

Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media NEWSLETTER

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What Now

Jacob Griffin Hall

The roads have closed for flooding.
The rows of cars are marbled in a mist.
Watching gulls dive-bomb
the waves behind the pier, the only thing
that's left for me is gratitude.
Thank you for this.
Thank you for the landscape
that's not yet turned to dust,
the wet gusts filled with clumsy birds
and hints of sunlight,
and me, soaking wet as well,
allowed by the grace
of what flesh
to watch.



A message from Brenda Austin-Smith, Department Head

Welcome back, everyone! And for the first time since 2020, that phrase means something different. After over two years of conducting our academic lives largely online, we're back on campus. Yes, we're baaaccck. But with caveats and care, given the realities of the on-going pandemic. Meeting colleagues and students in classrooms and hallways is a joy, but no one is as unselfconscious as they once were about sharing public space with others. Our collective return is bound to be at least as ragged and fraught as was our adjustment to being remote. Patience is, and will be, key to our collective well-being.

We are all bringing many things with us back to our offices, the library, and other spaces of congregation and exchange. Some are visible, like masks, CO2 readers, and portable air purifiers. These are the new elements of back-to-school preparedness. Others take the form of expertise in a new range of online teaching tools and similar experiments. Many of us will continue to weave podcasts, polls, and other supports into our pedagogy. But it is the laughter that I heard drifting down the hallway of the 6th floor, that remains with me as a hopeful sign of what we have recovered, and what we will work together to protect in the months to come.

And there is good news to share in addition to the return to physical spaces. Our colleague, Dr. Hee-Jung Serenity Joo, has won the Faculty of Arts Outstanding Professor Award for 2022. And both Dr. Joo and Dr. Katrina Dunn earned Merit Awards in the Combined Teaching, Service and Research, Scholarly Work and Other Creative Activities category for 2021. Our colleague Dr. Jamie Paris was awarded a grant by the Arts Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund for a pilot project entitled "Embracing Discomfort: Teaching Race Beyond White and Settler Student Fragility." Two ETFM colleagues, Dr. Erin Keating and Dr. Joo, shared results from their TLEF grant-sponsored projects on "ungraded" courses in the second Faculty of Arts Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund Conference, held online this past May.

Also in May, our department held an initial online workshop on anti-racist pedagogy, facilitated by Robin Attas from CATL. Many ETFM members also attended a June workshop sponsored by the TLEF Committee which drew on the facilitation expertise of Aisha Haque, Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning at Western University. ETFM members will be invited to attend another online workshop that builds on earlier conversations about anti-racist classroom strategies, taking place on October 14. Details will follow in email.

In other news, Anca Rotar, our department Admin since mid-February 2022, left on maternity leave in early September. We are delighted to publicly welcome Drea Brake to the Admin position, and thank Drea for making this most hectic time of year as smooth and calm for us all as possible. As always, we could not succeed in the way we do each day, without the expertise and hard work of all ETFM faculty, support staff, and CUPE members, among them, Roy Campbell, who retired in August from the University of Manitoba after thirty-six years of teaching in our department. Thank you, Roy!

And thank you, especially during this stressful time of transition back to campus, to Drea Brake, Darlene McWhirter, Anita King, Karen Schellenberg and Shane Stewart, the support staff complement in ETFM who do so much for students and academic colleagues alike. We've seen each other through what we all hope is the worst of it. Let's keep going.

Associate Head's message - Alison Calder

Hi everyone, and welcome to the weird and wonderful Fall Term 2022. Here's hoping we can all adjust to the new rhythms caused by back-to-campus routines. As most people know, because our department has gotten smaller we offer fewer courses than we used to, and many of our 2000- and 3000-level classrooms are packed. This is not the case with all sections of ENGL 1200, and again we see an unequal distribution of students (and workload) across sections. Many of us teach in classrooms located in old buildings whose windows don't open and which have poor ventilation. If you have concerns about how healthy your classroom is, you can contact the UMFA office to get the air quality tested. In positive news, enrolment in Honours seminars is strong and once again we can look forward to excellent students at all levels.

Thanks to faculty who assessed submissions for ETFM awards over the summer. Also, with the return to on-campus teaching, we can anticipate fewer discipline cases associated with final exams, which gives us all a bit of a break. As always, thanks to our excellent staff, particularly Darlene McWhirter, for keeping matters on track.

Graduate Chair's message - Luke Tromly

The exciting, if scary, re-opening of university campuses means that in-person academic conferences have resumed. The skies are heavy with planes full of academics clutching presentations without conclusions (to be written during the flight out) and stacks of essays to be graded on the return flight (they won't be). Giving a paper at a conference is a significant activity for graduate students. Being taken seriously by scholars outside of one's home institution helps take one's own work seriously, and I usually come home from conferences feeling energized to get back to my project. To support graduate students interested in conferencing, Dr. Erin Weinberg will offer a Professional Skills seminar entitled "Academic Conferencing 101" on Friday, Oct. 21st at 2:00. Students are encouraged to apply to the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Graduate Studies for conference funding:

<https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/awards/3006.html> and https://universityofmanitoba.formstack.com/forms/travel_award
See you on the road!

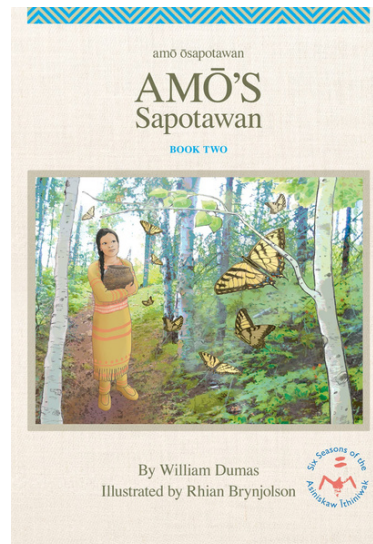
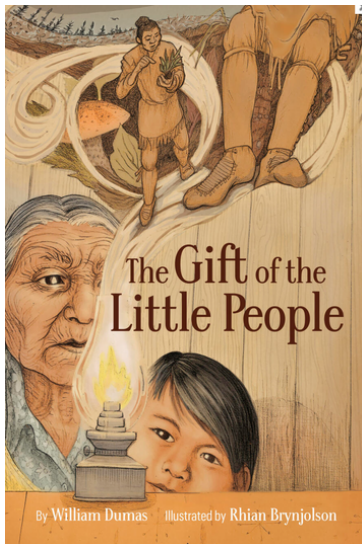


Dr. Luke Tromly (ETFM), Dr. Glenn Clark (ETFM), Dr. Judith Owens (ETFM), and Dr. Aleksandra Porada (SWPS University of Humanities and Social Sciences, Wroclaw), Winnipeg airport, waiting to board the same plane to attend different conferences. Which one of them forgot to pack socks?

News from, by, and about faculty, staff, and students

Ademola Adesola, May 2022 Phd graduate, has accepted a position as assistant professor in postcolonial literatures in the Department of English, Languages, and Cultures, Mount Royal University, Calgary.

Warren Cariou's collaborative work with the Six Seasons of the Asiniskaw Īthiniwak team has resulted in the publication of two children's picture books recently: *The Gift of the Little People* and *Amo's Sapotawan*. Based on stories by Rocky Cree Knowledge Keeper William Dumas, these books present Rocky Cree traditional knowledge in a form that is suitable for young and old readers alike. Illustrator Rhian Brynjolson has done a wonderful job of representing traditional Rocky Cree people and territory in the books. Warren has learned a great deal in his work on the Story Team with William Dumas and a number of other Rocky Cree Elders and community members. U of M English Phd graduate **Dr. Melanie Braith** is also a crucial member of the team, in her role as Research Coordinator for this SSHRC Partnership project. Most of the other researchers are from the University of Winnipeg and Lakehead University. The Six Seasons team is now working on more new books, with a planned six volumes in the series.



Glenn Clark was joyful to be able to visit relatives in Poland this past May, after missing them for almost three years. He hopes to go back again soon.



Glenn Clark, Aleksandra Porada, and **Judith Owens** at Lake Louise, following the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society conference in Banff.

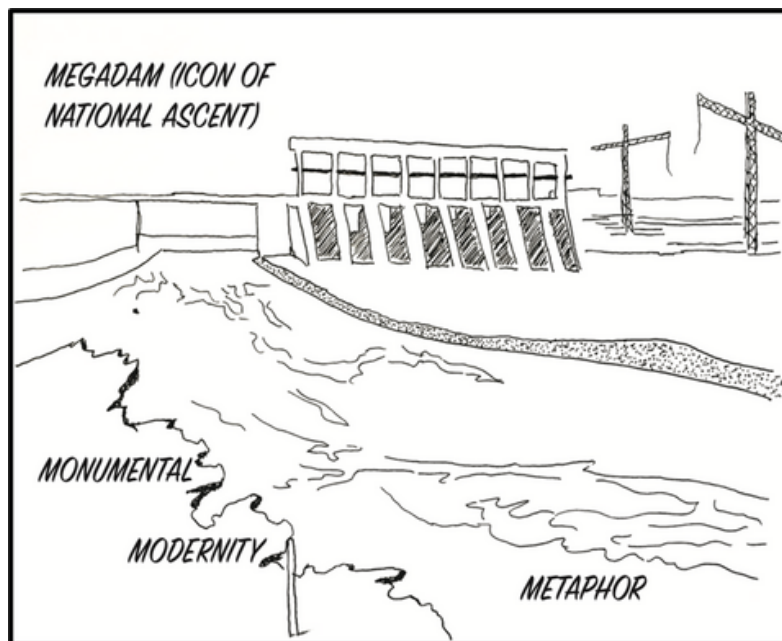


The Canadian Association for Theatre Research's Richard Plant Award for the best English-language article on a Canadian theatre or performance topic was awarded at the annual conference in July of 2022 to **Katrina Dunn** and Malus fusca for "Coproducting Mimesis," a chapter in *Theatre Pedagogy in the Era of Climate Crisis*, eds. David Fancy and Conrad Alexandrowicz, Routledge, 2021. Katrina wrote this ecocritical reconsideration of mimesis with her backyard crabapple tree.

Michelle Faubert attended (virtually) the BARS/NASSR conference, hosted by Edgehill University; she moderated the panel "Black Women and Romanticism" and presented a paper entitled, "'Among thy slain self-kill'd': Slave Insurrection, Samson, and the Zong Suicides." She also welcomed the publication of her review for *European Romantic Review*, and wrote two articles, under consideration with *English*, as well as revised her monograph on Romanticism and suicide.

Second year PhD student **Joel Ferguson** is happy to announce that his poetry collection *The Lost Cafeteria* (Signature Editions) has been awarded the 2022 Lansdowne Prize. He will be reading from his book on October 18th at Kilter Brewing Co., along with other winners at this year's Manitoba Book Awards, as part of the Celebrating Manitoba Books event put on by the Winnipeg International Writers Festival.

Isabella Huberman, SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow 2020-2022. One of the projects I worked on during my Postdoc at the department, was a research-creation zine, called "Power/Lines: A Research Journey in the Wake of Hydro." Based on my research on Indigenous storytellers from Quebec and Manitoba who engage with the implications of hydro power, the zine takes the form of a 40-page booklet that brings together key concepts, testimonies, interviews, websites, environmental reports and hand-drawn illustrations. For me, the zine was a way of experimenting with a new form that would be accessible to a wide audience seeking to understand the dynamics at play in hydro production. The goal was to produce a pedagogical tool that could contribute to a deeper understanding of the inequity of resource development and serve as a starting point of conversation for a more just energy future. I am most grateful for the support of my supervisor, Warren Cariou, and the SSHRC Explore Grant I received from UofM.



Mark Libin presented his paper, "The Haunted Presence of South Africa in Neill Blomkamp's District 9" at this year's meeting of the African Literature Association.

Dana Medoro is contributing a chapter (titled "Farms") to *The Routledge Companion to Gender and Animals*, forthcoming in 2023. This summer, her greyhound Alexander spent some time at a camp for dogs, the entire experience of which he felt was beneath him.



Judith Owens gave the opening and closing remarks (virtually) for the (virtual) sessions at the annual Spenser at Kalamazoo meeting in May. Following that event and a trip down to DC, she wrote two papers for delivery in person at conferences to be held this fall, one paper entitled "The Affordances of Healing Spaces in Spenser," the other entitled "Spenser's Groaning Ghosts." (Despite what these titles, in this order, might imply about failures of healing, the two papers are on completely unrelated subjects.) By the time you read this newsletter the first conference, in Banff, might already be a pleasant memory. On her second summer trip to DC, she saw the Shakespeare Folger Theatre production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Second year PhD student, **Virginia Page Jähne**'s play *The Far-off Edge of Things* was awarded second in The Playwrights Guild of Canada RBC Tom Hendry Emerging Playwrights Competition. The play is currently being read by RMTTC. She presented her paper, "A Love & Hate Dichotomy: TikTok Videos Posted By and About Older Adults and the Non-Virtual World Implications," at the pAGES "Loose Threads" (virtual) Colloquium. Currently she is working toward formalizing The Cicero Club, a club to support older adult graduate and undergraduate students (age 50+) at UM.

George Toles has published three substantial essays this year: "The Rewards of Digression in Film Narrative" in *Raritan*, "The World of Film and Film Particles in the Criticism of V.F. Perkins" in *Movie: A Journal of Criticism* [This essay is an expanded version of the keynote address he gave at a University of Warwick conference devoted to a consideration of Perkins's critical legacy], and "Almost Understood: Rehearsals of Life and Death in John Huston's *The Misfits* (1961)" in *Film International*. Also appearing in *Film International* this year was a lengthy interview with Tanja Bresan about George's book, *Curtains of Light: Theatrical Space in Film* (2021). George received an invitation to be Contributing Editor to *Film International* by its editor, Daniel Lindvall. His letter of offer noted that "we see your contributions as key to the publication." George delivered a paper at the University of Falmouth conference on Alfred Hitchcock's *Rebecca* and Daphne du Maurier's novel in July. The paper was entitled "Making an Entrance in Alfred Hitchcock's *Rebecca*." George also directed a play for this year's Winnipeg Fringe Festival: Horton Foote's period piece, *Courtship*, with a cast of eight. Fortunately, none of the cast or crew members (which included George's son Thomas and many UofM Theatre alumnae) came down with Covid, and the run proved very successful. George continues to write his daily micro-narratives, called Status Updates, for the deservedly scorned Facebook platform.

Greetings from incoming PhD student, **Sakshi Tyagi**. I am so happy to be joining the department and also extremely thankful for all the warm welcome and wishes from the people I have talked to so far. A little bit about me: My research interests include postcolonial studies, African futurism and South Asian literature with a special focus on how identities construction by women authors using gender, nationalism and culture. The past year, I have also worked as a full-time Human Capital Consultant back home in India. I'd be happy to help people with Office 365 and SharePoint as well. Please say hi whenever you see me trying to find out my way across this vast campus.

David Williams recently published *The Communion of the Book: Milton and the Humanist Revolution in Reading*, the conclusion to a quartet of books on media change begun in another century and what now seems like another galaxy. link to McGill-Queens University Press:
https://www.mqup.ca/communion-of-the-book--the-products-9780228014690.php?page_id=46&

THEATRE NEWS

Katrina Dunn has now taken over as Theatre Program Coordinator and will be ushering the Program through this exciting return to full in-person course delivery and performances.

After two full years of pandemic workarounds that meant exploring Zoom plays and streaming productions to online audiences, the Theatre Program is getting back to something like pre-pandemic practices. In the 22-23 academic year there will be two Mainstage productions and four student-directed LunchBHAGG shows. Theatre Program faculty welcome your questions and thoughts about the programming and hope you will encourage your classes to see shows. Here is what is coming up for faculty-directed shows at the John J. Conklin Theatre:

Seeds by Annabel Soutar

November 18 – 26, 2022 John J. Conklin Theatre

Directed by Dr. Katrina Dunn

Seeds is a gripping portrait of farming and scientific communities in conflict. Created through verbatim theatre techniques, it documents the 2004 Supreme Court of Canada showdown between Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser and biotech multinational Monsanto Inc., when a single farmer stood up to international agribusiness and almost won.

Scorched by Wajdi Mouawad

March 1 - 11, 2023 John J. Conklin Theatre

Directed by Dr. William Kerr

Wajdi Mouawad's modern classic follows the twins, Janine and Simon, as they try to fulfill the last wishes of their mother to go and find the brother and father whom they never knew existed. The play weaves multiple times and places as they try to solve the mystery of the knife in the throat of their history.

A message from pAGES (our Association of Graduate English Students)

pAGES welcomes all new and returning graduate students to the 2022-2023 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 the Fall term with curiosity and vigor. This year, we hope to focus on bringing ETFM grad students together to enliven our sense of community. I hope that we can share ideas on how we might create spaces to connect, collaborate, and support each other this year. I look forward to meeting many of you for the first time! 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 pages.info@umanitoba.ca (Submitted by PhD student, Amy-Leigh Gray, pAGES president)

STUDENT AWARDS 2022-2023

Departmental Graduate Awards

Aaron Jenkins Perry Memorial Scholarship: Amal Majumder
 Caroline Berbrayer Graduate Fellowship: Amy-Leigh Gray
 Dane Nordheim Memorial Award: Lucie von Schilling
 DEFT Graduate Fellowship: Sakshi Tyagi
 Dr. W. John Rempel Memorial Scholarship: Emily Maggiacomo
 Dr. Vernon B. Rhodenizer Graduate Scholarship: Gina Dascal
 John Meredith Robinson Memorial Scholarship: Ariella Gunn
 Lyla May Guest Hugill Scholarship in English: Ilianna Hoople
 Margaret H. Tyler Award in English: Meghan Robern
 Nancy Moncrieff Scholarship in English: Ilianna Hoople
 Weil Fellowship: Joel Ferguson
 Drummond Fellowship: Joel Ferguson
 Cheryl Lamoureux Memorial Prize: Jessie Krahn / Natalie LoVetri

Departmental Undergraduate Awards

Aikins Scholarship in English (2) Language & Literature – Hanako Teranishi
 Aikins Scholarship in English (3) Language & Literature – Cailly Wiebe
 Alexander Robert Leonard Scholarship – Alex Rana
 Alexander, Pauline, and Sybil Shack Scholarship in English (2) – Hanako Teranishi
 Alexander, Pauline, and Sybil Shack Scholarship in English (3) – Cailly Wiebe and Madeline Meilun
 Andrew Young Scholarship – Frances Lamont
 Anna Matas Prize – Thea Wortley
 Caroline Berbrayer Memorial Award – Zlata Odribets
 Dallas Taylor Memorial Prize – Adam Buhler
 Dorothy I. Jones Memorial Honours Award – Cailly Wiebe
 Esther Leckie Memorial Prize – Cailly Wiebe and Amy Peters
 Florence Kanee Scholarship (Theatre) – Natasha Diachun and Jasmine Yakabowich
 John Angus Prescott Memorial Book Prize – Aurora Matthews
 Olafur Bjornson Prize in English – Ariella Gunn
 Peter L. Coultry Memorial Book Prize – Maggy McGunigal
 Robin Hoople Memorial Book Prize – Aurora Matthews
 Rosa Brook Scholarship – Madeline Meilun
 Roscoe R. Miller Scholarship – Hanako Teranishi
 Rose Toles Prize – Felix Amaya-Spornitz
 Ross Robinson Award – Farah Noreen
 The Chancellor's Prize – Indiana Humniski
 The Hirsch Memorial Scholarship – L. J. Fulugan
 Walter E. Kroeker Memorial Prize in Samuel Johnson Studies – David Douglas Schmidt

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Fall Convocation will be held **Wednesday, October 19th** at **7:30 pm.**

Convocation will continue to also offer a virtual experience for those who aren't ready to attend a large in-person gathering or aren't able to attend in person.



University
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Faculty of Arts