

Department of English



INKLINGS

“Do not look for him in brittle mountain streams[.]”

Leonard Cohen, “Elegy”

Literary Eclectic XI: Many Voices



Over the course of two days in late October the English Department hosted the eleventh incarnation of the Literary Eclectic graduate-student conference series. Participants from both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina presented papers on topics ranging from runic writing to ekphrastic poetry to Godzilla. The conference committee—headed by Dr. Susan Johnston, the graduate coordinator in English—was also pleased to host two special guests: Dr. Warren Cariou, who is an associate professor of English at the University of Manitoba, and award-winning poet Gregory Scofield, an assistant professor of English at Laurentian University.

On Friday, October 21, Scofield led a poetry masterclass. Later that evening, Cariou delivered the plenary lecture, “‘You Have to Taste the Land’: Indigenizing the Senses,” hosted by First Nations University. The presentation explored his vexed relationship to bitumen. On the one hand, it is a toxic byproduct of petroleum distillation and extremely noxious to the senses—a physical testimony to contemporary culture’s disconnection from “the land.” On the other hand, it offers him a medium for his own

visual art, an art that draws on Indigenous knowledge and history to explore the possibility of different kinds of relationships to a wounded world. A reception followed, catered by Luther College Cafeteria in the multi-purpose room at FNUUniv. Thereafter, students and faculty retired to Stone’s Throw Coffee Collective for literary karaoke and an open mic.

On Saturday, students presented papers over the course of six sessions, running from 9:15 to 5:45. Sessions were well attended from the outset. Later that evening, following a fine banquet dinner at the University Club, Scofield read selections from his recently published collection of poetry, *Witness, I Am* (2016). Scofield won the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize in 1994 for his debut collection, *The Gathering: Stones for the Medicine Wheel*, and has since published seven additional volumes of poetry as well as a memoir, *Thunder Through My Veins*. *Witness, I Am* is divided into three parts: “Muskrat Woman,” “Ghost Dance,” and “Dangerous Sound.” Poems such as “This is an Honour Song for Billy Jack” and “She is Spitting a Mouthful of Stars” from “Dangerous Sound” explore personal and national traumas (the ongoing history of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, for instance) through a poetry that is rhythmically muscular and intensely lyrical—as much sung as spoken. Scofield was joined by poets Nathan Mader and Randy Lundy and the event was hosted by the English Students Association president, Tea Gerbeza.

For Johnston, having writers of Cariou and Scofield’s stature participate in the conference was both an honour and an indication of the intellectual and creative strength of the university community: “It’s wonderful to have scholars and writers of the caliber of Warren Cariou and Gregory Scofield here in Regina, to be able to give our students this opportunity to hear

their work and to have them hear the really excellent work our students are doing.”

Johnston also remarked on the importance of the support the conference received from a variety of sources: “It just wouldn't be possible without the help of sponsors like the President's Conference Fund, the Humanities Research Institute, and the Faculty of Arts, not to mention all the time and resources the Department of English has put into this fantastic event.” For instance, Danielle Myers, administrative assistant for English, went above and beyond, organizing on-line registration, arranging accommodation and travel details for Cariou and Scofield, and providing ongoing logistical support.

Thanks are in order to several more people. Daniel Parr, Dr Marcel DeCoste, Nathan Mader, Dr. Alexis McQuigge, Dr. Christian Riegel, and Dr Medrie Purdham all volunteered to chair sessions. Lara Stoudt volunteered at the registration desk. Finally, the conference committee consisted of Drs. Johnston, McQuigge, Bundock, DeCoste, and Jesse Archibald-Barber as well as two graduate student representatives, Nathan Mader and Kathryn Nogue. We look forward to Literary Eclectic XII next year in Saskatoon.

(With thanks to Tea Gerbeza and Kathryn Nogue for notes)



HEADNOTE

-Dr. Troni Grande

In a recent issue of the *Canadian HR Reporter: The National Journal of Human Resource Management*, guest commentator Lois Fraser makes a compelling argument for hiring English graduates. Fraser lists eight reasons why the best job applicants and employees have a background in English studies: analytical skills, work ethic, written communication, verbal communication, availability, gratefulness, creativity, and positive attitude. This list made me smile as it conjured up the faces of our many fine graduates—the lively students who have graced the English program; the outstanding representatives of the long-standing English Students' Association; the sought-after Arts Coop English majors whose work experience reports I marvel over; and all those efficient English graduates who have taken their rightful place in leadership and communication roles across the University, in government and business offices, in classrooms, in writers' communities, and in a host of other professions. The value of the English major for our time can scarcely be overstated, as Fraser suggests: “In this digital age, when attention spans are limited, the clarity of a message matters more than ever.” Those of us who have seen first-hand the wealth of benefits accruing from the English program will be delighted, but hardly surprised, at Fraser's “bottom line: I am going to hire as many English majors as I can find.”

In our so-called post-truth era, the training of our English students—their skill in matching claims to evidence, and in satisfying the readers' need to track meaning—is becoming ever more crucial. The 2016 Word of the Year chosen by Oxford Dictionaries was in fact *post-truth*, “denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.” Over a decade earlier, Stephen Colbert quipped about *truthiness*, the preference for facts one wishes were true, facts one *feels* to be true, “lies that feel right in the gut.” In the current political climate, bending truth, using “alternative facts” to sway the emotional will of the people, has emerged both as the stuff of hilarious comedy routines and a paramount, sobering risk facing democracy. Of course, our writers have long foretold the complicated dangers of representation, evident in the creation of a Richard III or a Big Brother who operates by a truth exposed as performance, a twisting of words and facts to suit a dehumanizing political agenda. It is still possible to insist on verifiable evidence, and then to separate the knowable facts from our

stories *about* the facts (to borrow a key principle from the Crucial Conversations leadership program). Even beyond the sharing of mutual perspectives, a higher truth can emerge when we establish mutual purpose, and return to shared principles. In this project, the English classroom becomes a lively testing-ground; my favourite moments in my English 100 classroom last fall involved the students' debates over the principles—democratic and otherwise—governing the societies in the texts we discussed. "Tell all the truth but tell it slant," Emily Dickinson famously wrote, reminding us of the power of literature to represent and question truth. The English Department aspires to be one place where multiple perspectives are aired and contests over truth are held, but not at the expense of human dignity and shared values. Last October, the Literary Eclectic XI conference gave splendid evidence of the power of "Many Voices" (the theme of the conference expertly organized by Graduate Chair Susan Johnston and her team). Keynote speakers Warren Cariou and Gregory Scofield each offered a moving enactment of Strategic Plan goals, as they patiently led their listeners away from the "pervasive culture of not-seeing" (with its deadening of our connections to the natural world and to our own stories), towards "re-indigenizing the senses" and using writing as restorative ceremony. The popular annual conference of the English Students' Association—Trash Talkin'—promises to be equally fresh and inspiring when it is held on March 11-12, 2017. In addition, our colleague Sheri Benning, as the culmination of her post-doctoral fellowship, is planning an interdisciplinary conference, "Land and the Imagination," in October 2017, which will bring together a wide range of prairie artists and thinkers concerned with tackling the current "crisis of place" confronting rural Saskatchewan and the Western provinces. All of these conferences attest to the English Department's deep involvement in the communities we serve. We can and do "crunch numbers" as we seek to find ways of better supporting our students to succeed in their literacy and career goals. At the same time, our departmental culture has always stressed the power of principles, and of community built through consultation and respectful debate.

Perhaps, after all, this is the best way of conceiving truth—as a relationship. It is the honest, restorative relationships that are our best hope in what poet (and recent Creative M.A. External Examiner) Karen Solie has called these "strange times." As my three-year term as Head draws to a close, what stands out to be truest is every relationship of mutual respect, every moment of humbly sharing our truths and engaging in problem-

solving together, as we have struggled mightily to come to a common understanding of the facts, and to forge the best way forward. I could not conceive of truer words to light our path into the future, than those of an English Department colleague: "As the department gets smaller. . . we all have to be compassionate and mindful of each other. I'm sure there will be more obstacles to come (financial or otherwise), so hopefully we can face those as a community."

Farewell

Jo-Ann Episkenew



Dr. Jo-Ann Episkenew was a Métis woman originally from Manitoba but long-time resident of Saskatchewan. A former Professor of English at the First Nations University of Canada, she served as director of the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre from 2010-2016.

She held many roles throughout her life including English professor, health researcher, colleague, friend, mother, grandmother. She was a symbol of perseverance, hard work, and dedication to achieving goals. Her interests included studying the connection between story and healing and in applying literary analysis skills—a close reading of the text—to her work with Indigenous youth. She was also a member of the Regina Riel Métis Council. She is remembered by her community of Regina, including her husband, Clayton, children, grandchildren, friends, and colleagues.

Jo-Ann Episkenew believed books could transform people, and her own life story is powerful case in point. Without a postsecondary degree, she once supported her children on a low-ranking clerk's salary. She went on to receive her PhD as a mature student and became a professor of English literature and an award-winning author.

Her book, *Taking Back our Spirits: Indigenous Literature, Public Policy and Healing* (2009), traces the links between Canadian public policy, injuries inflicted on indigenous people, and aboriginal literature's ability to heal.

In addition to her work as an educator, Dr. Episkenew, who died in February of complications from pneumonia, was active in aboriginal communities

conducting health research and working to understand and reduce poverty.

Gail Bowen, a Regina author and playwright, was Jo-Ann's teacher at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. "Jo-Ann was a very, very smart young woman. There was something special there that I noticed immediately as her teacher."

In 2010, Dr. Episkenew took a leave of absence from her position as a professor in the English department at the First Nations University to become director of the Indigenous Peoples' Health Research Centre (IPHRC). She was co-principal investigator at the centre, a role that was a natural outgrowth of her grassroots interest in indigenous health and the use of storytelling as a healing tool. In 2014, the IPHRC appointed her to serve on an advisory group on poverty reduction.

Farewell Jeanie Wagner



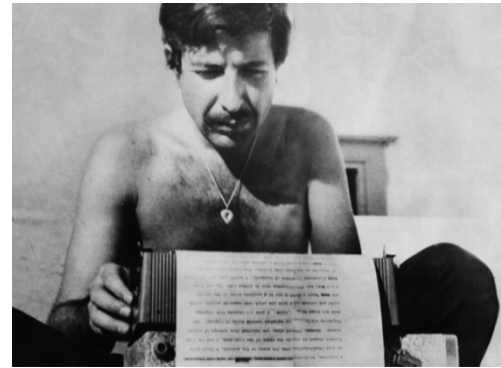
Over her long career in the classroom, Jeanie inspired countless students in whom she instilled a love for the written word (and fear over misusing a word!). Like others of her generation in our department and at the University, she helped set the tone for the

academy in those early years of the university. They set the example for us younger colleagues, with their integrity, their love for their students and their passion for their subject. We learned much from them, and were in awe of them, despite the fact that we were always treated as peers and as friends.

Friends were important to Jeanie. She was loyal and lavished such graciousness on us. And unwittingly she taught us to pay attention to details, to enjoy every nuance of every experience in our life. She laughed with us and had fun with us. Many of us here will always cherish memories of evenings at 4930 Dewdney Avenuestarting from way back when Fred was still by her side. Small gatherings, large gatherings, the Scotch flowing, the latest gossip, exhilarating conversations about books and art and music and flowers and pets and movies and politics. Especially politics! Politics was a part of the fullness of life. Jeanie was a self-proclaimed political junkie, and could not understand how there were people who were not interested in politics.

Jeanie said good-bye to the fullness of her life at a fulsome age, but she will always be with us. We will always remember her wit, her phenomenal memory (she told me once that she remembered every book she had read since she was 15), her love for lunching out (the Faculty Club on Fridays, the Red Lobster, the Lakeshore)--her generosity, her impatience with the latest fads, with consumerism and cant and the anti-intellectual wave that was changing the face of universities, her occasional stubbornness, her love for her cats and her wild English garden, her genuine interest in our lives and our families, her bold and active concern for social issues . . . and the elegance with which she smoked.

Fumbling After the Immortal Name Marcel DeCoste



You say I took the Name in vain;
I don't even know the name.
But if I did, well, really, what's it to you?

L. Cohen, "Hallelujah"

On December 6, a group of faculty members and students gathered for "A Tribute to Leonard Cohen," presented by the English Students' Association and the Department of English.

Marcel DeCoste offers the following reflections prompted by Cohen's influence.

November 7, 2016, saw, with the passing of Leonard Cohen, the death of a Canadian legend and of a writer and songsmith who has been an important part of my personal reading and listening experience, of my literary imagination, for over thirty years. His albums were a key part of the soundtrack to my late adolescence, his books gifts to dear friends, his poetry and lyrics the stuff of callow undergraduate seminars. For me, as for so many of my acquaintance, this hardly unexpected news

was nonetheless shocking: gone was a long-time inspiration and reference-point in our lives.

This loss came less than a month after the unique celebration of another singer-songwriter, one who was both an inspiration for Cohen's musical career and a key shared point of reference in the lives of an earlier generation than my own. On October 13th, Bob Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Though obviously of a happier sort, this news, too, was a shock to many, not least to the newly dubbed litterateur himself. "Being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature is," he told the Nobel Committee in his absentee's acceptance speech, "something I never could have imagined or seen coming." I must confess to having experienced a similar poverty of imagination.

As someone less than enchanted by Dylan's voice or music, less than awestruck by the prosody of his lyrics on the page, I was admittedly taken aback by his award. When I thought of the American literary giants—Cormac McCarthy and Philip Roth (both aged 83) spring to my mind—now unlikely, given the international politics of Nobel Prizes, ever to receive such plaudits, I was a little, well, wroth. Indeed, had I been asked, I would have hesitated to nominate my beloved Cohen to stand alongside Yeats, Eliot, and Walcott in the Nobel's poetic pantheon. Yet even he, with award-winning volumes of verse and two enduringly interesting novels to his credit, might make a more forceful claim to such specifically literary recognition than tambourine-man Mr. Dylan. (My apologies to all fans of *Tarantula*).

Yet Cohen, in my epigraph, supplies a question which might serve to rebuke such fulmination. More vain, perhaps, than the songman's being adorned with laurels is the confident critical sorting, in the hubbub of our fleeting cultural present, of writers into categories of worthy and unworthy, literary and non-literary, lasting and fugitive. This is a dangerous game that the bequest of Alfred Nobel compels the Swedish Academy to play, often to dubious results. After all, having prized the timelessness of a Yeats or a Faulkner, the Committee has also failed to secure literary immortality for the likes of John Galsworthy or Winston Churchill—I can only assume the Peace Prize was deemed out of bounds—whom it has favoured in preference to such writers as Henry James, Virginia Woolf, and James Joyce.

We, in our own lower-case academy, are all too often tempted to make pronouncements worthy of Inquisitors on who or what will last to capture the living interest of future generations of readers (and auditors). We would no doubt do well to emulate the humility of

"Hallelujah," to imitate its singer's service to the word and its reticence concerning ultimate determinations of that word's lasting value. Where, after all, are the courses and dissertations devoted to Norman Mailer and John Barth that seemed inevitable only a generation ago?

Surely, the enormous and undeniable influence of Bob Dylan has proved more lasting. His work has been far more successful, in its engagement with the past of the American songbook and with the present of its own shifting cultural moment, in remaining current, in having a future. Yet both that oeuvre and its recent canonization in Stockholm might have its greatest value in recalling us to a study of literature which is, first and foremost, an impassioned engagement with the word and a humble recognition that the times are always a-changing, in such a way as to make both our personal idols and the Swedish Academy's very project of pantheon-making always fragile things indeed.

NEWS OF FACULTY

Jesse Archibald-Barber (First Nations University) helped organize the Indigenous Literary Studies Association's 2nd Annual Gathering, *Storying Solidarities*, as part of Congress 2016 in Calgary. He also spoke on the Indigenous Artist Symposium panel, "Education and Art," for the Sâkêwêwak Annual Storytellers Festival, and he was a speaker on the Roundtable session, "Teaching in a Time of Reconciliation," for the Canadian Indigenous and Native Studies Association's 2016 conference, both in Regina. Archibald-Barber also had two short stories published, "The Bowl Game" in *The Malahat Review* #193 and "Beneath the Starry Map" in *Mitêwacimowina: Indigenous Science Fiction and Speculative Storytelling* (Theytus), and he gave a reading of Louis Riel's poetry at an event honouring Riel and Taras Shevchenko at the Regina Public Library. Archibald-Barber also received a Canada 150 grant, which will be used to create and produce a performance of *Making Treaty 4*.

Sheri Benning, (post-doctoral fellow) was awarded 2nd place in the 2016 John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Awards by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild for her manuscript, "In Ordinary Time," called by the judges "a detailed examination of the dynamics of family and farm life where life and death intersect at surprising and nuanced angles." Excerpts have been published in *Grain* magazine and on CBC's Canada Writes:

<http://www.cbc.ca/books/canadawrites/2015/04/2015-cbc-short-story-prize-skinned-by-sheri-benning.html>

With the generous help of Troni Grande and David Garneau Sheri is currently organizing a conference, "Land and the Imagination," which will bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers and visual artists whose work is focused by place, specifically Western Canadian rural environments. The aim of the conference will be to initiate a larger conversation on what might constitute socially and environmentally sustainable ways to inhabit the prairie.

Since happily returning to Saskatchewan, she has (re)immersed herself in Saskatchewan's vibrant writing community. She is currently the Poetry Editor for *Grain* magazine and she was recently asked to join the board of Coteau Books. She is also a mentor in the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild mentorship program – a program in which she previously participated as an emerging writer, working on her first collection of poetry, *Earth After Rain*.

Chris Bundock's book, *Romantic Prophecy and the Resistance to Historicism*, has been published with the University of Toronto Press. He presented two papers over the summer: "Discontent with Perfection: Distillation and 'Pure Feeling' in Baillie's *The Tryal*" at *Romanticism and Its Discontents* (Berkeley, California, August 11-14) and "Nerves, Hypochondria, and the Fibrous Imagination in Blake's *Jerusalem*" at the *Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English* annual conference (Calgary, Alberta, May 28-31). He also published a review of Emily Rohrbach's *Modernity's Mists: Romanticism and the Poetics of Anticipation* in the *BARS Review* (Number 48, Autumn, 2016). He continues to serve on the Executive Board for the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, helping to coordinate upcoming conferences. On November 25 he held a proseminar on affect here at the U of R titled "Blake's Anatomy of Melancholy: Embodiment and Affect in *Jerusalem*." He organized a session for the Modern Languages Association convention (Jan 5-8, 2017) titled "Beyond Sympathy: Affect and the Body in Romanticism."

Marcel DeCoste published, in April, a chapter entitled, "Tony madly feudal': Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust* and the Conservative Critique of Secular Conservatism" in *Literature and the Conservative Ideal* edited by Mark Zunac (Lexington, 127-151). Soon after, an invited notice of his 2015 monograph, *The Vocation of Evelyn Waugh* (Ashgate), entitled "Faith and Art," appeared in *The Dorchester Review*. 6.1 (Spring/Summer 2016): 94-

95. On October 28th, he presented a paper entitled, "No Certain Sanctuary: The Human Limits of the Humanities in Evelyn Waugh's *Scott-King's Modern Europe*" to the 2016 Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture: Higher Learning at Baylor University in Waco, TX. He also had two articles accepted for publication. The first, "'Merely Hints and Symbols?' Kierkegaard and the Progressive Oracles of *Brideshead Revisited*," will be appearing in the March, 2017 number of *Christianity and Literature*. The second, "This Is My Body: The Saving Knowledge of Suffering Flesh in Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*," was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Religion & Literature*, on September 29.

Jason Demers led an on-campus discussion of Joe Friesen's *The Ballad of Danny Wolfe* with the author and Susan Creeley, Wolfe's mother, in September. The book discusses the rise of Indigenous street gangs and the ongoing legacy of the residential school system. In October, he presented his paper "Watching People Watching: Staging Scopophilia in *Orange is the New Black*" at the Canadian Association for American Studies conference in Fredericton. He also presented a paper on Comics and Adaptation at the ESA's LITCON fundraiser in November. Following coverage of his course on Prison Writing by CBC radio and the *Regina Leader-Post* earlier in the year, he was invited to talk about the connection between literacy and incarceration at the Scotiabank Giller Light Bash at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in November.

Troni Grande delivered two conference papers in 2016: "More on the (Female) Body: Woman as Indigestible Katharma in Early-Modern Tragedy," on May 29 at the ACCUTE Conference, University of Calgary, in a panel on Early Modern Digestion, organized and chaired by Jan Purnis (Campion); and "Northrop Frye, Shakespeare, and the 'Cultural Lag' of Canadian Stratford," on April 22 at the Shakespeare + Canada Symposium, University of Ottawa, held in celebration of the quatercentenary of Shakespeare's death. The second paper, revised as "Shakespeare and the 'Cultural Lag' of Canadian Stratford in Alice Munro's 'Tricks,'" is forthcoming in *Shakespeare and Canada: "Remembrance of Ourselves"* edited by Irena R. Makaryk and Kathryn Prince, in the Reappraisals: Canadian Writers series, University of Ottawa Press. Troni also participated in the 2016 Sage Hill Memoir/Non-fiction Workshop with Alison Pick; and in the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild November 10-13 Facilitated Retreat with poet Sandy Pool. Troni's piece "Baba's Pyrogies," the first chapter of her memoir project, appeared in *Borderlands &*

Crosslands: Writing the Motherland, ed. Laurie Kruk and Jane Satterfield (Demeter Press, 2016).

Randy Lundy's poem, "An Ecology of Being and Non-Being," published in *Puritan Magazine* 30 (2016), has been selected for Best Canadian Poetry.

Cindy MacKenzie travelled to Paris, France in June 2016 to attend the Emily Dickinson International Society Conference at Cite Internationale Universitaire. In keeping with the conference theme, "Experimental Dickinson," she presented "'To Estimate the Pearl': Dickinson's Translation of the Oriental Aesthetic," a paper on Dickinson's experimental mode of translating experience into poetry. She also reviewed editor Cristanne Miller's *Emily Dickinson's Poems as She Preserved Them*, (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2016), a new edition of Dickinson's poems for *New England Quarterly*. In January 2017, she will travel to New York to speak to a group of retired psychologists from Mt. Sinai Hospital about the power of poetry to aid in healing. This conversation is in response to MacKenzie's (and co-editor, Barbara Dana's) work, *Wider Than the Sky: Essays and Meditations on the Healing Power of Emily Dickinson*, Kent State, 2009. This summer, she will return to Amherst, Massachusetts to attend the annual Dickinson meeting and to perform a concert reading of the correspondence between T.W. Higginson and Emily Dickinson.

Medrie Purdham returned to the university from parental leave in August of 2016. Since then she has been shortlisted for the Far Horizons Award for Poetry at the Malahat Review (for "Da Vinci Mommyblog") and longlisted for the CBC Canada Writes competition in the poetry category (for "Waiting Rooms"). She has a poem, "Kitchen Vicarious," in the Winter 2016 issue of *CV2*, and two poems forthcoming in *Event* ("One Cubic Foot" and "Dog Days With Borrowed Dog").

Nicholas Ruddick's latest book, *Science Fiction Adapted to Film*, was published by Gylphi Ltd. in the UK on 14 December 2016. It's the first comprehensive study of the subject, focusing on how science fiction novels and stories have been adapted to film from 1902 to the present. The book includes a theoretical discussion and a historical survey, as well as ten in-depth studies of effective novel-to-film adaptations.

While on sabbatical in Ontario, Nick has resumed his amateur theatrical career after a more than 37-year hiatus. In November 2016 he appeared as dotty Colonel Charles Craddock in *Waterdown Village*

Theatre's production of Peter Gordon's *Murdered to Death*, an Agatha Christie spoof. And in January 2017 he will star as George Radfern in Dundas Little Theatre's production of J.B. Priestley's "immoral comedy" *Laburnum Grove*.



Garry Sherbert's 2011 article "'A name is sacred': Archive Fever in Freud, Derrida, and Hubert Aquin" will be reprinted in *Hubert Aquin: Twentieth Century Literary Criticism*, ed. Lawrence Trudeau (Layman Poupard Publishing). Garry presented "Derridean Autoimmunity in Heidegger's 'What Are Poets For?'" at the Fifth Derrida Today Conference, Goldsmith's, University of London, June 8-11, 2016. He also presented "'The absence of a Shakespeare in Canada: Frye's Canadian Green World'" at the Shakespeare + Canada Symposium, University of Ottawa, April 21-23, 2016.

Michael Trussler delivered "Franz Kafka and the Unrelenting Uncanny," an Introduction to Performance of György Kurtág's *Kafka Fragments* performed by Helen Pridmore and Nadia Francavilla, musicians, at Gustin House, Saskatoon and Neutral Ground, Regina. He published the poem "Clio" in *Vallum*. 13.1 (Open Theme 2016): 43; and "Everything After Follows from That: An Elegiac Conversation Between Grant Stonehouse and Leonard Carey," a sort of dramatic monologue in *The Puritan*. 34. (Summer 2016): 3,955 words.

<http://puritan-magazine.com/an-elegiacconversation-michael-trussler/>

Lynn Wells will be completing her six-year term as Vice-President Academic at First Nations University of Canada in June, 2017, and will be moving into a new role as Strategic Advisor to the President at FNU. In her new role, Lynn will be working on projects such as expanding FNU's reach as a national institution in an era of reconciliation

Ken Wilson's short article on Wanuri Kahiu's *Pumzi* appeared in *Directory of World Cinema: Africa*, edited by Sheila Petty and Blandine Stefanson, in 2014 (which is old news, obviously, but his copy just arrived this past August). His catalogue essay accompanying *Anecdotal Evidence: The Work of Gerald Saul*, a retrospective of the filmmaker's 30-year career at the Art Gallery of Regina, appeared in July 2016. He was a member of Persephone Theatre's playwrights unit in 2015 and 2016, and his one-act play, *What We Carry Inside*, was workshopped as part of the Saskatchewan Playwrights Centre's Spring Festival of New Plays in May 2016. In June 2016, Ken's site-specific performance, *Muscle and Bone*, saw him walk 335 kilometres through Ontario's Haldimand Tract. His ekphrastic monologues about the life and work of German painter Otto Dix were read as part of the Art of Expressionism series of readings in October 2016.

NEWS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

-Susan Johnston, Graduate Chair

Debby Adair began working fulltime as a Communications Facilitator for the Ignite Adult Learning Corporation here in Regina. It is an intensive program for 18-30 year olds to help them complete their GED. She teaches Language Arts Reading, Language Arts Writing, and Social Studies. She works everyday and spends her time planning lessons, teaching, and marking. This program is unique because student apprentices come every day, all day, for 33 weeks plus. They are also learning math and science and other skills, such as working on getting their drivers' licences and fitness. She enjoys it because she is able to use both her English skills and her people skills. Her employers were very particular in wanting to hire someone with an English degree and facilitation experience and because of her degree and her previous work at the Student Success Centre, she was hired.

She published a personal essay, "Reigning Moments" in *Canadian Stories*, and the poem, "I'd Like to Tell My Great-Grandmother that She Was Right" in the Winter 2016 issue of *The Antigonish Review*, #184. She also published one poem in *Spring*, and one in an online journal, *These Fragile Lilacs*.

Chelsea Coupal (B.A. Journalism, a B.A. Hon. English.) has successfully defended her Creative Writing Master's thesis, "Sedley," co-supervised by Dr. Medrie Purdham and Professor Randy Lundy, with Dr. Sheri Benning. She was examined by the poet Karen Solie of the University of British Columbia, author of the collections *Short Haul*

Engine, Modern and Normal, and *The Road In Is Not the Same Road Out*, among other works.

Chelsea's poetry has appeared in *Arc*, *CV2*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Echolocation*, *Grain*, *Qwerty* and *Spring*, and is forthcoming in *The Antigonish Review*. Next, she hopes to find a publisher for her poetry manuscript. She will also continue her career in communications. Right now, she is the Director of Communications and Marketing for the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission.

Jeremy Desjarlais successfully defended his M.A. thesis, "all alongingly the way': Ontology and Longing in bpNichol's *The Martyrology*." External examiner Dr. Dennis Cooley of the University of Manitoba called the thesis "an exceptional piece of work," saying that many of Desjarlais's analyses were "really exemplary." The project was supervised by Dr. Christian Riegel of Campion College.

Jeremy completed his Undergraduate degree at the University of Regina, majoring in English, minoring in Philosophy, and concentrating in Creative Writing. Looking to amalgamate his love of language and philosophy, his Graduate degree focused on experimental poetry and fiction, specifically the works of Canadian and German authors. His MA thesis is a detailed analysis of the ontological and etymological components of Nichol's language throughout his long poem; the thesis has served as a way for Jeremy to marry his love of language with philosophical enquiry. For the past year, Jeremy has worked as a student editor for the University of Regina Press and has recently served as a sessional lecturer at the First Nations University of Canada in the Department of Indigenous Languages, Arts, and Cultures.

An interview with **Nathan Mader** is part of the *Vallum: Contemporary Poetry* review of the year in poetry. A poet himself, Mader particularly commends Gregory Scofield, whose reading from *Witness, I Am* formed an important part of last fall's Literary Eclectic XI: Many Voices conference, and alumna Courtney Bates-Hardy, whose debut collection, *House of Mystery*, was featured at a Department reading this past fall as well.

Credence McFadzean (B.A. Hon. English, MA English) has successfully defended his thesis, *Cooling Bodies: Stories*, for the M.A. in Creative Writing and English, supervised by Dr. Michael Trussler. Dr. Christian Riegel and Dr. Garry Sherbert served on the committee, and the project was examined by Daniel Scott Tysdal (University of Toronto--Scarborough), whose works include *Dear Adolf*, *The Mourner's Book of Albums*, and, most recently, *Fauxccasonal Poems*.

Credence's honours project was a poetry chapbook inspired by Cornish folktales, and his M.A. thesis, *Cooling Bodies*, is a manuscript of short fiction exploring how contemporary technologies, such as social media and video games, mediate interpersonal relationships.

Credence's work has been supported by the SSHRC-CGS Master's Scholarship and the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunity Graduate Scholarship. His poems have appeared in the English Students' Association's *[SPACE]* journal, a poetry review on *Matrix Magazine's* online platform, and has new work forthcoming in *Road Maps & Life Rafts* magazine. Having completed his M.A. manuscript, Credence now hopes to find a warm home for *Cooling Bodies*. Credence also published a review of Adrienne Gruber's volume of poetry, *Buoyancy Control*, in the October issue of *Matrix*.

Harrison Otis, who joined the Department of English in Fall 2016 as a thesis-route M.A. candidate, has won the Evelyn Waugh Society's 2015 John H. Wilson Jr. Evelyn Waugh Undergraduate Essay Contest. His prize-winning essay, "Finding the Lush Place: Waugh's Moral Vision in *Scoop*," appeared in *Evelyn Waugh Studies* 46.3 (2015): 13-26.

Harrison received his B.A. in Literature from Patrick Henry College in 2015. Before starting the MA at the U of R he lived in France, studying French and teaching English at the language school Planète-Langues. Harrison has presented his work at the National Undergraduate Literature Conference (Ogden, Utah) and the 13th International Connotations Symposium (Tübingen, Germany).

Lara Stoudt (B.A. English, Luther, MA English) successfully defended her M.A. thesis, entitled "From 'House to Home': The Structure of a Soul Journey in Christina Rossetti's Devotional Writing," on November 30, 2016. She was examined by Dr. Karen Dieleman of Trinity Christian College, Illinois, the author of *Religious Imaginaries: The Liturgical and Poetic Practices of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti and Adelaide Proctor*, as well as numerous articles on faith, poetry, and the nineteenth century. Dr. Volker Greifhagen (Religious Studies) and Dr. Chris Bundock (English) served on the committee.

Lara completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree at Luther College at the University of Regina, earning High Honours in English. Lara's Graduate work focused on the intersection of spirituality and writing, both in her research and her own creative writing. Her thesis explored how

Christina Rossetti's liturgical practices influenced her poetry and devotional prose.

Lara's Graduate work was supported by a SSCHRC-CGS Master's Scholarship and also the Dr. Morris Schumiatcher's Graduate Scholarship in English. During her Graduate work, Lara worked as a Research Assistant for Dr. Jan Purnis and also as Teaching Assistant in the English Department Writing Centre. Lara would like to thank the Faculty and Staff at the University of Regina for providing a supportive learning environment where ideas flourish and grow. A special thanks goes out to her supervisor and Graduate Chair, Susan Johnston, whom she describes as an impeccable scholar and an extraordinary leader who works to bring out the best in all her students. Lara is excited about what the future may hold and she will continue to write, to teach, and to take beautiful photographs all while enjoying her family, friends, and home in Vibank, Saskatchewan.

Sarah Vennes-Ouellet (M.A. English) has successfully defended her English Master's thesis, "Building Fransaskois Identity through Drama," supervised by Dr. Medrie Purdham with Dr. Garry Sherbert and Dr. Leanne Groeneveld from Campion College. She was examined by Dr. John Meehan, professor of History and President of Campion College. The defence was Friday, November 25, 2016.

Sarah holds a B.A. (Hons) in English with a minor in East Asian Studies from McGill University. While living in Saskatchewan, she developed an interest for cultural minorities and she plans on continuing to work towards the survival of linguistic and cultural minorities within Canada. She now lives in the Vancouver Area with her husband Joel. While incredibly happy and relieved that the defence went well, she told us she will remember her days at U of R with nostalgia.

William Wenaus (B.A., M.A. English) successfully defended his Master's thesis, "Yi Sang and Global Modernism," supervised by Dr. Marcel DeCoste with Dr. Kevin Bond (Religious Studies) and Dr. Christian Riegel (Campion). He was examined by Professor Roy Starrs of the University of Otago, NZ, who described the thesis as "a significant contribution."

William started his undergraduate degree at the U of R in 2010, majoring in English and minoring in Philosophy. Throughout his undergraduate degree, he became increasingly interested in East Asian culture and literature, which then led to him focusing on the Korean modernist Yi Sang (1910-1937) in his Honours project "Making Strange: Reading Yi Sang in English." Finding a

passion in this topic, William then developed this interest into his MA thesis "Yi Sang and Global Modernism." Now that he has completed his MA, William teaches in the English department at the U of R. He is also considering the acquisition of both Japanese and Korean so that he can continue his research at the PhD level sometime in the future.

ENGLISH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

This year the ESA held a Harry Potter inspired Yule Ball as a fundraiser for their annual Trash Talkin' Pop Culture Conference held in March. The Yule Ball proved to be the most successful fundraiser the ESA has ever had, as it brought in over \$3700 for the conference. The ninth annual Trash Talkin' conference will be on March 10 and 11th, and will be welcoming Daniel Scott Tysdal as the keynote speaker and guest of honor. Friday March 10th will consist of the keynote address and a supper at the University Club, and the conference itself will be on Saturday, March 11th, following by the ESA's annual journal, [SPACE], launch. This year proves to be one of our best years yet as we have received a variety of diverse submissions from both local students, students across Canada, and some international students as well! We encourage students, faculty, and members of the community to come to this amazing event and engage with non-traditional material in a safe and friendly academic and creative setting!

ALUMNI/ALUMNAE NEWS

Shane Arbuthnott (B.A. M.A English) is pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of *Dominion*, a swashbuckling children's fantasy novel due from Orca Books in February, 2017.

Benjamin S.W. Barootes (B.A. Hons. English) has published "'O Perle': Apostrophe in Pearl" in *Studies in Philology* 113.4 (2016). This article addresses the *Pearl*-poet's use of apostrophe in his elegiac dream vision. Drawing on classical and medieval discussions of this rhetorical device, as well as contemporary poetic criticism, it argues that the trajectory of apostrophe in the poem traces the development of the Mourner-Dreamer as he gains insight from the *Pearl*-maiden's lesson and moves toward consolation. The Mourner's calls to his lost pearl in the proem demonstrate the unproductive cycle of his sorrow. His apostrophes to the Maiden in the early part of his dream similarly threaten to undo the solace he gains in the earthly paradise. By

contrast, the Maiden's three short apostrophes serve an exemplary function and show the Dreamer how to deploy apostrophe without getting caught up in the diversionary aspects of the device. In the closing frame of the poem, the now-awakened Dreamer uses apostrophe in a controlled manner that permits him to turn away from the isolation of grief.

Courtney Bates-Hardy (M.A. in Creative Writing 2015) published a poetry collection entitled *House of Mystery* (ChiZine) in June, 2016. From the announcement at 49thShelf: "*House of Mystery* is a beautifully dark and vivid collection of poems that tears down our familiar ideas about fairy tales. These are not poems about privileged princesses who live happily ever after; these are poems about monsters, mothers, witches and mermaids. They explore the pain of change and womanhood, and transform the way we think about fairy tales. Bates-Hardy moves through the childhood stories and delves into the violent and problematic origins of Cinderella, Snow White, and many other favourites. Lyrical and haunting, her poems will follow you long after you find your way through the forest."

Elena Bentley (B.A. Hons. English) has successfully defended her honours project, "'I Will Purge Thy Mortal Grossness So': Congenital Deformity in Shakespeare's Plays," supervised by Dr. Jan Purnis (Campion). The paper was examined by Dr. Troni Grande on September 2, 2016.

Elena will present a portion of this paper at the University of Virginia's College at Wise's 30th annual Medieval/Renaissance conference, Sept.15-17 2016, and complete her BA Honours in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing in December of this year. She plans to begin graduate school in 2017.

Mathew Block (B.A. Hons English, B.A. Linguistics) is now editor of Canadian Lutheran magazine, communications manager for Lutheran Church-Canada, and editor for the International Lutheran Council.

Chelsea Coupal (M.A. in Creative Writing & English 2016) has been shortlisted for the Young Buck Poetry Prize for writers under 35 for her work, "The Full Moon Glows Like a Yard Light." She also published two poems, "Only three years" in *CV2* 39.1 (Summer 2016) and "Homecoming" in *Grain* 43.3.

Michelle Jones (B.A English) has published "'Linked...through the body of one man': Black Jack Randall as a Non-traditional Romance Villain," in *Adoring Outlander: Essays on Fandom, Genre, and the Female*

Audience (McFarland, 2016). She is completing an M.A. thesis on Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series as an innovation on romance form under the supervision of Garry Sherbert and Jes Battis.

Patrick Malone (BA Hons 2015), who has been writing for *Catholic Stand*, was tagged by the *Catholic Herald* in the UK as a "Morning Must-Read" for his piece on Terence Malick's film *To the Wonder*. He has accepted a scholarship to the University of Saskatchewan law school, beginning in Fall 2016.

Cassidy McFadzean (M.A. Creative Writing) was interviewed for Vallum: *Contemporary Poetry's 2016 review of the Year in Poetry*. She also published "These Men Dig Fingers," one of the riddle poems written for her M.A. thesis, in the second edition of *In Fine Form: The Canadian Book of Form Poetry*, ed. Kate Braid and Sandy Shreve. Halfmoon Bay, BC: Caitlin, 2016. She also published a new poem, "Bedizen," in *The Malahat Review 194* (Spring 2016).

Jesse Marchinko (Morris) (B.A. and B.Ed. Regina, MLIS Alberta) has returned to Saskatchewan as Assistant Head Librarian of the Moose Jaw Public Library.

Avnee Paranjape (B.A. Hons. English) was awarded the President's Medal at Convocation 2016. She graduated with a BSc. in Biology and a BA Hons. in English. Her undergraduate honours project was entitled "Harry's Ghosts: Harry Potter and the Legacy of Trauma." While at the U of R, Avnee was an executive member of several student organizations, including Engineers without Borders and the English Students' Association, of which she was President in 2015-2016. As President, she organized the Trash Talkin' conference on new directions in popular culture and creative writing as well as numerous other events. Avnee also enjoyed volunteering as a board member for the Saskatchewan Book Awards this year.

During her degree, Avnee studied French in Paris, spent a month as a guest lecturer at the North China University of Science and Technology, and presented her work at the Southwest Popular Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Avnee is excited presently to be attending the University of Toronto working toward a MA in English and supported by a SSHRC-CGS award.

Caelin Robinson (BA Hons, 2011) is currently Production Editor for the *Financial Times*, London, UK. She writes, "In 2011, after graduating from the U of R, I moved to

Vancouver, BC to pursue a Master's degree in Publishing from Simon Fraser University. The thesis portion of the program is based on an internship, and I was fortunate enough to secure one at an academic publishing house in London, UK in 2012. This internship led to employment with the company as an Editorial and Production Assistant/Digital Publishing Assistant, where I was responsible for guiding authors through the publication process, from initial manuscript to final printed book, as well as extensive ebook work and some design work. It was this design work that I really fell in love with – laying out book covers and editing maps, for example – and was what guided me to my current role with the *Financial Times*, an international daily newspaper that focuses on business and economics (and it's pink!) As Production Editor, I spend my days creating and editing charts and infographics (and, yes, maps), as well as performing some proofreading and copyediting. I'm really thankful to have been a part of such an excellent English programme at the U of R, which gave me both the skills and the support to get here."

Jennifer Squires (B.A. English, Theatre) has co-founded a new theatre venture in Regina, called *Shoulderbirds*, aiming to produce "discussion-worthy" theatre. Their first production, *Women*, premieres in mid-January at *Artesian* on 13th.

Dr. Andrew Wenaus (M.A 2009, supervisor Dr. Nicholas Ruddick) is currently an assistant professor in the Department of English and Writing Studies at Western University in London, Ontario. After graduating from the University of Regina, Andrew began his Ph.D. at Western focusing on Modernism, phenomenology, information theory, and automation.

After completing his Ph.D. in 2013 (supervisor Dr. Jonathan Boulter), Andrew began teaching writing and communications at Fanshawe College in the School of Language and Liberal Studies in London. In 2014, he was teaching both at Fanshawe College and Western—now, exclusively at the latter.

Since 2011, Andrew has published eight peer-reviewed articles and two peer-reviewed book chapters. He has two forthcoming articles: "Mechanized Bodies, Human and Heavenly: Melancholia and Thinking Extinction" to appear presently in *ESC: English Studies in Canada* 42.1 and "Babelian Act of Fecundity" forthcoming in *James Joyce Quarterly*.

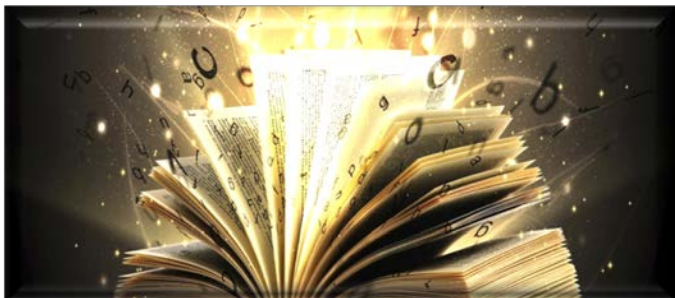
Alongside his academic work, Andrew is involved in an electronic music project, *Wormwood*, with collaborator Christina Willatt. The group has

released two LPs and one EP (self-released and in conjunction with Punctum Records in Austin/Brooklyn and with A Person Disguised as People in London). The group is currently scoring music for film and has plans to collaborate with ballet.

Andrew remembers his time at the University of Regina fondly; particularly, he thanks Professors Cindy MacKenzie, William Arnal, Samira McCarthy, and especially Nick Ruddick. Andrew is currently finishing two books: *Zero, Zero, and Zero: The Literature of Exclusion* and *Blossoming Ghost: The Metamorphiction of Jeff Noon*.

Dorothea Wojtowicz (M.A. Creative Writing) has published a short story, "Descent," in *Room Magazine* 38.4.

Mitchell Wolfmueller (BEd 2012, BA 2013), spent the first few years after graduation working in Saskatchewan as a high-school English teacher. However, Mitchell felt the call of adventure, uprooted his life, jumped on a plane, and now lives and works in Berlin, Germany. While in Berlin, Mitchell was accepted to the English Literature Masters Program at Freie Universität. It was here that he and his fellow students saw an opportunity to really impact their program and the city of Berlin. These dedicated students banded together to find the very best in unpublished poetry, prose, creative translation, and other daring, exciting pieces of creative writing. After months of editing, planning, and designing, Freie Universität's first creative writing journal in English, *FU Review*, was printed. While Mitchell and those other students are celebrating their inaugural issue, they are also hard at work preparing the next issue of the *FU Review* and searching for talented writers who have that special piece just begging to see the light of day.



UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Elizabeth Blight - Andrea Martineau

L.G. Crossman - Destiny Kaus

Dorothy and Leon Goldman - Elena Bentley

Ethel Toupin - Jocelyne Paulhus

G Murray & Edna Forbes - Elena Bentley

Torville honours - Andrea Martineau

Torville

- Jessica Leeper
- Carina Sterzer
- Hunmin Cha
- Jocelyn Paulhus

Charles Bruce McPherson - Tanisha Khan

Johnsie Christina McPherson - Aysha Yaqoob



Chris Bundock, Editor

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