl Cowper*", Ali's paper seeks to nuance one of Zoffany's best known works, *The Gore Family with George, Third Earl Cowper*. This portrait has been interpreted by art historians as 'heralding' the marriage of George Nassau Clavering-Cowper and Hannah Anne Gore yet, a detailed visual

analysis of the image shows few traces of the physical and material trappings of ceremony that would signal to viewers that an engagement has taken place. However, when read through the lens of personal letters, diaries, and records of public gossip, a detailed and complex narrative emerges. Unpacking the sitter's personal, particular circumstances that prompted this commission, this paper will explore the ways in which Zoffany employed his aesthetic mastery, coupled with knowledge of the personal circumstances of the sitters lives, to create a powerful, performative portrait.

**Awards: Just Announced**

Atri and Brian both won Graduate Fellowships from The Centre for Studies in Religion & Society starting in September 2016. There were only four such fellowships available (one of which must go to a student in the History Department) so across the whole University, our Department got two of the three available. Munazzah won this fellowship for the current school year.

**Announcing the 2016 MEICON  
Middle East and Islamic Studies Student Conference**

Call for Abstracts: MEICON invites students to submit a 300 word maximum abstract that outlines their paper with a clear thesis, goals/methodology, and compelling conclusion. Accepted papers should be approximately 15-20 minutes in length for presentations.

At the University of Victoria  
March 19th, 2016  
Hosted by the Department of  
Art History and Visual Studies

Please send submissions to  
[ngarside@uvic.ca](mailto:ngarside@uvic.ca) by January  
20th, 2016.

**Question of the Month: Your Chance to Participate!**

What does the term “best mentoring practices” mean, to you? Can you provide us with an example or two (generic, no names or specific situational details) of when you were mentored well?

Share your answers with Graduate Advisor,  
Dr. Astri Wright at: [astri@uvic.ca](mailto:astri@uvic.ca)

**We want to hear from you!**

The newsletter is a reflection of our work and so we'd like to receive your ideas and content submissions. The next issue will be sent out in the Spring of 2016 (March/April). Please send your questions or comments to:

The AHVSGA, [ahvsga@uvic.ca](mailto:ahvsga@uvic.ca)

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
Visual Impetus 2016

Jan. 22, 4 - 6:20 pm  
Poster Fair & Pizza  
Jan. 23, 9 - 4:45 pm  
Coffee &  
Refreshments  
FIA 103

