



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, FILM, AND THEATRE

NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Faculty of Arts

Message from the Head Dr. Brenda Austin-Smith

Spring and All

Now the grass, tomorrow
the stiff curl of wildcarrot leaf
One by one objects are defined-
It quickens: clarity, outline of leaf

But now the stark dignity of
entrance-Still, the profound change
has come upon them: rooted, they
grip down and begin to awaken

—William Carlos Williams



*“Sundry jottings, stray
leaves, fragments, blurs
and blottings.”*

- Robert Browning

April 2017

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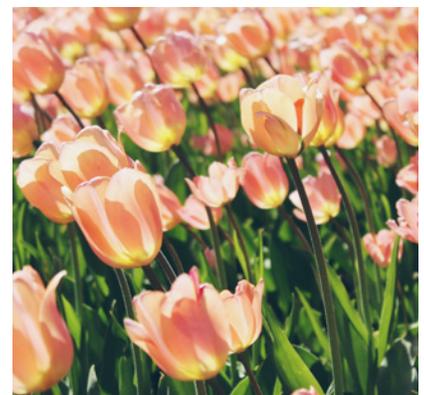
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Well, what a year it has been.

With the end of classes in sight, and the geese honking raucously on the rooftops of the Fletcher Argue Building, it's clear that Spring has finally arrived. Many of us will be teaching classes past the usual first week of April, as well as marking papers and exams well into May as a result of the term extension resulting from the job action last fall. I'd like to thank all members of the Department of English, Film, and Theatre for their hard work in adjusting their course outlines and office hours, not to mention their personal schedules, in order to accommodate this shift in the academic term. Thanks are also due to CUPE members whose classes were not affected by the strike, and who performed their duties with professional aplomb under difficult circumstances. And of course, thanks to our students, who share with us a commitment to this department, and who have responded to the longer teaching session with good grace.

Early in the New Year the department held a very successful one-day retreat. The day gave us a chance to meet informally and talk about future directions for the department, and how we might encourage students to take courses from more than one program stream during their time here. Several recommendations arose from our discussions, and over the



Message from the Head

next couple of years I hope we will incorporate all of them into our course planning and our teaching, as appropriate.

In the following pages, I hope department members will find much to celebrate as we read about the variety of activities in which we are engaged, from the joint pAGES/EFTSA Colloquium held in February, and the Black Hole Theatre productions that have graced the new stage of the fully operational Conklin Theatre, to the scholarly and creative writing and research achievements of your colleagues. It's been a long year, but a good one.

Have a terrific summer, everyone. See you in the fall.



Message from the Associate Head

Dr. Alison Calder

Happy Spring! Owing to the winter term's delayed start, I've lost track of day, month, and even year. However, the geese are once again invading the campus, so at least the natural world is on schedule, and the first flowers can't be far behind.

This past academic year has been unusual for a number of reasons. 2016-17 was the first year that we offered combined graduate and honours seminars. We were one of the last departments in Arts to adopt this format. This change means that the Associate Head and Graduate Chair have to coordinate things such as student registration more closely, and we are figuring out strategies to make this both accurate and efficient. Instructor and student feedback is welcome, especially if your problem is presented in the form of a solution.

As DEFT faculty members retire and are not replaced, covering the undergraduate program becomes more challenging. Fitting required courses into some students' schedules is increasingly difficult. Another scheduling challenge is presented by the need to divide some ENGL 1200 and 1300 classes between two instructors. While we need to maintain this practice in order to cover an adequate number of 1000-level courses, dividing the teaching does present difficulties in terms of workload, course continuity, and the distribution of marks between the terms. I hope in the next year we can come up with some workable answers in order to make these term-spanning courses sustainable. While the new seminar format and the need to split teaching in first-year courses have presented difficulties, they have also presented opportunities for instructors to get together and discuss teaching strategies and experiences. These conversations, which have often been pushed to the side because of everyone's packed schedules and increasing workloads, are a source of ideas and inspiration, and a reminder of the ongoing value of collegial conversation.

Best wishes for a restful and productive summer!



Message from the Graduate Chair

Dr. Glenn Clark

Winter 2017 has been a stimulating term for all members of our Graduate Program community. In early February, the pAGES/EFTSA colloquium “Communities: Wrenching/Repairing” filled seats in the St. Paul’s College Cross-Common Room for a full day of edifying and sometimes provocative conversation on “narratives of trauma, belonging, and resistance.” All organizers and participants, particularly pAGES president Katelyn Dykstra, should take pride in their achievement. In early March, the Circle of Pre-Modern Students, in co-operation with the Institute for the Humanities, hosted Laurence de Looze of Western University. Professor de Looze offered a seminar on Arthurian Romance, and delivered a very well-attended public lecture titled “From the Greeks to Google: How the Alphabet has Shaped the Western View of the World.” Only a week later, the most recent iteration of the “Medieval and Modern” colloquium—“Medieval and Modern III: Creation and Destruction”—attracted a large and inter-disciplinary group of participants, and featured a fascinating keynote address on “Codes of Conduct in Medieval and Modern Universities” by historian Jane Toswell. The department thanks Dr. Dustin Geeraert for his work organizing the colloquium.

Two students have graduated since my last announcement in the fall. Congratulations to Jennifer Black (Creative Thesis) and Alex McMillan (Coursework), both of whom graduated with their MA degrees this past February.

Our students continue to accumulate impressive awards and distinctions. As announced elsewhere in the Newsletter, the Robert Kroetsch Creative MA Thesis Award committee has selected Sasha Braun as the 2017 Kroetsch Award winner. Congratulations to Sasha, and thank you to selection committee members Jonah Corne, Margaret Groome, and Mark Libin. Meanwhile, Arthur Anyaduba has been awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship in Global and Indigenous Health Research. As you might guess, this is a particularly rare and impressive distinction, as the Scholarship is normally awarded to students in medical and social sciences. Arthur will use the scholarship money to finance his upcoming summer research on genocide and literature in Rwanda. Equally impressive is the fact that October 2016 PhD Michael Minor’s thesis “Decolonizing through Poetry in the Indigenous Prairie Context,” supervised by Warren Cariou, has been selected as the Faculty of Arts’ nomination to the University-wide competition for the Governor General’s Gold Medal. Congratulations to Dr. Minor. And good luck! Our professionalization workshops have continued to run successfully, with strong student attendance, throughout the academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2016-17 faculty facilitators of these valuable events: Pam Perkins, Serenity Joo, Michelle Faubert, Vanessa Warne, Brenda Austin-Smith, and Luke Tromly.

At our Departmental Retreat in January, faculty members had a very productive conversation about strategies to deal with the challenges that arise in our blended honours-graduate seminars. This discussion should remind us all to think carefully about how we devise syllabi for these classes. The excellent discussion of the state of our PhD candidacy exams has moved us closer to a decision about revising the exam process. I would like again to thank all faculty who responded to the Questionnaire about the candidacy exams.

Message from the Graduate Chair

We are already looking forward to an exciting 2017-18 academic year. The Graduate Program received 30 applications for Fall 2017 starts. The Graduate Selection Committee recommended 14 applicants in total to the MA and PhD programs. The committee also completed provisional selections for all graduate-level departmental awards and ranked admitted applicants for the UMGF competition. I would like to thank Warren Cariou, Bill Kerr, and Judith Owens for their efforts as members of the selection committee.

Staff News

Michelle Faubert went to a conference (and for some travel) in New Zealand in February. Her next trip will be to Jamaica in May: she has been invited by the Political Ombudsman of the Government of Jamaica and the Director of the Institute of Jamaica in Kingston to deliver a collaborative presentation on the *Zong* slave-ship massacre. She will also visit Black River, where the *Zong* landed in 1781, with her Jamaican associates, and launch her exhibition on the previously unknown 1783 manuscript letter by abolitionist Granville Sharp on the *Zong* massacre, which she discovered at the British Library; the exhibition will be housed in the Institute of Jamaica for several months and will travel to Black River during Jamaica's Heritage Month (October). Her book on the manuscript discovery is under consideration with Palgrave. In other news, she has just published an article on suicide and contagion in the journal *Literature and Medicine* and her edition of Mary Shelley's *Mathilda* is in the final proofing stages. It is set to come out in June with Broadview Press.

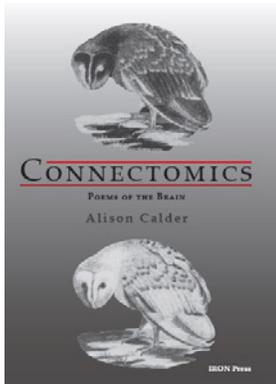
Robert O'Kell will be delivering a paper at the joint meeting of the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada and the Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States, in Vancouver, April 28-29, 2017, as part of his on-going research on The Rhetoric of Victorian Politics. He will be discussing the role of 19th-century British newspapers in the political education of those not yet enfranchised by the reform bills of 1832 and 1867. The evidence for his argument is drawn from the news and editorials of the *Birmingham Journal*, 1830-32, the *Northern Star*, 1837-1839, the *Morning Chronicle*, 1849-1851, and the *Daily Telegraph*, 1865-1867.

Judith Owens presented a paper at the Renaissance Society of America conference, this year held in Chicago (or, the Winnipeg of the south?). She moved a little out of her comfort zone by presenting on Sidney, rather than on Spenser; but she'll be returning to Spenser in May when she goes to Kalamazoo.

Gene Walz launched his book *Happiness Is a Rare Bird: Living the Birding Life* at McNally-Robinson's bookstore in December; it's selling well. Last May he delivered a paper on Denis Villeneuve's Canadian films at the Trauma conference at Trier University. He continues as the editor of the Retirees Association Newsletter and as one of three judges who determine the Dafoe Book Prize.

Arlene Young (Senior Scholar) is scheduled to present two papers this spring. The first is "What shall we do with our daughters': Educating the New Working Woman" at the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada/Victorian Studies Association of the Western United States joint conference, "Educating Victorians," being held in Vancouver April 28th-29th. The second paper is "Affective Communities and the Madness of Crowds," which she will present at the North American Victorian Studies Association/Australasian Victorian Studies Association La Pietra Conference, being held in Florence, Italy on May 17th -20th. Joint conferences are delightful, but very awkward in print.

Staff News



Alison Calder is launching her new book of poetry, *Connectomics: Poems of the Brain* at McNally Robinson on Tuesday, May 2nd at 7pm. *Connectomics* is the neuroscientific field concerned with mapping the brain. In this collection, Alison muses on the possibility and implications of a transparent brain, focusing on the inextricable bonds between language, identity, and metaphor. Moving between the clinical precision of the lab and the jumble of lived experience, these poems turn the microscope upon the viewer and assert the importance of emotion in the face of a demand for scientific rationality. Her first poetry collection, *Wolf Tree*, won two Manitoba book awards and was a finalist for two national awards. Her second collection, *In the Tiger Park*, was shortlisted for the Lansdowne Poetry Prize.

Student News

Oluwagbemiga Lulu Akhanamoya (undergraduate/incoming MA) is one of two students chosen by the Faculty of Arts for the Students' Teacher Recognition Reception. This is an annual award that honours both outstanding students, and two teachers of their choice, one from their early years and one from university.

Chigbo Arthur Anyaduba (PhD candidate) has received the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Scholarship. The scholarship will support travel to Rwanda for a 3-month research internship during the annual commemoration for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

Sylvie Côté (Honours) presented her paper, "Una's Unity in Truth in Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*", at QUEUC 2017 in March. After reviewing 229 submissions, their double blind peer-reviewed vetting panel found her paper to be of outstanding quality and excellent critical thinking. With an acceptance rate of almost 30%, her paper stood out amongst the rest. Read more at www.queuc.com

Dustin Geeraert's PhD dissertation was nominated for the Canadian Society of Medievalists' Leonard Boyle Dissertation Prize. Dustin also gave a UMIH Research Affiliate talk back in October entitled "The Key to All Mythologies."



Jeremy Strong (PhD candidate) recently published a novella entitled *The Tethering: Bound by Blood* with Canadian sf/fantasy publisher Double Dragon Publishing. The story is a post-apocalyptic dark fantasy tale adapted from work Jeremy completed for his MA thesis and has now become a trilogy of stories, with sequels expected in 2018 and 2019. There will be a book launch at McNally Robinson Booksellers on Monday April 24th, at 7:00PM in the Atrium and Jeremy would love to see you there. Read more about the book [here](#).

More book news: *The Shadow Over Portage and Main* has been nominated for the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award at this year's Manitoba Book Awards dinner to be held on April 22nd. **Dustin Geeraert** and **Keith Cadieux**, both DEFT alumni, co-edited this volume, which features submissions from several current and former grad students and staff.

Yelani Pereis (Undergraduate) has been awarded one of the UM's Undergraduate Research Awards. This award allows students to learn research skills by working with a professor over the summer, in this case, with our own Professor Alison Calder.



Theatre News

BLACK HOLE

THEATRE COMPANY

BHTC presents a preview of the new logo design that will be officially launched in fall. Since moving into our beautiful, professional-grade theatre, we felt there was an opportunity to reinvent our logo. When I was asked to come up with some design ideas, I was inspired to create something that was new and stylish, yet paid homage to our theatre company’s rich history. I think it’s important to always remember where we came from. The Black Hole has helped forge great fellowship and lifelong friendships. It has nurtured our souls and showcased inspirational theatrical talent. I felt that we needed to integrate the “black hole” visibly into our logo, while also giving our company a modern design. The new circular, spiralling composition succeeds in doing this. The design also incorporates the traditional theatre masks in a new way, striking a balance between the “playful” and the “serious,” hopefully capturing the full range of our repertoire. Ultimately, I hope that this design reflects our past, but also celebrates our company’s bright future.

- Lauren Gowler, Black Hole Theatre Executive President

BHTC Black Hole Theatre Company 2017-2018 season

Nothing Sacred

NOVEMBER 2017

Written by George F. Walker, Directed by Chris Johnson

Pith!

JANUARY 2018

Written by Stewart Lemione, Directed by Daphne Finlayson

Marat/Sade

MARCH 2018

Written by Peter Weiss, Directed by Paymun Nematollahi & Bill Kerr

Sasha Braun Wins 2017 Robert Kroetsch Creative M.A. Thesis Award

The Kroetsch Award Selection Committee has named Ms. Sasha Braun as the 2017 Robert Kroetsch Creative M.A. Thesis Award winner for her novella *The Borders: A Prairie Gothic*. The committee found that Ms. Braun’s novella offers “an assured, distinctive voice” and is written in a style “at once spare and poetic, stripped down and lyrical.” Its characters and their relationships are complex and very compelling, while the story provides a powerful challenge to traditional settler narratives and a “bold re-envisioning of Canadian and Prairie history.” The thesis was supervised by Professor Alison Calder. The Department of English, Film, and Theatre congratulates Ms. Braun for her fine achievement.



The CCWOC has enjoyed hosting Writer-in-Residence Jennifer Still in the winter term of 2017. Jennifer has taken her CCWOC Papery Acts Poetry Lab workshop on the road, finding various campus treasures to observe and write in. Workshop attendees have discovered inspiration in the School of Art Gallery among Ione Thorkelsson’s blown glass exhibit *Synthia’s Closet*, the *Ink and Sand: An Exhibit on Greek Papyri* in Archives & Special Collections, the Sea Ice Environment Research Facility, the Buller Greenhouse, the Star Factory, and while listening to the soothing sounds of chamber music in the Eva Clare Hall. Jennifer’s residency has gone by too quickly and we will be sad to see her leave but are grateful for her gentle presence at the Centre and hope to work with her again in the future.



Photos of a U of M campus location visited by the Papery Acts Poetry Lab: the ice and oil tank at the Sea Ice Environment Research Facility

This February CCWOC Director Warren Cariou brought renowned Omushkego Cree Elder Louis Bird back to Winnipeg. CCWOC hosted three highly attended storytelling events with Louis, one at the Millennium Library and two on campus. Local storyteller Flora Zaharia joined Louis for one of the events at St. John’s College, where the pair elicited many laughs from the crowd. While in Winnipeg, Louis was invited to a Canadian Literature classroom, taking story requests from students, and he also performed at the U of M’s Archives & Special Collections, where he discussed how he uses technology, archival practices, and oral transmission to preserve his culture.



In the fall of 2017, CCWOC will welcome our eighteenth Writer/Storyteller-in-Residence, Jordan Abel. Jordan, a Nisga’a writer from Vancouver, was chosen by the steering committee for his brilliant conceptual poetry, which engages with the representation of Indigenous peoples in anthropology and popular culture. His award-winning books of poetry include *The Place of Scraps*, *Un/Inhabited*, and *Injun*, all published by Talonbooks. Jordan is also an extraordinary performer of his work. Jordan will be available to visit a small number of literature classes next fall and he will offer a non-credit poetry workshop.

Please visit our website for more information on Jordan and other future events through CCWOC <http://umanitoba.ca/centres/ccwoc>



pAGES

Katelyn Dykstra, President

This has been a very interesting year for pAGES! The strike made it quite unique, but provided excellent opportunities for the faculty and students to get to know each other on the picket lines, and spend some time together off campus. In addition, throughout the year, we have held a number of graduate student support group meetings (previously PhD support group), which have become a much-anticipated monthly boost for all of us! In December, we held a very successful Holiday Party which included the gifting and receiving of many unique and timely books (I am looking at you, recipient of the Hillary Clinton bio!)

On February 2-3 2017, we were fortunate to once again collaborate with our undergraduate cohort EFTSA to organize a very successful colloquium entitled *Communities: Wrenching/Repairing*, at which many students and faculty were able to showcase their work. This year we aligned our colloquium with the Sidney Warhaft Memorial Lecture by Dr. David Eng, and thus were able to benefit from both his inspiring keynote lecture and his engaging graduate seminar. I am sure his is not a presence we will easily forget!

Currently, pAGES is poised to vote on next year's executive. The results should be available by the middle of April. I would like to sincerely thank DEFT, and all the members of pAGES, for all of their support over the past number of years that I have inhabited the role of president, co-president, or other positions in pAGES. As I am embarking on my final year in the doctoral program, I will be relinquishing my position quite soon. It has been a truly memorable and rewarding experience to work with all of the wonderful members of this dedicated group. I look forward to helping pAGES transition in new leadership!

If you would like to be involved in our graduate student support group or Write-On-Site meetings this summer, or you have any questions about pAGES, you can continue to contact us at: pages.info@umanitoba.ca.

Finally, we extend our sincerest congratulations to all of those who have graduated in the past year, and wish graduating, continuing, and incoming students alike a relaxing and joyful spring and summer.

EFTSA

The undergraduate English, Film, and Theatre Students Association would like to thank everyone for the great year. It was a tough one for everybody, and we're so happy with the support we received from the English, Film, and Theatre students. We tried out some new initiatives this year, and are looking forward to putting on some more events for you next year. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to keep in the loop for upcoming events, including our year-end get-together. We would also like to encourage everyone to take a look at the special topics courses being offered next year on the DEFT website, and contact the DEFT office to set up an appointment with an advisor if you have any questions. Good luck with exams and final assignments, and enjoy your summer break – you earned it.

- Lauren Siddall, EFTSA Secretary of Social and Academic Programming

<http://communitylink.umanitoba.ca/organization/eftsa>
eftsauofm@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/EFTSA





DEFT (Dead Easy Fast and Tasty) Recipes

SUPER-EASY & DELICIOUS VEGAN (propaganda) CAKE

Swiped by Dana from *the it doesn't taste like chicken blog*

Dry Ingredients:

2½ cups all-purpose flour
2½ cups white sugar
1 cup cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt

Wet Ingredients:

2⅔ cups non-dairy milk of choice (soy, almond)
⅔ cups light oil (such as canola or vegetable)
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

Frosting Ingredients:

½ cup vegan butter (such as Earth Balance)
½ cup vegetable shortening
1¼ cup powdered sugar
¼ cup cocoa powder
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1-2 tablespoons non-dairy milk (if needed)

Preparation:

Preheat your oven to 350F (180C).

To make the cake: Prepare two 8” round baking pans by lightly greasing them, and then cutting a circle of parchment paper to fit into the bottom.

In a large bowl whisk together all of the dry ingredients, then set aside.

In a medium bowl whisk together all of the wet ingredients.

Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Don't over mix.

Divide the batter into the prepared pans, then pop them in the oven.

Bake for about 40 minutes until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Let the cakes cool completely before frosting.

To make the frosting: Use a mixer to blend all of the frosting ingredients except for the non dairy milk. Blend until whipped and creamy. If the frosting is a bit too stiff, add 1 to 2 tablespoons of non-dairy milk as needed until desired consistency is reached.

To assemble the cake: Run a knife around the edges of the cake pans, and flip the pans over to remove the cakes. Remove the parchment paper and discard.

Set the first cake on your cake plate, and spread about half of the frosting on top. Place the second cake on top of the frosted cake, and spread the remaining frosting on top of that cake. Add swirl patterns with your spatula to make it pretty. Store the cake in the fridge or a cool place until you are ready to serve.

DEFT Recipes

PUMPKIN CUPCAKES w/CARAMEL ICING

Submitted by Jen M.

Cupcake ingredients:

1½ cups flour
1 teaspoon each salt, baking soda,
baking powder and cinnamon
½ teaspoon each ground ginger, allspice
¼ teaspoon ground cloves
1 cup sugar
¾ cup oil
2 eggs
1 cup pumpkin
1 cup raisins, nuts (optional)

Icing Ingredients:

1 cup brown sugar
¼ cup milk
¼ cup shortening or margarine
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon vanilla

Preparation:

For the cupcakes: Mix in order listed. Beat well. Line muffin tins with paper cups. Fill 1/2 to 2/3 full (depending on how large you like your muffins). Bake @ 350°F for approximately 20 minutes. Tastes yummy with caramel icing.

Jen's notes: Make sure if you are using canned pumpkin purée that it is pure pumpkin and not pumpkin pie filling. Bake on middle rack. Rotate pan(s) after 10 minutes. Don't overcook! Cool on racks. Remove muffins from tin (not out of paper liners) after about ten minutes and leave them to cool on rack while you make the icing. Should be cool enough by then to ice. If in doubt, do up all your dishes first and then make the icing! You don't want the icing to run off and make a mess so you don't want to ice when muffins are too warm or hot.

*I freeze leftover pumpkin (if any) in one cup amounts so that I can thaw and use for this recipe!

For the icing: Bring first 4 items to rolling boil and cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat and beat until lukewarm. Add vanilla. Beat until smooth. Once it begins to set, work quickly. If it goes too hard—just add more milk.

Jen's notes: Shortening works better than the margarine for me. Only use the light brown sugar and remember to firmly pack it. I use a whisk and continuously whisk when on the stovetop to prevent sugar from burning. I whisk until lukewarm and continue whisking after vanilla is added until it is smooth. I have utensils for icing etc. nearby so as soon as it is ready to ice with I can start!

*Can be finicky to make... for some it takes practice. I've heard that it even has to be boiled again if it hardens and you need to add a touch more milk.

DARK CHOCOLATE CRANBERRY DROPS

Ingredients:

2 Lindt chocolate bars, 70% pure dark, 100 gram
1 cup dried cranberries

Preparation:

Melt the chocolate, stir in the cranberries, drop by small spoonful onto a wax paper covered cookie sheet, and chill. That's it - you're done! Rich, satisfying, and healthy. (Yes, really!)

