

Fall 2010

***Department of English***

***INKLINGS***



“Books are the best of things, well used; abused, among the worst. What is the right use? What is the one end, which all means go to effect? They are for nothing but to inspire.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

**WASCANA REVIEW 2.0 NOW ONLINE**



***Artak* by Takashi Hara**

After 41 years in print, *Wascana Review* has gone online. While the move was dictated by budget cuts, we’ve decided to make use of many of the advantages of the online format. First, we designed a page that could easily be read lounging in your desk chair. If you’re using an e-reader, you can download the review and read it anywhere, making *Wascana Review* almost as portable as it was on paper. We have also included MP3 files of authors reading their work, so you can hear the author’s voice and download the file to your iPod and listen while you work out our drive to Estevan. We are also including video files of readings here in the English Department, as well as panel discussions from the Saskatchewan Writers Guild’s “Fresh Talking” conference. You can leave a comment or email the author, thus building a literary community.

Last weekend, I attended the rich and suggestive Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Programs Conference organized by the University of Calgary and the Banff Centre. Both *Wascana Review* and the organizers are excited about publishing the proceedings in *Wascana Review*. This will include videos of Greg Hollingshead’s keynote address, of plenaries given by Aritha van Herk and Rosemary Sullivan, and of readings by authors attending the conference.

**Kathleen Wall,** Editor

**HEADNOTE**

Well, the academic year opened with its predictable blur of adrenaline, excitement, and confusion; as I enter the final year of my three-year term as head, I keep wondering if there’s an end to the learning curve, or whether (thankfully) the landscape just gets more interesting. This year, we have a marvelous group of new Teaching Assistants—some senior-level undergraduate and some graduate students in ENGL100 and 110. We also have a new faculty colleague at Campion College, Jan Purnis—specializing in early-modern literature and Shakespeare in particular—who has a remarkable breadth of skills and experiences. Enrolments have increased this fall to their highest number since the fall of 2006, and the department is standing at the brink of new initiatives in distance learning, evaluation of teaching, collaboration with other disciplines, and increased links with secondary schools. Our literary journal, *The Wascana Review*, has been brought online by Kathleen Wall. In short, there has been some talk, but even more action. That does not even skim the surface of individual members’ professional and personal accomplishments over the past months.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome warmly our new colleagues and students, and especially our support staff: Danielle Myers has now returned from parental leave, and Doreen Thompson has been appointed in a permanent clerical position. On the other side, Ken Probert retired from the University in July, and we are planning a party in his honour in early December. Cameron Louis has been appointed Associate Dean (Undergraduate) though he continues to teach courses in mediaeval literature and in linguistics. Alex MacDonald is our new Graduate Chair, elected for a three-year term. If you visit this neighbourhood, then, you’ll certainly find new folks on the block, and many who have traded spaces. It seems even more crucial, in this time of changes, retirements, and moves, to remind ourselves of the shared history and values that shaped this department and its programs. As the fitness gurus say, you need core stability before you can increase mobility: wise words indeed for our department as we embark on a new academic year, and many new initiatives.

**Dorothy Lane**, Department Head

**GRADUATE CHAIR’S REPORT**

On September 17, 2010, Kathryn Bracht of the Theatre Department presented a workshop on effective delivery of conference papers. Although only one student was able to attend, Kathryn has given permission to circulate her summary of tips for presenters to the honours and graduate students.

A workshop to provide guidance for four potential student applicants for SSHRC grants was held on October 1, 2010 in the lounge. Jeanne Shami led the session, with the collaboration of Jes Battis.

The ESA will be hosting a potluck event for graduate students, to “meet and greet” students and faculty who can attend. It is tentatively scheduled for November and details will be announced.

In August, Michele Dawson successfully defended her thesis on constructions of masculinity in *Peter Pan* and the Boy Scout movement. Congratulations to Michele’s supervisor Dr. Susan Johnston, thanks to committee members Dr. Dorothy Land and Dr. Dawn Flood, to external examiner Dr. Chris Franks from the University of Manitoba, to Dr. Ian Germani of History for chairing the defence, and to Ms. Marne Jeworski of Graduate Studies for making arrangements.

Our MA graduate Heidi Smithson, now Technical Writer in the Faculty of Engineering, asked if we could find a graduate student to mark essays. Janet Nicolson has been hired for the position.

The Honours-Graduate Committee met on October 6, 2010 to consider applications and scholarships, and will meet later in October for discussion of two thesis proposals.

**Alex MacDonald,** Graduate Chair

**LITERARY ECLECTIC V**

The University of Regina hosted Literary Eclectic V, a conference for graduate students, on September 24-25. Literary Eclectic VI will be at the University of Saskatchewan, whose Department of English is joint sponsor of the conference series.

This year, eighteen graduate students spoke on literary topics covering a broad range of periods and genres, as well as presenting creative pieces. The presenters came from the universities of Calgary, Lethbridge, Saskatchewan and Regina. Out-of-town visitors were well-accommodated by University Residence Services and well-parked by University Parking Services, with panel and plenary sessions held in the new Research and Innovation Centre.

Special guests of the conference included the opening plenary speaker, distinguished writer Neil Bissoondath. Bissoondath, who is Professor of Creative Writing at Université Laval, urged his audience to “Write What You Don’t Know.” The conference keynote plenary speaker was Saskatchewan poet Lorna Crozier. Crozier is Professor of Writing at the University of Victoria; her talk was entitled “Pepper Tree and Dragonfly.”

On Friday evening the English Students’ Association presented an evening of readings, comedy and music (and pizza) at Luther College. The conference concluded with a delicious banquet at the University Club.

Thanks to all who helped to make Literary Eclectic V a success.

**Alex MacDonald**

**2010-2011 OMAD ACADEMIC DISCUSSIONS**

Cindy MacKenzie began this year’s OMAD Discussions with a beautiful and provocative paper on Emily Dickinson titled “Essential oils are wrung”: Dickinson’s Poetics and the Shakespearean Sonnet. On November 19, 2010, Michael Trussler and Phillip Charrier will talk about their new work. Michael will introduce his chapbook, *A Homemade Life,* which combines poems and photographs, and Philip will talk about the photographs in his “North Central Portraits.”

The winter term’s discussion will begin with Jeanne Shami, Michael Trussler, and Kathleen Wall talking about untraditional kinds of research. Because we need something sparkling in dull February, Nick Ruddick will give and illustrated talk entitled “Descent Ramp: J.G. Ballard’s *Crash* and Its Adaptation for Film by David Cronenberg.” Troni Grande and Garry Sherbert will bring the season to an inspiring close by talking about their work on *Northrop Frye’s Writings on Shakespeare and the Renaissance*, published by University of Toronto Press.

**Kathleen Wall** and **Bev Montague**

OMAD co-ordinators

**NEWS OF FACULTY**

**Brenda Beckman-Long** recently received a postdoctoral fellowship from SSHRC for her research project, “Testimonial Narratives and the Witness in Contemporary Canadian Fiction.” Daniel Coleman Professor of English at McMaster University will supervise the project. She has also published “*The Stone Diaries* as an Apocryphal Journal” in the current issue of *Studies in Canadian Literature.*

**Nils Clausson** published “Pastoral Elegy into Romantic Lyric: Generic Transformation in Matthew Arnold’s ‘Thyrsis’” in *Victorian Poetry* 48.2 (Summer 2010), pp. 173-194, and “Dickens’s *Genera Mixta*: What Kind of Novel is *Hard Times*?” in *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 52.2 (Summer 2010), pp. 157-180. He contributed the entry on the *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* to *The Literary Encyclopaedia*, and reviewed *Approaches to* *Teaching the Works of Oscar Wilde* (published by the Modern Language Association of America) in *Papers on Language and Literature* 46.1 (Winter 2010), pp. 93-101. He read his poem “Someone Has to Write the Elegy” on CBC Radio as part of the 25th anniversary of the founding of AIDS Regina in October 1985. Nils is coordinating the one-act play writing competition sponsored by the Cathedral Village Arts Festival as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations in May 2011.

**Cameron Louis** took on the position of Associate Dean (Undergraduate) of the Faculty of Arts as of July 1, 2010. He has published “Documents in the National Archives Relating to the Scribe of MS. Tanner 407,” *Bodleian Library Record* 23 (2010): 98-104; and “A Canterbury Cathedral Burlesque Anglo-Saxon Deed,” *Notes and Queries* 2010; doi: 10.1093/notesj/gjq165.j

**Cindy MacKenzie** chaired a panel and presented a paper, “Essential oils are wrung”: Dickinson’s Poetic and the Shakespearean Sonnet” at the Emily Dickinson International Society Conference in Oxford, England, in August. At the OMAD lecture in September, she gave the paper again and added a presentation based on her plans for an upcoming sabbatical in January. During this period, she will continue to work on her most recent book, “Dickinson’s Letter to the World: An Epistolary Poetics.”

**Medrie Purdham** traveled to Montreal in April to deliver a paper on the implied presence of Marshall McLuhan and Northrop Frye in Margaret Atwood’s *Surfacing*. Her recent article, entitled “The Literature of Jealousy and the Face of Things: Ernest Buckler’s Proustian Artist,” is forthcoming in a critical edition of Buckler’s *The Mountain and the Valley*. She published one poem in the most recent issue of *Contemporary Verse 2*, and has three poems forthcoming in *The Fiddlehead.*

**Christian Riegel**, along with collaborators Katherine Robinson (Psychology) and Sheila Petty (Fine Arts), was awarded a $175,000 grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Leaders Opportunity Fund to create the Interactive Media, Poetics, Aesthetics, Cognition, and Technology Lab (IMPACT). The space will be equipped with advanced eye-tracking equipment and a variety of ubiquitous computing devices to support work in cognitive poetics and technology.

**Nicholas Ruddick** spent his sabbatical year in Montreal, where he began a new project on science fiction novel-to-film adaptation. He presented a paper, “’Did You Think God Had Exempted Weybridge?’: Spatiotemporal Dislocation in Film Adaptations of *The War of the Worlds*,” at the “H.G. Wells: From Kent to Cosmopolis” Conference at the University of Kent, Canterbury, England, July 2010. He is currently completing three chapters on adaptations for different critical anthologies: his subjects include David Cronenberg’s adaptation of J.G. Ballard’s controversial novel *Crash*, “faithful” film and television adaptations of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*; and two film adaptations of Eugene Burdick’s and Harvey Wheeler’s Cold War novel *Fail-Safe*. He served as external examiner on a PhD thesis, “Cradles in Space: The Changeling in Folk Narrative and Modern Science Fiction,” by Adam Lawrence at Memorial University of Newfoundland, defended successfully in February 2010. Nick accepted an invitation to serve as an advisory board member on the *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies*, based in Debrecen, Hungary. Material from his keynote address at the 2009 Emily Dickinson International Society Annual Meeting in Regina was published as “Reflection: ‘We Perish—tho’ We reign—‘ in *Emily Dickinson International Society Bulletin* 21.2 (November/December 2009): 32. His review of a new edition of *The Centenarian*: or, *The Two Beringhelds* (1822) by Honoré de Balzac (writing as “Horace de Saint-Aubin”) was published in *Science Fiction Studies* 36.2 (July 2009): 350-52.

**Jeanne Shami** helped to organize the 25th Anniversary conference of the John Donne Society in February of 2010 (Baton Rouge, LA). Two of her former students and U of R alumnae (Elise Moore and Anne James) delivered papers at this conference, while Jeanne presided over the anti-conference festivities. Later that semester (April 15), she delivered a keynote address on “Donne Sermon Manuscripts” to the editors of the forthcoming *Oxford Edition of the Sermons of John Donne* at a symposium held at Kingston University, London, UK. In May, she was informed that her SSHRC Standard Research Grant proposal focused on several editorial projects, but particularly on a project entitled “Women and Sermons in Early Modern England, 1517-1688,” had been successful and that her application had been ranked number 1 of 118 across the country. The grant is worth approximately $54,000 over three years. She has also been invited to serve on the national adjudication committee for SSRHC in the 2011 competition.

**Michael Trussler** was interviewed in *Contemporary Verse* 2, Vol.32.3 (Winter 2010): 32-41. Along with the interview, *CV2* printed “Salva Nos,” “Lisboa/06,” “This is the Second Time Today,” “Self-Portrait”: 42-9. He also published some Polaroid texts (“A

Field Guide to Blue,” “These Streets Falling Away Resemble Women, I Thought,” and “Nothing Remembers the Continuous”) in *The Incongruous Quarterly* 1 (Summer 2010): (no pagination;

Internet publication). He gave a reading from *A Homemade Life* on June 12, 2010 in Saskatoon. Participating in the 11th International Conference on the Short Story in English (York University, June 16-18, 2010), he gave two papers—“Melancholy and ‘Metaphysical Solitude’ in Alice Munro’s ‘Passion’” (Plenary Session) and “On Taxidermy and Literary Assemblage: Alice Munro’s ‘Vandals,’” plus a reading of his own work “But Then the Uncanny Put Its Hand on My Knee.”

**Kathleen Wall** launched her first novel, *Blue Duets*, this September. A novel in three voices, *Blue Duets* probes the lives of its middle-aged characters: Lila, a pianist whose mother is dying of cancer; her husband Rob, a history professor accused of harassment by his department head; and Kevin, a gay violinist who is also Lila’s musical partner. In this novel, life at middle age is a time for questioning, not for settling comfortably into one’s compromises with life. Lila decides she cannot afford to passively follow a score someone else has written, but must listen intently to the dissonances of her marriage and learn to improvise both life and music; in turn, Rob and Kevin find that their own reassessments of their lives are on the horizon. *Blue Duets* (published by Brindle & Glass) has been shortlisted in the fiction category for a Saskatchewan Book Award. You can follow her thoughts on creativity and daily life through her blog at <http://blueduets.blogspot.com/2010/10/>.

**U of R HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

From May 23 to 30, the University of Regina hosted the 34th Annual International Association for Philosophy and Literature Conference. This was only the third time that this major international conference had been held in Canada. The conference theme was “Cultures of Differences: National / Indigenous / Historical.” Keynote speakers included deconstructive theorist Bernard Stiegler and architect Alberto Perez-Gomez. There were special talks on Metis literature and Saskatchewan art, and a screening of the film *River* by U of R filmmaker, Mark Wihak. Several English Department members, including Jo-Ann Episkenew, Jesse Archibald-Barber and Garry Sherbert gave papers. A book with essays from the conference is being co-edited by Garry and conference organizer.

**Lynn Wells**

News to be included in the next issue of *Inklings* is due **March 15, 2011.**

**PLEASE FORWARD YOUR NEWS TO:**

Nils Clausson, Editor

[Nils.Clausson@uregina.ca](mailto:Nils.Clausson@uregina.ca)

***INKLINGS***

Department of English

University of Regina

Regina, SK S4S 0A2

