Welcome ETFM faculty, staff, and students to our second unusual year. No one expected we would still be teaching and meeting almost exclusively online this fall, and the remote work world has taken a toll on us all. In the midst of this extended hardship, the bright spots are the accomplishments department members share in this newsletter. Pandemic or no pandemic, ETFM contributes the vibrancy of teaching, research/creation, and an astonishing range of service to the university and wider community, including those experiencing incarceration and varieties of systemic marginalization.

There is also news about faculty and staff changes to share. The department welcomed three new faculty this summer: Dr. Lindsay Diehl, Dr. Jamie Paris, and Dr. Erin Weinberg. Keep reading to learn more about our new colleagues. And Marianne Harnish, the ETFM Administrative Assistant for over twenty years, will retire after this fall term from the university. We wish Marianne all the best in retirement, and express our deep gratitude in providing all of us—faculty, staff, students—with the best advice on how to do our work given the complexities of regulations and reporting requirements at the institution.

The department also mourns the recent loss of members of our community. They are Dr. Chris Johnson, founder and champion of our Theatre program at the U of M, Dr. Margaret Allen, who taught medieval literature at St. John’s College; Dr. Moti Shojania, former Director of Studies at St. Paul’s College, a former grad student, and a much-loved teacher for ETFM, and Jeannette Heinrichs, a former film technician who worked for the department many years ago. Jeannette’s campaign for the provision of life-changing drugs in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer made her a featured advocate in the local media.

Thank-you to everyone for your patience as we wait to learn more about what form our next term will take. Meanwhile, here’s to our continued resilience in the months to come. May we be able to turn to each other, even virtually, for support and inspiration.
**Associate Head's message - Dr. David Watt**

Hello everyone. I am looking forward to serving you as Acting Associate Head this term. I hope that I can do what I can to support the work of the department, from helping students to plan their programs to identifying ways that we can continue to ensure our program reflects the expertise of our faculty. I am also looking forward to working with the executive committee, the chairs of our FYPC and UCPC committees, and our exceptional support staff. I have not yet been able to get Darlene McWhirter to express annoyance about having to answer my incessant questions, but I have a few months to work on that! Thanks, too, to all of you who participated in reading undergraduate essay awards over the summer. While that work is enjoyable, it takes time and commitment. It is also very much appreciated.

As we prepare for another uncertain term, I want to take a moment to thank those teaching in the department for the resilience you have shown by developing such compelling courses and serving your students so well. I hope that the experience of preparing and evaluating courses for remote learning last year has helped your preparations this term. Thanks to those who have continued to post ideas, many of which will likely prove helpful when we return to campus. Please remember that all ETFM instructors interested in sharing teaching strategies can contact Erin Keating and Dana Medoro. Erin and Dana have also organized teaching discussion sessions so that we can provide each other with the support we need at this time. I look forward to participating in more sessions like that with you.

Finally, I want to acknowledge what a challenging time this remains. I am grateful that those teaching in the department are putting so much effort into looking out for the well-being of students, especially those whose circumstances have made them much more vulnerable than others at this moment. While many of our course outlines remind students to take care or availing themselves of the services provided on campus. I would encourage all of us to keep reminding students of those resources throughout the term. For them as for us, it can be very easy to feel alone in the present circumstances; whatever else we do this term, I hope that we can ensure that members of our department feel welcome in this community.

---

**Graduate Chair's message - Dr. Luke Tromly**

As I write this newsletter note I am minutes away from hosting an orientation session for our incoming graduate students. This annual meeting is the sort of chore that is vaguely reassuring to me, if only because it is a chance to meet bright, motivated people who are, in the moment, more confused than I feel most of the time. Today’s orientation, however, does not carry this soothing familiarity. For one, instead of being together in our Reading Room, we will all be meeting over Zoom. Moreover, the upcoming year poses questions regarding the impact of the pandemic on graduate studies for which I have no easy answers at hand.

Perhaps it is a good thing that I feel nervous, not reassured, about the meeting that is about to start. Our students have certainly flourished over this last year of disruption. I know firsthand that our seminar classes have been full of lively, probing conversations, despite the fact that we’re not physically together. We’ve seen many students pass their field exams, and some wonderful students have successfully defended their theses, including Lulu Akhanamoya (MA), Vanessa Nunes (Ph.D), Kerri Woloszyn (MA), Chris Wyman (MA), and Antony Songtao Zhang (MA). The success of our program over this past year is a credit to our students, our instructors, and to Anita King, our program co-ordinator, our rock.

As I complete the now-familiar pre-Zoom ritual (ring light turned on, headphones disentangled), I feel buoyed by the knowledge that while I may not be able to speak with much certainty about the upcoming year, it will be a great one for our graduate program.
Introducing and welcoming new department members

**Lindsay Diehl** - We welcome Lindsay Diehl to the Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media. Her areas of expertise include diasporic Canadian literatures, creative writing, Asian Canadian Studies, settler colonial studies, postcolonial theory, and transnational feminism. As a creative writer and critical scholar, Dr. Diehl often blends scholarly and creative methodologies to explore intersecting issues of nationalism, settler-colonialism, race, gender, and identity. She is particularly interested in how storytelling allows for personal, emotional, and affective elements frequently overlooked in conventional forms of criticism.

**Jamie Paris** - Jamie Paris (he/him) joins the department as an Instructor I. He is a mixed-race scholar from Winnipeg. He received his PhD in English from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in 2015. Before coming to the University of Manitoba, Dr. Paris was an associate professor of English for Corpus Christi College at UBC. Dr. Paris works primarily in the field of premodern critical race studies, where his research focuses on the representation of whiteness in the work of William Shakespeare and his contemporaries. His secondary field is Canadian literature and culture, with a focus on non-dominative Black and Indigenous masculinities. Dr. Paris has published scholarly articles in Digital Studies, Canadian Literature, Renaissance and Reformation, Early Theatre, and the Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies. He is in the process of completing a book on whiteness and racial crossdressing in early modern drama.

**Erin Weinberg** - Greetings, colleagues! I’m so happy to be joining this department and am moved by all the warm welcomes coming my way, even as we continue to be working remotely. A bit about me: I earned my PhD in Renaissance Literature in January 2017 and since then, I’ve been a sessional instructor, teaching at Queen’s University, University of Alberta Augustana, Royal Military College, Corpus Christi College (BC), and Brandon University. I’m thrilled to be settling down in one place and devoting my energy to first-year teaching, public-facing humanities, and the ongoing Study of Teaching and Learning. My main research areas are Shakespeare and Jane Austen (particularly trauma, affect, and feminist perspectives), but I’m currently seeking out collaborations in any area of literature and food. Feel free to get in touch and I’m looking forward to meeting everyone in person in the coming months!
Introducing new graduate students

**Joel Ferguson** - Joel Ferguson is a first-year PhD student of English literature at the University of Manitoba. He holds a MA in English from Concordia University and a BA in the same from the University of Winnipeg. His Master’s thesis was published as the poetry collection *The Lost Cafeteria* (Signature Editions, 2020), which was nominated for the Gerald Lambert Memorial Award. Ferguson’s research focuses on representations of rural and small-town life in 19th and 20th century British and Canadian literature and the construction of gender, race, and class within national and settler-colonial narratives. His other interests include Creative Writing, English and German Romanticism, the figure of the flâneur and peripatetic writing, Latin American literature, and literary modernism. He lives in Winnipeg with his partner and their three cats.

**Virginia Page Jähne** - Virginia is a first year PhD student in the department of English, Theatre, Film & Media. Her research will explore ageism in the media and employ an interdisciplinary approach. She completed her BA (hon.) in Theatre at the University of Winnipeg with a concentration in directing and was awarded the gold medal for highest achievement in Theatre. In 2020, in the Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media at the University of Manitoba, she successfully defended her MA creative thesis, *The Far-off Edge of Things*, a play concerning the intersection of disability and climate change. The Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture awarded her the 2019/2020 C.D. Howe Fellowship in Creative Writing for her work. Recently, *The Far-off Edge of Things* was chosen to be read at the “First Scene Challenge” on Zoom at The Playwright’s Guild of Canada and a workshop is planned at The Manitoba Association of Playwrights. During her fifty-year hiatus from academia, Virginia was owner of McCullough’s Hardware, a teacher at Springfield Hutterite Colony, a weaver of hand-dyed rugs, a soap maker at Virginia’s Soap Limited, and a performing Celtic musician (the bronze branch). Outside of her studies, she is a primary caregiver to her husband, a maker of Eh+ Canadian Granola, a mother and grandmother. She hopes to launch her new kayak next summer.

The department welcomes 4 new PhD and 5 new MA students to our grad program. The students featured on this page, Virginia Page Jähne and Joel Ferguson, are both recipients of the UMGF (University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship) this year. Jessie Krahn (MA) has been awarded the SSHRC CGS-M for 2021-2022. Heidi Malazdrewich (PhD) received the Arts Graduate Award. And this year’s DEFT Graduate Fellowship was awarded to incoming PhD students Eva Miranda and Joel Ferguson. Congratulations to all! Additional departmental awards are pending with the Financial Aid and Awards. We trust those funds will be dispersed very soon.

Learn more about grad students on our website; we will be updating the bios and photos as the UofM continues their new university-wide web roll-out.

Check out the messages from our graduate student group, pAGES, and our undergraduate group, EFTSA, further along in the pages of this newsletter.
Staff & Student News, Awards & Announcements

Merit Awards at the University of Manitoba recognize faculty members for their outstanding teaching, research, scholarly work and creative activities, and service in three categories: Social Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts; Life Sciences, Natural Sciences and Engineering; and Promoting Indigenous Achievement. This year, three of our faculty members received Merit Awards: Judith Owens for Research, Scholarly Work and Creative Activities, Erin Keating in the Service category, and David Watt for his work in a combination of areas.

David Annandale’s latest novel is in the news.

Melanie Braith, recent PhD graduate of our program, was awarded the University of Manitoba Distinguished Dissertation Award for 2020-2021. Her dissertation is available on MSpace.

Adriana Chartrand (BA/2013, Film Studies) joined Telefilm Canada in June, as Lead, Indigenous Initiatives and Content Analyst.

Michelle Faubert hosted and organized two online conference sessions this summer for the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, for which she is now the Vice Chair: the NASSR Science Caucus’s “Women in Science” (also organized by Lisa Ann Robertson and Dahlia Porter), and the NASSR/Writing Doctors Event (also organized by Ashleigh Blackwood and Clark Lawlor). She was also delighted to receive her copy of Literature and Medicine: The Eighteenth Century Ed. Clark Lawlor and Andrew Mangham; to which she contributed a chapter on John Polidori and other doctors who wrote literarily.

Katrina Dunn’s dissertation won the Canadian Studies Network award for Best PhD Dissertation in Canadian Studies; UBC has committed to publish the monograph based on the dissertation.

ETFM instructor and alumni Dustin Geeraert released a video trailer for his computer game project inspired by Norse Mythology, Quake: Mjölnir; see it on Youtube here. ETFM, the Icelandic Department and the Faculty of Arts have generously contributed the funding needed to finish this project, and a playable demo should be released later this fall. He also organized an online symposium entitled Transforming Old Norse-Icelandic Literature featuring talks by U of M scholars and students (including some from ETFM), as well as speakers from overseas such as Heather O’Donoghue, Tom Shippey, and Ármann Jakobsson. Videos of the event’s panels here. Finally, episodes of his podcast co-hosted with Ryan E. Johnson, Man’s Machinations are at: https://www.mansmachinations.com

Hee-Jung Serenity Joo Check out the crew of temporary roommates I’ve had since last term! Some were sweet, some were spicy, and all have found their permanent homes. They were great company as I deepened my local commitments to abolition and anti-racism community building through PLC (Prison Libraries Association) and PAO! (Prairie Asian Organizers!).
More Staff News, Awards & Announcements

Faye McIntyre presented a paper virtually at the Fellini 2020 conference held in honor of the centenary of Federico Fellini's birth, organized and hosted by the University of Toronto. The paper was titled "Grotesque Pleasures: Federico Fellini's Giulietta degli spiriti" and was delivered October 17, 2020.

Judith Owens presented a paper (virtually) in May at the International Congress on Medieval Studies (a.k.a Spenser at Kalamazoo). Entitled, "'And set her by to watch, and set her by to weep': Glauce's Healing Arts," this paper marks the start of a new research project on the healing arts in early modern English literature and culture.

Virginia Page Jähne's play The Far-off Edge of Things is 1 of 3 (from 70) short-listed for the Tom Hendry RBC Emerging Playwright's Award by the Playwrights Guild of Canada. The play (her MA thesis supervised by Bill Kerr) has also been awarded our department's Robert Kroetsch Award for best Creative Master's Thesis.

Grace Paizen, current PhD student, was the special guest of, and interviewed about her research on gendered technology by, Dr. Leigh Rich of Georgia Southern University for the radio show "The Common Good" on WRUU 107.5 FM local Georgia radio.

Owen Schalk (BA/2021, English) appeared on the September 2nd THIS IS REVOLUTION podcast to discuss his articles on Canadian imperialism and the mining industry. Owen writes for Canadian Dimension, People's Voice, The Canada Files and more, but this was his first podcast appearance. Listen on YouTube, Spotify, iTunes, or anywhere else podcasts are available.

In spite (or because) of the pandemic, 2021 has been an especially good year for George Toles' published work. His book of micro-fiction, Status Updates, with art responses by Cliff Eyland, came out last spring, published by AT Bay Press. It was the topic of a half hour radio interview on Michael Silverblatt’s Bookworm [KCRW, Los Angeles], was profiled in Quill and Quire and Border Crossings, and was selected for a reading/interview at the Thin Air Festival this month. His most recent book of film criticism, Curtains of Light: Theatrical Space in Film, was published by SUNY Press in July in both hardcover and Kindle editions. A paperback edition will be released at the end of the year. A significantly expanded version of his comparative analysis of George Cukor’s Gaslight and Alfred Hitchcock’s Under Capricorn—which was first presented as part of a symposium on Under Capricorn in London—was published online with other symposium papers by the journal MOVIE, edited by Doug Pye. His essay, “Identity Masquerade and its Discontents in Jonathan Demme’s Something Wild” was published in Film International this August. Another essay, on Allegories of Obsession in David Fincher’s Zodiac and Edgar G. Ulmer’s The Black Cat will be included in a collection of essays on Zodiac edited by Matthew Sorrento, published by Fairleigh Dickinson University Press. It will be published in December, 2021. Finally, an essay entitled “The Rewards of Narrative Digression in Film Narrative” has been accepted by Raritan.

Congratulations to Jim Agapito, film technician for our filmmaking courses, for his remarkable ten-episode podcast, “Recovering Filipino” on CBC, as well as his hosting of the CBC Weekend Morning show.
Vanessa Warne is excited to share an update about the amazing work that graduate students Jessie Krahn and Natalie LoVetri have done for the Crafting Communities project. You can learn about Crafting Communities, a collaboration between Vanessa, Mary Elizabeth Leighton (UVic, English) and Andrea Korda (UofA, Art History) and a talented team of student RAs, here. What have Jessie and Natalie been up to in this strange year? They’ve made an OER!

Jessie co-produced and co-hosted Victorian Samplings, an 11-episode podcast which you can listen to here or on Apple Podcasts or Spotify. Jessie has interviewed academics, curators, and artists from around the world—all of them experts on nineteenth-century material culture. She’s been researching artifacts, having great conversations with guests, editing audio, and developing her already strong communication skills. Natalie has been carefully transcribing the episodes of that podcast, using Otter.ai and her skills as a writer, designer and editor to secure access to the podcast for deaf and hard-of-hearing audiences. Her work also transforms the podcast into a quotable text that can be used in research papers and other assignments. You can see an example of Natalie’s work here. I hope you’ll listen to and/or read some of the great work these talented and hardworking students have produced.

In related news, in May, Natalie and Jessie contributed to a live website launch attending by over 60 guests from 7 countries. This website was designed by former UofM English student, Ruth Ormiston, who recently completed her MA at UVic and yes! that is indeed the work of our very own Dr. Sabrina Mark, UofM PhD grad, featured under the site’s “Create” tab! With Ruth’s help, Sabrina offers a fascinating online tutorial on broderie anglaise.

An additional professionalization opportunity for Natalie and Jessie followed in June, when they co-presented on their academic podcasting adventure at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute, hosted by the University of Victoria.

A huge thank you to the Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media for financial support for this project and for the professionalization opportunities it’s created for our students, both current and former! Please stay tuned for Season Two and more updates about a collaboration that continues to be the shiny bright silver lining of Vanessa’s pandemic work life.
Messages from our student groups

pAGES - Graduate Students

pAGES, the Association of Graduate English Students, warmly welcomes all new and returning graduate students to the 2021-2022 academic year! With many of us not returning to campus this fall, here’s to setting up desks in unexpected corners of where we live, sourcing books and materials in innovative ways, and trying to hold onto the anticipation and excitement that September brings. This year, pAGES hopes to focus on bringing grad students together while we work apart and from afar. Whether through virtual work + write sessions, zoom ‘coffee’ hours, and/or a virtual colloquium, I hope that we can share ideas on how we might create spaces to connect, collaborate, and support each other this year. pAGES is here for you in the work you’re doing and is so proud of the thoughtful and thorough work that you have accomplished this past year in your academic, community, and personal projects. If you have any questions or suggestions about how pAGES might support you as a graduate student, or, as faculty, how pAGES might help navigate your relationships with graduate students, please contact pAGES at pages.info@umanitoba.ca.

- Amy-Leigh Gray, pAGES President

EFTSA - Undergraduate Students

Hello from the English, Film and Theatre Students’ Association (EFTSA)! We hope that everyone has had a safe and restful summer. EFTSA has been hard at work recruiting students to join our team and brainstorming events for the upcoming school year. Despite the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic, we are confident that we will be able to provide students with a plethora of academic workshops and social events. To ensure that we respect public health guidelines, we will continue to host primarily virtual events, including several that were successful last year. This will include Paint Night, writing workshops, and our ‘student talent palooza’. In addition, our committee has thought up several new, exciting ideas to build community and connect students across disciplines. Do not hesitate to reach out to us via our Instagram, @eftsauofm, if you have any questions or simply want to get involved! Sending best wishes for the fall semester!

- Sophie George, EFTSA President
  and Kayla Côté, EFTSA Vice President
In Memory of Chris Johnson

Chris Johnson's passing was a great shock. If the pandemic has had one lasting effect it will be to make us mindful of the opportunities to share interests and common experiences when we still can. I worked with Chris for many years. Herman Melville (aka John J Teunissen) walked me over to University College to meet him on the day I signed my first sessional contract in August of 1984. Chris promptly gave me a tour of the whole theatre facility. He encouraged the brief blossoming of the St Paul's Players back in the middle to late 80's, giving students credit for work on shows which I directed outside the program. He did not, over the many years, miss anything in the theatre, putting the rest of us -- me certainly -- to shame.

There are many good and strong memories, more recent, of work on other shows, on The Pluto Shot, on which Chris and Bill and I worked together. I knew that Chris loved big crowd scenes, so I wrote two such scenes, one for each act: I think he enjoyed choreographing them in that confined studio space. I was hoping to be in attendance to see him personally honoured again when the former Black Hole is rechristened (pun) the Chris Johnson Studio. Maybe that can still happen, with a certain sadness amidst the fond memories and the formality.

Our conversations were frequently not about theatre but about a certain hobby which we shared, though in different scales. He told me once of the greatest thrill he had ever had as a writer. He had an article accepted by Model Railroader magazine for publication. I vaguely recall that it had to do with an aspect of electronics in N scale. I regret, as a reader of said publication, that the editors were so backlogged that Chris's piece did not appear. He was somewhat disappointed, too. But he lit up when he told me that they had paid him (well!) for the article, anyway. How many academics can say that! And just imagine the (captive) audience! (It is probably difficult for anyone not familiar with the world’s greatest obsession to appreciate how many of us there are.)

I think it was very clear to me, working with Chris on the alumni fund-raising production of *Lysistrata*, just how far reaching was his impact on students. Rob Herriot came from Calgary to appear in it, and Sarah Constible (then in Toronto) made time in a busy acting schedule to write scenes and songs. Chris oversaw the development of every aspect of that show. He did not even leave the warm ups to a stage manager. He took them himself, in the midst of everyone, reawakening some muscles in older bodies to a tune that he had taught them years before. What a lot of fun everyone had, beginning to end. And I think that's how I'd like to remember him.

- Bob Smith

Note: When Covid restrictions are lifted, a theatre-based memorial will be planned for Chris’s family, friends, and community to close the house. In the meantime, Chris’ family kindly requests that his friends and relatives take a few minutes to honour his memory by watching the 8-minute photo-biography at the Ethical Death Care website here.

In Memory of Moti Shojania (Winnipeg Free Press obituary)

It is with much sadness that I share news that our colleague and alumna, Dr. Moti Shojania, passed away with family at her side. Moti was an unforgettable presence in this department--funny, enthusiastic, curious, and engaging. Moti was often the first one to raise her hand and ask a question at a public event, and the last one to leave a gathering, having talked and laughed with each person in attendance. She charmed every visiting speaker we hosted over the years. She was unfailingly interested in how--and what--everyone in our department was doing. She was also generous and kind. Moti's range of contributions as a student, an instructor, and a community champion for the arts was astonishing, as the notice that went out today to all of Moti's friends and colleagues in St. Paul's College reminds us. We will miss her so much.

- Brenda Austin-Smith

Moti was indeed unforgettable—the accomplished, so wide-ranging in her intellectual and cultural interests, and so wonderfully ebullient in scholarly and academic conversations.

- Judith Owens
In Memory of Margaret Allen

The oldest members of the Department will no doubt fondly remember their former colleague, Margaret Allen, who passed away on June 26th this year at the age of 100. Coming to academic studies relatively late, after briefly teaching in a rural school and working for the Canadian Red Cross for a number of years, she enrolled as an undergraduate at St. John’s College, graduating in 1963 with a B.A. (Hons), after which she did an M.A. in our graduate program (1964). Her thesis, entitled “The Middle English Poem ‘Cleanness’ in Relation to the Other Three Poems of the Cotton Nero Manuscript,” reflected both the inspiring influence of her mentor, Professor Peg Stobie, and her own scholarly potential. She then went on to doctoral studies at the University of London, also in Old and Middle English. After receiving her Ph.D., Margaret returned to Canada and taught briefly at Waterloo University College (now Waterloo Lutheran University), before coming to our Department in 1970. Dr. Allen’s office was in St. John’s, where she proved to be a very successful teacher and a much valued, active participant in the religious life of the College. Her seminars in Old and Middle English were an important part of the rigorous Honours Program that was then a separate part of the Department’s curriculum. Margaret Allen’s students soon learned that she had high expectations of them and equally high standards in marking their performance, which she had, no doubt, absorbed from her mentor during her own undergraduate and master’s programs. But her constant willingness to provide extra help to students who were struggling to learn Old and Middle English was reflected in their often-voiced appreciation of her teaching. She had a good sense of humour and was a not uncritical fan of the Toronto Blue Jays. One of her Chaucer students from the 1980s remembers a conversation with her about baseball in which she said that Dave Stieb was not quite as good a pitcher as he thought he was. Margaret Allen retired in the early 90s; but she continued her volunteer work for many years thereafter in the social causes she supported -- all part of the faith that shaped her quiet, kindly, but nonetheless determined character.

- This tribute was submitted by Robert O’Kell, drawn from the recollections of several former friends and colleagues and the obituary in the Free Press written by her nieces and nephews.
Currently, due to the pandemic, administrative offices are not open. Please contact staff via email. Thank you.

Department of English, Theatre, Film & Media
625 Fletcher Argue Building
University of Manitoba,
Winnipeg, MB
R3T 2N2 Canada

204.474.9678
english@umanitoba.ca
https://umanitoba.ca/english