**Summary of activities May 24 to 28, 2011**

**MEETING OF THE ICCS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

 On **May** **24-25, 2011** the Executive Committee of the International Council for Canadian Studies met to discuss the Board’s main orientations. Present at the meeting were Council President **Klaus-Dieter Ertler**, President Elect **Patrick James**, Secretary **Susan Hodgett**, Treasurer **Stewart Gill**, Executive Director **Cristina Frias** and Administrative Coordinator **Lise Nichol**.

**FORUM - FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE (DFAIT)**

This past **May 26**, the International Council for Canadian Studies participated in a forum presented by the **International Education and Youth Division** ofForeign Affairs and International Trade Canada (**DFAIT**)on the evaluation of the first three years of the ***Understanding Canada Program***.

 The forum was aimed at evaluating the needs of stakeholders, notably Canadianists and their organizations, as well as the Government of Canada, in order to affect needed changes. For more information about this program, please visit: <http://www.international.gc.ca/studies-etudes/index.aspx?lang=eng>

**ICCS 30th ANNIVERSARY AND RECEPTION OF THE PRESIDENT**

The **30th anniversary ceremony** for the **International Council for Canadian Studies** and the **reception of the president** were held during the evening of **May 26** in the Skelton Lobby of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT).

 Founded in 1981, the Council blew out its 30 candles last week. The ICCS President reflected on the Council’s 30 years, and a book highlighting the anniversary was launched during the ceremony.

Four certificates of merit were awarded to honour the contributions of certain persons to the development of Canadian Studies. Recipients were **Ms. Wang Li**, who is responsible of academic relations and Canadian Studies at the Embassy of Canada in China, **Mr. Robert Thacker,** director of the Canadian Studies Program at Saint Lawrence University, **Mr. Albert Rau**, a 1977 founding member of the Association for Canadian Studies in the German Speaking Countries, and **Mr. Keith Battarbee**, who has been actively involved in the Nordic Association for Canadian Studies (NACS) since 1999.

Photos of the event are available at <http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/photos_en.php?albumid=32>.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

 The **ICCS Annual General Meeting**, which was held last **May** **27-28** at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT), brought together the majority of the ICCS Board of Directors, as well as a few observers in order to take stock of Canadian Studies.

Main themes discussed

A variety of themes were discussed during the meeting, but two were particularly singled out. First, the importance given to dissemination of information, whether it’s to members of associations or between them. In fact, associations are presently experiencing a decrease in membership, which could be countered by regularly exchanging information with them. The other major point concerns rejuvenation; numerous associations have mentioned their efforts to reach a new generation of Canadianists to ensure succession. Scholarships and social media have proven to be two interesting solutions.

 In the same regard, the ICCS launched its new website during the meeting, and it was received positively by the Board of Directors. Website available at: [www.iccs-ciec.ca](http://www.iccs-ciec.ca)

2012 ICCS Biennial Conference

It was established that the conference, co-directed by Patrick Imbert from the University of Ottawa and Klaus-Dieter Ertler from *Universität Graz*, will take place on **May 22-24, 2012**. The conference entitled “**Cultural Challenges of Migration in Canada**” plans to gather several specialists on the issue of immigration. The deadline for the call for papers is **July 10, 2011**.

 ICCS Secretary’s Report

Susan Hodgett, ICCS’s Secretary, presented her report on the activities of member and associate member associations via a PowerPoint presentation. The representatives of the associations were later invited to share the highlights of their association for the year 2010-2011. The Secretary’s presentation is available at: <http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/iccs-reports.php>.

New associate member

The **Canadian Studies Network (CSN)** has been welcomed as a new associate member in the ICCS. The CSN is a new association dedicated to serving the purposes of scholars, including faculties, students, and independent researchers involved in the study of Canada through Canadian Studies programs or other disciplines at the postsecondary level in Canada. The CSN website is available at: <http://www.csn-rec.ca/>.

 Passing the torch

The meeting also represented the passing of authority between **Klaus-Dieter Ertler**, ICCS President since May 2009, and **Patrick James**, President Elect since May 2010. **Klaus-Dieter Ertler** will therefore hold the position of **Past-President** until May 2012, and **Patrick James**, that of **President** until May 2013. **Susan Hodgett** and **Stewart Gill** were respectively re-elected to the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. ICCS extends its warm congratulations to all those elected.

 Youth internship program

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (DFAIT) representative Jean Labrie announced the reinstatement of the Canadian Studies International Internship Project (CSIIP) for the year 2011-2012. The CSIIP will offer several internships aimed at developing Canadian Studies abroad. Please visit our website regularly for updated information: [www.iccs-ciec.ca](http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/).

Dates for next year’s meetings

The International Council of Canadian Studies recently decided that it’s next **Executive Committee meeting** will be held on **May 21-22, 2012,** and its **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **May 25-26, 2012**. Photos of the 2011 AGM are available at <http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/photos_en.php?albumid=33>

**ICCS COCKTAIL AND BANQUET**

This past **May 28**, the annual **banquet** of the **International Council for Canadian Studies** took place in the Pearson room of the Lord Elgin hotel in Ottawa, preceded by a cocktail in the Lady Elgin room.

 During the banquet, **Patrick James**, the **new President**, gave the first speech of his mandate. During the ceremony, the prestigious **Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies** was presented to **Dr.** **Gerry Turcotte** who was visibly moved by the honour.

 Three honorary prizes were also presented. First, the **Best Doctoral Thesis in Canadian Studies** which was awarded to **Dr. Carlos Alberto Tello** for his thesis *Urban Revitalization and Quality of Life in Inner City Montreal and Mexico.* **Dr. Tello** expressed his gratitude and offered a short description of his comparative study on the urban development of the cities of Montreal and Mexico.

This was followed by the **Pierre Savard Awards** which were presented to **Mr. Robin Bates** and **Dr. Ian McKay** in the category “Book written in French or English”. When thanking the audience, they also offered a dynamic summary of their monograph *Province of History*. **Dr. Yury G. Akimov,** a recipient of the same prize in the category “Book written in a language other than French or English”, gave a moving thank-you speech with a spirited personal story on the difficulty of having been, for such a long time, the only student at his university to study Canada. The evening ended with a short speech by **Patrick James** who thanked guests for their presence at the event.