

# Department of English Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
College of  
Arts and Science  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
ARTSANDSCIENCE.USASK.CA



Students point to English Honours Colloquium screen: Jamen Willis, Rahul Edwin, Jen Slager, Averi Markus, Myna Campbell, Tia Hendricks, Cassidy Serhienko, and Ava McLean.

2022-2023

Welcome to the USask English Department annual newsletter.

2022-2023 was an eventful year. Our respected colleague Joanne Leow moved to Simon Fraser University to take up a Canada Research Chair in Digital Humanities (congratulations, Joanne!). We were given permission to hire in several areas, including the fields of decolonizing literatures and Romanticism, with the searches still ongoing. Other highlights noted in this newsletter include awards earned by students; notable events such as talks by Bob Calder and Mark Abley; new books by members of the department; nominations for book awards; research news, including a new Bateman Professor; acknowledgement of three long-time faculty members who are set to retire; and a tribute to former faculty member Carol Morrell, who died earlier this year.

The newsletter was put together by Outreach and Engagement Chair Wendy Roy and English Department Intern Jamen Willis.

*Our Department's vision is to be a place where many peoples come together to engage in mutually respectful relations and dialogues. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty Six territory and traditional Metis homeland, and we acknowledge the diverse Indigenous peoples whose footsteps have marked this territory for centuries.*

# Notable Events

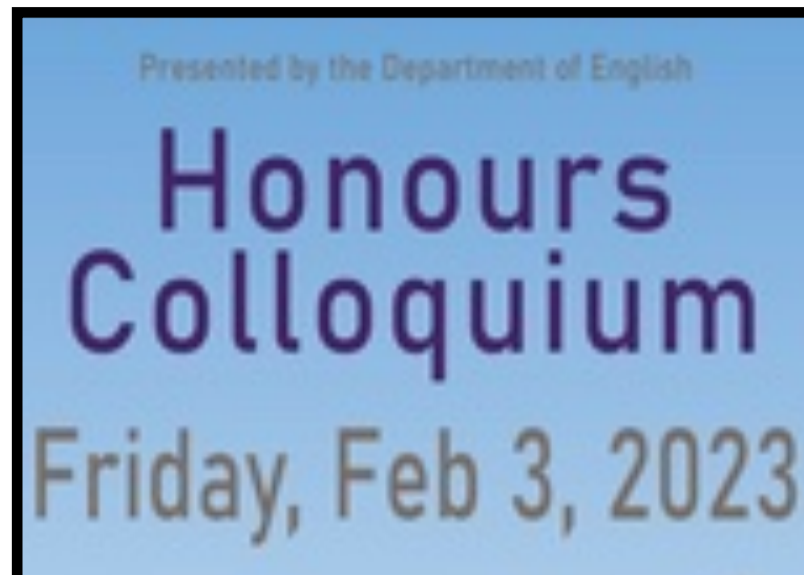
## Honours Colloquium

The 14th Annual Honours Colloquium took place on February 3, 2023, featuring two panels of original undergraduate research. The undergraduate students shared their ten-minute presentations at a gathering at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre.

The panels were titled “Gender and Power” and “Human Bodies, Human Hearts.”

It was a great joy for everyone involved that this year’s Honours Colloquium was held in person and was open to spectators. Faculty, fellow students, friends, and family were in attendance.

Congratulations to BA Honours and Double Honours students for accomplishing this part of their degrees.



Celebrating the Research  
of English Honours Students

**Thank you!**

Undergraduate Chair Ella Ophir  
and Panel Chairs Peter Robinson  
and Kylee-Anne Hingston



Tia Hendricks and Cassidy Serhienko respond to questions about their presentations after the first panel on “Gender and Power.”

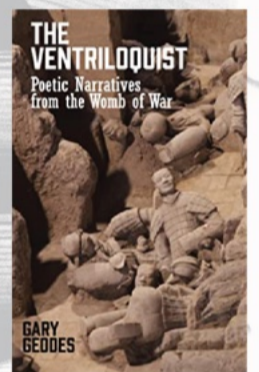
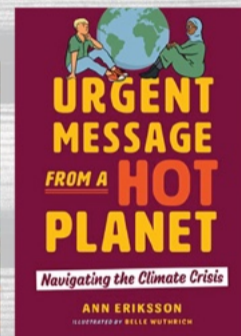
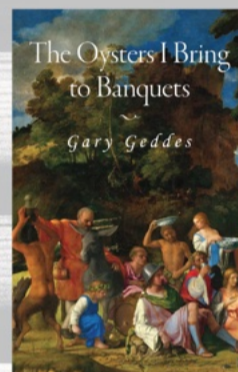
# Notable Events

## Public Talks

In September, the department took advantage of a visit to Saskatoon by B.C. poets Ann Eriksson and Gary Geddes to host a double reading of their environmental and political poetry. Ann read from *Urgent Message from A Hot Planet: Navigating the Climate Crisis*, while Gary read from *The Ventriloquist* and *The Oysters I Bring to Banquets*.

## The Department of English presents a **Double Reading!**

September 14, 3:00 pm • Arts 153



Gary Geddes & Ann Eriksson read from new work!

Ann Eriksson is a crusader for the earth and its critters in her five adult novels and her three books for young readers. *Urgent Message from A Hot Planet: Navigating the Climate Crisis* has been called a "toolbox for hope" and "the most beautiful illustrated book on the market, each page with plenty for eye and mind."



Gary Geddes has written and edited fifty books and won a dozen national and international literary awards. *The Ventriloquist*, which contains award-winning anti-war narratives, and *The Oysters I Bring to Banquets* confirm his reputation as "Canada's best political poet" and that is poetry is, indeed, "breathtaking in its imaginative reach and verbal dexterity."

THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENGLISH AND  
THE MFA IN WRITING PROGRAM INVITE YOU TO A  
SPECIAL EVENT WITH COMPOSER  
**ANDREW RATHBUN**  
**COMPOSITIONS**  
*text & lyrics*

OCTOBER 21, 2022 • 2:30 PM

EDWARDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ROOM 46

ALL ARE WELCOME



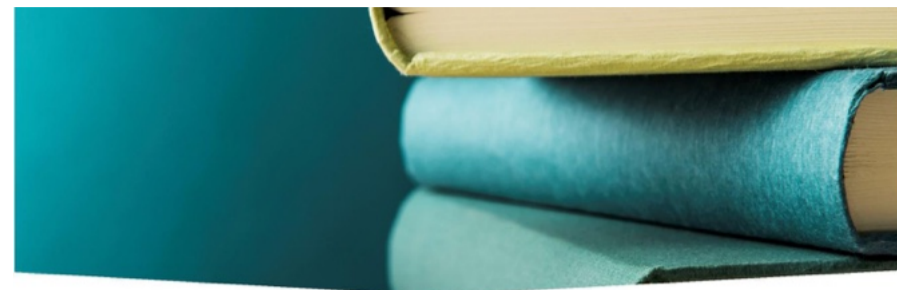
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Composer Andrew Rathbun of Toronto came to Saskatoon in October to present his *Atwood Suites* at the *Poetics of Jazz* concert organized by USask's Dean McNeill. The performance by the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra also featured collaborative works by Saskatchewan poets and composers. At a special event on campus sponsored by the Department of English and the MFA in Writing, Andrew talked about composing music inspired by the poetry of Margaret Atwood.

# Notable Events

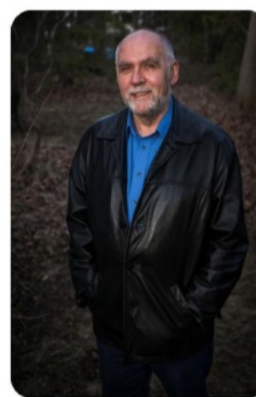
## Public Talks

In November, the department hosted a special event with Mark Abley, who was awarded an honorary degree at fall convocation. Mark, who earned an Honours BA in English and a Rhodes Scholarship in 1975 and who has worked since as an editor, journalist, poet, and author of highly acclaimed non-fiction books, talked about the places a humanities degree can take graduates.



## What to do with a Humanities degree

*A conversation with Mark Abley*



**3 pm, Tuesday, November 8, 2022**  
**Louis' Loft, 93 Campus Drive**

The Department of English invites you to a special in-person event with Mark Abley, who will share the places a humanities degree can take you.

*Mark Abley (BA'75) is an award-winning Canadian author, journalist, poet and editor. Mark's wide range of accomplishments include working as an editor and columnist for the Montreal Gazette, along with writing several highly acclaimed non-fiction books. His contributions to the writing community have earned him a Rhodes Scholarship and the Guggenheim Fellowship.*

Please join us to hear from this incredible alumnus.

Refreshments provided. Please RSVP here:



THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH PRESENTS:

**JAN  
31**

## An Evening with Robert Calder and Somerset Maugham

*A special event to commemorate his 2022 USask Alumni Achievement Award*

**Tuesday, Jan. 31**

**7:30 pm**

**Neatby-Timlin Theatre, 241 Arts**

A graduate of USask, Professor Emeritus Robert Calder taught in its Department of English for four and a half decades. He is the author or editor of twelve books, one of which, *Willie: The Life of W. Somerset Maugham*, won the Governor General's Literary Award For Non-Fiction. His book on Maugham's film adaptations will be published next year by the University of Wisconsin Press.

Few authors have been adapted for the screen as often as Somerset Maugham. But the Hollywood couldn't take the Maugham cocktail neat. The Hays Office's censorship, combined with the studios' sense of what the ordinary moviegoing public wanted, meant that considerable revision of his tales was necessary.

Calder's illustrated lecture will use film clips from *Of Human Bondage* (which featured Bette Davis's stunning performance), *The Painted Veil* (which is marked by Greta Garbo's incandescence), and *The Razor's Edge* (with Bill Murray's idiosyncratic interpretation of a visionary).



The department hosted an event in January to celebrate Professor Emeritus Robert Calder's 2022 USask Alumni Achievement Award. Bob is a graduate of our department and taught in the department for 45 years. He is the author of numerous books of literary criticism, including *Willie: The Life of Somerset Maugham*, which won a Governor General's Award for non-fiction. At the event, Bob drew from research for his book on adaptations of Maugham's work, to be published next year, to talk about some of the most influential film adaptations of Maugham's prose.

# Notable Events

## Public Talks

In April, Department of English faculty member and lecturer in Women's and Gender Studies Josh Morrison presented the WGST New Feminist Research Lecture "Harsh Realities, Loving Connections: Masculinities in Contemporary Queer Canadian Cinema." Drawing on films by Indigiqueer, queer, and trans filmmakers, Josh discussed how masculinities inform questions of want, lack, isolation, and connection in relationships.



Dr. Josh Morrison (PhD) is presenting this WGST New Feminist Research Lecture on the presentation of masculinities in film by Canadian queer, trans, and Indigiqueer creatives. Hosted by the Department of Political Studies.

## Harsh Realities, Loving Connections: Masculinities in Contemporary Queer Canadian Cinema

Dr. Josh Morrison (PhD) is presenting this WGST New Feminist Research Lecture about the presentation of masculinities in film

## Research Seminars

The research committee hosted three Research Seminars during 2022-2023, providing an opportunity for faculty members to present their research-in-progress to their colleagues and to get advice and suggestions about how to improve their essays and grant applications.

- **January:** Jenna Hunnef, "The Hard Press: Allotment Debates in Indian Territory Newspapers, 1866–1906"
- **February:** Ella Ophir, "Rachel Cusk's *Second Place*: A Feminist Ethics of Literary Space?"
- **March:** Bill Bartley, "'You can go now, brother': Charity, Sympathy, and Community in David Milch's *Deadwood*"

# Literature Matters

Our literature in the community lecture series, hosted by the Outreach Committee, featured seven in-person events with faculty, lecturers, emeritus professors, and students:

**September:** Lisa Vargo, “By Heart: A Talk about Memorizing Poetry”

**October:** Cara Schwartz and Alexander Torvi with Gwen Rose and Wendy Roy, “Colour and Light in Adaptations of *The Handmaid’s Tale*”

**November:** Jessica McDonald, Diann Block, Wenona Partridge, Allison Piché, Jillian Baker, “Arts-Based Programming in Prisons”

**January:** Jasmine Redford, “Illustrating a Graphic Novel: *Siegfried: Dragon Slayer*”

**March:** Jeanette Lynes, “Ten More Great Fashion Moments in Literature”  
Mark Doerksen, “Tolkien, Middle-Earth, and the Lost Inheritance of England”

**April:** Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan panel with Kayvon Khoshkam and Jessica McDonald: “*Romeo and Juliet: They Die at the End*”

SEPT  
28

## LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY By Heart: A Talk about Memorizing Poetry

BY LISA VARGO

Wednesday, Sept. 28  
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall  
505 10th St. E., Saskatoon

What poems do you know by heart? Why do you know them and what might they offer you? This talk concerns the memorized poem and will offer a brief history of memorizing poems, offer some thoughts about techniques to memorize poems, and consider why one might (or might not) bother to do so. It would be lovely to hear some examples of poems that you remember. Ted Hughes’ observation, “There are many reasons for learning poems. But memorising them should be like a game. It should be a pleasure,” will offer the presiding spirit for the talk.



### LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

## ILLUSTRATING A GRAPHIC NOVEL SIEGFRIED, DRAGON SLAYER



Jasmine Redford

Self-portrait by Jasmine Redford

Wednesday, Jan. 25  
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall  
505 10th St. E., Saskatoon

The graphic novel *Siegfried, Dragon Slayer* was published in 2022 with text by Mark Allard-Will and illustrations by Jasmine Redford. In this Literature Matters event, Jasmine will talk about the process of illustrating the novel, which is based on stories about the young Danish prince Siegfried from the Norse mythological *Völsunga Saga*. Jasmine, a PhD student whose work focuses on Canadian comic books, will discuss the process of illustrating a novel, including her use of a unique “coffee wash” technique.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



Renegade Arts Entertainment

### LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

## TEN MORE GREAT FASHION MOMENTS IN LITERATURE

JEANETTE LYNES

Wednesday, March 1 | 7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall  
505 10th St. E. Saskatoon



Free and open to the public

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### LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

## TOLKIEN, MIDDLE-EARTH, AND THE LOST INHERITANCE OF ENGLAND

MARK DOERKSEN

Wednesday, March 29  
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall  
505 10th St. E. Saskatoon

This talk introduces J.R.R. Tolkien’s legendarium, the modern inheritor of Anglo-Saxon mythology, and examines how in the 20th century Tolkien, in works such as the *Silmarillion*, sought to engage with the lost tales of pre-Conquest England and in the process changed the modern fantasy landscape.



### LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

## ARTS-BASED PROGRAMMING IN PRISONS

A PANEL ON THE INSPIRED MINDS: ALL NATIONS CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

Moderated by Jessica McDonald with Diann Block, Wenona Partridge, Allison Piché, and Jillian Baker

Wednesday, Nov 30 | 7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall  
505 10th St. E.  
Saskatoon



### LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

## COLOUR AND LIGHT IN ADAPTATIONS OF THE HANDMAID’S TALE

Cara Schwartz and Alexander Torvi  
with Gwen Rose and Wendy Roy

MARGARET  
ATWOOD

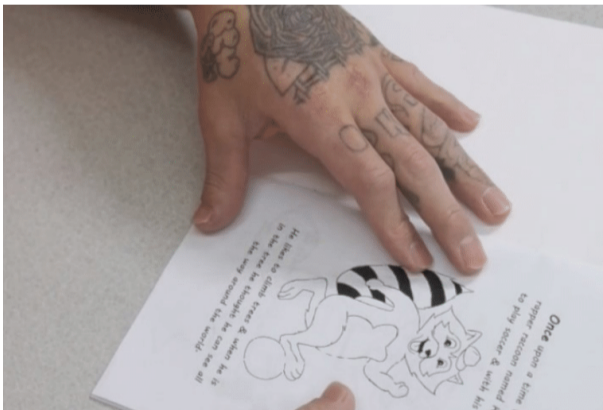
In Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*, colour plays an important part in how people are classified and oppressed, especially through what they wear. In recent years, the red robes and white bonnets of the Handmaids have become potent symbols of protest for women’s rights around the world. Using images and words, this panel explores how colour and light are used in recent adaptations of Atwood’s novel — the television series and the graphic novel — to emphasize themes of oppression and freedom.

Wednesday, Oct. 26  
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall  
505 10th St. E., Saskatoon



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



APR  
26

### LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

## Romeo and Juliet: They Die At The End SHAKESPEARE ON THE SASKATCHEWAN 2023

Kayvon Khoshkam and Jessica McDonald talk about how productions of well-known plays can still engage and surprise audiences.

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 | 7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall, 505 10th St. E. Saskatoon



Free and open to the public

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# MFA Highlights

## Writing North

*Writing North 13: Connections* took place January 26-28, 2023, hosted by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild and the University of Saskatchewan's MFA in Writing Program. This year's festival revolved around the theme *Connections*.

The keynote speaker was Egyptian-Canadian journalist and author Omar El Akkad. Many of his works of fiction and non-fiction have won awards, including the novels *American War* (2017) and *What Strange Paradise* (2021), which was awarded the prestigious Giller Prize. In "Before and After the Writing: Plotting, Structure and Revision," Omar provided an in-depth perspective on the process of writing a novel, sharing examples of structural elements and ways to revise projects.

The festival events included readings from students, alumni, and other featured writers, as well as workshops about poetry and prose writing.

Our gratitude to the MFA in Writing and the Writers' Guild for sharing their experience and expertise during this event and connecting people both online and in person.

**WRITING NORTH 13**  
**CONNECTIONS**  
JANUARY 26-28, 2023  
Main Lounge, St. Andrew's College, 1121 College Drive, Saskatoon

**Omar El Akkad**  
**January 26, 7 - 8:15 p.m.**  
Keynote Lecture  
"Before and After the Writing: Plotting, Structure and Revision"  
Virtual via Zoom

**River Volta MFA**  
**Student and Alumni Readings & Reception January 27, 7 - 9:00 p.m.**  
Featuring: Red Davis, Delane Just, Ashley Lekach, Walker Pityn, Callum Wilson, and Karen Wood.  
In-Person and Livestreamed

**January 28 Events**

**Russell Wangersky & Marina Endicott**  
**10 - 10:45 a.m.**  
Reading and Conversation  
In-Person and Livestreamed

**Russell Wangersky**  
**Prose Workshop**  
**11 - 1:00 p.m.**  
"Truth and Consequences: The Intersection Between Fact and Fiction"  
In-Person

**Cecily Nicholson & Khodi Dill**  
**3 - 3:45 p.m.**  
Reading and Conversation  
In-Person and Livestreamed

**Cecily Nicholson**  
**Poetry Workshop**  
**4 - 6:00 p.m.**  
"Understory Poems"  
In-Person

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
Saskatchewan Writers Guild

To register for all live-streamed events visit [skwriter.com](http://skwriter.com)

# MFA Highlights

## River Volta Reading Series and Review of Books

The River Volta Reading Series continued this year, organized by Josiah Nelson, Dawn Muenchrath, Red Davis, Ashley Lekach, and Walker Pityn.

Under the supervision of faculty member Sheri Benning, MFA in Writing students Dawn Muenchrath, Josiah Nelson, and Walker Pityn edited *The River Volta Review of Books*, <https://rivervoltareview.com/>, featuring book reviews, essays, and interviews with authors.

For more MFA highlights, including publications and events, see this year's MFA in Writing Newsletter.

**RIVER VOLTA  
READING SERIES**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 7:00 PM  
VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS (VIA ZOOM) WITH  
SARAH ENS & SHERI BENNING



SARAH ENS  
FLYWAY (2022)

SHERI BENNING  
FIELD REQUIEM (2021)

 **CLICK THE LINK IN THE  
DESCRIPTION TO REGISTER**

**RIVER VOLTA  
READING SERIES**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 7:00 PM  
VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS (VIA ZOOM) WITH  
JEANETTE LYNES & CAROL ROSE GOLDENEAGLE



JEANETTE LYNES  
APOTHECARY'S GARDEN (2022)

CAROL ROSE GOLDENEAGLE  
ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS (2021)

 **CLICK THE LINK IN THE  
DESCRIPTION TO REGISTER**

**RIVER VOLTA  
READING SERIES**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 7:00 PM  
VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS (VIA ZOOM) WITH  
KIT DOBSON & JOANNE LEOW




KIT DOBSON  
FIELD NOTES ON LISTENING (2022)

JOANNE LEOW  
SEAS MOVE AWAY (2022)

 **CLICK THE LINK IN THE  
DESCRIPTION TO REGISTER**


**RIVER VOLTA  
READING SERIES**

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 AT 7:00 PM  
READINGS FROM THE MFA IN WRITING  
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023



RED DAVIS  
ASHLEY LEKACH  
DAWN MUENCHRATH

JOSIAH NELSON  
WALKER PITYN  
OLIVE SCOTT

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1437 COLLEGE DR., SASKATOON**



## New Bateman Professor Named

Dr. Wendy Roy has been named Bateman Professor in the Department of English starting July 2023. She is a Canadian Literature specialist who joined the department in 2004 with a PhD from McGill University. During the two-year term of the award, she will complete work on her SSHRC-funded project “Women of the Apocalypse: Writing the End of the World in Canada.”

Wendy researches the ways that dystopian and apocalyptic fiction, film, and television by Canadian women writers comment on the present and past. She argues that such works ask readers to consider the impact that traumatic events, developments, and policies in the world today might have on the future.

Her work on the project to date has involved presentation of research on women’s apocalyptic and dystopian writing in Canada through conference papers, articles, graduate classes, Literature Matters panels, and keynote addresses. She also helped to sponsor and co-organize the *20/21 Vision: Speculating in Literature and Film in Canada* conference, which gave her an opportunity to work with and mentor graduate students.

As Bateman Professor, she will compile and edit a collection of essays and creative works, to be titled *ReVisions: Speculating in Literature and Film in Canada*.

The Bateman Professorship is open to full professors in the Department of English who have an established reputation in their field. Its most recent incumbent was Dr. Peter Robinson. The professorship was created in 1919 and is named in honour of Reginald Bateman, who became a professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan in 1909 and was killed during the First World War in 1918.

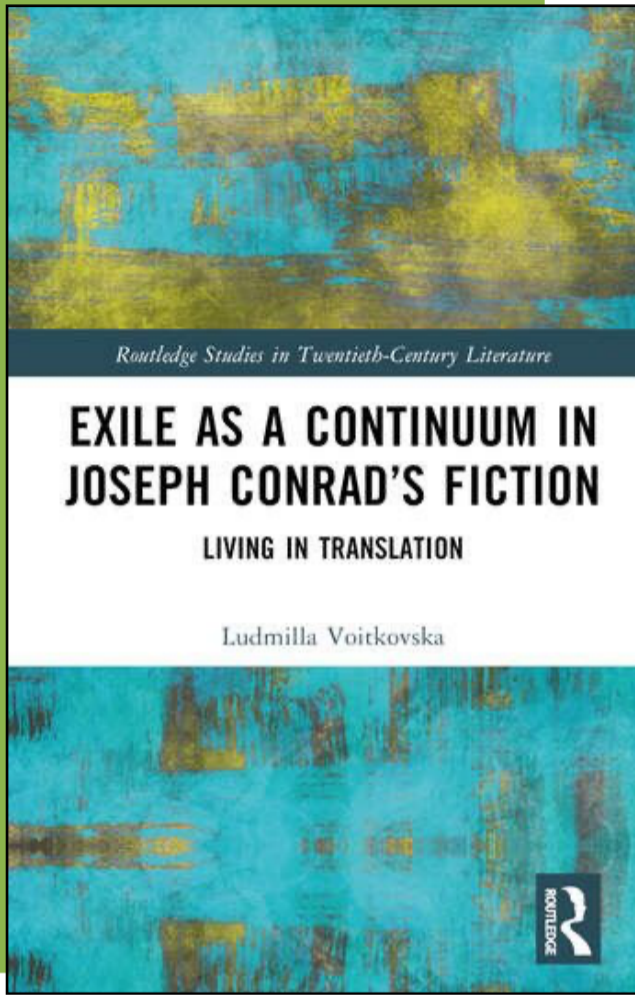


## CRC in Indigenous Storytelling Kristina Bidwell featured on CBC *Ideas*

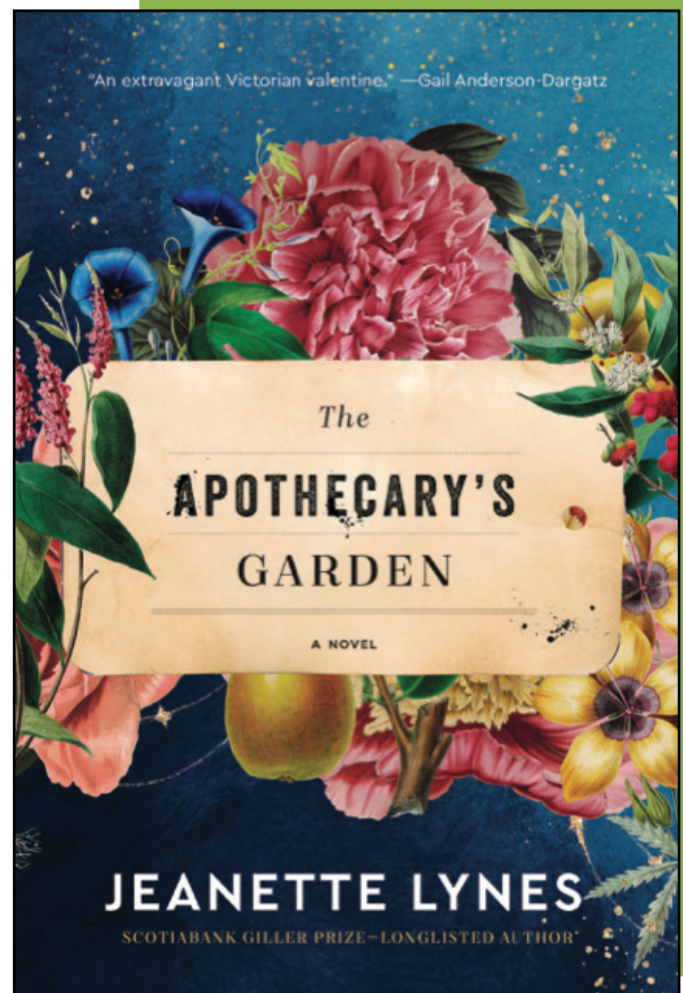
Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Storytelling Dr. Kristina Fagan Bidwell has created an episode of the CBC Radio One program *Ideas* focusing on collaborations among Indigenous storytellers, writers, and elders. The episode, released February 15, is entitled “The Indigenous Renaissance in Newfoundland and Labrador” and is based on a lecture Kristina presented as part of the George Story Distinguished Lecture Series at Memorial University in Newfoundland in November. The radio program can be heard [here](#), while the lecture is available at [https://youtu.be/lovX0I\\_Qpqc](https://youtu.be/lovX0I_Qpqc).

Kristina is a member of the NunatuKavut (the Inuit community of southern Labrador). Her research focuses on how stories interact between different Indigenous communities, and between Indigenous and settler communities.

## New Books



Congratulations to Ludmilla Voitkovska for the publication of her new book *Exile As a Continuum in Joseph Conrad's Fiction: Living in Translation*, and Jeanette Lynes for the publication of her recent novel *The Apothecary's Garden*.



MFA in Writing students and graduates published a rich array of work this year. Their accomplishments were detailed in the news article "[A Bumper Crop of Books!](#)" and included books by Allie McFarland, Sarah Ens, dee Hobsbawn-Smith, Sarah Taggart, Katherine Lawrence, Patrick O'Reilly, Gayle Smith, Nicole Haldoupis, and Tea Gerbeza (forthcoming).

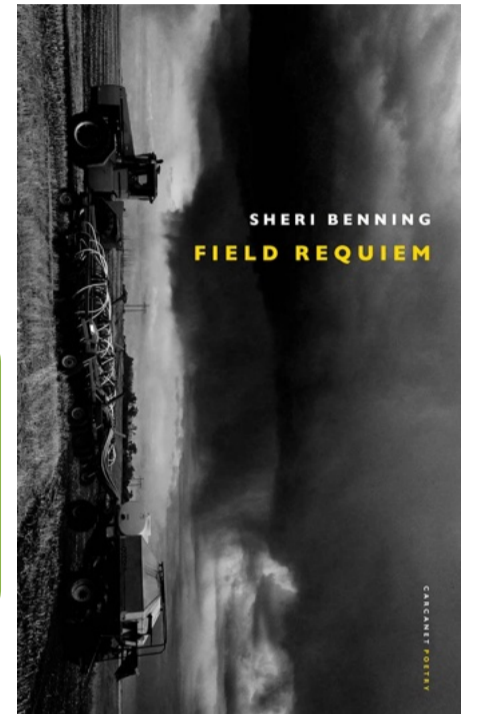
# Saskatchewan Book Awards Shortlist

Congratulations to members and former members of our department who have been nominated for this year's Saskatchewan Book Awards!

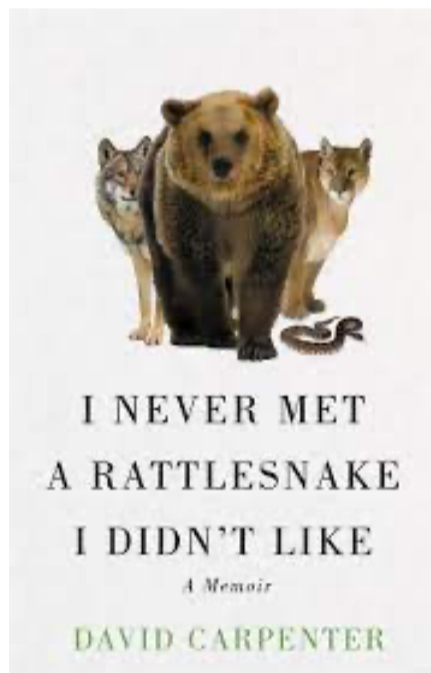


*The Apothecary's Garden* by professor Jeanette Lynes was nominated for the Book of the Year Award and the City of Saskatoon Book Award.

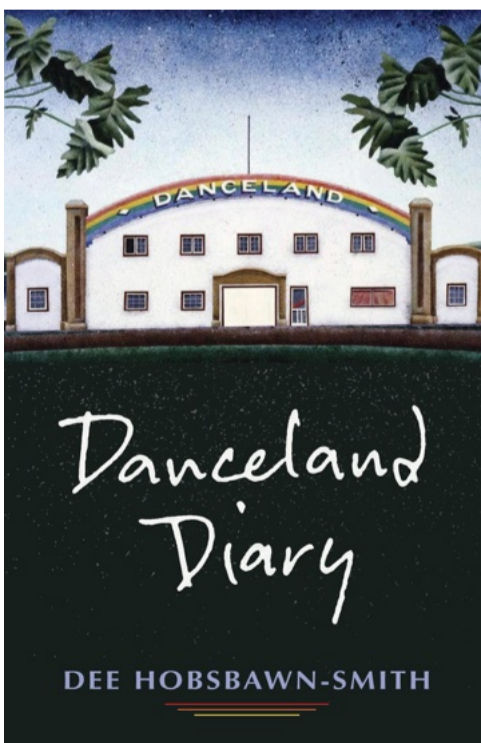
*Field Requiem* by professor Sheri Benning was nominated for both the Poetry Award and the City of Saskatoon Book Award.



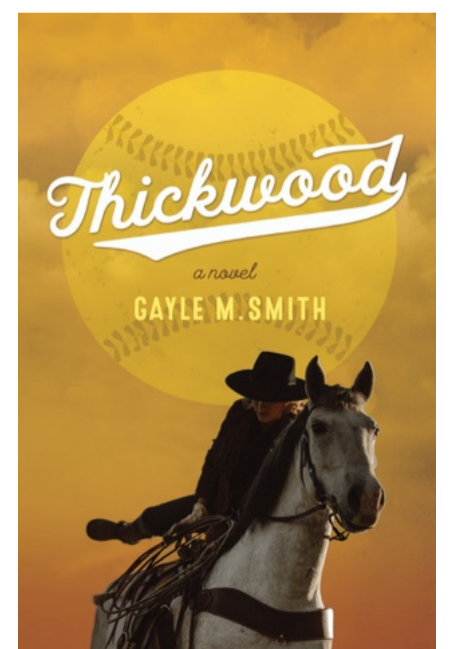
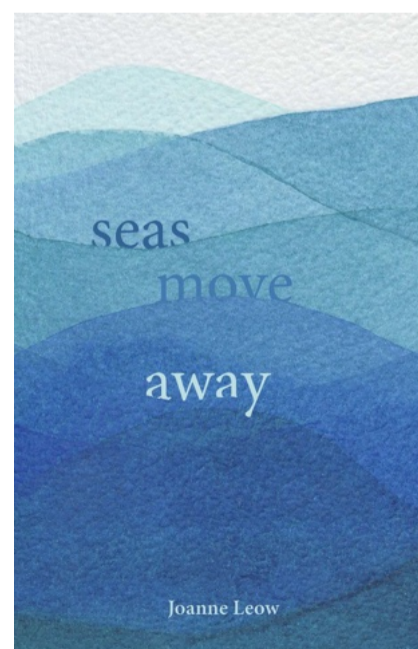
*I Never Met A Rattlesnake I Didn't Like* by retired professor David Carpenter was nominated for the Non-Fiction Award and the City of Saskatoon Book Award.



The poetry collection *Seas Move Away* by former professor Joanne Leow and the novel *Thickwood* by MFA graduate Gayle Smith were both nominated for the First Book Award.



*Danceland Diaries* by MFA and MA graduate dee Hobsbawn-Smith was nominated for the Fiction Award.





# Profile of Graduate Student Jasmine Redford



Self-portrait by Jasmine Redford

By Jamen Willis

Growing up, Jasmine Redford loved comic books. However, she eventually set this interest aside, believing that it was a “passion project” that could not be given priority. It was not until she started pursuing English literature as a university student that she realized the value of combining her major with her youthful interest. Now, she both studies Canadian comics and illustrates comic books.

“Why are there so many American superheroes but not many celebrated Canadian superheroes?” Jasmine asks. The focus for the MA in English she completed at the University of Saskatchewan in 2020 was on nationalism in comic books, specifically the role of Canadian and Indigenous superheroes. Her scholarly research has led her to look at historical and sociopolitical factors related to “Canadian identity,” confirming the intersectionality of her research as a student of literature.

She is currently working on a PhD in English. As well as taking classes and working on her dissertation, Jasmine serves as a teaching assistant. Although she is still deeply interested in comic books, her research has shifted, focusing not just on the “superhero entity” but also “how violence presents itself in Canadian comics.”

Much like her connection to comic books, her academic journey has not been linear. Before attending USask to study for an undergraduate and then graduate degree, Jasmine, who is as much an artist as she is a scholar, studied at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, where she obtained BFA with a major in visual arts. While she found the classes on animation and design rewarding, she describes herself as someone who does best designing physical products, ones that she can touch and pour her time into. She finds the process of creating art “meditative” and loves getting “swept away with the details.”

Jasmine’s skills and talent have not gone unnoticed. Her work has been published several times, and this winter she presented a Literature Matters: Literature in the Community talk about her artistic process as the illustrator of *Siegfried: Dragon Slayer*. The 2022 graphic novel is based on the Norse mythological *Völsunga Saga* and follows the adventures of a young prince. Jasmine explained during the event that she worked alongside author Mark Allard-Will to bring this action-filled story to life by creating page upon page of illustrations using a unique technique: coffee wash.

Her use of coffee as a way to create monochromatic illustrations started when she was at a concert featuring her father, who plays trumpet for several Saskatoon jazz bands. She had been sitting in the crowd, itching to create art, when she noticed all the half-empty cups sitting on the tables around her. She first tried dipping her brushes in leftover pop but did not get the results she wanted until she tested coffee.

Applying what she had learned in art class about diluting and saturation, she continued using coffee in her art, figuring out what works ... and what does not. Coffee with cream, she humorously points out, is not good for art because it clogs up the tools. Jasmine’s trial and error with coffee worked in her favour as the illustrations in the graphic novel are stunningly detailed, a testament to the hours of the collaborative work she put in as illustrator.

Asked about the role of comic books and graphic novels in the classroom, Jasmine says, “They deserve a place in the classroom to give readers alternative versions of texts.”

# Student Association News

## English Course Council

The English Course Council has had another productive and busy year. Our executive committee for 2022-2023 was Alyson Cook (President), Nicole Jacobson, (Vice-President and Finances), Olivia Abram (Communications Officer), and Dawn Muenchrath and Walker Pityn (Co-editors, *The Fieldstone Review*).

The Social Committee, chaired by Cara Schwartz, organized and planned a number of successful social nights including a movie night and a joint mixer with English undergrads. We hope to continue a relationship with the undergrad students and plan future joined events with them in the coming years. We've begun creating an online presence for the ECC and have created an Instagram profile to help promote and celebrate members of our community, provide information about upcoming events, and notify our followers about opportunities that may be of interest.

By far our most successful event this year, however, was the Bake Sale Fundraiser that we held in the fall term. We had a great turnout for this and received a lot of support from the department. The money raised by this sale has gone towards organizing future social nights.

*The Fieldstone Review* successfully pulled past editions from the old website and uploaded them onto the new website so that all editions can be found in one place. The 2023 issue, REVERSALS, will be published in the summer.

## English Undergraduate Society

The EUS enjoyed a successful year, helping to connect English students with one another to foster friendships and learn more about the university community. We were thrilled to have very engaged participation from our members once again this year, and we relished the chance to welcome more enthusiastic students into our community of English majors and students interested in English!

Our executive this year consisted of Ava McLean (President), Becca Dunkle (Communications and Outreach), Alex Torvi (Graduate Student Liaison), Cassidy Serhienko (Secretary), and Jen Slager (Alternate Secretary).

The EUS held multiple weekly meetings, encouraging our members to connect with each other, to support their fellow English students, and to share their tips, thoughts, and experiences about humanities classes, degree requirements, and Department of English events and student life. The group is happy to have built a supportive community of students again this year and hopes to announce a new executive team soon.

The EUS would like to thank our members and the Department of English for all their support.

# Undergraduate Student Awards

The Department of English was delighted to honour the 2022–2023 undergraduate award recipients on April 5.

The event brought together students, faculty, family, and friends to celebrate the achievements of the award recipients.

Congratulations to all those who won awards!



Students who attended the Awards Reception included Jen Slager, Averi Markus, Eleandra Craven, Paige Humeny, Ben Jorgenson, Rahul Guatham Veliyil Edwin, Kaitlyn Clark, Erin Paulhus, Elisabeth Bauman, Bailey Schaan, and Ava McLean.

Rose Litman Medal  
in the Humanities:

**Timothy Nickerson**

Award for Excellence  
in English Studies:

**Hannah Tran**

Elizabeth Brewster  
Memorial Scholarship:

**Kaitlyn Clark**

Avie Bennett Prize  
in Canadian Literature:

**Eunice Domingo**

Mary Lou Ogle Award for  
the Study of Communications:

**Paige Humeny**

Yuans Award  
In Canadian Literature:

**Hannah Tran**

Roscoe R. Miller Scholarship:

**Bailey Schaan**

Ronald and Mary Dyck  
Memorial Award:

**Kaitlyn Clark**  
**Erin Paulhus**

Hannon Travel Scholarship:

**Ava McLean**  
**Jen Slager**  
**Rahul Gautham Veliyil Edwin**

Hannon Scholarship:

**Elisabeth Bauman**  
**Kaitlyn Clark**  
**Eleandra Craven**  
**Paige Humeny**  
**Ben Jorgenson**  
**Ava McLean**  
**Averi Markus**  
**Erin Paulhus**  
**Jen Slager**  
**Rahul Gautham Veliyil Edwin**  
**Jamen Willis**

Reginald JG Bateman  
Memorial Scholarship:

**Ava McLean**

JB McGeachy Prize in English:

**Ana Cristina Camacho Alarcon**



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# Undergraduate Student Highlights

## Career Internship Poster Event



English student Kaitlyn Clark talks about her internship with the Inspired Minds program with Sarah Powrie, a professor at St. Thomas More College, during the poster event held during the Undergraduate Awards April 5.

## English Major Word Cloud



We asked English majors which words they would use to describe their degree. Here's what they had to say!



# Honouring Retirees

## William Bartley

By Lindsey Banco

The Department of English congratulates Dr. William (Bill) Bartley on his retirement after more than three decades of service. After earning his PhD from the University of Alberta, Bill joined our department in 1991, and in addition to his lauded teaching and research, he served the University of Saskatchewan on University Council and on numerous committees in the College of Arts and Science. In our department, he has had a particularly formative influence on our undergraduate programming, having served for many years on our Undergraduate Committee, including as Undergraduate Chair, in addition to his other departmental work.



Bill has taught some of our department's most popular and highly-regarded courses. His seminars on 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature (including a course on Emily Dickinson) and 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century film and television (including courses on the western film, *The Wire*, and *Mad Men*) were beloved by students. For many years, he taught the legendary ENG 288: Introduction to Film, for which he was nominated for a USSU Teaching Award. He also supervised graduate students working on canonical American writers such as Herman Melville, Henry David Thoreau, and Willa Cather, as well as the films of Spike Lee, John Sayles, and Tim Burton. In 2015, he told the CBC about his course on *Mad Men*, noting that he was “in an awkward position as an English professor telling people they should watch more television.” Bill has long argued that TV is not only narratively complex but also an important mode of ethical and political inquiry.

Bill's research reflects a similar dual interest in 19<sup>th</sup>-century American literature and contemporary film and television. The first half of his career was devoted to the likes of Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Kate Chopin, and he published articles on those writers in the *University of Toronto Quarterly* and *Modern Philology*. In the second half of his career he turned to film and television, engaging with long form TV series such as *Deadwood* and *The Wire* and film auteurs such as Barry Levinson, John Sayles, and Krzysztof Kieslowski. Bill has long been a regular on the conference circuit, participating in many meetings of the Literature/Film Association, the American Literature Association, and numerous other scholarly societies. He is currently hard at work on a book manuscript about long-form narrative.

Retirement will allow him more time to work on his book after a well-deserved trip to Europe in the fall with his wife, Pamela. The department thanks Bill sincerely for his many years of service and wishes him all the best in his retirement.

# Honouring Retirees

## Joanne Rochester

By Brent Nelson

Joanne Rochester made her way into the academic profession by way of art school in Vancouver (BFA UBC), sojourning abroad with stops in New York, London, and Paris, before diverting to English studies, ultimately completing her education in English with a PhD in Renaissance Drama at the University of Toronto. From Toronto, she made her way to the Great Plains and Treaty 6 Territory to join the Department of English at the University of Saskatchewan in 2004 as a term appointment, entering a tenure-track position the following year.



In her time at USask, Joanne has built a reputation as a dynamic and engaging lecturer, much of it in our second-year Shakespeare courses. Her true passion, however, has always been those other Renaissance dramatists, and she particularly relished the rare opportunity to teach our third-year course ENG 324. In her research, she was interested in issues of staging and spectacle in dramatic literature and in performance. She published a monograph, *Staging Spectatorship in the Plays of Philip Massinger* (Ashgate 2010, part of their Studies in Performance and Early Modern Drama series), and an article on “Space and Staging in the Digby *Mary Magdalen* and *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*” in *Early Theatre*. She also presented papers on Shakespeare, Massinger, Nathan Field, Jasper Mayne, and others at international conferences of such learned societies as the Shakespeare Association of America, the Renaissance Society of America, and the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society. Her academic interests often saw her crossing over into the practice of theatre. She directed “The Prophets of the Anti-Christ” (from *The Chester Plays*) in 2010 as part of the Pocuili Ludique Societas series in Toronto.

In recent years, she co-supervised Skye Brandon’s interdisciplinary MA thesis that involved literary study as part of a process leading to a production of Shakespeare’s *Henry V*. Joanne served on the board of directors of the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival from 2014 to 2019, presenting pre-show talks for various performances and on a few occasions acting as academic consultant and dramaturge for the Festival. She also convened panel discussions on the season’s plays for our Literature Matters series.

Joanne’s retirement plans include a move back to Toronto, where she will devote more time to her avocation of collecting and trading in mid-century pottery, furniture, and art, and to restarting dormant research projects.

The Department of English and the theatre community wish Joanne all the best in her retirement and her next adventures.

# Honouring Retirees

## Francis Zichy

By Wendy Roy

Sincere thanks to Professor Francis Zichy, who is retiring at the end of June after 42 years in the Department of English.

Francis arrived at the University of Saskatchewan in 1981 with a PhD in 19th-century English literature from Harvard University, which he earned in 1976 with a dissertation on sympathy and judgment in the novels of George Eliot. After graduation, he took up a Postdoctoral Fellowship at McMaster University (1977-1978).

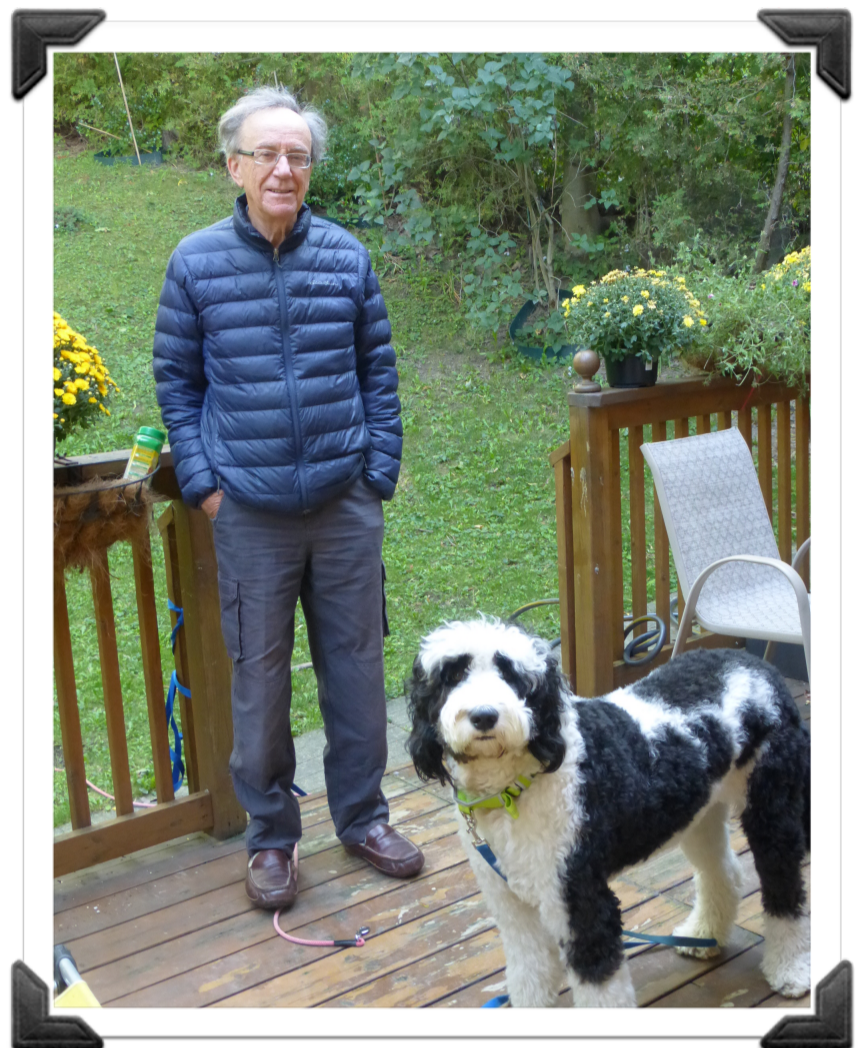
During his years in our department, Francis specialized in twentieth-century Canadian literature, especially Western Canadian fiction. His monograph *Disenchanted Modernity in Robert Kroetsch's The Studhorse Man* was published by Peter Lang in 2010, and he published articles in several journals on fiction by Guy Vanderhaeghe, Thomas King, and Howard O'Hagan.

Over the years, Francis also published numerous articles and encyclopedia entries on other Canadian writers such as Sara Jeannette Duncan, Stephen Leacock, Adele Wiseman, Mavis Gallant, Hugh MacLennan, Sharon Pollock, Leo Kennedy, Milton Acorn, A.J.M. Smith, John Sutherland, and Margaret Avison.

Francis was interested in the internationalization of Canadian literature. He held several visiting professorships in Europe, at the University of Rostock, Germany (1994), the University of Greifswald, Germany (1995), and Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary (1997 and 2000). At the University of Saskatchewan, he served on the Working Group on International Exchange and Study Abroad Programs and the Sub-Committee on Internationalization of University Curricula (1997-1999), as well as the International Activities Committee of Council (2002-2005).

At the University of Saskatchewan, Francis taught courses in Canadian Literature, including fiction, poetry, and drama, as well as Western Canadian literature. He was responsible for developing a Canadian Drama course, and he supervised several MA and PhD theses on various aspects of Canadian Literature.

Our best wishes to Francis for the future!



## In Memoriam

### Carol Morrell

By Lisa Vargo

Carol Morrell, who died November 30, 2022, at the age of 77, was a specialist in Canadian and Postcolonial Literatures in the Department of English for twenty-two years, from 1985-2007.

She received a BA (1966) from the University of New Brunswick, and earned an MA from the University of Toronto (1968). Prior to returning to UNB to earn her PhD (1984), she worked in London, England, as an assistant editor for *ARTbibliographies MODERN* and worked as a free-lance journalist for *Spare Rib* and other publications. Later, in Fredericton in the early 1980s, she served briefly as general manager for Goose Lane Editions.

During her time at USask she especially valued her work with graduate students, whether supervising their MA theses and PhD dissertations, or helping them improve their skills as Writing Centre Tutors. Among her publications were writings on Jean Rhys and Elizabeth Brewster, and she was the editor of *Grammar of Dissent: Poetry and Prose by Claire Harris, M. Nourbese Philip, and Dionne Brand* (Goose Lane Editions 1994). Carol was also a leader in the founding of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

After her retirement she moved to Halifax; she split her time between Halifax, where she reconnected with school friends from Moncton, and summers at her family cottage in Shediac, New Brunswick. She was active as an artist and joined a local studio art group and often visited retired colleagues Bill and Camille Slights and Anthony Harding and Patty Williams in Wolfville. I am among those who greatly valued her kindness. She will be deeply missed.



## Professor Emeritus Awarded Visiting Fellowship

Professor Emeritus David Parkinson has been awarded a visiting fellowship by the British Academy to engage in the research project *Walking Perth's Past: The Muses Threnodie* for New Audiences. The project involves completion of a new scholarly edition for the Scottish Text Society of *The Muses Threnodie* (1638), a poem that describes a series of walks out from the town of Perth, past landmarks that remain significant in the local landscape. The edition will be a reference tool to help modern audiences better understand how previous generations interacted with nature and architecture, and to inform discussions about such interactions today.

David will be travelling to Perth from August to November to work with researchers at universities such as St. Andrews and Glasgow. He is excited by the project's support of early career researchers, including former Leverhulme postdoctoral fellow Dr. Lucy Hinnie of the University of Edinburgh, who is a key member of the team.