

# Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media

# NEWSLETTER

## A message from David Watt, Department Head

For me, the start of Fall Term is really the beginning of a new year. The campus seems to come alive again when so many folks return to join those who have been working all summer to sustain it. The sense of anticipation in the air conveys a feeling of vitality. I also recognize that not everyone feels the same way about Fall, and I know even my feelings may change soon.

When I was thinking about what text I might share with you to reflect this sensation, I couldn't resist turning to Thomas Hoccleve's "Complaint," which opens with a meditation on what happens as the season takes its course:

*After that Harvest inned had his sheaves,  
And that the brown season of Michaelmas  
Was come, and 'gan the trees rob of their leaves,  
That green had been and in lusty freshness,  
And them into colour of yellowness  
Had died and down thrown underfoot  
That change sank into my heart root. (lines 1-7)*

I don't identify with the mood this passage conveys, at least not yet. This is partly because there is still a little green on our trees and partly this speaker was moved to write "Complaint" because he felt that others, including those with whom he worked, were turning away from him in his time of need. In contrast, I am moved to write this message of gratitude because this department is full of people who are willing to work together to meet the challenges we encounter.

Darlene McWhirter and Anita King have been wonderful to work with, taking on extra responsibilities as we have worked without a dedicated Business Lead for the department. Although she is now in Arts, Drea Brake has continued to support many aspects of our department's work. Karen Schellenberg and Shane Stewart have shared with me their knowledge of – and passion for – our theatre program. Katrina Dunn and Jonah Corne have worked with me to ensure the needs of film and theatre are being met. Michelle Faubert and Erin Keating have embraced their new roles, offering strong leadership to our students and a great deal of help to me.

Brenda Austin-Smith, Luke Tromly, and Alison Calder have not only provided exceptional service to the department in their roles but also worked closely with Erin, Michelle, and me to make a smooth transition. I look forward to working with Alison when she returns from leave, and I thank Brenda and Luke for the leadership they have provided for all of us over many years and for the support they have offered me over this past summer. Serenity Joo, Michael Minor, and Jeremy Strong have agreed to teach more than they initially expected to this term to ensure we could offer our courses with as little disruption as possible. Many of you have either agreed to mentor a Grader / Marker or Teaching Assistant or to become one, and I am grateful for the patience you have shown as we have worked through the process this year. Although I recognize that a list cannot do justice to the contributions that so many of you have made to the department, I nonetheless think that the list was the more appropriate medieval genre for me to adopt here than the complaint.

Having said that, Hoccleve's "Complaint" is productive because it leads to a conversation with a friend who knocks on the speaker's door. This "Dialogue" between friends focuses mainly on questions pertaining to reading and writing, and it sustains the speaker through the coming months as he makes a book. I have certainly found that friendly conversations – especially, but not only about reading and writing – have sustained me through many winters here. They have also helped me to respond to the kind of change that might sink into my heart after the harvest when the leaves turn yellow and fall from the trees. And, as Hoccleve also reminds us, two of the best ways to start a vital conversation are through the sharing of writing or a knock on the door just to check in. I hope we all have the opportunity to turn towards rather than away from dialogue as this new academic year begins.



## Associate Head's message - Michelle Faubert

Welcome to a new school year, everyone! I'm excited to fill in for Alison Calder as Associate Head of ETFM this term. I took over on the first of July and immediately gained a whole new respect for Alison and the others, such as Luke, Erin K., and David W., who have filled this position before. What a learning curve! But I'm really pleased to gain new insight into the running of the Department and our program. As for classes, it's so nice to see students' faces again, if a little nerve wracking with COVID still going around. I hope all of you are well and will continue to be so. Have a great term!

## Graduate Chair's message - Erin Keating

Three months into my first tenure as ETFM Graduate Chair, I am blown away by the dedication and generosity of many of our graduate students and their supervisors. As we begin the new term everything seems uncannily normal, with everyone perhaps a bit too eager to pretend that we are past the turmoil (both psychic and physical) of the lockdown and its aftermath. I believe it is more important than ever to have a year filled with connection and support. To that end, I've been holding one-on-one meetings with our graduate students to learn what their needs and desires are as they move through our department. As I write this, I am thinking through the pairings for our new peer mentoring pilot program, which will connect students who would like some first-hand advice for negotiating the stage that they are currently at in their graduate journey with students who have recently been there. I want to extend my thanks to all those who volunteered to be mentors and, in particular, to our pAGES president, Amy-Leigh Gray, who has been doing this type of mentoring informally for the past few years and whose advice was invaluable in my planning for this coming year.

Our September department gatherings (graduate student orientation, ETFM welcome reception, and TA/GM orientation) have all introduced new members into our department and provided a space to catch up with each other. I hope that we take this fall energy and desire for community further into the term—into our classes, into the upcoming professionalization workshops on research proposals and note taking for research, and into our Graduate Committee meetings where we will be starting the process of thinking through our program—what's working and what's not—in the lead-up to our program review in Winter 2025. None of this can happen without a genuine care for the life of our department, a willingness to participate, and the generosity of those who step up to facilitate these events. Many thanks go out to Lisa Dorcich, who brought her years of experience to the TA/GM orientation, to Anita King, whose patience with all of us (though particularly with a new grad chair) and knowledge of the ever changing procedures of graduate study at U of M is invaluable, and to David Watt, whose vision for the department and seemingly limitless energy in supporting all of our department members (students and faculty) will continue to be an inspiration in the year ahead.

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## NEWS from faculty, staff, students

**David Watt's** *Laughter and Awkwardness in Late Medieval England: Social Discomfort in the Literature of the Middle Ages* (Bloomsbury) is now available. Order now and you may have your copy before he does!

He also presented papers at the International Congress of the John Gower Society (University of St Andrew's) and attended the Early Book Society Biennial Conference (University of Limerick) this past summer.

"If I am occasionally over-dressed, I make up for it by being always immensely over-educated."  
(Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*)



David Watt in Ireland with a statue of Oscar Wilde

**Michelle Faubert** hosted two NASSR panels at ACCUTE in Toronto in May, wrote a review for *Slavery & Abolition*, worked on finalizing the submission of her manuscript for Edinburgh University Press, and visited London for research in July, thanks to the great help of **Emma Winram**, who was funded by an Undergraduate Research Award. From London, Michelle took a side-trip to beautiful Dubrovnik, Croatia (photo below) to celebrate her birthday. She also took over in July as Associate Head from Alison Calder while she is on leave.



Photo: Michelle Faubert in Dubrovnik, Croatia



**Erin Keating** and **Jessie Krahn**'s article on Cancel Culture and its links to the past was recently published in the April 24, 2023 edition of [The Conversation Canada](#).

**Karen Schellenberg** took some vacation time to work on professional theatre projects: production manager for Dry Cold's production of *The Prom*, dresser for Rainbow Stage's *Rent*, and venue tech for the Kids' Venue at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival.

**Lakshmisree Shaji Marar** visited Banff in the summer and spent her time with friends. Be sure to see the stunning photo of Lake Louise on the last page of this newsletter that has since been her wallpaper.

In the first week of school, she and Dr Jamie Paris presented "Overcoming White Fragility in first- and second-year English classes" at the TLEF Fall Conference 2023. She is excited to work as the Teaching Assistant for Dr Keating's Celebrity, Fan Culture and the Parasocial class and to work on her thesis. Her thesis looks at the racial and gender aspects of affective fan responses to North American popular fiction that feature South Asian women protagonists.



Photo: Jamie Paris and Lakshmisree Shaji Marar, TLEF

**Shelby Steele** attended the British Association for Victorian Studies 2023 (BAVS 2023) conference at the University of Surrey in Guildford, England in August. She presented her paper, "The 'Personal Museum': Letters as Relic Collection in Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*." She spent some time exploring London and Oxford, and she also visited the Jane Austen House Museum and Austen's grave at Winchester Cathedral!

**Hanako Teranishi** had the pleasure of working with Dr Mark Libin over the summer on their project focusing on the representations of Japanese Canadian and American labour during Internment in literature which was funded by the Undergraduate Research Award. During this project they built up their own archive of Japanese North American history and literature; they continued their work on a paper analysing the representation of Japanese Americans in Truman Capote's novel *In Cold Blood*, and novella *Breakfast at Tiffany's*; and explored creative writing as a medium to discuss what it means to be a queer mixed-race Japanese Canadian living on the prairies as well as discuss the effects of intergenerational trauma and looking towards intergenerational healing. This summer they also traveled to Vancouver to volunteer at the 47th annual Powell Street Festival. This trip was the catalyst for a larger research/creative project that seeks to explore places of supposed-belonging/unbelonging/(re)belonging that they will continue working on throughout the new school year. Their first creative non-fiction has been accepted for online publication in *Japanese for Nikkei*.



**Sakshi Tyagi** presented her work on *Speculating Bodies: A Critical Study of Bodies in Larissa Lai's Salt Fish Girl* at the Current Research in Speculative Fiction Conference organized by the University of Liverpool. Here are some pictures of her museum-hopping in the UK.





**Erin Weinberg** spent the summer traveling, reading, and resting up for the coming school year. A particular highlight was her trip to Amsterdam, where she cast her eyes upon the Rijksmuseum's magnificent Cuypers Library, the largest and oldest art history library in the Netherlands.



## Theatre News

The Winnipeg Fringe Festival featured many of our past and present theatre students:

World's Fair 1876: The Centennial Exposition won the Harry S. Rintoul Award for Best New Play - Monique Gauthier, Connor Joseph, Cuinn Joseph, Benjamin Krawchuk

A Work in Progress (Honorable Mention, Harry S. Rintoul Award for Best New Play) - Betty Asseiro, Kate Berg, Jen Gieg, Alison Holliday, Madyson Richard, Ethan Stark (Ethan wrote this play in our Playwriting course)

How to Live Forever (short-listed for the Harry S. Rintoul Award for Best New Play)- Daphne Finlayson, Madison Richard, Ryland Thiessen

Lessons They Won't Let Us Teach In School - Monique Gauthier, Cuinn Joseph

1 Stand Up Comedy Show, Please - Tim Grey

The Last Five Years - Anaka Sandu

Neechies - Nathan Kimball, Hoang Quyen

The Ultimate Actors Nightmare (Club Soda Improv) - Luke Cecelon, Monique Gauthier, Cuinn Joseph, Kevin Ramberran, Thomas Toles, Kerri Woloszyn

Murder in the 4th Degree - Kirstin Caguioa, Andreas Detillieux, Sam Fergus, Sam Hodge, Alison Holliday, Sadie Kornovski, Ryan Osodo, Mari Padeanu, Elena Rempel

Grease, Too! - Chance Sabados

How I Met My First Neurodiverse Friend - Fiona Stryjack Smith

Countdown to Babylon - Catarina Schultz

Ma-Buhay - Joseph Aragon, Keanna Caguioa, Nadine Maranan, Carson Natrass, Lauren Peters

Staffroom - Leith Clark

Little Shop of Horrors - Eva Maia Miranda, Rich Smith

Matt & Ben - Dan Grant

Obsession: The Elizabeth Smart Musical - Jonalyn Basconcillo, Rich Smith

Nadine Maranan performed on the outdoor stage as part of the Big Broadway Singalong

Ray Strachan and Tim Webster hosted the outdoor stage

Carly Gallant had a table in the market for her clothing

Fringe Staff: Patrick Bellemare, Eric Bosse, Bee Dasuki, Meaghan Fletcher, Delton Kreller, Chuck McEwan, Jordon Moreau, Karen Schellenberg.

Cuinn & Connor Joseph created a pop punk musical, *Breaking Up with Me* that shed light on real-life struggles of mental illness. Performances were at Winnipeg's Gargoyle Theatre in June.

### Upcoming Theatre Program performances in the Conklin Theatre

November 29-December 2, 2023 Full Production

**Rhinoceros** by Eugène Ionesco. Translated by Martin Crimp. Directed by Professor Bill Kerr.

Ionesco watched those around him become Nazis, so he wrote this play in which Berenger watches everyone he knows transform into Rhinoceroses. Since the seductive allure of brutish unreason has made a resurgence in many places it seems very appropriate to revisit this work and its all too real Absurdity.

March 17-31, 2024 Full Production

**The Comedy of Errors** by William Shakespeare. Directed by Professor Katrina Dunn.

A man arrives in a new city to find that everyone knows his name, but thinks he's someone else. Believed to be one of Shakespeare's earliest plays, this comedy about separated family and mistaken identity is unforgettably poignant and hilarious. This production sets the action in a high fashion house of mirrors where style is commodity, image is identity, and your reflection may be taking over your life.

LunchBhagg productions (one-act, student-led free noon-hour shows):

October 24 + 25 - **Spinning You Home** by Sally Stubbs

October 31 + November 1 - **Renee**, a new script by student Ryan Osodo

February 6 + 7 - tba

February 27 + 28 - tba

Everyone is welcome to attend any and all of these shows. Watch for details on our website  
<https://umanitoba.ca/arts/english-theatre-film-media>





## Messages from our student groups

pAGES welcomes all new and returning graduate students to the 2023-2024 academic year! For some, this marks a return to campus and the physical spaces of classrooms and libraries, for some it marks a return to our desks at home after a summer away. May you greet this new academic year with intention and curiosity.

I want to thank all those who gave their time last year to help with pAGES endeavours. This year, we hope to continue bringing ETFM grad students together to enliven our sense of community. I hope that we can share ideas on how we might create spaces and events to connect, collaborate, and support each other this year. If you have any questions or suggestions about how pAGES might support you as a graduate student – whether it be in your coursework, candidacy exams, thesis/dissertation work, or any other endeavours – or, as faculty, how pAGES might help navigate your relationships with graduate students, please contact us at our new email: [umpages@gmail.com](mailto:umpages@gmail.com)

-Amy-Leigh Gray, co-president, pAGES



Hello there! I'm Indiana Humniski, a 3rd year English Honours student. I am the 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative for ASBC this year! I was elected last semester after an electoral period where the students spoke for the representative they desired. In order to utilize my English background the Queer Quote Newsletter arose! This is a monthly newsletter that is made by Queer Students for Queer Students! I am the Editor-in-Chief and the sole operator of the newsletter, taking the reins on where this venture goes! This entails that I am the gatherer of submissions, sole editor, graphic designer, and distributor! There is inherent power here (Uncle Ben quote, blah blah blah). With this in mind, I made sure to focus my efforts on the accessibility and community aspects of the newsletter. As a wise woman (Dr. Erin Weinberg) once said, "focus is always preferable to scope". The first edition came out in June and QQ has now blossomed into a space where Queer students, alums, (and potentially professors...) can feature their work in a public format! Anonymous submission options make this space feel safe and accessible for all at all stages of discovering/sharing their identities. I would love if you folks would check out QQ if you feel so inclined, additionally, I would be very excited to discuss it with you! My student email is [humniskk@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:humniskk@myumanitoba.ca) - don't hesitate to reach out! <https://linktr.ee/um.asbc> I wish each of you, staff and student, a successful and (if you can) restful school year!

- Indiana Humniski

## GRADUATE AWARDS – 2023-24

SSHRC – Amy-Leigh Gray

UMGF – Shelby Steele, Hoyong Jeong, Dave Schmidt, Ariella Gunn

Arts Graduate Award – Theo Farough, Sakshi Tyagi

## DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATE AWARDS

Aaron Jenkins Perry Scholarship – Lakshmi Shaji Marar

Caroline Berbrayer Scholarship – Sakshi Tyagi

Cheryl Lamoureaux Prize – Nicole Burns

Dane Nordheim Scholarship – Dave Schmidt

DEFT Graduate Fellowship – Meghann Robern, Sakshi Tyagi, Amelia Furlinger, Lakshmi Shaji Marar

Dr. W. John Rempel Scholarship – Dave Schmidt

Dr. Vernon B. Rhodenizer Scholarship – Meghann Robern

ETFM Entrance Fellowship – Theo Farough, Eva Miranda, Amelia Furlinger

John Meredith Robinson Scholarship – Amelia Furlinger

Lyla May Guest Hugill Scholarship – Hoyong Jeong

Margaret H. Tyler Scholarship – Theo Farough

Nancy Moncrieff Scholarship – Amelia Furlinger

Weil Fellowship Scholarship – Shelby Steele

## DEPARTMENTAL UNDERGRADUATE 2023 AWARDS

Aikins Scholarship in English (1) Language &amp; Literature – Heather Bird

Aikins Scholarship in English (2) Language &amp; Literature – Aiden Paull

Aikins Scholarship in English (3) Language &amp; Literature – Hanako Teranishi

Alexander Robert Leonard Scholarship – Hanako Teranishi

Alexander, Pauline, and Sybil Shack Scholarship in English (2) – Aiden Paull

Alexander, Pauline, and Sybil Shack Scholarship in English (3) – Hanako Teranishi

Andrew Young Scholarship – Frances Lamont

Anna Matas Prize – Bren McKay

Caroline Berbrayer Memorial Award – Madeline Meilun

Chancellor's Prize – Emma Winram

Charles Birkett Rittenhouse Memorial Scholarship – Natasha Diachun

Dallas Taylor Memorial Prize – Eden Quiring

Doris Benson Scholarship in Drama – Natasha Diachun, Kirstin Caguioa

Dorothy I. Jones Memorial Honours Award – Frances Lamont

English Speaking Union of Canada Prize – Taryn Edgeworth, Katherine Gabrielson, Samantha Glesby, Saif

Goubran, Indiana Humniski, Alexis Lloyd, Maggy McGunigal, Emma Winram, Madeline Meilun, Heather Bird,

Hanako Teranishi, Kayla Babiuk, Mercy Shwaykosky

Esther Leckie Memorial Prize – Ezra Taves + Hanako Teranishi

(continued on next page)



## (continued) DEPARTMENTAL UNDERGRADUATE 2023 AWARDS

Faye Lando Memorial Prize (convocation) – Madeline Meilun  
Florence Kanee Scholarship (Theatre) – Josie Long  
Hirsch Memorial Scholarship (The) - Mercy Shwaykosky  
Ieleane Downey Prize (convocation) – Thea Wortley  
John Angus Prescott Memorial Book Prize – no award  
Kathy Windsor Memorial Scholarship – Stefanie de Leon  
Leah and Sidney Sheps Scholarship – Hoang Quyen  
M. Charles Cohen Prize – no award  
Nathan Rothstein Prize in Film Studies - Sydney Leigh Orr  
Olafur Bjornson Prize in English – Kayla Babiuk  
Peter L. Coultry Memorial Book Prize – Adam Buhler  
Robin Hoople Memorial Book Prize – Ola Matusz  
Rosa Brook Scholarship – Frances Lamont  
Roscoe R. Miller Scholarship – Hanako Teranishi  
Rose Toles Prize – Alex Braun  
Ross Robinson Award – Safron Blais  
Stephen Kanee Travel Award – Josie Long  
Victor S. Cowie Memorial Scholarship in Performing Arts – Rodrigo Cordova  
Walter E. Kroeker Memorial Prize in Samuel Johnson Studies – Dave Schmidt  
Walter E. Kroeker Memorial Scholarship in 18th Century Literature – Ola Matusz







Photo of Lake Louise by Lakshmisree Shaji Marar

