Department of English Newsletter







we acknowledge the diverse Indigenous peoples whose footsteps have marked this territory for centuries.



Notes from the Outreach and Engagement Committee

It has been a busy and fulfilling year in the department and we are delighted to share some updates with you. Since our last newsletter, the department has been involved in some wonderful events like the launch of the new Certificate in the Study of Indigenous Storytelling, Frankenreads, and Writing North. Additionally, we are thrilled to share in the successes of our students and faculty who have won numerous awards for their research, artistic work, and teaching.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our recent retirees well. The department will not be the same without Peter Hynes, Mary Nordick, Len Findley, and Michael Kennedy. In these pages, you will find some fond and humorous tributes shared by their colleagues.

This newsletter was put together with the help of student intern Delane Just as part of her work for ENG496: Career Internship. Thank you, Delane!



New Certificate in the Study of Indigenous Storytelling

Starting in September 2019, students can register for the new Certificate in the Study of Indigenous Storytelling. The departments of Indigenous studies, English, and drama in the College of Arts and Science came together to develop the certificate, which aims to recognize student knowledge and understanding of approaches to Indigenous storytelling from multiple disciplinary and culturally specific perspectives.

Students will learn about the varying ways in which stories have been told and recorded—verbally, in writing, film and through new media—and how those methods impact the stories and their dissemination and reception.

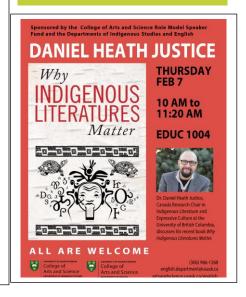
"We hope that learning through the lens of Indigenous storytelling will help to provide an understanding of the past, the present and the future," said Wendy Roy, professor and head of the Department of English. "While the certificate is in the study of storytelling, not in how to tell stories, it may also provide some opportunities for participants to explore pathways toward telling their own stories."

Students will take courses from at least two disciplines, so that they can gain experience in applying methods and understandings from different disciplinary perspectives. In all three of the sponsoring departments, the courses will be taught by faculty members or instructors who have specific expertise in the areas of Indigenous storytelling or Indigenous drama.

The Certificate in the Study of Indigenous Storytelling was officially launched during an Indigenous Achievement Week event held at Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre on Feb. 6. Daniel Heath Justice, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Literature and Expressive Culture at the University of British Columbia, chaired a panel of young Indigenous storytellers, and the next day gave a talk about the importance of Indigenous literature.

"We hope that learning through the lens of Indigenous storytelling will help to provide an understanding of the past, the present and the future..."

(Dr. Wendy Roy)





Daniel Justice in conversation with Indigenous storytellers and Usask alumni Tenille Campbell (BA'07), Lindsay "Eekwol" Knight (ARTS'10, MA'13), Mika Lafond (BEd'06, MFA'14) and Janelle "ecoaborijanelle" Pewapsconias (CIPRM'13).



Writing North, 2019: Cabin Fever



Writing North: Cabin Fever took place on January 25 and 26 2019 and showcased Canadian writers such as Jacqueline Baker, Sarah Gartshore, Laurie D. Graham, Michael Helm, and Elizabeth Philips.

It was a fantastic event full of lots of great writing and "shop talk."

The English Honours Colloquium showcases the Department's Honours students and their undergraduate research

Congratulations to the English Honours students who presented their papers on Feb. 1st, 2019.

English Honours Colloquium, 2019



Frankenreads, October 2018



Frankenreads is an international celebration of the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, organized by the Keats-Shelley Association of America. In the university this year, Frankenreads included a short trivia quiz, a presentation of scenes from a 19th-century dramatic adaptation of *Frankenstein*, and a panel discussion by several professors from the College of Arts and Science including Dr. Lisa Vargo (pictured).

SSHRC Awards

Wendy Roy, professor and department head in English, was awarded a SSHRC grant for her research project, *Women of the Apocalypse: Writing the End of the World in Canada.* PhD student Mabiana Camargo is working with Dr. Roy on the project.



Dr. Roy's project analyzes works of apocalyptic and dystopian fiction by Canadian women for their explorations the nature of understanding and of expressing humanity in a world in crisis. Much of the current analysis of such fiction has focused on the writings of Margaret Atwood, especially *The Handmaid's Tale* and the *MaddAddam* trilogy. While these are essential texts, novels by Nalo Hopkinson, Emily St. John Mandel, and Cherie Dimaline also speculate on the future importance of human culture: hyphenated-Canadian cultures, high-culture and popular culture art forms, and Indigenous cultural practices. The project also considers how apocalyptic short stories explore the value of language to being human or question whether the end of humanity could be full of beauty and increased understanding, and examines adaptations of *The Handmaid's Tale* to demonstrate how they comment on contemporary political and social events and concerns.

Brent Nelson, professor in the English department, was awarded a SSHRC grant for the project, *The Social Network of Early Modern Collectors of Curiosities*. His co-investigator is Craig Harkema of the University library, and his collaborators are Jon Bath and Lisa Smith.



Dr. Nelson's program of research studies the exchange of objects among collectors of curiosities in seventeenth-century England and Scotland. The project intends to put a GoPro on the object to see how these objects moved and circulated in networks of exchange, to track who knew whom and in what kind of relationships, but also to consider the objects themselves and how they were understood and regarded in these changing circumstances. Using network visualizations, the project hopes to learn about the development and definition of these social networks, tracing the "life stories" or "biographies" of these curious objects as they travelled through these networks of exchange.



2019 English Undergraduate Awards Reception



The Department was thrilled to celebrate the achievements of its undergraduate students at our annual English Undergraduate Awards Reception on April 3, 2019.



The English Undergraduate Awards Reception was also the opportunity for students in the Career Internship course to display posters and talk about their work over the past term. Paige Yellowlees and Marie Chatlain explained their posters about ArchBook and about digitizing the university library's archival collection.





Student Awards and Achievements

Ronald and Mary Dyck Scholarships

For Juno Bayliss, this was the opportunity to finally write the essay they had been meaning to write for a long time. They needed their voice—the voice of a queer person forced into repression by a rural community—to be heard, especially in light of the life they've now assembled thanks to their time studying English.

Paige Yellowlees wrote about how "a liberal arts education promotes both empathy and critical thinking and how these are especially important skills to have in a world driven by and supersaturated with data."

McGeachy Prize

Congratulations to Lauren
Klassen for winning the
McGeachy Prize in Journalism for
her work for *The Sheaf*.

Avie Bennet Prize

Izaak Sowa won 2017-18 Avie Bennett Prize in Canadian Literature for his essay, "'Why Did Tay John cut off his Arm?': Self-Determination and Self-Erasure in *Tay John* and *Crackpot*."

Copland Prize and Award for Excellence in English Studies

(Right) Congratulations to Lizette Gerber for winning the College's Copland Prize in Humanities and the Award for Excellence in English Studies.



Hannon Scholarships

Dara Gerbrandt has received a Hannon Scholarship and a Mary Lou Ogle Award for the Study of Communications.

Hannon Scholarships have also been awarded to Paige Yellowlees, Nigel Town, Michelle Kent, Ryan Gayowski, Brandon Fick, Alexander Edmunds, Drumlin Crape, Juno Bayliss, and Bryce Bulgis.

<u>Indigenous Student Achievement</u> Award for Academic Excellence

Michelle Zinck, Marcia Little, and Ryan Fontaine were all recipients of the Indigenous Student Achievement Award.



Hannon Travel Scholarship

(Left) Emily Mooney, winner of the Hannon Travel Scholarship with one of the Murray Library's classic old volumes of the works of Geoffrey Chaucer. (Photo: James Shewaga)

Other Awards

Congratulations to Brandon Fick for winning The Yuans Award in Canadian Literature for his essay, "The Multitude of Meanings in Timothy Findley's *The Wars*." The Yuans Award recognizes focussed study of Canadian Literature and academic distinction, as well an outstanding essay. Brandon also won the Roscoe R. Miller Scholarship. He and Cooper Neufeld won the Elizabeth Brewster Memorial Scholarship.

Drumlin Crape won the Reginald J G Bateman Memorial Scholarship in English.



Teaching Awards



Congratulations to Dr. Yin Liu (left) and Jessica McDonald (right) for winning the 2018 USSU Teaching Excellence Award and the 2018 USSU Instructional Support Award respectively.

Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Vargo and Dr. Len Findlay for also being nominated for USSU teaching awards in 2018.



Congratulations to Glorie Tebbutt (left), who won the Sylvia Wallace Sessional Lecturer Award for 2018.



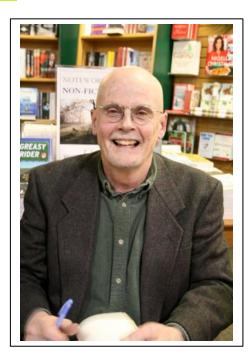
Congratulations to Dr.
Allison Muri (left), who
won the Provost's
College Award for
Outstanding Teaching
(College of Arts &
Science: BA, BMus or
BFA Programs).



Congratulations to Dr. Lindsey Banco, who was selected to receive the New Teacher Award in BA, BFA, and BMus Programs. Dr. Banco is chair of the department's graduate committee and is currently supervising or co-supervising seven students pursuing Master's degrees or PhDs.



Professor Emeritus David Carpenter awarded Honorary Degree at Spring Convocation 2018



Congratulations to David Carpenter for being an honorary degree recipient at Spring Convocation 2018.

Professor Carpenter has written five novels, three collections of short stories, four books of non-fiction and a book of poems. He was a professor in the Department of English and is the editor of the three-volume *Literary History of Saskatchewan*.

2018 Saskatchewan Order of Merit



Internationally recognized writer and researcher Dr.
Robert Calder (BA'63, MA'65) was one of six
Saskatchewan citizens selected to be invested with the
Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest
honour, during a ceremony in May 2018.

Bob was a long-serving faculty member in the University of Saskatchewan's College of Arts & Science, where he also served as head of the Department of English, associate dean of Fine Arts and Humanities, and acting head of the Department of Music. He is also one of the college's first 100 Alumni of Influence.

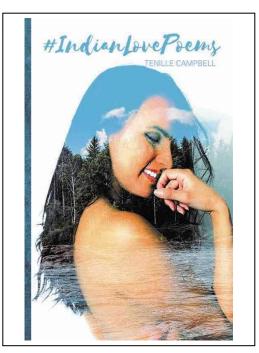


Saskatchewan Book Awards

Tenille Campbell, a graduate student in the Department of English, won two awards at the 2018 Saskatchewan Book Awards for her poetry book #IndianLovePoems: The First Book Award and the Indigenous Peoples' Writing Award.

Tenille Campbell





2019 Book Award Shortlist



Congratulations to those affiliated with our department who have been shortlisted for Saskatchewan Book Awards in 2019:

- -Jeanette Lynes: MFA in Writing Director and author of The Small Things That End The World.
- -Robert Calder: Professor Emeritus and author of A Hero For The Americas.
- -Barbara Langhorst: Professor at St. Peter's College and author of Want.
- -Randy Lundy: MA in English Graduate and author of Blackbird Song.
- -Dave Margoshes: Mentor for the MFA in Writing Program and author of A Calendar of Reckoning.
- -Arthur Slade: Mentor for the MFA in Writing Program and author of Crimson.



Nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up

Department of English graduate and former faculty member Dr. Tasha Hubbard's latest documentary film *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* became the first film by an Indigenous woman filmmaker to open the prestigious Hot Docs festival in Toronto. Tasha's film takes on the difficult but crucial task of bearing witness to the story of Colten Boushie, a young Cree man from Saskatchewan, who was killed on Gerald Stanley's farm in August 2016. The jury's subsequent acquittal of Stanley captured international attention, raising questions about racism embedded within Canada's legal system and propelling Colten's family to national and international stages in their pursuit of justice.

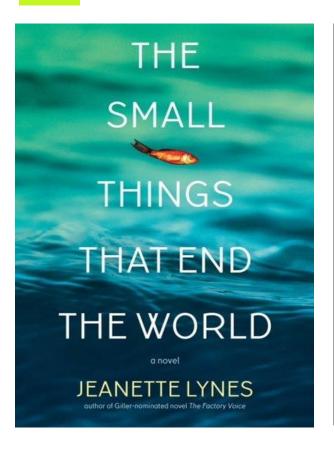
Sensitively directed by Dr. Hubbard, the film weaves a profound narrative encompassing the filmmaker's own adoption, the stark history of colonialism on the Prairies, and a transformative vision of a future where Indigenous children can live safely on their homelands.



"We all have to open ourselves up to a different way of living together in this country"

Speaking on the premiere at Hot Docs, Tasha said, "I am honoured that Hot Docs has chosen to program this film, at this time, when Indigenous voices are becoming louder, and people are starting to listen. I'm glad I found the support I did to tell this story, even though I wish I didn't have to. I would rather there was no need for #JusticeforColten, that he be here with us still, and that injustice against Indigenous people was truly in the past. But for the sake of our future generations, we all have to open ourselves up to a different way of living together in this country"

MFA Highlights



The Small Things That End The World

Congratulations to the MFA in Writing program head Dr. Jeanette Lynes for publishing her second novel, *The Small Things That End The World*, with Coteau Books in 2018.

The Small Things That End The World is an inter-generational story that begins the night of one of Canada's worst natural disasters, Hurricane Hazel, in 1954.

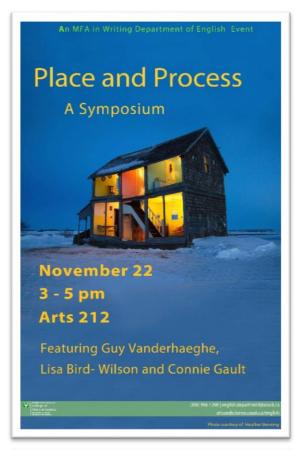
Pictured is the cover for The Small Things That End The World.



Congratulations to
Arthur Slade (left) and
Gregory Nelson (right)
who were honored as
Alumni of Influence at
the Dean's Gala Award
Ceremony in March,
2018.



MFA Highlights





The MFA in Writing's River Volta
Reading Series returned for it's sixth
year. River Volta is run by members
of the MFA in Writing first year class.
This year it was run by MFA
Students Sarah Ens, Hope Houston,
Zach Keesy, Jameson Lawson, and
Kathryn Shalley

Place and Process

Dr. Sheri Benning ran the MFA in Writing Place and Process Symposium for WRIT 990. The symposium featured writers Guy Vanderhaeghe, Lisa Bird-Wilson, and Connie Gault among others.

Current MFA Student Achievements

Carolyn Gray was awarded an internship with the Brink Literacy Project.

Sarah Ens won first place in *Room Magazine*'s Short Forms Contest and was also longlisted in *Room Magazine*'s 2018 Poetry Contest.

Hope Houston won the Hantelman Humanities Scholarship from the University of Saskatchewan.

Kate O' Gorman's short story, "May I Myself Be Not Lost," will be published in the 2019 spring edition of *Qwerty Magazine*, no. 39.

Taidgh Lynch has published a poetry collection with JackPine Press, titled *First Lift Here*.

Zach Keesey's short piece was published in the Polar Expressions Publishing short story contest.

The River Volta Review of Books launched

The new online publication features book reviews, interviews, and essays written by graduate students in the MFA in Writing Program and the Department of English. Dr. Sheri Benning (PhD), an assistant professor of English, supervises the project. MFA in writing student Allison McFarland served as editor of the inaugural issue.



Pictured: River Volta Team. From left to right: Jameson, Sarah, Kathryn, Zach.





"Tribute to Len Findlay, on his Retirement in Spring, 2018" by Doug Thorpe

In May of 1974 I was still a student, working as a Research Assistant in the Department. One day a senior professor called out "Doug, come here, we need you!" No prof had ever said that to me before so I went along with him. He explained that the Department was interviewing some bright young job prospect fresh out of Oxford and they wanted a student in the room. "What do I do?" I whispered as he ushered me into a seat in the front row. "Just listen attentively" he said. To this day that remains the best advice I can give when dealing with Len Findlay: "Just listen attentively." I sat overwhelmed by Len's erudition, semantic range, and the exotic Scots burr. The effect still hasn't worn off.

Len not only survived here, but soon carved out a lasting place here as a Victorianist, a Theoretician, a fearless campus citizen, and, for me at least, an invariably supportive colleague. His voice acquired a special authority, both in the department and, especially following the faculty strike of 1988, in the campus at large. Len challenged our thinking, lest it be too narrow, our actions, lest they become too complacent, and our language, lest it become numb to the resonances of politics and history embedded in it.

As a published scholar Len has produced articles on an astonishing range of topics, beginning with his roots in the history of Victorian aestheticism, and branching out into Literary Theory, the Role of the Public Intellectual, the State of the Humanities, Institutional History, Indigenization, and Academic Freedom. I recommend two personal favourites: "The Divine Legation of Northrop Frye," published in *ESC* in 1993, and "Prairie Jacobin: Carlyle King and Saskatchewan English," published in *UTQ* in 1995. He won the F.E.L. Priestley Prize in 1994, was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2007 and was awarded an Earned DLitt by the University of Saskatchewan in 2011.

In 2011 I nominated Len for the Chair of the CAUT Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, and I will close by quoting a few words from that nomination: "Len's scholarship, eloquent as it has been, is backed by a tireless activism. From his days as a junior academic here at the University of Saskatchewan in the 1970s through to his many interventions in the current crises facing the academy, Len has consistently advocated on our behalf, not just opportunistically, when there were easy gains to be made, but courageously, when more timorous academics would have embraced a prudent compliance with the compromises of the day. Canadian University teachers looking for a leader in the promotion of academic freedom and tenure would be hard pressed to find a stauncher and more able ally than Len Findlay."



Retirements



"Peter—on behalf of all of us, and all those students, Thank you!"

"A Tribute to Peter Hynes" by Ron Cooley

Peter was one of the first people to welcome me to the U of S in the summer of 1989. He had come to Saskatoon a year before me, while Janet was still working in Yellowknife. When classes started that fall, their daughter Catherine had joined Peter, but Janet had yet to arrive. So, Catherine spent a good deal of time with our daughter Alison establishing the foundation of their life-long friendship. Since then our families have grown almost in lock-step. It must have been obvious to others that Peter and I had a lot in common.

But however, much we have in common, the qualities I most associate with Peter are things I can only admire and can't emulate. Peter's exceptional facility with languages, for example. He's fluent in French, capable in German, and I believe he has quite a decent grasp of Greek and Latin as well. Along with linguistic ability goes a remarkable musical talent. Having learned music as a youngster, he returned to the guitar with gusto some years ago, and currently plays with two local bands. And as many of us know, Peter is also a gifted versifier. From his widely circulated though sadly unpublished satire on staff cuts at the *Star Phoenix*, "The Deserted Newsroom," to his Facebook comments, which tend to come in limerick form, Peter has kept us both amused and amazed.

Peter is primarily a scholar of eighteenth-century literature, particularly of epistolary novels and sentimental drama. His essays on Samuel Richardson, Richard Steele, George Lillo, Sophia Lee, and William Wycherly explore, among other themes, the cross-channel cross-fertilization of English and French literary culture. From Voltaire's dramatic adaptation of Richardson's *Pamela* to English assimilation of Diderot's theory of the "Genre Serieux." More recently he has turned his attention, in both research and teaching, to science fiction and fantasy literature, particularly to the writing of Ursula K. LeGuin.

One thing that's always been apparent to me, even at second hand, is the extraordinary loyalty and affection Peter inspires in undergraduate students. For many years, Eighteenth century fiction and Restoration drama drew solid (I'd say remarkable) enrolments, largely because Peter's first year students kept coming back for more, as illustrated by this *Rate my Professor* comment: "took a second class from him, just because he is a great prof . . . Great guy all around...even if you do have to read a 900-page book." There are also more than a few comments like these: "Cute Scottish accent," "Bubbly little Scotsman!" "Scottish stud-muffin!" Nearly every comment testifies to Peter's generosity, his humour, and yes, to his love of a good digression. Few students emerged from Peter's classes without a thorough grounding in Babar, Richard Scarry, and Buffy the Vampire Slayer, as well as in the official course material.

Retirements



"A Tribute to Michael Kennedy" by Ann Martin

Dr. Michael P.J. Kennedy began teaching at the U of S in 1991. Having completed an MA thesis on the Irish drama of Lady Gregory, Michael shifted his focus to Canadian literature through a doctoral dissertation on Hugh Garner. His subsequent studies of Inuit literature and authors have been combined with a sustained research agenda on the varied cultural forms through which hockey has been represented in Canada.

His extensive publication record includes journalism, peer-reviewed articles, book reviews, encyclopaedia entries, two anthologies, a book.... That said, teaching has always been at the centre of his academic life. His outstanding pedagogy has been recognized by a USSU Teaching Excellence Award (1998-99), a College of Arts and Science Teaching Excellence Award (2003-04), the Sylvia Wallace Sessional Lecturer Teaching Excellence Award (2004-05), and the 2011 Learning Communities Teaching Award.

These acknowledgements of Michael's skill as an instructor stem in no small part from his innovative teaching techniques, through which students engage with core communication and argumentation skills. Such innovation is illustrated by his groundbreaking version of ENG 114 "Reading Culture: Hockey in Canadian Literature." Dr. Kennedy's passion for sport and for sports writing led to his book *Dogs on Ice: A History of Hockey at University of Saskatchewan* first published in 2006, and reissued in 2015. Notably, the proceeds of *Dogs on Ice*—and indeed of both his hockey literature anthologies—fund a scholarship that Michael began in 2004, which now provides a \$2,000.00 award to a Huskie hockey player each year.

For such commitment to students and for such leadership, he was inducted into the Huskie Athletics' Wall of Fame in 2016. After his shift from teaching to "free agency" in 2017, the department thought it fitting to create a fund in Dr. Kennedy's name to support the construction of the new Merlis Belsher Arena in conjunction with the Home Ice campaign. Here is the link: https://donate.usask.ca/online/icefacility.php.

It is rather poignant timing given recent events in this province, but the sense of a hockey community that reaches beyond centres such as Humboldt and teams beyond the Broncos is all the more indicative of the intersections that Michael has illuminated throughout his career. These include the deep and sustaining connections between the University of Saskatchewan and the communities that it serves, the reciprocal relationship between research and pedagogy, and the continuing influence of Michael's work on his students and his colleagues. His enthusiasm for teaching and his enactment of the teacher-scholar model speak to his remarkable effect on much more than this department alone. Thank you, Michael.

Retirements



Pictured: Peter Hynes, Mary Nordick, Len Findley, Michael Kennedy

"Mary Nordick: An Appreciation" by Lisa Vargo

During my early years in Saskatoon I attended a production of Michel Tremblay's *Les Belle-soeurs* by the excellent amateur group Gateway Players. One of the actors was particularly engaging and it took me a good while to recognize Mary, and I was deeply impressed by her acting talents. She translated her love of theatre into teaching drama to first-year classes over a long career in the Department of English.

Between September 1984 and April 2017 Mary taught the range of the Department's 100-level classes on campus and for the Royal West transition program, as well as for STM. Along with drama, she enjoyed teaching the poetry class, but particularly appreciated having the opportunity to see students develop as writers over two semesters in English 110.

It would be difficult to describe her as retired when she is so very busy. She has continued activities at Saint Phillip Neri Parish, including membership on their Refugee Committee which since 1979 has sponsored from Vietnam, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Iran and most recently Eritrea. She serves on the Board of the Prairie Centre for Eucumenism as well as on the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. She takes great joy in her grandchildren who range in age from ten months to seven years. And in spite of all this activity, she would welcome further acting opportunities! All best wishes to Mary from the Department.

Teaching Initiatives



Mental Health Initiative



Glorie Tebbutt is putting the \$1,000 prize she received with the Sylvia Wallace Sessional Lecturer Award toward the creation of new awards for undergraduate students with mental illnesses. (Photo by Chris Putnam)

FYRE: First Year Research Experience

The goal of FYRE classes is to introduce first year students to proposing and researching their own original ideas.

According to Kara Loy, coordinator of the U of S Undergraduate Research Initiative, the goal of the FYRE program is to "equip students with skills and opportunity to make it possible for them to make an original contribution" to scholarly discourse from the very beginning of their academic careers.



English 110 FYRE participants Bayley Farr, Mae McDonald, Bailee Brewster, and Lauryn Andrew.

Teaching Initiatives



PICT: Project in International Collaborative Teaching



Dr. Vargo and Dr.
Parkinson collaborated
with Dr. Chattopadhyay
Mukherjee from
Ahmedabad University
for this project

Pictured on the left is Dr. David Parkinson (left), with Dr. Payel Chattopadhyay Mukherjee (right), from Ahmedabad University in India. Pictured above is Dr. Lisa Vargo (right) with a student.

PICT offers established and emerging faculty worldwide the opportunity to teach collaboratively. Instructors who are interested in this opportunity propose courses that they have been assigned to teach in an upcoming term. These proposals are posted to the website, to be considered by faculty elsewhere who will be teaching comparable courses. The faculty get in touch with each other and plan to offer a module or more of classes together.

This method of pedagogical collaboration is adaptable to an instructor's existing plan for a course. In fact, instructors work from within their existing curricular, administrative, and institutional frameworks. Together they negotiate the optimal way for their courses to intersect so that the students at both locations learn from both of them (and from each other), as they engage critically with a question or issue with shared importance.

PICT comes into its own where contrasting methods or models are combined in order to provide complementary perspectives on complex problems or phenomena. By this means, students can gain a deeper understanding of the varying ways in which research and scholarship are conducted across regional, national and other boundaries. PICT offers a readily modified process of course-based knowledge discovery, where exchanges within or across disciplinary practices lead to increased experiential learning, student research, and real-world innovation.

The first World Class Day, an international online conference, was held March 24-25, 2019.



Talks by Members of the Department of English

LITERATURE

MATTERS

Driving Mrs. Dalloway; or Motor-Cars,
Carriages, and Queen Alexandra Take
to the Streets of Virginia Woolf's London
by Ann Martin

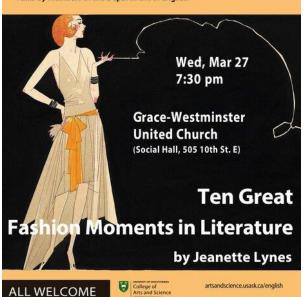
Wed, Feb 27
7:30 pm
Grace-Westminster

LITERATURE MATTERS MAR **27**

(306) 966-1268 | english.department@usask.ca

Talks by Members of the Department of English

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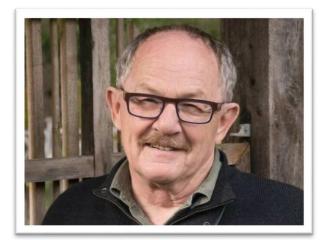
Reading, studying, and talking about literary works helps us to make sense of the world around us. Since 2012, the Department of English has sponsored its literature in the community series, Literature Matters, featuring talks about our research for the Saskatoon community.

Presenters are members of the department, including professors, sessional lecturers, and graduate students. All events are held on Wednesdays between September and May at 7:30 p.m. in the social hall of Grace-Westminster United Church, **505-10th Street East, Saskatoon**. Everyone is welcome.

Talks from 2018 and 2019

- -<u>September 26:</u> Professor Ella Ophir, "Comics, Fiction, and 'The Actual Documentary Truth' of Alison's Bechdel's *Fun Home*."
- -October 24: Professors David Parkinson and Lisa Vargo, "How Does Your Culture Shape Your Reading of Literature?" With a fun practical exercise.
- -November 28: Professor Yin Liu, "How to Find Your Way Around a Medieval Book" With pictures.
- -January 23: Professor Tasha Beeds, "Through an Indigenous Woman's Lens: Revitalizing Our Relationship with the Water Using Movement, Song, and Story."
- -<u>February 27:</u> Professor Ann Martin, "Driving Mrs. Dalloway; or Motor-Cars, Carriages, and Queen Alexandra Take to the Streets of Virginia Woolf's London."
- -March 25: Professor Jeanette Lynes, "Ten Great Fashion Moments in Literature."
- -April 24: Professor Joanne Rochester and members of Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan. "A Preview of the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan 2019 Season."





In Memoriam -- Patrick Lane (1939-2019)

Words from Dr. David Parkinson:

"Patrick Lane, that acerbic, tall figure standing in the third-floor corridor for all too few years, always had time for a quick friendly exchange of words when a junior colleague wandered past. The corridor seemed wider then."

From his official obituary:

"Some days there's just too much rain," on CBC radio the voice of Patrick Lane came alive in the dark, grievous morning. He had died the day before on March 7th. After three years of illness and many stays in the hospital, at 79 years old his heart gave out. An Officer of the Order of Canada, a recipient of five honorary doctorates, and the author of almost thirty books of poetry, Patrick has been called the greatest poet of his generation.

He taught creative writing and Canadian literature in the Department of English at the University of Saskatchewan from 1986 to 1990. He had lived for many years on Vancouver Island with his partner, Lorna Crozier, who was also an award-winning poet and former professor in our department. They both went on to teach creative writing at the University of Victoria.

Lane was awarded the BC Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence in 2007, and the Order of Canada in 2014. These awards recognized more than 50 years of contribution to Canadian literature. His last poetry book, *Washita*, was nominated for the Governor General's Award, which he had earlier won in 1978. His second novel, *Deep River Night*, set in a BC sawmill town, was published last spring. His memoir, *There Is a Season*, is essential reading for those who love the natural world and those who have gone through the pain of addiction.

With the help of AA, he lived twenty years gloriously sober. He loved his friends, his garden, his students, and his cats. He cherished his wife and companion of forty years, Lorna Crozier, and even when ill, delighted in visiting his two sons who live in Victoria, Michael and Richard; their beautiful spouses, Lisa and Yen; and their six children: Ava, Finn, Violet, Myles, Jules, and Aishlinn.

Obituaries



From his official obituary:

In Memoriam – Barry Popowich (1952-2018)

Words from Dr. David Parkinson:

"Barry took English 200 in 1983-84, a class for which I was the instructor. It was my first year at the University of Saskatchewan, so he and most of his classmates had their feet more firmly on the ground and a clearer sense of the landscape. He was a large, anchoring presence toward the back of the lecture room, and early on he took a liking to *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.* On those fall mornings, while the wealthier first-year students outside were listening to the Police's 'Every Breath You Take' on their Walkmans, Barry would respond generously to some timidly posed question, and the class would roll into gear. I will always be grateful."

Barry was born on September 18, 1952 in Yorkton. He grew up on a family farm south of Kamsack. After graduating from high school, Barry moved to Saskatoon in order to attend university.

Barry had a passion for learning, and, over the course of the next two decades, he obtained numerous degrees, including his PhD in English Literature (1992). This led him to pursue a career at the University of Saskatchewan as a sessional lecturer. Barry taught courses for the College of Arts and Science, St. Thomas More College, and for SUNTEP.

In 1991, he married Sherry Pultz of Saskatoon, and together they made their home on a farm near the city where they enjoyed caring for their many pets. During their years together, Barry and Sherry enjoyed travelling and spending time at their cabin at Wakaw Lake.

Barry was predeceased by his parents, Walter and Doreen Popowich, and his brother-in-law, Ron Wipf. He leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his life, wife, Sherry Pultz; sister, Beverly (Myron) Tatarniuk; and sister-in-law, Marilyn Wipf. In addition, he leaves to mourn his nieces and nephews: Rebecca (John), Dane (Casey), Emily (Micah), Kevin (Krystil), and Richard, along with three grandnieces.

Obituaries



In Memoriam – Margaret Kathleen (Peggy) Martin, 1943-2019

By Wendy Roy

Peggy Martin, died on February 9, 2019, at the age of 75. She is remembered as a student, a colleague, and a friend.

I first met Peggy in 1995 when she was entering the PhD program here at the University of Saskatchewan and I was starting an MA. She and I were both Canadian Literature specialists, and so we took several classes together, found that we had a lot in common, and became fast friends. Former professor Bob Calder remembers one grad class that Peggy was in, on modernist British fiction, as the best of his long career here, in no small part because of her intelligence and her reading and analytic skills. She became life-long friends with her PhD supervisor, Carol Morrell, and for years she participated in a study group with colleagues Rhonda Anderson and Lisa Vargo.

During the first part of her adult life, Peggy was an RCMP wife, moving to various communities in Saskatchewan with her husband, Constable and later Staff-Sergeant and District NCO Tim Martin. During that time, she put her teaching certificate from the U of S to good use by serving as a substitute teacher, and she also raised their two daughters, Stacey and Deane. While the family was stationed in Yorkton, Peggy started taking English classes through U of S extension, and when she and Tim moved to Saskatoon in 1988 for his final posting, she studied English Literature in earnest, earning an Honours BA in 1992, an MA in 1995, and a PhD in 2001. An On-Campus news item about her dissertation was published in 2001 at https://ocnarchives.usask.ca/mar9-01/gradprofile1.shtml; she revised that research for the book *Lily Lewis: Sketches of a Canadian Journalist*, which was published by University of Calgary Press in 2006.

After she completed her PhD, Peggy held a term position in Canadian Literature and then worked as a sessional lecturer in the Department of English until 2011. Peggy's last years were complicated by rheumatoid arthritis and lung ailments, but to the end she continued to read fiction and participate in book clubs. We will miss our dear friend and colleague but we celebrate her love of books and of literature. Peggy is survived by her husband of 55 years, Tim Martin, daughters Stacey Martin of Regina and Deane Martin-Gray (Kent Gray) of Saskatoon, and grandchildren Grace and Jonathan Podbielski and Jack and Sara Gray.