

## Department of English



# INKLINGS

"If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry."

Emily Dickinson

### HEADNOTE

Marcel DeCoste

the shrine lies open to the sky,  
the rain falls, here, there  
sand drifts; eternity endures:

ruin everywhere, yet as the fallen roof  
leaves the sealed room  
open to the air,

so, through our desolation,  
thoughts stir, inspiration stalks us  
through gloom.

H.D. *The Walls Do Not Fall*

The past semester has been a season marked by sad losses and bittersweet departures. Yet if the last few months have seen certain chapters in the life of the Department come to a close, the Fall semester has also borne witness to an auspicious vitality that underscores how, though the future of humanistic study may seem at times gloomy, we remain blessed with colleagues and students capable of inspiring through the passionate stirring of thought.

The academic year began, however, on a somber note. News of the death, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, of Stephen Moore shook many here at the University of Regina. Part of the U of R community since 2002, a term and sessional instructor during that time both with the Main Department and the Federated Colleges, Stephen was a respected teacher of medieval literature and first-year English, and a friend to many. More than just a gifted teacher, Stephen

was an active member of the provincial and federal NDP, and had recently served as grievance chair for URFA. His was a soul moved always by the cause of social justice, but careful to leaven its pursuit with compassion and wry humour. He has been, and will be, missed.

Only a month later, on September 25<sup>th</sup>, came news of the death of Professor Ray Mise. A former Head of English, Ray was a member of the Department from 1967 until his retirement in 1993. Yet retirement did not mark an end of his contributions to the Department. When, in 1995, I first arrived in Regina, an uprooted PhD candidate from McGill, he offered me my first on-campus home, welcoming me, along with Aydon Charlton and Nils Clausson, at weekly meetings of the Theory Group which he had co-founded years before and which such colleagues as Professors Emerita Kathleen Wall and Jeanne Shami have praised as a valuable part of their time in the Department.

Indeed, despite such sad passings, the kind of collegiality and curiosity that marked Ray's career in the Department were also abundantly in evidence this past semester. English faculty and students both brought credit to the Department through their work on September's *Jane Austen Festival*. As diligent organizers, learned introducers of RPL movie screenings, presenters of papers at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Colloquium, and helpful supports to the English Student Association's wildly successful Regency Ball, Chris Bundock, Alexis McQuigge, Susan Johnston, Kathleen Wall and, of course, Danielle Myers all did the Department proud. September also saw colleagues from Campion and the Main Department shine at the Humanities Research Institute's *Politics*

of *Emotion Workshop*. Chris Bundock, Garry Sherbert, Leanne Groeneveld, Alex MacDonald, and Jan Purnis all distinguished themselves with excellent presentations. October 27<sup>th</sup> saw the first of this year's OMAD talks, a by turns poignant, hilarious, and scholarly discussion by Dr. Jes Battis of "Blue Histories: Thinking with Sadness in the Middle Ages." Finally, November 17-18 brought to impressive fruition work by Troni Grande and the Department's recent post-doctoral fellow, Sheri Benning, in the *Land and Imagination* conference, hosted by FNUUniv. Bringing together such eminent creative writers as Tim Lilburn, Jan Zwicky and Trevor Herriot, as well as our colleague Jesse Archibald-Barber, among others, the conference artfully achieved its goal of initiating conversation on how we might (re)imagine socially and environmentally sustainable ways to inhabit our prairie landscape.

Such thoughtful and thought-provoking enterprise not only helped inspire those who, part of the larger U of R or Regina community, attended these events; they worked to nourish our academic community, which seems too often starved by other forms of institutional busy-ness. But such necessary work was not the business of colleagues alone. By way of their staging of the truly unique Regency Ball—an event that brought together literature, dance, and fashion, students, faculty, and members of Regina's folk dance community—and their work towards this coming March's ninth iteration of the *Trash Talkin'* Student Conference on Pop Culture and Creative Writing, the ESA has once again been an active presence on campus and such an encouragement to our students' ambitions that no fewer than five graduate and undergraduate English students have had papers accepted at this February's Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. A heartening sign that such gifted students are still drawn to our subject, October 26<sup>th</sup> saw 16 prospective English recruits accept their invitation to attend the first of this academic year's two English Information sessions. Thanks to presentations by such eloquent advocates for the discipline as Melanie Schnell, Michael Trussler, Chris Bundock, Garry

Sherbert and Susan Johnston, I know that students in that room were, variously, confirmed in their recent decision to become Majors, were convinced to transfer into the Major, were encouraged to pursue a Minor, or were persuaded to follow up their 100 with a 110. All of that is welcome news that bodes well for our future ESAs and more.

The semester came to a close, however, with another, though happier, farewell. After an association with the U of R stretching back some thirty years and decades of distinguished work on the poet Emily Dickinson, Dr. Cindy MacKenzie has taken a well-earned rest, retiring at the end of December. Her relationship with the Department of English is surely uniquely robust and multi-faceted. First an Honours student, then a successful MA, then, after time away pursuing her PhD at the University of Colorado, an Instructor, next, an Assistant and, finally, a tenured Associate Professor, Cindy has known the Department as few can claim to and has thus been able to contribute to its history and its ongoing life in manifold roles. Though the third-floor of AdHum will not be the same without her, we wish her all the best in a happy, but still fruitfully thought-stirred retirement.





“One cannot have too large a party. A large party secures its own amusement.”

Jane Austen, *Emma*

And it was a large party indeed, complete with round after spirited round of High Country Dancing, card tables, costume prizes, and catered canapes. Although 2017 marked two centuries since Jane Austen last put pen to paper - the English author died July 18, 1817 at age 41 - at the University of Regina English Student’s Association Regency Ball, it was as though she had just stepped out of the room. Fairy lights and fresh flowers on cream table cloths, and hand-drawn silhouettes and illustrations from Austen’s works on the walls transformed the University of Regina’s multi-purpose room into a ballroom that would satisfy even Mrs. Bennett. Ladies in empire-waisted gowns and elbow length gloves joined gentlemen in three-piece suits and elegant ascots for lessons in English, Irish, and Scottish High Country dancing, while others gathered for Regency-era card games, like Whist, Speculation, Commerce, and Vingt-et-un (known colloquially as Van John).

Any high quality host or hostess knows that for such an event to be a success, it must be planned well in advance, and the English Student’s Association began their planning for the September 26th event in June. With the support of URSU, JASNA, the U of R English Department, and the Library, the ESA wove together a well-attended evening of 19th-century high-society glamour. Attendees ranged from students to seniors, and all took University of Regina History professor Yvonne Petry’s words to heart when she said, “the spirit of the dance is to be sociable.” The multi-purpose room was filled with breathless laughter during the dancing, and with

eager conversation between new friends during the intermission.

Moe Mathieu of Luther Catering collaborated with the English Student’s Association to add a modern twist to classic recipes that would have been popular during Austen’s era. The dishes, from the beef neep (turnip) stew in puff pastry, to the mushroom fricasse on Mrs. Dundas’ biscuits, to the sweet custard with fall fruits, were drawn from the Jane Austen cookbook. The gluten-free, vegan toast points kept with the spirit of the era, while providing options for those with dietary restrictions. Dance instruction was provided by Lorna Bingaman (Society for Creative Anachronism), Betsy Brydon (Regina Scottish Country Dancers), Gary Diver (English Country Dancer), Linda McIntyre (Regina Scottish Country Dancers), and Laura Popoff (Regina Irish Set Dancers). Although the dances were very much the same ones that Austen’s heroines would have danced, ladies were not required to remain with their chaperone, and couples were welcome to share more than two dances.

In Austen’s day, a separate room was often set up so the dancers’ chaperones could play card games. True to this detail, there were card tables set up away from the dance floor, with instructions for games that were likely to have been played during her era. Attendees feeling footsore were able to take a break and dive into a game of whist or loo while they nursed a drink: either Earl Grey tea with lemon, or ginger beer, or the decidedly more modern “Jane Austen” - a mix of blueberry vodka, Bols blue, and Sprite.

The idea for the Regency Ball came, in part, because balls loomed large in lives of Jane Austen’s characters. The British Library describes them as, “the ultimate occasion for a heady kind of courtship.” But Professor Susan Johnston warns against dismissing Austen’s works mere courtship novels. “It’s a mistake to think that the trifles, the busy nothings of her books, aren’t deeply invested in the great things of life, which is the reproduction of the community in strong and healthy ways.” Indeed, Austen’s balls, which kept *Sense and Sensibility’s* Willoughby up dancing “from 8 o’clock to 4,” were opportunities for her characters to display both their acquired talents and their good health. “Jane Austen understood what more people should understand,” said Johnston.



"Which is that courtship is one of the most important things in the world."

For readers who have never picked up one of Austen's novels, Professor Johnston is firm when she says "*Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice* are *the way to start*." For those who are interested in getting to know Austen's world, but are apprehensive about reading one of Austen's works, ESA President Tanisha Khan and Treasurer Allie Fenson, who planned much of the event, recommend testing the waters with an adaptation, such as the 1996 BBC miniseries *Emma*. "Watching the adaptation, you appreciate the book more. If you're going to do Jane Austen...that's the way to go," Khan said. "Tell everyone to watch it," added Fenson. Professor Johnston agrees that an adaptation can be a good starting point: "Many, many people have come to Jane Austen because of Colin Firth's wet t-shirt."

## HARRY POTTER AND THE POP CULTURE CONFERENCE

DePaul University, Chicago, IL., May 6, 2017.



Accio, quills! Accio, presentations! Accio, U of R scholars!

Last May, Allie Fenson, Kate Hughes, Kaleigh Johnson and I (Tea Gerbeza) all went to the DePaul University Pop Culture conference to talk about Harry Potter. Naturally, the four of us on (self-acclaimed) Dumbledore's Panel *needed* to go. We hosted a panel that discussed Inclusion and the Other in the *Harry Potter* series. Allie Fenson covered the topic of goblins and race, Kate Hughes examined giants and Veelas and interspecies relations, Kaleigh Johnson explored Centaurs and Merpeople and their cultures, and I presented my

honours thesis work on Ableism and Remus Lupin. The atmosphere of the conference was as welcoming as the Great Hall is during dinner at Hogwarts, and the dynamic of the panels was not like a traditional conference; instead of conference papers, we presented a roundtable discussion that also involved the audience. After we finished our presentations, the audience joined in and we had a conversation going back and forth. It was rewarding for all of us to bring out our wands and talk about a series that we hold dear to our hearts. As well, the four of us were published in the book *Time Lords & Tribbles, Winchesters & Muggles: The DePaul Pop Culture Conference, A Five-year Retrospective!* 50 points to Ravenclaw!

## NEWS OF FACULTY

**Chris Bundock** presented four papers this year: "A Different Indifference: Life in Deleuze, Hunter, and Schelling" at *The Romantic Life Sciences* (Ottawa); "Morbid Sensibility" at *Romantic Life* (Ottawa); "Romantic Poetry and the Feeling of Revolution" at *The Politics of Emotion* (HRI, Regina); and "'A drowsy numbness pains / My sense': Keats's Pharmacopeia" (Utrecht, the Netherlands). He also organized a session for the Modern Languages Association called "Beyond Sympathy: Affect and the Body in Romanticism" and for the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism called "'Shatter'd nerves and quicken'd pulses': Mediating and Materializing Romantic Feelings." A review of Marilyn Butler's *Mapping Mythologies: Countercurrents in Eighteenth Century British Poetry and Cultural History* appeared in the BARS Review. In the fall he presented a short talk as part of the Jane Austen festival titled "Austen vs the Gothic Novel." He continues to serve as secretary treasurer for NASSR and is the Local Arrangement Coordinator for ACCUTE and the CCLA for Congress, 2018.

**Marcel DeCoste's** essay, "'Merely hints and symbols'? Kierkegaard and the Progressive Oracles of *Brideshead Revisited*," was published in the March, 2017 number of *Christianity and Literature* (66.2, 244-262), and an article on Flannery O'Connor's first

novel, "This Is My Body: The Saving Knowledge of Suffering Flesh in Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*," will be appearing in the pages of the *Journal of Religion & Literature* in the new year. Over the past summer, he completed a paper entitled, "Contested Confessions: The Sins of the Press and Evelyn Waugh's False Penance in *The Ordeal of Gilbert Pinfold*," which is currently under consideration by the journal *Logos*. The summer also saw the successful submission of a conference paper proposal, and thus he will be traveling in February to Albuquerque, New Mexico to present a talk on "Re-Imaging the People's War: The Terrible Democracy of Christopher Nolan's *Dunkirk*" to the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association. July 1st also saw him assume his new role as Head of Department, an event which, he fervently hopes, will not mark the end of such notices as these.

**Jason Demers** completed his book manuscript, *The American Politics of French Theory: Derrida, Deleuze, Guattari, and Foucault in Translation*; it is now under contract with the University of Toronto Press. The book is built on years of research in French and American archives, in underground and alternative presses, and of interviews with academics and artists associated with this history. Not only does it provide an alternate history that links French theory to American political and countercultural movements, but it also develops, in each of its chapters, new models for thinking translation associatively. Jason presented a paper on *Orange is the New Black* as part of the OMAD series in February. The revised and expanded version of the paper, "Is a Trojan Horse an Empty Signifier?: The Televisual Politics of *Orange is the New Black*" has since been published in the *Canadian Review of American Studies*. Jason was twice interviewed by CBC Saskatchewan for television and web-based stories on inmate concerns and prison overcrowding, and a reporter with the *Regina Leader Post* discussed the importance of family contact with Jason for her story on "the life of a prison wife." Jason gave a guest lecture on Saskatchewan's provincial prisons in the "Introduction to Social Justice" class in the Justice Studies department. The Fall/Winter Edition of *Degrees* magazine includes a feature article on Jason's "Prison Writing" class; the communications

and marketing department also ran an article on the course on the University of Regina homepage during the December break. Jason's proposal was accepted for inclusion in the Community Connections series at Congress 2018. With additional funding from the departments of English, Justice Studies, Religious Studies, and Women's Studies, Jason is bringing in two speakers to discuss their successful prison education initiatives at Congress. He is keen on getting an initiative started at the University of Regina, and is working with interested faculty, and meeting with key stakeholders, to generate some momentum leading into the event.

**Jean Hillabold (under her pen name, "Jean Roberta")**

published several stories this year: "Mysteries of the Dragon" in *On Fire*, edited by Anthony Buoni and Alisha Costanzo (Transmundane); "Blossoming" (erotic story about fairies) in *The Sexy Librarian's Dirty Thirty, Volume 2*, edited by Rose Caraway (Stupid Fish Productions); "Floor Show," in *Working It* (erotic stories about sex on the job), edited by Harley Easton and C.M. Peters (SinCyr Publishing); "Lunacy," in *Journey to the Center of Desire*, erotic stories in the fictional worlds of Jules Verne, edited by Jen Blackmore (Cirlet Press); and "Innsmouth Blues" in *Equal Opportunity Madness*, stories in the "Mythos" of H.P. Lovecraft, but featuring characters who are not heterosexual white men, edited by Jason and Michelle Stengel (Otter Libris Press).

**Cindy MacKenzie** is officially retired as of December 31, 2017.

**Christian Riegel** won a Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Connection Grant worth \$22,000 for a project titled "Eye tracking, disability, and mind art creation: a multidisciplinary approach" (Principal Investigator; Co-Applicants: Katherine M. Robinson, Randy Johner, Megan Smith, Chris Herdman--Carleton) He published: "Joan Crate, Indigenous Identity, and the Reach of Global Colonialism in Foreign Homes" in *Forum for World Literature Studies* 9.3. 2017 (443-60) and "Mourning, Memorial, and the Yizkor Books in Eli Mandel's Out of Place" in *Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal* 50.2. 2017. (187-204); and with Katherine M.

Robinson & Ashley Herman, "Harnessing Quantitative Eye Tracking Data to Create Art: Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Data Visualization" in *Body, Space, Technology Journal* 16, 2017. He presented a paper with Katherine M. Robinson titled "Eye Tracking, Cognition, and Data Art" at the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science Annual Conference, University of Regina, June 2017. He also published two poems: "Carlsbad Beach" and "Douglas Park, August 2014," in *The Society*.

**Jan Purnis** became the Head of the Department of English at Campion College on July 1, 2017. Over the course of the year, Jan presented three papers. In June, she presented "The Stomach and Socio-moral Disgust in Early Modern Culture" at the Shakespearean Theatre Conference in Stratford, ON. In September, she presented "Perturbations: Politics and Early Modern Emotions" as part of The Politics of Emotion public workshop hosted by the Humanities Research Institute at the University of Regina. Jan also assisted with the organization of the workshop. In October, she gave a paper called "From Foreign Words to Household Words: Early Modern Word Assimilation" at the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society Conference in Portland, Oregon. Jan's entry on Santorius Sanctorius was published in the *Encyclopedia of Renaissance Philosophy*, edited by Marco Sgarbi and published by Springer. Her chapter called "Renaissance Discourses of Emotions" was published by the University of Toronto Press in a collection entitled *Emotions, Community, and Citizenship: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives*, edited by Rebecca Kingston, Kiran Banerjee, James McKee, Yi-Chun Chien, and Constantine C. Vassiliou. Jan is currently serving as the 2018 Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences Local Area Representative for the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine.

**Melanie Schnell** received Runner-up for the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild 2017 City of Regina Writing Award last February. Melanie sat on a panel last February called "Moms who Write," organized by Trevor Herriot, current Writer-in-Residence at the Regina Public Library. She also gave a presentation on her novel, *While the Sun is Above Us*, at the Indian

Head Library last May. She has been asked to present on her novel and its research at Brandon University in February 2018 as a part of their English and Creative Writing Department's speaker series, entitled "Literary Exchange." She will also be offering a writing workshop next February at the Brandon Public Library.

**Michael Trussler** published 3 poems in journals ("Three Young Men, Each Holding a Lobster." *The Fiddlehead*. 271 [Spring 2017]: 93-95. & "The Sky is Underlit with Concrete," "When You Sat for Dix." *The Antigone Review*. 189 [Spring 2017] 102-04.) He also published a scholarly article on zombies and the short fiction of George Saunders ("Everyday Zombies: Ethics and the Contemporary in 'Sea Oak' and 'Brad Carrigan, American.'" Ed. Philip Coleman & Steve Gronert Ellerhoff. *George Saunders: Critical Essays* (Palgrave).

**Lynn Wells** has completed her six-year term as Vice-President Academic at First Nations University, and is now busy with a mix of teaching, research and project work. In May 2017, she presented a paper at the ACCUTE titled, "All Eyes on London", focusing on the role of surveillance in Ian McEwan's novels *Saturday* and *Sweet Tooth*. While she was at Congress, Lynn was invited to participate in an ESC-sponsored panel discussion on transition in the university sector. Lynn has been contracted to write a chapter focusing on moral dilemmas for the new *Cambridge Companion on Ian McEwan*. She has also been asked to serve as external examiner for a doctoral thesis on McEwan through the University of Western Australia.

**Ken Wilson** defended his MFA in Theatre in April 2017 and received the degree at fall convocation. His projects consisted of a play, a lecture-performance, a performative walk, and a critical engagement paper, and he was nominated for the President's Distinguished Graduate Student Award. Video documentation of his lecture-performance, *Surrender No. 40*, can be seen on YouTube.

## RETIRED FACULTY NEWS

**Nils Clausson** updated his annotated bibliography of Benjamin Disraeli, published by Oxford University Press as part of its online Oxford Bibliographies series ([www.oxfordbibliographies.com](http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com)). He also published two short articles on Disraeli: "Dramatic and Theatric Allusions in Disraeli's *Grey Vivian*" in *ANQ: American Notes and Queries* 29.4 (2016), pp. 30-36; and "Pedigree and Politics, or The Two Marneys in Disraeli's *Sybil*" in *Notes & Queries* 63.2 (2016), pp. 248-50. Nils has been researching his family tree and has discovered that his great-great maternal grandfather, Joseph Fawcett, was almost fatally stabbed in a pub brawl in the village of Reeth in North Yorkshire in 1858. Twelve months later, Nils' great-grandfather, Joseph James, was born; he and his wife Annie immigrated to Canada in 1888. Nils would like to thank, belatedly, the attending surgeon, without whose miraculous intervention, this *Inklings* entry would not have been written. (His great-grandfather was a teenager during Disraeli's second premiership, though Nils has, alas, found no evidence the two ever met.)

## NEWS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

### Michael Trussler, Graduate Chair

**Allie Fenson**, Second-year M.A. candidate, travelled to DePaul University in Chicago for a Pop Culture colloquium in May, joining her colleagues Kate Hughes, Kaleigh Johnson, and Tea Gerbeza on "Dumbledore's Panel."

**Tea Gerbeza**, who joined the M.A. in Creative Writing & English in Fall 2017, has published her poem "Scoliosis" in *\*Poetry Is Dead\** 15 (2017): 37.

**Kate Hughes** joined her colleagues Tea Gerbeza, Allie Fenson, and Kaleigh Johnson at the DePaul Pop Culture Colloquium, coming up this May.

**Kaleigh Johnson** joined her colleagues Tea Gerbeza, Allie Fenson, and Kate Hughes at the DePaul Pop Culture colloquium this May.

**Nathan Mader** successfully defended his thesis *The Saturn and Sphinx Moths of the Upper Midwest*, a collection of poetry, on December 14, 2017. His examiner was the celebrated A.F. Moritz from the University of Toronto, Victoria College. The author of more than twenty books, Moritz was delighted with Mader's work, calling it "a joy to encounter and a real stimulation." The defense went on slightly longer than usual—for about three hours—because of the genial and sophisticated back and forth of the conversation between Mader and Moritz, along with the committee of Medrie Purdham (supervisor) and committee members Jes Battis and Michael Trussler. Moritz wanted to award the thesis and splendid defense a "high distinction," saying that he can easily see the thesis being turned into a book representing "some of the best work of our younger poets." An interview with Nathan is part of the Vallum: Contemporary Poetry review of the year in poetry. In this, Mader particularly commends Gregory A Scofield, whose reading from *Witness, I Am* formed an important part of last fall's Literary Eclectic XI: Many Voices, and alumna Courtney Bates-Hardy, whose debut collection, *House of Mystery*, was featured at a Department reading this past fall as well.

**Kathryn Nogue**, completed her coursework M.A. this summer and gave a paper entitled "The Voyage of the Beagle and the Construction of English National Character" at the University of Ottawa's Tenth Annual Graduate Student Conference, "In The Spirit of Nationalism: Reconsidering the Intersections of Nation and Literature." Kathryn was complimented by the conference organizer and by the keynote speaker on her handling of the Q & A, which she attributes to the Department's emphasis on student seminar and conference experiences.

**Harrison Otis** competed in the Regina finals of the 3-Minute-Thesis Contest. He is currently working on a thesis on Evelyn Waugh and Irish Murdoch under the supervision of Professor DeCoste.

## ENGLISH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The English Students' Association began the 2017-18 school year with its first ever—and wildly successful—Jane Austen Regency Ball on September 23. Under the able leadership of President Tanisha Khan and Treasurer Allie Fenson, and the strenuous efforts of the entire association, the ball raised over \$3,000 for this semester's Trash Talkin' conference.

On January 19-20, Secretary Harrison Otis organized the first annual winter retreat for the department's graduate and honours students. About fifteen faculty, students, and friends of the department converged on the beautiful facilities of Arlington Beach Camp (Cymric) for a convivial weekend of excellent company, delicious food (graciously catered by Dr. Susan Johnston), and vigorous discussion of Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*. The most common complaint was that the event wasn't one day longer.

The annual Trash Talkin' Pop Culture Conference will take place March 9-10, and we expect a full lineup of both academic and creative student presentations. Our keynote speaker is acclaimed novelist and playwright Drew Hayden Taylor: his address will be in RIC at 5:30pm on March 9. Gail Bowen and Lorri Neilsen Glenn will both be doing readings during the conference (Friday and Saturday, respectively).

Creative Writing Representatives Hannah Senicar and Kaleigh Johnson have already finished reviewing submissions to the ESA's literary journal, *[space]*. This year, for the first time ever, *[space]* will have its own launch event independent of the Trash Talkin' conference: look for blast-off in late March.

In addition, the ESA looks forward to hosting an interactive poetry event in the coming months. Vice-President Tea Gerbeza, Grad Representative Jocelyne Paulhus, Social Representatives Sara Birrell and Idella Maeland, and Members-at-Large Garrett Bates and Danielle Kuhn are currently masterminding this exciting event.



## ALUMNI/ALUMNAE NEWS

**Shane Arbuthnott** (B.A.; M.A.) launched his debut novel in Guelph, Ontario, on March 5, 2017. *Dominion* (Orca Books) is due out Feb. 21. From the publisher: "Molly grew up hearing the tales of Haviland Stout, her ancestor who discovered the dangerous magical spirits that inhabit the far corners of the world. Now, on the edge of the New World, in the British Dominion of Terra Nova, Molly and her family collect spirits aboard their airship, the Legerdemain. But when Molly captures a spirit that can speak and claims to have been Haviland's friend, her entire life is upended. What if everything she knows about the spirits, and her own history, is a lie? In her hunt for the truth, Molly will have to challenge the most powerful company in Terra Nova and find the courage to reshape her world."

**Debby Adair** won third place in the 2017 John V. Hicks Long Manuscript Award for Nonfiction. Debby's memoir manuscript, *Little Wonders*, was produced as the thesis for her M.A. in Creative Writing and English (co-supervised by Medrie Purdham and Troni Grande, with committee member Sheri Benning, and External Examiner Dr. Barbara Langhorst). Debby's thesis passed with no revisions. She is the first person at the U of R to write a creative thesis in nonfiction. *Little Wonders* is a memoir of Debby's family, single parenting, and the wisdom she gleans from reflecting on the lives of her mother and grandmother. She examines the past in order to mine the significance of several remembered fragments. In this exploration of negotiating the loss of her divorce and of subsequent rebuilding, she learns just how profoundly creative expression can be both a response to and an outlet from the stresses in our lives. Here are the comments from the judges for the award:

"This manuscript brims with honesty and candour. I felt the writer's time of questioning, revisiting, reassessing and of admitting mistakes, evocative and revealing—that she'd grown up believing 'marriage was a place or a state one had achieved, and that was a good thing, because it meant one



had tried to do what was expected,' as an example. I was taken by the way the author takes simple events and gives them purpose and value by showing us the way she explained them to her children. And I never got lost. Even though the writer sometimes goes far-afield in her exploration, I never lost touch with the thread that pulled me back to her overarching story."

-Ted Barris

"The author finds herself a single mother and begins to question what went on in her marriage, what went on in her parents' and grandparents' marriages, and how we manage loss and grief in families over time. Taking as her starting point Wordsworth's 'spots of time'—those seemingly insignificant scenes from our pasts that mysteriously linger in our memories—she looks beyond their surfaces to reveal their patterns. With quiet persistence and the kind of restraint that suggests a rare combination of deep feeling and genuine intelligence, the author probes her themes, modelling a way that readers might do the same. Meditative and never less than thoughtful, *Little Wonders* reminds us that memory can be a gift to understanding. "

-Susan Olding

Lastly, she had one poem, "I'd Like to Tell My Great-Grandmother that She Was Right" published in *The Antigonish Review* in 2016.

**Dr. Benjamin Barootes** (B.A. Hons) gave the first lecture in the 2017-2018 Campion Idle Talk Lecture Series, "'in the ston a newe nam writen': Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus in Late-Medieval England." When is a name more than a name? Can the utterance of a name settle the mind, heal wounds, and combat evil? For devout English people in the Late Middle Ages, the Holy Name of Jesus could do all this—and more. Often touted as a means of personal connexion to the Lord, the cult of the Holy Name developed in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries into a wide-ranging social phenomenon that, by the Reformation, would occupy high strata of society. This talk explored the rise of the devotion in late-medieval England, with a particular focus on the earliest known copy of the

votive mass for the Holy Name, the so-called Beauchamp missal. The lecture also explored the artistic, architectural, and literary manifestations of the Holy Name devotion, including works by the Gawain-poet and Chaucer. Dr. Barootes, a graduate of the University of Regina, is a SSHRC postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto

**Christian (B.A. Hons) and Courtney (B.A. Hons, M.A.) Bates-Hardy**, whose podcast, "Textual Relations," opened last year with episodes on Diana Wynne-Jones and Evelyn Waugh, and his take on Anne of Green Gables and its transmedia adaptations. <http://textualrelationspodcast.libsyn.com/episode-5-anne-of-green-gables>

**Chelsea Coupal** (M.A. in Creative Writing & English 2016) won the Young Buck Poetry Prize for a writer under 35 for her work, "The Full Moon Glows Like a Yard Light." Also honoured were runners-up Iryn Tushabe and Melanie Schnell. The award is sponsored by the City of Regina and administered by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild.

**Dr. Ross King** (B.A. 1983; M.A. 1986; LL.D. Honoris causa 2012) won the 2017 RBC Taylor Prize for his book *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*. The RBC Taylor prize is given to a Canadian author whose book best demonstrates superb command of the English language, elegance of style, and subtlety of thought and perception.

[http://www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca/2017/winner\\_17.asp](http://www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca/2017/winner_17.asp)

**Cassidy McFadzean** (M.A. in Creative Writing) was interviewed for *Vallum: Contemporary Poetry's 2016* review of the Year in Poetry.

**Credence McFadzean** (M.A. in Creative Writing 2016) has published his short story, "Spice," in the Featured Fiction section of *Matrix Magazine*. The story made its debut in Fall 2016 at a Department of English OMAD reading, an experience McFadzean says contributed a great deal to the final form of the story: "A good example of how department initiatives aid students with their professional pursuits outside the university!"

**Elise Moore** (B.A. Hons; M.A.), Toronto film writer, has published her latest, on Rouben Mamoulian's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, in *Bright Wall, Dark Room* 49 (July 2017).

**Devin Pacholik**, B.A. Hons, who spoke on "How to be a Famous Freelance Writer" also appeared in JNCO jeans as part of a planned feature for Vice Magazine. Read The Story of The Jeans here: [https://www.vice.com/en\\_ca/article/78dvky/i-wore-jnco-jeans-for-seven-days-to-find-myself](https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/78dvky/i-wore-jnco-jeans-for-seven-days-to-find-myself)

**Avnee Paranjape** (B.A. Hons, English, and B.Sc., Biology 2016) has published, with Dr. Britt Hall, a paper on how mercury may enter the food web. Avnee has now completed an M.A. in English at the University of Toronto, and is currently serving as a Parliamentary intern in Ottawa.

**Jennifer Lyn Squires** is a ShoulderBirds founder and board member. She is also a member at large on the Theatre Saskatchewan Board of Directors. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Theatre from the University of Regina. You may have seen her in ShoulderBirds' first production, *Women*, or their second, *Movie Moments* (for Cathedral Village Arts Festival). After *Blithe Spirit*, she's making a change and acting in Regina Little Theatre's production of *Drinking Habits* as Sister Philamena. In her spare time, if she has any, Jennifer enjoys taking in pop culture, baking, and playing board games.

**Carina Sterzer**, who convocated this fall with a B.A. in English with distinction, a concentration in creative writing, and a certificate in economics, has been awarded the University Prize in Arts. She is currently a full-time aspiring writer working on a novel series, and part time server. She recently returned from a twelve-day trip to Ireland with her boyfriend Kyle, where she got to see the birthplace of Oscar Wilde, win a literary walking tour trivia

game, and wander through Dublin like Leopold Bloom. Carina is now living in Saskatoon, overcoming her university-induced caffeine addiction.

**Andrew C. Wenaus** (B.A. Hons 2007; M.A. 2009; Ph.D. Western 2013) has published "Mechanized Bodies, Human and Heavenly: Melancholia and Thinking Extinction" in *English Studies in Canada* 42.1-2 and "'Zero, Zero, and Zero': Beckett's Endgame, Automation, and Zero-Player Games" in *Chiasma* 4. Dr. Wenaus is presently an adjunct member of the Department of English and Writing Studies at Western University.

**Matt Wincherauk**, B.A. Hons 2017, presented a paper in London, England at the Literary London Conference, whose theme this year was "Fantastic London." Matt's paper, "The Fantastical Urban Gothic: Challenging Heroism in Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*," was based on his honours project. This year Matt completed a highly successful two-year stint as Editor-in-Chief of the Carillon, the University of Regina student newspaper, and in Fall 2017 he joined the M.A. in Public Texts at Trent University in Ontario.



**Chris Bundock, Editor**

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