

Department of English



INKLINGS

When civilization is dust and ashes, art is all that's left over. Images, words, music. Imaginative structures. Meaning--human meaning, that is--is defined by them. You have to admit that

-Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake*

AN INTERVIEW WITH TRACY HAMON

By Dr. Michael Trussler



Tracy Hamon is the first person to be awarded a Masters Degree in Creative Writing (2009). Her MA thesis, a poetry manuscript focusing on the painter Egon Schiele, has been accepted by Thistledown Press for publication. Tracy is a widely respected poet in Saskatchewan. Her first book of poetry *This Is Not Eden* (2005) was a finalist for two Saskatchewan Book Awards. Portions of her latest book *Interruptions in Glass* won the 2005 City of Regina Writing Award, and was shortlisted for two book awards in the 2010 SBA. Most recently she was longlisted for the CBC Poetry Award.

Michael Trussler: Congratulations on getting *Red Curls* accepted for publication. Can you describe the book and say something of its background?

Tracy Hamon: Thanks! *Red Curls* explores the historical figures of Austrian expressionist painter Egon Schiele and his mistress Valerie Neuzil. The various poetic forms in the manuscript—lyric, narrative, prose poem—let the reader visualize the art and lives of Schiele and Neuzil. Three voices appear as dramatic monologues featuring Schiele, Neuzil and a voice that speaks from the present. The poems are ekphrastic and historical explorations about the lives of Schiele and Neuzil.

My first poetic encounter with Schiele resulted from a postcard sent by a friend. After I received the engaging card, I did some internet research and began thinking about his art work. I didn't consciously decide to write a book of poems; however, when I decided to apply for the MA with Creative Option, I thought the Schiele poems would be a good project. Many of the earliest poems in the manuscript were ekphrastic, exploring what I was looking at in the paintings (or what I thought I saw). After writing about a dozen poems, I realized that I needed to do more historical research on Schiele and his environment to be able to write more accurately about the era and the place.

While waiting to hear if I'd been accepted into graduate studies, I applied for a Saskatchewan Arts Board grant to help me travel to Austria and the Czech Republic. Luckily, I received the grant and was able to journey to Vienna and Cesky Krumlov. Once there, I scoured the country side, taking in all of the landscapes and stalking the halls of museums and galleries. Surprisingly, much of Cesky Krumlov's scenery and buildings had remained the same since Schiele's time, and I was easily able to spot some of his landscape locations. I filled notebooks with snippets of information, snapped lots of photos of buildings, train stations, museums and pictures, and other surroundings. I kept as many details and records of my trip as I could in order to use the information for my poetry, and consequently for my creative thesis. Although the manuscript dealt with real people in imagined scenarios, the research was important in maintaining historical accuracy.

MT: What makes you compelled to write about Egon Schiele?

TH: I was compelled to write about Schiele for a variety of reasons—the first was the inspiring postcard sent in the mail (*Boy in the Red Robe*), but also because after learning who he was and reading about his life, I was intrigued by his relationship with his model Valerie Neuzil. I began to wonder about their relationship, why she was so loyal to Schiele and why she stayed with him. I imagined that there was a depth to their partnership; I began to think that Neuzil must have loved Schiele. I guess that's a romantic way to look at the pair, but I believe they had a very intense bond, one that was hard for them to end. She was more than just a model; she was his muse, his lover, his friend, his companion as well as his housekeeper and his cook.

Another captivating aspect for me was Schiele's 24-day imprisonment and the lasting impact it had on his career and his personal life. Of course, much of his reaction can only be speculated upon, and this is what makes writing so much fun. In my poetry, I was able to explore how the prison term may have influenced Schiele, but also how it changed his relationship with Neuzil.

Lastly, I spent many hours writing poems to try to figure out the "why" in the poems, trying to answer this in the manuscript. In my last revision of the manuscript after the defence, I realized that writing about Schiele and Neuzil as artist and muse was as much about writing about me as an artist and my relationship to my muse.

MT: *What do you think he would make of your book?*

TH: That's an interesting question. Schiele was rumoured to have a large ego, so perhaps he would enjoy the extra attention. I would like to think that because Schiele lived the life of the artist, he would understand my poetry. I hope he would like the poems, but perhaps that's just my ego.

As much as I've researched facts and historical situations within the poems, I also made things up. For the most part, most of Valerie's character is fictionalized, as there was little information about her other than what is known about her time spent with Schiele. I believe he would realize that I'm only creating art from art. I think he would like that.

MT: *Can you offer any advice for young writers who are studying creative writing?*

TH: Not sure I can offer any practical advice as I feel I'm still learning the craft myself. I always try to keep reading other writers and I try to listen to what other writers have to say about their own craft. I try to keep writing whenever I can and to give my work plenty of time to breathe before editing. The more I write, the more I realize there's always something to learn about the craft of writing.

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

The Department of English's Creative Writing M.A is a recently implemented program that has received a growing number of applications. It is a non-terminal degree (meaning that a student with this degree can proceed to a Ph.D.), and it supports a wonderful culture of student writing within the English department.

The department's creative writing faculty currently includes Kathleen Wall, Gerry Hill, Michael Trussler, Medrie Purdham and Jes Battis: novelists, short story writers, poets, anthologists and editors. Between them, faculty members have been recognized with a number of important awards, including high honours in the CBC's prestigious annual literary competition, multiple nominations and honours at the Saskatchewan Book Awards, a nomination for a Best Canadian Science Fiction award, a host of journal awards.

The English department is proud of its record of securing major Canadian writers to act as external examiners for the creative M.A. theses that have been completed to date. Our three graduates, Tracy Hamon, Kelly-Anne Riess and Cassidy McFadzean, have been examined by Anne Simpson, Dennis Cooley and Carmine Starnino respectively. The aim of the creative writing M.A. is to allow the student to produce a manuscript of publishable length—as Tracy did with the M.A. project leading to *Red Curls*—and the department considers the rigorous external adjudication of this manuscript to be an important step in its journey towards publication. Tracy Hamon and Kelly-Anne Riess have integrated their academic work into successful poetry careers, and Cassidy, with a growing number of journal publications, a chapbook, and a book-length thesis at the ready, is certainly poised to do the same.

THE VALUE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

-Dr. Kathleen Wall

Dr. Ken Coates, a Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, spoke in a forum on the value of the liberal arts on January 10. While he admits that the liberal arts are not highly valued by a generation that focuses on jobs, he also believes that there is much we can do to change this situation.

As the moderator, I began the session by observing that we are at a difficult historical moment. Government and institutions around the world—from the European Union to the University of Saskatchewan—have recognized that we cannot continue to borrow against our future and operate with heavy debt loads. In such moments, when resources become scarce, the conversation about what we value, what is of crucial importance to us becomes quite passionate. That conversation is made more complicated by the social media, which allows us to hear a wonderful yet baffling variety of voices.

In light of this historical context, let me drop two facts. On the one hand, between 1990 and the present, the number of liberal arts colleges in the United States has decreased 39%. This was likened, in *The Globe and Mail* to a loss of biodiversity: we have fewer ways of framing the questions, much less searching out the answers to the issues that face us.

On the other hand, in the Collegiate Learning Assessment, according to Michael Berubé, the current president of the Modern Language Association, students showed improvement in critical thinking, complex reasoning, and writing skills over their first two years of university if they were required to read at least 40 pages a week and write at least 20 pages in a semester. It would surprise most of us to learn that, liberal arts majors scored significantly better than other students. (I'll leave it to you to guess which students' skills hadn't budged at all.)

On the third hand—which makes me a Martian, but that's something you've long suspected—Nobel Prize-winning psychologist Daniel Kahnemann talks about the fact that we simplify a very complex world in order to cope with it, coming to quick conclusions or drawing rapid assumptions, often based on little evidence. On a day-to-day basis, this system works well for us. But this approach does not serve our own best interests when we are attempting to find solutions to complex problems. This is one of the virtues of a liberal arts education and of Faculties of Arts, Science, and Fine Arts: together we can, by listening and learning from one another, find reasonable solutions to the challenges we face at a difficult historical moment.

At the end of his presentation (which you can find online), I described Coates's presentation as a very scary pep talk. He was very eloquent about the various ways the liberal arts are crucial for a healthy culture. One of the most meaningful moments came when Dr. Coates asked us to take part in a thought experiment. "Take a piece of paper and write down the ten things that worry you at night before you go to bed. Turn it over and write down the ten things that give you joy or pleasure. Now cross anything off either list that isn't illuminated or created by the liberal arts." And of course, there's that "aha" moment, for most of us when we realize that there isn't anything on those lists that we are inclined to cross off.

He's clear about the challenges we face. "Arts" is now considered a default degree. Moreover, students go to university for different reasons than they used to. Where once we were curious about the world and perhaps sought to find ways to change it, students now get a degree to make money. He was also rather blunt about the qualities of those students, observing that they lack curiosity and discipline and that their reading and writing skills are not up to par. He even went so far as to suggest that we take in 25% more students than we should, although the top 25% of our students continues to be excellent.

He also made some provocative and useful suggestions about what we need to do. First, we need to stop being on the defensive about the "use" of the liberal arts and be more secure about the value we know inheres in our areas of discipline. Rather than trying to protect the academy, he suggests we should be willing to change the academy, particularly with interdisciplinary areas of study. We should *own* the study of contemporary media since it involves language, culture, human psychology, and the way groups interact. He suggests we need to build two bridges, one with high schools, a second with employers. He thinks we need to be honest about the fact that studying the humanities and the social sciences is *difficult*. We need to learn to speak outside the academy, and perhaps even shift the focus of our scholarship outwards. But above all, he believes we must remember, every day, in our bones, that at the current historical moment all the insight and creativity of the liberal education is crucial if we are to get through this challenging time.



ORLENE MURAD ACADEMIC DISCUSSIONS

-Bev Montague

Dr. Kathleen Wall opened the 2012/2013 OMAD series in early November with a paper entitled "'I meant *nothing* by the lighthouse': Virginia Woolf, Roger Fry, and the Aesthetics of Uncertainty." This presentation was followed later that month by Dr. Susan Johnston's talk, intended to mark the Dickens bicentenary, "'A Judgment Come upon Him': Atonement and Incarnation in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*."

The three talks given during the winter semester introduced some new voices to this series, beginning with Melanie Schnell in February. In her talk, "Giving Life to the 'Voices,'" Melanie recounted some of her experiences in South Sudan, the setting of *While the Sun is Above Us*, her first novel. The following month Jason Demers presented a paper entitled "Building a Prison-Information Complex: Writing from the Inside Out." Jeet Heer from the Department of History will be giving the last talk of the semester, "John Updike: The Writer as Cartoonist Manque," in April.

TRASH TALKING 2013

-Dr. Marcel DeCoste

March 8th and 9th saw the successful staging of the English Students Association's fifth annual *Trash Talking Conference* on New Directions in Popular Culture and Creative Writing. Having received more submissions than ever before, the conference organizers were forced to vet rather selectively and were able to craft an impressively strong programme featuring work by fifteen different student presenters in five different panels. Topics covered by interpretive papers ranged from the cinematic adaptation of Joyce's "The Dead" to the gender politics of Nintendo's *Legend of Zelda* series. In addition, the conference featured a panel devoted exclusively to student fiction and verse. This year's keynote speaker, University of Winnipeg's Dr. Candida Rifkind, delivered an illuminating survey of graphic-novel life-writing in her lecture, "Live in Little Boxes: The Unstable Subjects of Graphic Biography."

Drawn from three provinces and five different campuses, conference presenters joined other attendees at a Friday night feast of BBQ and open-mike poetry and short fiction performance hosted by Tony Roma's. Saturday night, the University Club provided the conference's traditional concluding banquet. Sessions and events were well attended throughout, and conference organizers would like to thank all those who supported the conference by attending, volunteering, vetting, chairing sessions, and the like. Special thanks, for moral and monetary support, are owed the Department of English, the Faculty of Arts, the Humanities Research Institute, and the President's Conference Fund.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

The following Undergraduate students have won scholarships:

Samantha Storey, L.G. Crossman Scholarship;

Lara Stoudt, Dorothy and Leon Goldman Award in English;

Jessica Feist and **Jamie Wallace**, the Torville Honours Scholarships. In addition,

Jessica Feist is the inaugural recipient of the Ken Mitchell Scholarship in Creative Writing.

Haley Bolen, Leslie A. Dybvig Scholarship

Sonia Stanger, Dr. Wilma Ebbit Memorial

Mitchell Wolfmueller, Sadie and Norman Ratner Prize

Nathan Mader, Orlene Murad Prize

Warmest congratulations to all of these award-winning students!

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Facing the elevator on the third floor of the Administration/Humanities building, home of the Department of English, the bulletin board, thanks to the efforts of our Faculty Assistant, Danielle Myers, now features an interesting display of photos and bios of all of our department members. From enthusiasts of Northrup Frye to J.K. Rowling, scholars of Cannibal literature to Science Fiction, lovers of horses and cats, you're likely to be surprised to learn about the work and interests of the people you thought you knew!

NEWS OF FACULTY

Jes Battis's latest novel *Bleeding Out*, the fifth in his popular OSI (Occult Special Investigations) series, was published by Ace Books (New York) in May 2012. Jes was invited to Saskatoon as our representative for the annual **U of R/ U of S Exchange**, where he presented a paper, "'Tis No Crime to be Bashful': Anxiety and the Autistic Spectrum from Margaret Cavendish to *The Big Bang Theory*" on Friday March 15.

Brenda Beckman-Long, PhD, has received a tenure-track appointment as a professor of English and Canadian literature at Briercrest Bible College and Seminary. She has taught English in the Department of English and Luther College at the University of Regina and at the Canadian Bible College.

Marcel DeCoste recently saw his essay "(AND YOU GET FAR TOO MUCH PUBLICITY ALREADY WHOEVER YOU ARE): Gossip, Celebrity, and Modernist Authorship in Evelyn Waugh's *Vile Bodies*" appear in the pages of *Papers on Language and Literature* 49.1 (Winter 2013): 3-36. He will also be presenting a paper entitled "Properly Suzerain of the Earth': Atavistic Enlightenment and the Frontiers of Un-Making in Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*" as part of the "Everything Religious Studies" lecture series on April 5th.

Gerry Hill published two books in 2012: a poetry chapbook *Streetpieces* published by Alfred Gustav Press in Vancouver, and *Hillsdale, a Map*, which is an annotated map, was published by Paper Birch Design.

Jean Hillabold, In February 2013, Lethe Press of New Jersey published *The Flight of the Black Swan: A Bawdy Novella* by "Jean Roberta" (Jean Hillabold, Instructor). This book in

fourteen chapters plus a postscript takes Emily, a child character in *A High Wind in Jamaica* by Richard Hughes (first published in 1929), to adulthood in Victorian England and a grownup adventure on the high seas with a crew of gay-male refugees from Her Majesty's Navy.

Susan Johnston has recently published "Grief poignant as joy: Dyscatastrophe and Eucatastrophe in *A Song of Fire and Ice*" in *Mythlore* 31.1/2 (2012): 133-54 as well as "Remastering the art of French cooking: Adaptation, Anamnesis and Authenticity in *Julie & Julia*" in *Journal of Adaptation in Film & Performance* 5.3 (2012): 263-82. In addition, she presented an OMAD to the Department of English on the occasion of the Dickens Bicentenary, entitled "'A judgment come upon him': Atonement and Incarnation in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*" on November 23, 2012. Her most recent work on George R.R. Martin, "'Cripples and bastards and broken things': *A Song of Ice and Fire* and the Limits of the Human," was presented at the Southwest and Texas meeting of the Popular Culture Association of America in February, 2013.

Cindy MacKenzie's chapter, "Dickinson's Letters Archive" will appear in the forthcoming *Emily Dickinson in Context* this June (Ed. Eliza Richards, Cambridge University Press, 2013). She has been invited to present a paper at the 2013 annual International Emily Dickinson conference in Washington, DC, as well as to participate along with other distinguished scholars in a panel entitled "'A Barefoot Citizen': Anglo-American Marriage Laws and the Question of Citizenship in Emily Dickinson."

Heather Meek's article, "Medical Men, Women of Letters, and Treatments for Eighteenth-Century Hysteria," has been published in *Journal of Medical Humanities* (34.1 (March 2013): 1-14). Heather has accepted a position in the Department d'études anglaise at the Université de Montréal.

Medrie Purdham published an article on Leonard Cohen in *Canadian Literature* and has an article on the life-long poems of bpNichol and Louis Dudek forthcoming in *Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents, Reviews*. A poem of hers was reprinted and anthologized in *Best Canadian Poetry 2012*, and a suite of her poems is shortly to play on CBC radio's SoundXChange.

Nicholas Ruddick published a review-article, "Unheimlich Maneuvers" [of M. Beaumont's *The Spectre of Utopia* and S.J. James's *Maps of Utopia*] in *Science Fiction Studies* 40.1 (March 2013): pp. 157-62. Nick recently gave two invited public talks: "French Science Fiction Literature," in the Beyond the Book Lecture series, at the Archer Library, 25 October 2012; and "*Fahrenheit 451*: A Facilitated Book Discussion," a Freedom to Read Week Event, at Regina Public Library, 26 February 2013. He has been invited to give a series of lectures at China Jiliang University, Hangzhou, China, this coming October.

Melanie Schnell's novel *While the Sun Is above Us* was published in April 2012 by Freehand Books (Calgary) to very positive reviews: <http://www.melanieschnell.com/#!/media/reviews>. In a recent feature article in the *Leader Post*, Melanie described her experiences in Sudan, where the novel is set: <http://www.leaderpost.com/news/words+Melanie+Schnell+capture+s+Sudanese+conflict+debut+novel/7827185/story.html>. *While the Sun Is above Us* has been nominated for four 2013 Saskatchewan Book Awards: Book of the Year, Fiction Award, First Book Award, and Regina Book Award. Since its publication, Melanie has been kept busy with readings, presentations, and leading fiction workshops. She'll be the Featured Author at the Great Big Book

Club Event in March 2013, a program put on by the Moose Jaw Festival of Words.

Michael Trussler presented "On Narrative Theory and the Short Story." Round Table discussion "What Short Story Theory and Narrative Theory Can—and Can't—Do for Each Other" with Susan Lohafer, Sue Lanser and James Phelan. *PMLA Conference*. Boston: January 6, 2013. Along with Michael Crumme, he gave a public reading at Campion College on February 12, 2013.

Kathleen Wall gave two conference papers last summer. At the Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Programs Conference at Humber College she presented "The Benefits of Heterogeneous Writing Classes," which looked at the pedagogical and philosophical benefits of having some students in our creative writing classes who are—for a whole host of reasons—not going to be creative writers. These students provide a reality check for our writers; at the same time, they take away with them a sense of the importance of creativity. That essay has now been accepted by Dr. Rishma Dunlop and Dr. Priscila Uppal, editors of one of the first Canadian books on creative writing pedagogy, to be published by McGill Queen's University press. At the Virginia Woolf conference in Saskatoon, Wall presented "Speaking Citizen to Citizen in a Time of War: Miss La Trobe's Use of Parabasis in her Historical Pageant," a paper on Woolf's final novel, *Between the Acts*, which queried the role of art during times of war. That paper has been accepted for the selected conference proceedings. Kathleen was elected Graduate chair beginning in June 2013.

RETIRED FACULTY NEWS

RICHARD HARVEY RECEIVES GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD



Richard (Rick) Harvey received the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award on October 17, 2012. After teaching in the English Department for forty years, Rick retired in 2008. During that time he often taught drama from the 100 to the 800 level, and consistently did volunteer work with Regina Little Theatre (RLT). He has been an active member and volunteer with RLT for thirty-four years, acting, directing, and designing sets—several of which won awards at provincial theatre festivals—as well as mentoring future set designers. The current RLT Board of Directors unanimously submitted his name for the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award.

Former Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, created the award in 1996 to thank the thousands of Canadian volunteers whose compassion and charitable efforts exemplify an important part of the Canadian character. Last October, the Regina ceremony for the Caring Canadian Award took place at Government House. Seventeen recipients received the award from His Excellency the Right

Honourable David Johnson Governor General of Canada and Her Honour the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

Jeanne Shami Following Jeanne's early retirement in June 2012, she accepted a two-term fellowship at All Souls College in Oxford. The Fellowship allowed her to continue work on three major academic projects – the *Donne Variorum Verse Letters* volume, the OUP *Donne Letters* project, and *Women and Sermons 1500-1700* – and to begin work on a new project, a database of sermons in manuscript. This has been, initially, a pilot project in Oxford, but will extend to libraries in the UK, North America, and Europe as a group-sourced initiative. While in Oxford, Jeanne began locating and examining early modern sermons in manuscript not only in the Bodleian Library, but in the many College libraries as well, and uncovered several treasures (important sermons collections as yet unexplored by scholars, sermon notes by a woman [Sarah Savage] hitherto undiscussed by scholars) as well as to assist archivists and librarians in dating and identifying some artefacts. Jeanne also travelled to Bangor, Wales, Birmingham, and Canterbury to deliver papers on Donne's afterlife in the 20th and 21st centuries. It was a busy and productive time, made all the more enjoyable by the fine weather and by her proximity to London where her daughter Julia Mitchell is completing a Ph.D in history at University College London.

Ken Mitchell While in Oxford, Ken did not limit himself to dinners at All Souls, despite the quality of the wine, but integrated himself into the local artistic community, particularly the world of folk clubs, open mic venues, and pubs. Ken became a regular performer at the famed Catweazle Club, bringing cowboy culture to Oxford to great acclaim at a number of venues, including the BookBinders Arms, the James Street Tavern, and the Bluebird Club. His performances were so successful that he was able to organize an entire evening – a Cowboy Chorale – drawing on local musicians and poets who wrote and performed original pieces for the event at the Isis Farmhouse, a pub on the Thames in Oxford frequented by young and old alike. Ken himself performed some of his best pieces and the evening was a huge success. From Oxford, Ken was also able to organize and run a workshop in Norwich linking performance and photography with photographer Justin Partyka, an artist who likes to photograph the flat and bleak places of the earth, and so was naturally drawn to Saskatchewan, and to its culture. Suffice it to say that both Jeanne and Ken are eager to return to Oxford to continue their work and to meet up again with new friends.

NEWS OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

-Troni Y. Grande, Graduate Chair

Jobs in English Session

On March 14, eager honours and graduate students filled the third-floor Administration-Humanities lounge for a session on Jobs in English. The senior English students were treated to a delectable lunch and panel of talks from four English Department graduates who are now gainfully employed: **Stephen King** (M.A. 1997), who earned a PhD at the University of Alberta in 2002, and currently works at the U of R as Senior Researcher to the President; **Coby Stephenson** (B.A. Honours with Creative Writing; 2009), who has recently published her book of short stories, *Violet Quesnel*, and is an enthusiastic member of the UR Guarantee Team; and finally two 2010 B.A. (Honours) graduates: **Devin Pacholik**, Associate Editor of *Fine Lifestyle Magazine*; and **Amy Hunter**, Recruitment Manager at Luther College. Besides regaling the audience with their accounts of how they found job satisfaction, the panelists gave inspiring tips for success. They also praised their English degrees for having given them so many skills to succeed, such as perseverance;

adaptability; careful reading, writing, and editing skills; strong analytical thinking and research skills; and the ability to find connections, create a strong argument, take constructive criticism, craft an impeccable cover letter, and ace an interview. Not surprisingly, then, given this impressive skill-set, the fifth member of the panel, **Susan McKay**, Career Counsellor at U of R Student Employment Services, began by pointing out how many English graduates are employed across the University. Susan stressed the importance of self-assessment and connection to one's passion, as the first step in finding meaningful and rewarding work. We plan a follow-up session with Susan for our senior English students in the near future.

M.A. student **Courtney Bates** has been hired as a research assistant with the University of Regina Press (formerly Canadian Plains Research Centre Press), mainly to assist with the preparation of *The New Wascana Anthology: Poetry, Short Fiction, and Critical Prose* (edited by Medrie Purdham and Michael Trussler). Courtney's work includes researching and securing permissions; assembling an electronic file of poetry and story texts; and proofreading. Courtney is also helping out with a few of the Press's other publications. She reports, "It's very exciting to be working with the new director, Bruce Walsh, who has previously worked for Margaret Atwood."

Colleen Biro has won the Dr. Morris Shumiatcher Graduate Scholarship in English.

Jeremy Desjarlais has been awarded the Dr. Lucy Murray Scholarship.

Christian Hardy has been awarded the Eugene Dawson Scholarship for outstanding work in modern fiction.

Sarah Vennes-Ouellet has won two scholarships: the Dorothy and Leon Goldman Award in English; and the Lloyd Person Scholarship.

NEWS OF GRADUATES

Ross King (BAHons '84, MA '86) was one of five finalists for the Charles Taylor Prize for literary non-fiction for his eighth book, *Leonardo and the Last Supper*.

Cassidy McFadzean completed her MA in Creative Writing in Fall 2012. The distinguished Canadian poet Carmine Starnino, her external examiner, noted that Cassidy's thesis was the kind of project that was "vital to the health of contemporary poetry." Cassidy published a poetry chapbook, *Farwell* (Saskatoon: Jackpine Press, November 2012), edited by **Michael Trussler**. It's illustrated by her brother, **Jonah McFadzean**, who has a BFA in Visual Arts from the U of R. Cassidy was recently awarded an emerging artist grant by the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

Coby Stephenson (BA Honours in English, 2009) published her first book, the linked collection of short stories *Violet Quesnel* (Saskatoon: Thistledown Press, October 2012).

OPINION COLUMN:

A Pair of Modest Proposals: or, Two Ways of Destroying a University in Five Easy Steps, Their Relative Merits Enumerated

by **Nicholas Ruddick**, Head, Department of English
(with apologies to Jonathan Swift)

Proposal 1

1. Round up faculty and students and order them to disperse. Shoot those who refuse.
2. Blow up power plant.
3. Burn down library.
4. Bulldoze remaining buildings.
5. Sow the site with salt.

Advantages

Task can be accomplished in 24 hours. Relatively inexpensive.

Disadvantages

Disposal of corpses. Condemnation by international community. Probable revenge attacks. Possible future indictments for war crimes/terrorism. Site unusable for 1,000 years.

Proposal 2

1. Pay executive team competitive corporate salaries to run institution on market principles.
2. Support only academic units manned by researchers funded by external grants, and mount only courses teachable to classes of 500+ by single instructor using computer-marked multiple-choice testing.
3. Launch public relations campaign suggesting that all graduating students will immediately find jobs.
4. Employ remainder of operating budget to aggressively recruit students internationally on basis of ability to pay elevated tuition fees.
5. Expend capital budget on converting classrooms to administrative support offices, and building parkades, residences, and auditoriums seating at least 500.

Advantages

No bloodshed or environmental degradation. Maximization of profits before awareness dawns that university has ceased to exist. Thereafter site is easily converted to international convention centre or luxury nursing home.

Disadvantages

None apparent.

News to be included in the next issue of *Inklings* is due October 15, 2013.

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