



Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media

NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA
Faculty of Arts

Message from the Head Dr. Brenda Austin-Smith



*“Spring will be a little late this year
A little late arriving”*

—Frank Loesser

Though there are still defiant patches of snow and ice around campus as I write this, the end of the Winter semester is actually here, believe it or not. In the flurry of end of term writing

and marking, and as we turn to the next phase of the academic season, I invite colleagues and students to read about the various academic and creative achievements of our department members in this newsletter.

The first thing that might catch your eye is our new department banner. We’ve been teaching courses in media-related areas for over 20 years now in all three of our programs, and in early January of 2018 that history worked its official way into our name, which is now English, Theatre, Film & Media. The second bit of significant news about our department this term is that we are hiring in the Theatre program. We are all looking forward to welcoming a new colleague next autumn.

Whether you are preparing for teaching in the next session, writing your thesis, preparing for comprehensives, or diving into research projects after submitting final grades, I hope that the next few months are great ones, with no more mosquitoes than there were last year.

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

- Robert Browning

April 2018

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Message from the Associate Head

Dr. Alison Calder

Happy spring, everyone. I'm writing this on the last day of class, and the halls seem to be echoing with a collective sigh of relief. As the semester winds down, please think about nominating your top students for some of our department's awards, and also encourage them to submit their work for consideration. A list of awards and criteria can be found on the department's webpage. In the coming weeks, I'll be approaching some of you to ask you to judge the department's essay awards. This is a chance to read some of our students' best work, and I thank you in advance for your help with this duty. In the meantime, good luck to us all as we work our way through the exam season, and best wishes for a productive and restorative summer.

Message from the Graduate Chair

Dr. Mark Libin

As Acting Graduate Chair, this is my one and only missive to the department. As this term draws to a timely end, we look ahead to the upcoming Fall term, and a brand new crop of graduate students.

Our Graduate Selection Committee convened in January to review applications for incoming Master's and PhD candidates, to rank candidates for the UMGF, and to assign departmental awards and alternates. I would like to thank the Selection Committee – Warren Cariou, Bill Kerr, and Vanessa Warne for undertaking this daunting task and completing it with efficiency and grace.

This year we received 6 applications to the PhD program. 5 were offered admission and to date 3 have accepted our offer. We had 28 applications for the MA program and we offered 10 admission into the MA program and we offered 5 admission into our pre-MA program. To date 7 candidates have accepted our offer for the MA program, and all 5 have accepted our offer for the pre-MA. We currently have 3 new PhD candidates joining us, 7 new MA candidates, and 5 new pre-MA students.

We have to date been allotted two UMGFs, both of which have been awarded to incoming MA students. SSHRC results are pending. We would also like to thank Diana Brydon, Michelle Faubert and Erin Keating for providing stipends and fellowships to our current graduate students.

Congratulations to Susan Rich, who successfully defended her PhD in October, and to Melanie Braith, Kirsty Cameron, Mike Hayden and Michelle Lietz who passed their period exams. Congratulations to Sabrina Mark for passing her Special Area exam.

Professionalization workshops have been continuing this term, and I'd like to thank Luke Tromly and Michelle Faubert and David Carr from U of M Press for their well-attended and highly informative workshops.

I look forward to registering our incoming and returning graduate students in May and I'm certain that they look forward to a promising 2018-19 term ahead. In July we welcome back our true leader, Dr Glenn Clark. I hope that he's had a relaxing and productive research leave!



Staff News

Brenda Austin-Smith's essay on Gene Hackman's performance in *The Conversation* appeared in *Close-Up: Great Cinematic Performances Volume 1: America*, edited by Murray Pomerance and Kyle Stevens and published by Edinburgh UP. Brenda was also asked to join the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Awards to Scholarly Publications Program for a term of three years.

Michelle Faubert attended a conference in Venice, Italy, in February to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and she will present at the ACCUTE conference at her old alma mater, the University of Regina, in late May on a panel on Romanticism and suicide for her SSHRC IG project with Kirsty Cameron and Grace Paizen. She will also present a paper at the European Society for Literature, Science and the Arts in Copenhagen in June, and she has been invited to present on Mary Shelley's *Mathilda* (which she edited for Broadview Press) at the Wordsworth Trust at Dove Cottage in Grasmere, England, in early August. Her book *Granville Sharp's Uncovered Letter and the Zong Massacre* is in production now with Palgrave Press and should be out by autumn. In May, Shoshannah Bryn Jones Square will begin a Postdoctoral Fellowship under Michelle's supervision (funded by her SSHRC IG).

Jim Horton has had two short stories accepted for publication lately. "The Empty Flat" will be appearing in an upcoming issue of *Delmarva Review*, and "The Wooden Boy" will be published in *Dark Lane Anthology: Volume Seven*.

Mark Libin's article, "Prick-Tease of the Soul': Negative Dialectics and the Politics of Tony Harrison's v." has been published in *Textual Practice*.

Dana Medoro edited and introduced a special issue of the journal *Poe Studies: History, Theory, Interpretation* (on Poe and Nineteenth-Century Medicine) and it was published this winter. She continues to write her book on Poe and Hawthorne and the early nineteenth-century abortion debates—in the face of freak-outs from the publisher over all the extensions and how slowly she writes. Ever-inventive excuses for lateness running out. Not going anywhere this summer. Writing is the worst. And the best. And the worst.

Alyson Brickey has a piece in this edition of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* on the need for adjunct-tenured solidarity: <https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/the-awakening?cid=FEATUREDNAV>

Pam Perkins has contributed entries on thirteen usually—and in in at least half of the cases deservedly—forgotten books to the *Cambridge Guide to the Eighteenth-Century Novel*. She has also contributed an article on Mary Wollstonecraft and travel to the forthcoming *Mary Wollstonecraft in Context* (Cambridge UP) and edited Margaret Oliphant's 1886 novella *Queen Eleanor and Fair Rosamond* for the Broadview Anthology of British Literature.

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in the Academy**
We asked dozens of women about gender and
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Staff News

Arlene Young and **Robert O’Kell** have just returned from their extended exploration of Victoriana in the antipodes.



At the University of Otago



Penny Farthing Dunedin



Tea at Queen Victoria Building, Sydney. Served on Wedgewood china, of course



Our hotel in Melbourne. Previously Victorian era offices and storage facilities



Queen Victoria, At Government House, Sydney



Theatre News

Dr. William Kerr

We continue to make good and innovative use of our new John J. Conklin Theatre in the Gail Asper Performing Arts Hall. The past mainstage season went very well. We premiered a new version of George F Walker's *Nothing Sacred* directed by Dr. Chris Johnson, had our first Stewart Lemoine play (and first three-hander) *Pith!* directed by Daphne Finlayson and our largest cast play yet (including our first use of the space as a thrust stage), Peter Weiss' *Marat/Sade (The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat as Performed by the Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton under the direction of the Marquis de Sade)* directed by Paymun Nematollahi & Bill Kerr.



As always, we rely on the excellent work of students and staff and we had that threefold this past year. My profuse thanks to the actors, designers, crew, and directors for that work. We stretched the company to the limit, but we did not break!

Mainstage Season 2018-2019:

- *Under Milk Wood* by Dylan Thomas (adapted by and directed by Dr. Robert Smith and Dr. Bill Lee) will run November 21- December 1. This production will be a fusion of English and Japanese theatre practice.
- *Peer Gynt* by Henrik Ibsen will run January 23-February 2, directed by Dr. Chris Johnson. This production will be marked by the company's return to RMTTC's MasterPlaywright Festival (IbsenFest)
- *Love's Labour Lost* will run March 13-23, directed by Dr. Margaret Groome. Dr. Groome returns to her signature area and brings us this sparkling Shakespearean Comedy.

Theatre News

Note, as always, that any of the directors would be happy to talk to your classes about these productions. Please note also that our regular start time is 7:30 and that we now have a standard 2pm Sunday matinee.

I would also like to draw your attention to the upcoming Snakeskin Jacket encore presentation of their excellent production of *Thom Pain* by Will Eno April 20-21, featuring our admin assistant Ivan Henwood. Bill Kerr and alumni Ray Strachan and Jeff Strome will also feature in the upcoming Moving Target Theatre Company world premiere production of Daniel Thau-Eleff's *Deserter* directed by Arne McPherson, May 17-27 at the Rachel Brown Theatre.

In this summer's Fringe Festival, Dr. George Toles will direct the 28th Minute Theatre Company's production of Tennessee Williams' *Confessional* with students Justin Fry, Reid Girard, Kirsty Cameron, and Lemeng Yang, and alumni Heather Roberts, Kevin Ramberran, Ivan Henwood and Winson Ta. Also, Bill Kerr and Tom Soares will perform in the Knavish Hedgehog's production of *Hamlet*.

Finally, we are greatly looking forward to welcoming a new colleague in the Program next year. We are also greatly looking forward to Dr. Robert Smith taking over as Program Coordinator. It looks to be a very good year.





Centre for Globalization and Cultural Studies

Dr. Diana Brydon

Convened and chaired by Vanessa Nunes, doctoral student in the department and research assistant at the Centre, the Centre's Discussion and Workshop group met throughout the Winter 2018 term on the following schedule:

- 23 January: Vanessa Nunes' PhD thesis proposal "Textual Encounters with Canada and Brazil: Towards a Decolonized Hemispheric Studies"
- 6 February: "Decolonizing Knowledge and the Question of the Archive" by Achille Mbembe (lecture at Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research) and "Pan-African Legacies, Afropolitan Futures: A Conversation with Achille Mbembe" (*Transition* 120, 2016)
- 20 February: Ilgin Kizilgunesler's draft chapter from M.A. thesis "Newspeak and New Media: Contemporary Orwell in Interactive Environments"
- 6 March: Heather Davis and Zoe Todd's article "On the Importance of a Date, or, Decolonizing the Anthropocene" (*ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies* 16.4, 2017)
- 20 March: Jeremy Strong's PhD thesis draft chapter "The Day of the Triffids as Anthropocene Document"
- 3 April: Irmgard Emmelhainz's article "Self-Destruction as Insurrection, or, How to Lift the Earth Above All That Has Died?" (*e-flux* 87, 2017)
- 17 April: Max Bledstein's draft article "Deconstructing Honest Abe: Visual Representations of Emotion in Noah Van Sciver's *The Hypo*"

The Centre is also pleased to announce that Ademola Adesola joined the Centre as a Research Assistant for the year in January 2018. Ademola obtained his first and second degrees in Literature from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. He worked at The Nation Newspaper as an arts correspondent and later at Kings University, Nigeria, as an assistant lecturer. He is currently a PhD student in the Department of English, Theatre, Film, and Media, University of Manitoba. His research interest borders on the intersections of mass violence and literature, and his doctoral dissertation research examines representations of the African child soldier in literature.

The Centre is also expecting two PhD students from Brazil to arrive in the Fall for a semester, arriving on fully funded Brazilian CAPES fellowships to consult with Dr. Brydon on their research in progress at their home universities.





The winter term was an active one at CCWOC, especially with the presence of our twenty-first writer/storyteller-in-residence, David Bergen. David brought his extraordinary knowledge of fiction writing, philosophy and characterization to all of his work at CCWOC, and he made a big impression on all the writers who worked with him. During the term, he led two fiction writing workshops, both of which were very popular. David also welcomed many writers during his office hours for one-on-one consultations, including some



Winnipeg luminaries who sought his advice on their writing. At David's welcome event in January, he read from a powerful new fiction project, and during the term he was able to make significant progress on that book. We are looking forward to reading this new novel when it comes out, and we are very thankful for David's generosity and his deeply thoughtful mentorship during his time at the Centre.



During the term we also hosted two popular poetry-writing workshops led by our former writer-in-residence, Steven Ross Smith. In addition, CCWOC staff and students worked with Kainai Elder Flora Zaharia on her memoir project, which she is in the process of completing. It has been an honour to work with this eloquent and influential Elder on the story of her remarkable life. In addition to this work, Centre Director Warren Cariou continued his "Petrography" visual art practice with an exhibition at Library Gallery here in Winnipeg, and he plans to make more petroglyphs when the summer finally arrives.

We are pleased to announce that our writer-in-residence for the Fall of 2019 will be the Welsh-Canadian novelist Tristan Hughes, who has published four celebrated novels in the UK, and is now at work on a novel set in his home territory of northern Ontario. Tristan is currently the AHRC Fellow in Creative Writing at Cardiff University. We look forward to hosting Tristan, and learning from him as well.

We are at work planning next year's workshops, readings and other events, so please watch our website or our Facebook page for more details as these events become finalized.



pAGES

pAGES has had a busy and exciting year filled with numerous events! Our annual Colloquium, co-hosted with EFTSA, occurred in early February and had the theme of Outsiders and Aliens. We had many participants and would like to thank all the people who helped make it such a successful event. The Colloquium was preceded by our annual Bake and Book Sale, which we enjoy putting on every year, using fundraising as an excuse to take advantage of really good deals on books and baked goods. It was a profitable enterprise and allowed us and EFTSA, along with money from the Faculty of Arts Endowment Fund, to put on four days of writing retreats at the Inn at the Forks, organized by Katelyn Dykstra. These catered writing retreats provide a dedicated time and place in which to accomplish work and we find them very productive. We hope to put on similar events next year. It wasn't all work for pAGES this past year, however. We also had a Halloween party hosted by Michelle Lietz, a Christmas party hosted by Kasey Morgan, and have an end-of-year event in the works that will include bowling. We also put on a movie night, affectionately dubbed "Jurassic Bride", where we watched *Jurassic Park* and *The Princess Bride*, to the great enjoyment of all who could attend. We continue to host our Graduate Student Support Group every month. In addition to continuing on with the great activities started by previous pAGES presidents, we have a few new initiatives planned for the coming year, including things to help pAGES members over the hurdles we all have to jump to be successful, including a SSHRC drafting workshop and a candidacy exam study buddy system. We hope that you had a good academic year and look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

-Grace Paizen and Sabrina Mark, Co-presidents

EFTSA

The past term has been filled with many fun events for the students of the English, Film, and Theatre Students' Association. We started off the term by hosting a coffeehouse in conjunction with the launch of the Fall edition of the Arts Tribune. We had students from our department present their creative work for their peers. The interest and participation in this event led to a creative writing night, where people shared their work and get feedback from other writers in the department. The event proved to be very inspiring for all who attended. Building on the momentum from last term and the popularity of our Harry Potter Halloween party, we put our wizarding knowledge to the test and held a rousing Harry Potter trivia event. We also had the opportunity to partner with pAGES in hosting the annual colloquia and a writing retreat at the Inn at the Forks. Our final event of the year will be a spring party (once all of our papers are handed in and the snow hopefully melts). In the upcoming school year we will be passing the group over to Sofia Martignoni and Michael Campbell who are our newly elected Governor and Deputy Governor. Their first task will be altering our group name and logo to reflect the update of our department name! Keep up to date by following our Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/EFTSA>).

-Your EFTSA Team

Sarah Oresnik, Braedan Hafichuk, Annah Coleman, Jessie Krahn, Sofia Martignoni, Michael Campbell



Other News

An interview with PhD candidate **Tim Penner** was featured in a recent issue of UM Today: <http://news.umanitoba.ca/tim-penner/>

DEFT alumnus **Michael Kaan**, BA English (Hons.) 1990, was a finalist for the 2017 Governor General's Award for Fiction, for his debut novel *The Water Beetles*.

- <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/entertainment/books/kathleen-winter-joel-thomas-hynes-among-governor-generals-awards-finalists-449377453.html>
- <http://ggbooks.ca/#fiction>

Spring Convocation for students in Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Arts: June 5th at 2:30

Shelley Mahoney wants to alert the department that we now have a fully functional water fountain (because of Darlene)! **YAY Darlene!**

Michael Minor, recent DEFT PhD graduate, will launch his book "Learning to Love the River" on Tuesday May 15th at the William Norrie Centre, 485 Selkirk Avenue, at 7:30. Everyone is welcome.

Book launch

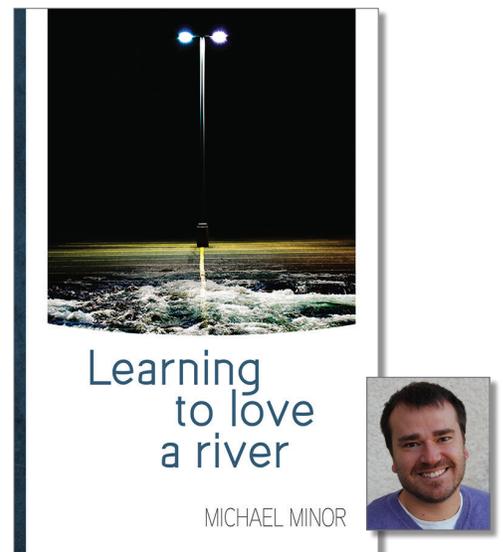




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