

Symposium on Canadian-American Relations  
Grant Project I funded by the UW System Institute for Global Studies  
The University of New Brunswick Arts Faculty Symposium  
March 16, 2001

While Americans seldom, if ever, think about Canada, Canadians constantly think about the U.S. Both nations emerged from a shared language, although Canada's culture springs from French origins as well; both share history and common cultural traditions. Media images of American culture dominate international consciousness, and nations hear, see and read about the world's superpower. Three participants from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh College of Letters and Science were invited by the Arts Faculty of the University of New Brunswick to a symposium on Canadian-American Relations as part of a three-day visit to Fredericton in March 2001.

“Canada-U.S. Comparative Historical Perspectives”  
Andrew O’Shaughnessy, History Department,

Dr. O’Shaughnessy discussed the benefits for U.S. Students of comparative approaches in teaching the early history of the United States, and focused on shared traditions and interests since the Loyalist withdrawal from the states after the American Revolution.

“Wisconsin Student Perceptions of Canadian Identities”  
Vivian Foss, English Department

Dr. Foss presented results of a student survey she, Andrew O’Shaughnessy and William Baurecht administered in courses each taught in spring 2001. Her commentary about the student responses delighted the audience, especially students. Dr. Foss asked Canadian students to reflect on their own stereotypes of students in the states.

“An American’s View of Canada through Sheltered Eyes”  
William Baurecht, English Department

Dr Baurecht presented a paper focusing on his first awareness in the mid-Sixties of Canada when Americans, especially numbers of young men driven by necessity, turned North for a new life. Beginning in 1965, the number of students who applied as “landed immigrants” increased. He reflected on Canadian values and the good will these men, but women as well, relied on as they agonized and considered refuge amid growing controversy over the draft and the rancorous discourse incited by the War in Vietnam.

The forum was part of the “Model Study Abroad” project funded by the UW System Institute for Global Studies in order to support curriculum development of Canada-US Studies and the College of Letters and Science student exchange program with the Arts Faculty of the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Peter Kent, Department of History, University of New Brunswick, coordinated the symposium and campus visit.