



Scottish Studies Foundation
PO Box 45069
2482 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON, Canada
M4P 3E3
www.scottishstudies.com

September 24, 2020

Update from the Scottish Studies Foundation

Dear Scottish Studies Foundation members, friends and supporters,

I do hope you are all coping well at this unprecedented and difficult time. On behalf of our Board of Directors and the Centre for Scottish Studies team at the University of Guelph, thank you for your financial support and encouragement. I trust that the following summary of our current activities may be of interest.

The latest issue of our newsletter has been completed and will be mailed to members any day now. As well as an update from the University of Guelph, the issue includes an item about Glasgow-born June Almeida who, while working at the Ontario Cancer Institute in the 1960s, discovered the first coronavirus. There is also an item written by Andrew Russell, one of the settlers encouraged to emigrate from Scotland to the Ottawa Valley in 1831 by the controversial 13th chief of Clan McNab: Archibald McNab, the man who tried to introduce feudalism in Canada.

Later this year, members will receive the annual scholarly journal, "*The International Review of Scottish Studies*." Editors and faculty members within the Scottish Studies Programme at the University of Guelph continue to develop this publication in order to reach a greater academic audience while maintaining its traditional focus in order to provide readings that meet the interest of members of the Scottish Studies Foundation.

(If you are not already a member and would like more information on how to become one or would like to renew an existing membership, please visit our website: www.scottishstudies.com)

It is now over a year since we completed the funding of the Digital Archive Room at the University of Guelph and the ability to digitize and put items online has been especially fortuitous given the current need for professors and students to be able to work and study from home. Now with the archive project out of the way and as we approach our 35th anniversary, our efforts will focus on providing Scottish Studies students with financial support. Professor Kevin James, who took over the position of Chair of Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph in June, is leading this initiative, stressing its importance for undergraduates.



THE SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION Undergraduate Scholarship Campaign



As you can imagine, this is not going to be easy, given that all our usual in-person fundraising events have been put on hold until further notice. This means that we will be solely reliant upon donations from our members and other supporters. But helping Scottish Studies students with the cost of tuition is an investment, for it is the youth of today that will help keep the Scottish tradition in Canada alive in the future. Details on how to support this initiative can be found here:

<https://p10.secure.hostingprod.com/@scottishstudies.com/ssl/scholarship-project.htm>

Armchair Travels: The Histories and Charms of the Scottish Highland Tour By Professor Kevin James

Tuesday, October 6, 2020
7:30 p.m. EDT



In view of the current situation, we have been looking at other ways in which to attract interest and support and will shortly be presenting a series of online lectures via Zoom on a variety of topics of interest to Scots worldwide and which will allow “attendees” to participate and to ask questions.

The first of these will take place at 7:30 p.m. EDT on October 6, when Professor Kevin James will present an illustrated 45-minute talk and Q&A session. In his talk, “*Armchair Travels: The Histories and Charms of the Scottish Highland Tour*,” Kevin will explore what gave rise to the fashionable Scottish Highland tour in the nineteenth century, illustrating his discussion with images, offering examples of sporting tourists, artists, climbers and other travellers, and explaining why the region still has a hold over our imagination to this day. Details on how to register for this are now on our website at: <https://p10.secure.hostingprod.com/@scottishstudies.com/ssl/zoom-talk-201006.htm>

Later this year we be launching a “Chapbook Competition” which we think might be of interest to those of you who have a story to tell. Inspired by the University of Guelph’s collection of over 600 chapbooks, the majority of which date between 1749 and 1850 and which are now available online, it is essentially a writing competition in which we will invite people to write something that would fill a small booklet with a prize for the best submission.

Chapbooks were one of the most popular forms of literature produced in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries in Scotland. Containing between 8 and 24 pages, chapbooks were produced quickly and cheaply in early modern Scotland and were distributed by chapmen who “chapped” or bartered or sold these chapbooks, door-to-door and in the street, to homes all across Scotland where they were eagerly collected.

Information about this contest will be available later but you can find out more about the University of Guelph’s collection here: <https://p10.secure.hostingprod.com/@scottishstudies.com/ssl/chapbook-launch-02.htm>

A charity such as ours depends on our volunteers and so we are always on the lookout for fresh talent and ideas. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in working with us, please get in touch as we would be delighted to hear from you.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely



David Hunter
President
Scottish Studies Foundation
davidhunter@scottishstudies.com