

Department of English Newsletter



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



Pictured: Jenna Hunnef, Lauryn Andrew, Cara Schwartz, Lisa Vargo, Mae McDonald, Megan Fairbairn, Miguel Dela Pena, Chelsea Hill, Deklan Iris Hoscheitt, Ana Camacho Alarcon, Dana Kasdorf, Kathleen James-Cavan, Vici Herbison, Radiance Harris, Ashley Lekach, Cori Thorstad, Yin Liu, Megan Gorsalitz, Ann Martin

2020-2021

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.

Dear colleagues and friends,

It seems unnecessary to preface this editorial with musings on how “exceptional” or “extraordinary” or “unprecedented” this academic year has been. But the Outreach and Engagement Committee would like to note, in any case, the immense challenges faced by staff, faculty, and students in this ongoing pandemic. Despite all the restrictions placed on in-person meetings, the department still managed to foster a sense of togetherness online --- both with intra-departmental events and with activities that included our larger community. The highlights are included in this newsletter: a conversation with the indomitable Joy Kogawa, Len Findlay’s fiery Peter Millard Lecture, Rita Wong’s keynote speech at the well-attended online ALECC conference, a renewed Literature Matters series on zoom, the MFA Variety Show, and the Undergraduate Honours Colloquium, among many other events. We are proud as well to share with you the wonderful achievements of our faculty, alumni, and students.

Finally, and with great sadness, we remember treasured members of our department: Peter Hynes, Janice Acoose, Christopher Dean, and Don Kerr.

This newsletter would not have been possible without our tireless intern Cori Thorstad and the artistic eye of Diana Tegenkamp.

We look forward to the possibility of meeting in person some time soon.

Take care and stay safe,
Joanne and Jenna

Notable Events

Honours Colloquium

The 12th Annual Honours Colloquium took on a virtual format this year, featuring four panels of original undergraduate research. The undergraduate presenters recorded their 10 minute presentations to be shared on the conference website and participated in virtual discussion panels.

Panels Included: “Delving into Dickinson,” “Dualling Literatures; or Social Dialogues in Literary Form,” “Medieval Feminisms,” and “Accessing Autonomy.”

Thank you to faculty, friends, family and students for attending, and congratulations to BA Honours Students for completing this accomplishment of their degrees!



Thank you!

Undergraduate Chair(s): Ella Ophir and Ann Martin,
and Panel Chairs: Jenna Hunnef, Lisa Vargo, Yin Liu,
and Kathleen James-Cavan

“The Honours Colloquium was such a positive and enriching experience! In a time of isolation, the colloquium was a wonderful reminder of the incredible community I get to be a part of at USASK and is certainly one of the highlights of my studies at the UofS” - Lauryn Andrew

“It seemed unbelievable that I could relax a little ways into the panel, but relax I did! The Colloquium was a big accomplishment for me for sure. What a beautiful way to celebrate our studies!! This Colloquium is something I don’t ever expect to forget.” - Chelsea Hill

“It was such a fun experience to learn along with my peers and see everyone discuss their passions. This will definitely be a highlight of 2021!” - Radiance Harris

“I was impressed with how smoothly the program went along. All the panels seemed to fly by because they were so fun and interesting.” - Dana Kasdorf

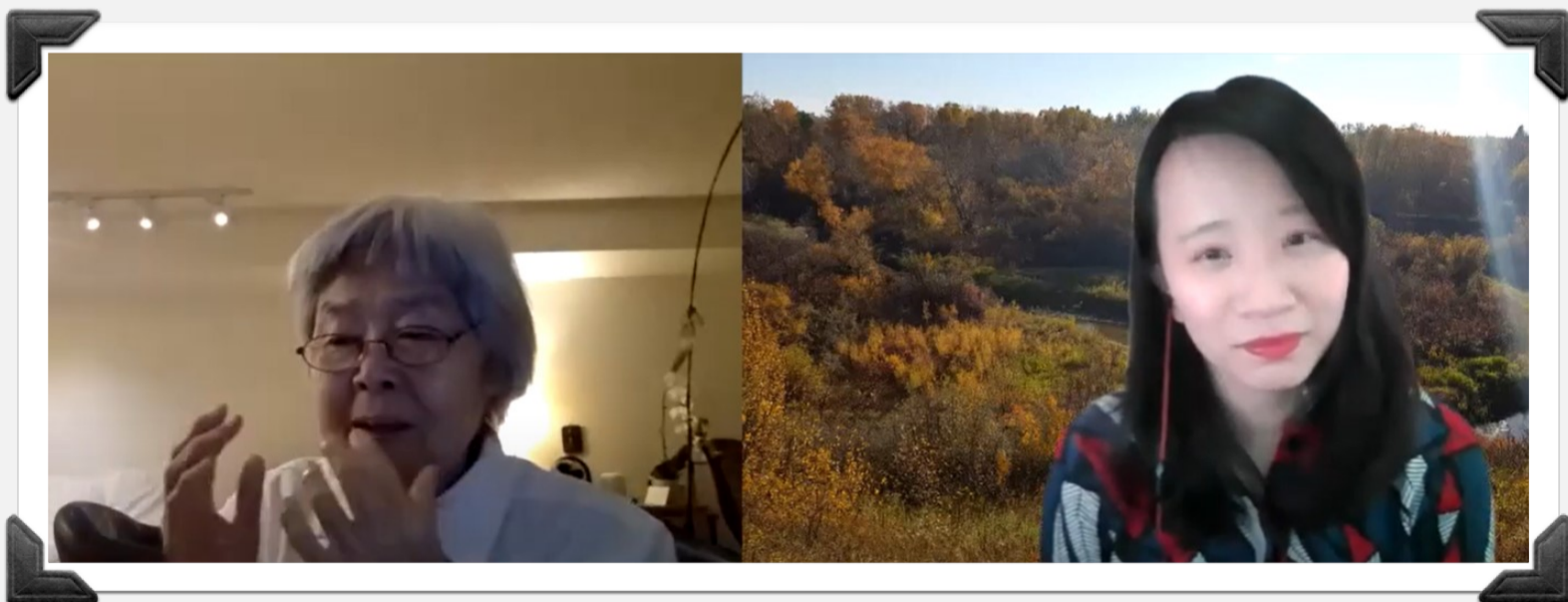
“The Colloquium was and extremely valuable and fun experience.” - Vici Herbison

“I am overwhelmed by how well my peers’ presentations and Q&A panels turned out.” - 2021 Undergraduate Honours student

Notable Events

'My Writing Life' - Joy Kogawa

The department was thrilled to host Joy Kogawa, one of Canada's most revered authors and a passionate advocate for Japanese-Canadians who were forced from their homes into internment camps during the Second World War. Kogawa began her celebrated career as a writer while studying at USask in the 1960s. She went on to craft award-winning novels including *Obasan*, and worked tirelessly to educate and to earn reparations for those interned during the war. Her contributions to Canadian society were celebrated when she was invested into the Order of Canada in 1986, earning one of the country's highest honours. She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters at the 2020 Fall Convocation at the University of Saskatchewan. In conversation with Dr. Joanne Leow, Kogawa talked about her inspiration, her writing practice, and her continual optimism in the goodness of humanity.



Notable Events

ALECC Conference

“Watershed, lit., fig.,” was the theme of the 2020 Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada (ALECC) biennial conference, an interdisciplinary conference of environmental humanities and literary scholars, creative writers, artists, and environmental activists who discussed watersheds in a literal and figurative sense. As watersheds refer to crucial periods or turning points, as well as to drainage basins for water and the land situated immediately between rivers, “Watershed, lit., fig.” provided a compelling opportunity to discuss physical watersheds in terms of the crucial period we are living through, marked by climate, extinction, and migration emergencies, new political formations, and shifting forms of writing, media, mediation, and data. Local hosts Dr. Joanne Leow and Dr. Jenna Hunnef worked with a team of graduate assistants including Megan Solberg, Shane Farris, Tea Gerbeza, and Sarah Ens to facilitate this conference.

Initially planned for June 2020, the full, on-site conference is being postponed until 2022. Instead, an online version was hosted through the Department of English July 8-22nd, 2020. The conference showcased research, scholarly, artistic, and community-engaged work by presenters from across the country and internationally, approximately 25 per cent of whom are creative writers and artists. Inspired by prairie river valleys, and in particular our host site in the Meewasin Valley in the South Saskatchewan River Basin, the conference program featured thoughtful responses to movements between the literal and figurative, the personal and historical, and to critical times and turning points in watershed and other ecologies, Indigenous thought and practice, ecopoetics, new materialisms, fictional and nonfictional narrative, life writing, film, ecomedia studies, environmental histories, cultural geography, environmental philosophy, cultural studies, and related areas of environmental studies. Keynote and plenary speakers included the poet and activist Rita Wong, and Saskatchewan-based writers Louise Halfe, Trevor Herriot, and Candace Savage. Elder Joseph Naytowhow provided an inspiring opening and welcome message. As part of the conference, MFA students from our department also organized an open mic reading session online. We were also able to collaborate with the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Writers Circle and co-host their annual WordSplash! event online as part of the conference.



Watershed, lit., fig.

1.a. The line separating the waters flowing into different rivers or river basins; a narrow elevated tract of ground between two drainage areas; a water-parting.

1.b. figurative. A turning point (in history, affairs, a person's life, etc.); a crucial time or occurrence.

3. North American. The gathering ground of a river system; a catchment area or drainage basin.

- Oxford English Dictionary

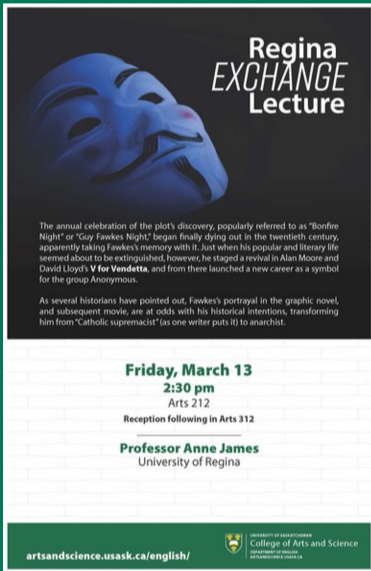
Notable Events

Regina Exchange Lecture - Professor Anne James

The Regina Exchange Lecture, presented by Professor Anne James of the University of Regina, was the Department of English's last event held on campus before the pandemic-related closure.

“The annual celebration of the plot's discovery, popularly referred to as “Bonfire Night” or “Guy Fawkes Night,” began finally dying out in the twentieth century, apparently taking Fawkes's memory with it. Just when his popular and literary life seemed about to be extinguished, however, he staged a revival in Alan Moore and David Lloyd's *V for Vendetta*, and from there launched a new career as a symbol for the group Anonymous.

As several historians have pointed out, Fawkes's portrayal in the graphic novel, and subsequent movie, are at odds with his historical intentions, transforming him from “Catholic supremacist” (as one writer puts it) to anarchist.”

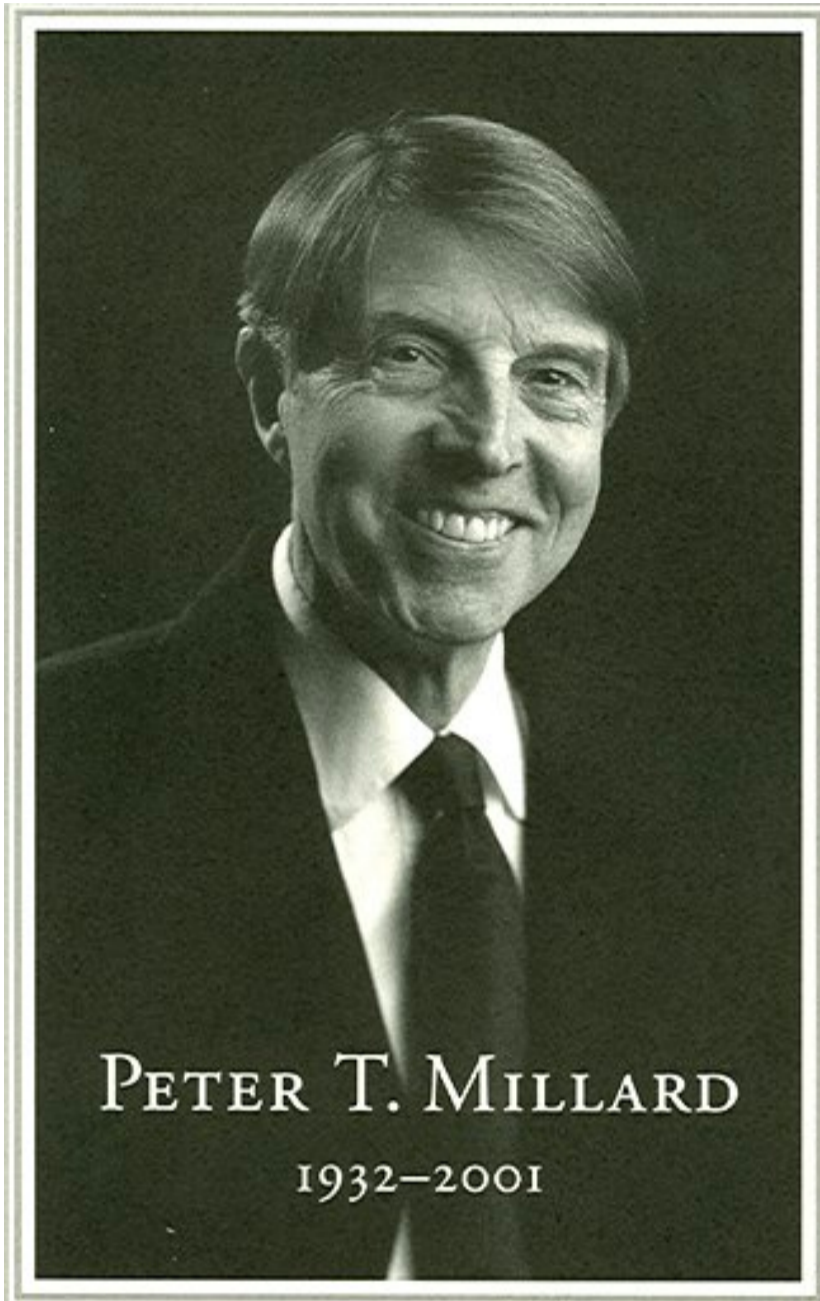


Bannatyne Manuscript Edit-a-ton

Bannatyne, a young Edinburgh burgess, the collection is distinguished by its unique division by genre into sections on theology, morality, comedy, love and animal fables. Produced during the volatile climate of Mary's reign, the manuscript offers insights into religious and social values in its selections and censorship. It is also an artefact of an Edinburgh in which the plague ran rife and citizens were forced into self-isolation.

This event aims to create, edit and curate entries relating to the manuscript, its contents, the people associated with the poems, and the historical and social context of 16th century Scotland. We are particularly interested in articles and research pertaining to the role of women at this time.

Second Annual Peter Millard Lecture



The Peter Millard Lecture honours Dr. Peter Millard (1932-2001), who joined the Department of English in 1964. Dr. Millard was head of the Department of English from 1985 until his retirement in December of 1991. The author of two books and an analysis of human rights and the Conservative government in the anthology entitled *Devine Rule in Saskatchewan*. He was also an avid art collector, influential in gay rights and human rights, and was the first recipient of the Doug Wilson Award at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1991 he taught the university's first gay studies course, an examination of social attitudes towards homosexuality in literature. In 1994 the university established the Peter Millard Scholarship, Canada's first university-administered scholarship for research in gay and lesbian studies.

Len Findlay paid tribute to his comradeship with Peter Millard in an institution resistant to academic activism. While examining the validity of Intersectionality, Findlay also explored how humanities scholars might learn from a reactionary past and prepare for post-pandemic dangers in Canadian universities.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
PETER MILLARD LECTURE
Tuesday, Mar. 23 1:30-3 pm VIA ZOOM
ACADEMIC ACTIVISM: AFTER STONEWALL, AFTER UNDRIP, AFTER COVID-19
Len Findlay pays tribute to his comradeship with Peter Millard in an institution resistant to academic activism. While examining the validity of Intersectionality, Findlay also explores how humanities scholars might learn from a reactionary past and prepare for post-pandemic dangers in Canadian universities.
The Peter Millard Lecture honours Dr. Peter Millard (1932-2001). Dr. Millard, head of the English Department (1985-91), was highly influential in gay and human rights. USask established the Peter Millard Scholarship (1994), Canada's first university-administered scholarship for research in gay and lesbian studies.
LEN FINDLAY
For registration info, contact: english.department@usask.ca



BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Literature Matters

January:

Kathleen James-Cavan, “Jane Austen and Diversity: Laughter Through Gritted Teeth”

February:

Jenna Hunnef, “Genre as Mnemonic Device’ in Indigenous Literature”

March:

Josh Morrison, “Procedural Rhetoric and the Narrative Affordances of Video Games”

April:

Wendy Roy, with graduate students **Alyson Cook, Caragana Ennis, Nicole Jacobson, Delane Just, Emily Pickett, and Sarah Regier**, “The Pandemic in Fiction by Canadian Women”

Talks by members of the Department of English
LITERATURE MATTERS

Jane Austen and Diversity: Laughter through Gritted Teeth

by Kathleen James-Cavan



Fri, Jan 15
3-4 pm
(via Zoom)

Through the lens of disability studies, this paper focuses on *Emma*, *Persuasion*, and *Sanditon* to examine how laughter through gritted teeth opens cracks in the smooth complexions of ableist hierarchies.

For the eventbrite registration link, please email english.department@usask.ca



LITERATURE MATTERS WINTER 2021

“GENRE AS MNEMONIC DEVICE” IN THE DETECTIVE FICTION OF TODD DOWNING

A citizen of the Choctaw Nation, Todd Downing was a prolific author of detective novels in the 1930s and 1940s. This talk will discuss how his use of genre functions as a kind of mnemonic device, capable of recalling the European invasion of the Americas and the ongoing theft of Indigenous lands, bodies, and material cultures by settler-colonial states.

Jenna Hunnef
Friday, Feb. 12
3 – 4 pm
VIA ZOOM

For registration info, contact: english.department@usask.ca



BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

Talks by members of the Department of English
LITERATURE MATTERS

Pandemic Fiction in Canada: Storytelling, Crisis and Human Connections

Fri Apr 9 3-4 pm
(via Zoom)

A panel moderated by **Wendy Roy** with graduate students **Alyson Cook, Caragana Ennis, Nicole Jacobson, Delane Just, Emily Pickett, and Sarah Regier**

This panel investigates representations of disease in twenty-first-century novels by Canadian women authors, looking at how authors such as Margaret Atwood, Emily St. John Mandel, and Saleema Nawaz explore literary arts, human connections, and community building in times of crisis and pandemic.

For eventbrite registration, email: english.department@usask.ca

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
LITERATURE MATTERS

FRIDAY MARCH 12 3-4 PM

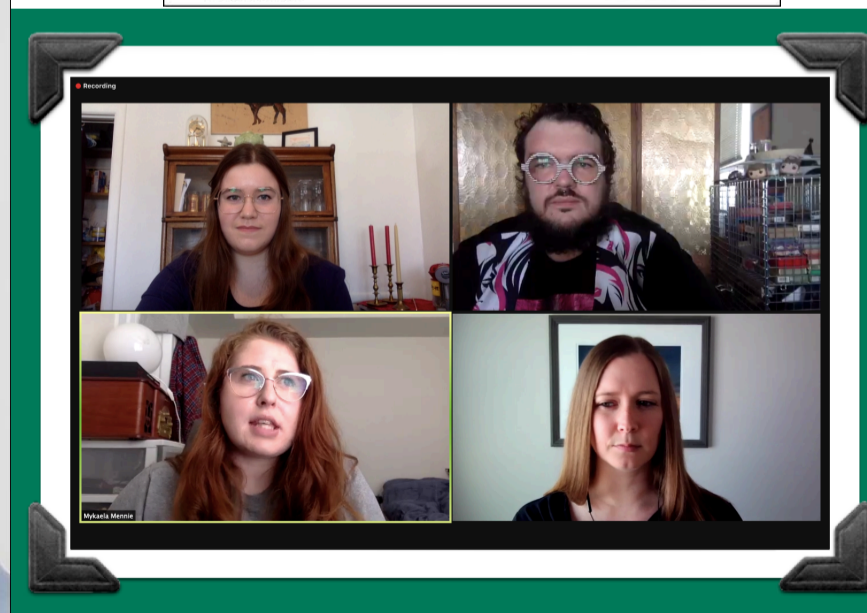
VIA ZOOM

Video Games, Storytelling, and Materializing Identity

by **Dr. Josh** with Vici Herbison and Mykaela Mennie

Dr. Josh will discuss literature and video games, focusing on narrative analysis and identity in the video game *Never Alone/Kisima Ingitchuna*, based on a traditional Inupiaq story. Vici Herbison and Mykaela Mennie will discuss how video games have expanded their ideas of storytelling as English undergraduate scholars.

Eventbrite registration. Contact: english.department@usask.ca



MFA Highlights

For further updates on the MFA program, read their annual newsletter: available on the Department website!

Writing North Chelsea Hill



January 20, 2021 was a day to remember: the Presidential inauguration took place in the United States and here in Canada, *Writing North 11* began on-line, with acclaimed author Anne Michaels' marvellous keynote address, "Mortal Soul, Moral Soul: A Meditation on the Moral Tenacity of Art, what Art makes of Death, and the hope Inherent in Language."

Ms. Michaels is well-known as a novelist, poet, prose writer, and recipient of numerous honours and awards both nationally and internationally. If ever we needed to hear about hope, and the power of words, it is *now*, in the throes of a global pandemic.

We've been isolated, in lockdown, socially

distanced for months, and her keynote address inspired us, and connected us, virtually. 141 people attended the virtual keynote, reinforcing our need as writers, readers and, simply, *humans*, to hang out together.

Michaels' poignant words reminded us why writing matters, why stories matter, why poems matter. Why reading matters. "We write and we read," Michaels said, "in order to hold another human being close." Her readings from her own work, during the keynote, were spellbinding. Trains, moonlight, flowers, loss, art, and much more. Michaels spoke, too, of the forms love takes, asking, what forms might help mend a devastated world? "What places can we find for one's grief?"

Befitting the theme of this year's Writing North – "Sheltering in Place, Dwelling in Words," Michaels spoke of the shelter we can find in language, and the way fiction "sets a broken bone in the hope that it will mend straight." If we distort language, Michaels asserted, or use it as propaganda, or to distort morality, we should be held accountable."

'words are the mirrors that set fire to paper.'

"Grief, loss, regret, are not the end of the story," Michaels mused, "They are the middle of the story." And: "Even the hardest times have led to the right things." Art is where love finds us.

These words, and feeling the virtual presence of writers and readers from across the country, remind us, too, that the days grow longer. The light is returning. Words matter more than ever. "These past months have been a reckoning," Michaels remarked. They've forced us to confront our mortality. Her address inspires us to *use* our gift of words – really, a form of grace, to face the future. "What does this moment ask of us?" Anne Michaels posed this question. We couldn't have found a better platform on which to bond together, and pay homage to the shelter that words give us. We're most grateful to Anne Michaels for her beautiful keynote address that launched *Writing North 11*, a joint project of the USask Department of English, the USask MFA in Writing, and the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild.

MFA Highlights

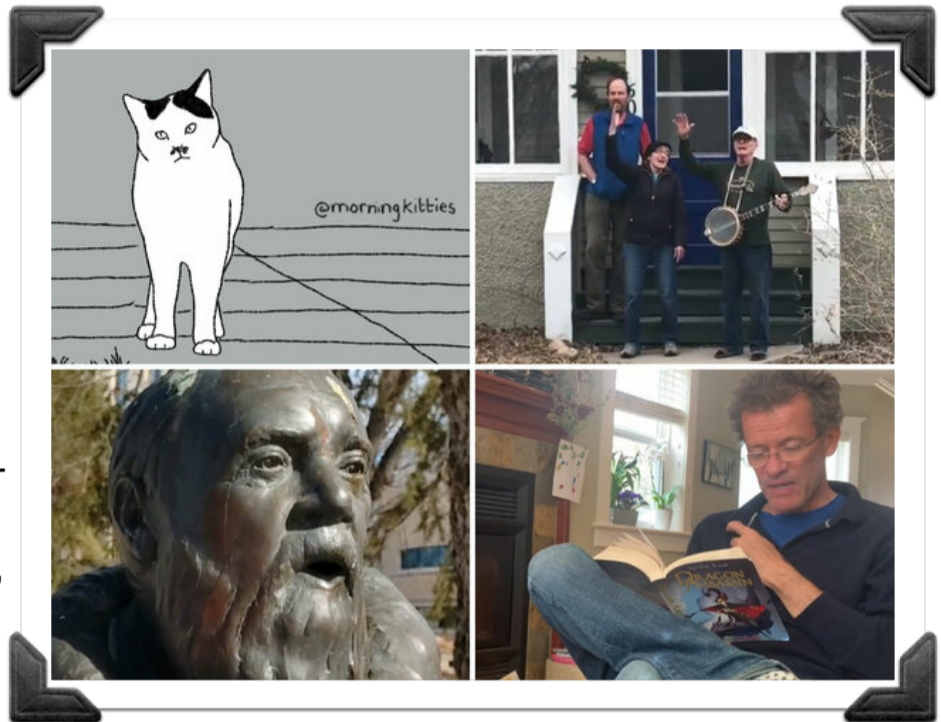
Bring out the Banjos and Stores and Cats and Poems and Puppets and Lots of Other Great Acts: The MFA in Writing Variety Show - Jeanette Lynes

Community has always been really important in the USask MFA in Writing. When the pandemic made it impossible for us to gather in person, MFA faculty member Dr. Sheri Benning and two MFA students, Sarah Ens (now graduated) and Tea Gerbeza came up with a creative solution; they launched the MFA Variety Show, a virtual showcase of writing, art, music, and lots of other cool acts!

The call for work and performances was embraced widely and warmly! Writers and artists from far and wide stepped up, including our own MFA in Writing graduates, current students, MFA mentors and authors from Saskatchewan and across the country.

MFA graduates who contributes work included Mika Lafond, Carolyn Gray (life-size puppets), Sarah Ens, Tonia Laird, Taidgh Lynch, Simon Boehm, dee Hobsbawn-Smith, and others. MFA mentors were incredibly generous, and work appeared from Dave Margoshes, Elizabeth Philips, Candace Savage, Leona Theis, Bill Robertson and others. David Carpenter contributed writing and played the banjo! Authors who offered contributions included Rita Bouvier, Guy Vanderhaeghe, Tim Lilburn, Beverley Brenna, Sandy Bonny, Glen Soresstad, Yann Martel, Connie Gault, Casey Plett, Bruce Rice, Diana Tegenkamp, Tanis MacDonald, Alissa York, Jacqueline Baker, Marina Endicott, Sheri Benning - and many others. English Professor David Parkinson performed a viola sola. Mari-Lou Rowley gave us knitting in action. Jennifer Still contributed a video poem. Jeanette Lynes tried to bake a carrot cake but didn't have the ingredients. Lots of folks have been left out here, only due to space constraints. Please visit the Variety Show website for the full marquee: www.mfavarietyshow.com

We're so grateful to the contributors; the MFA Variety show cheered us up through the pandemic, especially the early lockdowns. Even though we couldn't gather, the Variety Show helped remind us we were all out there, still being creative. We are grateful to Chris Putnam in USask Communications for covering the Variety Show last winter, and, of course, to the Variety Show's creators: Dr. Sheri Benning, Sarah Ens, Tea Gerbeza.



River Volta

Chelsea Hill

The River Volta Review of Books is an online literary publication started by Dr. Sheri Benning in 2019. The two key goals for this publication are to allow MFA in Writing students to engage with literature in a more critical context than the creatively focused MFA program as well as to create connections within the wider writing community.

The River Volta Review of Books primarily publishes content such as book reviews, short essays, and interviews conducted by current MFA in Writing students and alumni. Branching out to new mediums, MFA students Delane Just, Aliza Prodaniuk, Callum Wilson, and Ian Canon developed *The River Volta Podcast*. Episodes of the podcast can be found on the River Volta YouTube channel linked below. In response to the necessity of online learning and communication during the COVID-19 pandemic, the River Volta Reading Series has also been adapted for Zoom.

Faculty Awards & Accomplishments

SSHRC Insight Grant: Kristina Bidwell & Sophie McCall

Dr. Kristina Bidwell, Professor of English, University of Saskatchewan and Dr. Sophie McCall, Associate Professor of English, Simon Fraser University, have been awarded a three-year SSHRC Insight grant to study Indigenous-led collaboration in Indigenous literary arts in Canada.

Dr. Bidwell, an Inuk literary scholar and an enrolled member of NunatuKavut, the Inuit

community of southern Labrador and Dr. McCall, a Scottish-descended settler scholar, will examine how material conditions, narrative forms, protocols, languages, audiences, and institutional contexts affect Indigenous-led collaborations.

Their research has three phases:

- Researching the history of Indigenous literary collaboration to understand how co-authors, translators, editors, publishers, and other mediators have affected creative expression and publication for Indigenous storytellers and writers.
- Documenting and analyzing the collaborative relationships of playwright, filmmaker, and multi-media artist Marie Clements (Métis Dene); poet, performance, and installation artist Peter Morin (Tahltan); fiction writer, poet, graphic novelist, and filmmaker Katherena Vermette (Métis); and fiction writer, scholar, poet, musician, and videographer Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg).
- Working on individual Indigenous community-led editions of early Indigenous texts, in Labrador and British Columbia.

As a product of their multi-faceted project, the two scholars will produce a handbook of Indigenous-led collaboration, identifying challenges and best practices.



Faculty Awards & Accomplishments

Jeanette Lynes: National Non-Fiction Prize & Outstanding Graduate Mentorship Award

Dr. Jeanette Lynes (PhD) is the recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Graduate Mentorship Award from the University of Saskatchewan and the 2019 Constance Rooke Creative Non-fiction Prize presented by *The Malahat Review*.

Lynes is a professor in the Department of English and the director of the MFA in Writing Program. Having personally supervised more than 45 MFA students, a diverse group of students and genres, many of her former students have received awards for their writing and gone on to success in related industries.

Nicole Haldoupis, a 2016 MFA graduate, was one of those who nominated Lynes. Haldoupis said of Lynes in a nomination letter, “She helped me find the confidence to try things I was nervous or doubtful of in the creation of (my MFA thesis), and to take risks with my writing – which has improved immensely because of it. She taught me to be courageous with my work. She promoted a comfortable workshop environment where her students could feel safe sharing and critiquing each other’s work in respectful and constructive ways.”

Lynes described receiving the Outstanding Graduate Mentorship Award as a “huge honour.” Saying, “It has been quite a journey for me, and the award is humbling, too, because it’s not a one-way street. My students have, I hope, learned from me, but I’ve also learned so much from them, and continue to learn.”

Lynes was awarded the Creative Non-fiction Prize, a competition open to writers across Canada and the world, for her essay “Bat Reign.” The essay tells a true story about a period of time in which bats repeatedly found their way into her Saskatoon apartment.

In a statement published on *The Malahat Review*’s [news website](#), Yasuko Thanh described the essay as “inventive, creative, playful” and praised its exploration of relatable issues including “how to live while suffering a wild pain.”

Lynes has published two novels and seven poetry collections. Her most recent novel, *The Small Things That End the World*, won the Muslims for Peace and Justice Fiction Award at the 2019 Saskatchewan Book Awards. Her latest collection of poetry, *Bedlam Cowslip: The John Clare Poems*, was awarded the Saskatchewan Arts Board Poetry Award in 2015.

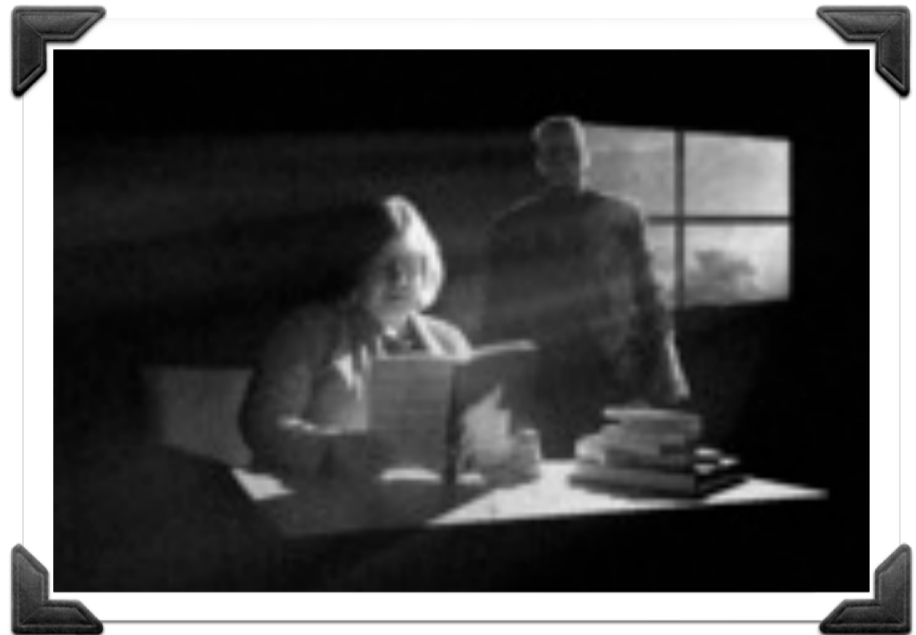


Faculty Awards & Accomplishments

Lisa Vargo: Distinguished Professor

The title of “Distinguished Professor” honours and celebrates exceptional achievement in research, scholarly, or artistic work by USask faculty or emeriti. The honorary title is a lifetime award that becomes Distinguished Professor Emeritus upon retirement.

Vargo, who is currently serving as the acting head of the Department of Art and Art History, teaches and researches 18th- and 19th-century literature, bibliography, and textual editing. She is particularly interested in women writers, especially Mary Shelley and Anna Barbauld, and is associate editor (North America) for the journal [*Women's Writing*](#). She spent many years as a tutor and volunteer in adult literacy work and on the board of the Word on the Street (Saskatoon) festival.



In 2018, Vargo was awarded the prestigious [Distinguished Scholar Award](#) by the Keats-Shelley Association of America. The award recognizes career-long excellence in scholarship devoted to the writers of the period and the culture in which they lived. Vargo is also known for her involvement in the [Project in International Collaborative Teaching \(PICT\)](#), which has developed into a cross-cultural teaching and learning model that offers an accessible form of internationalization to students, instructors, and researchers.

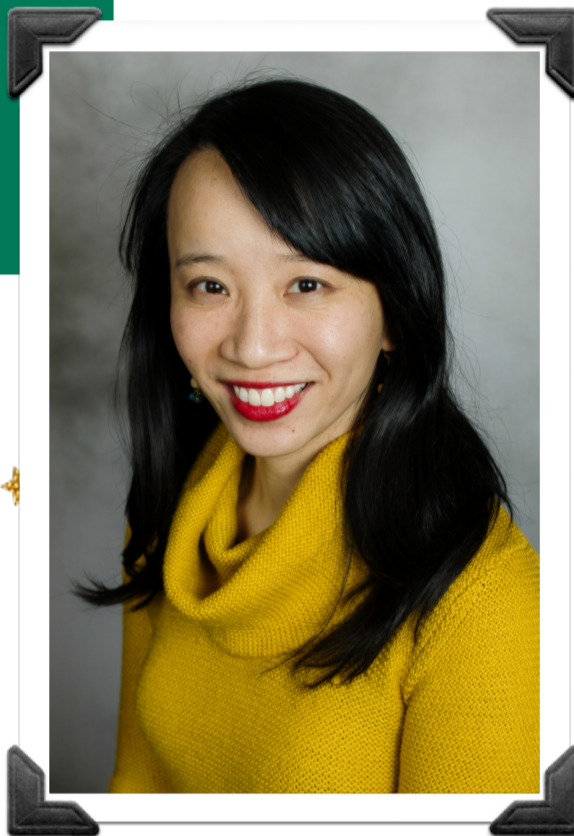
In a letter to Vargo, the USask Distinguished Professorship Advisory Committee noted her many research accomplishments during the past 30 years.

“Your work and knowledge in the field of romantic literary studies and textual editing, especially in English literature by female writers of the late 1700s and early 1800s, have earned you an international reputation as a distinguished scholar in the field of romantic literary studies,” the letter stated. “In addition to having an excellent and sustained research career, the committee would like to also acknowledge your administrative contributions to the University of Saskatchewan as well as your community outreach work.”

Faculty Awards & Accomplishments

Joanne Leow: Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching

The Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching annually recognizes teaching excellence. Dr. Joanne Leow is the 2021 recipient for in the College of Arts and Science: Humanities and Fine Arts. The award is given based on the nominees proficiency in exemplifying learning, striving for excellence in teaching, fair assessment, continual enhancement, and leadership.



Congratulations, Dr. Leow!

CBC Poetry Prize Longlist: Diana Tegenkamp, Sheri

Three writers connected to the University of Saskatchewan's Department of English have been longlisted for the 2020 CBC Poetry Prize.

Dr. **Sheri Benning** (BA'02, PhD), **Katherine Lawrence** (MFA'17) and **Diana Hope Tegenkamp** were among **32 Canadian poets named to the longlist** on Oct. 29. Their entries were chosen from nearly 3,000 submissions from across the country by a team of established writers and editors.



The winner of the CBC Poetry Prize will receive \$6,000 cash, will be invited to attend a two-week writing residency and will have their work published on CBC Books.

Current Department Research and Initiatives

RSAW

SSHRC Funding:

Insight Grant: "Indigenous-Led Collaboration in the Indigenous Literary Arts," 2020, \$99,766

Kristina Bidwell (co-principal applicant with Sophie McCall, SFU)

Connection Grant: "Watershed, lit., fig.: a conference and art exhibition," ALECC biennial conference, 2020, \$25,877

Joanne Leow (principal applicant), **Sheri Benning** (co-principal applicant), and **Jenna Hunnef** (co-principal applicant)

Connection Grant: "20/20 Vision: Speculating in Literature and Film in Canada," 2020, \$11,390

Wendy Roy

External Funding:

Canada Council Digital Strategies Grant: "Winter Sleep," 2020, \$5,000, **Sheri Benning**

Journal Articles:

William Bartley - *Canadian Review of American Studies*, 2020

Kristina Bidwell & Jessica McDonald - *Journal of Canadian Studies/Revue d'études canadiennes*

Joanne Leow - *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, *UTQ*, *Evergreen Review*, positions: asia critique

Peter Robinson (co-authored) - *Early Christianity*

Mary-Lou Rowley - Book Chapter in *Fractured Ecologies*

Wendy Roy - Book Chapter in *Canadian Culinary Imaginations*

Lisa Vargo - Book Chapter in *Mary Shelley and Europe*

Jerry White - *Short Film Studies & Canadian Journal of Film Studies*

Creative/Artistic Work:

Sheri Benning

Prairie Fire, Grain Magazine & Short Film: *Winter Sleep* (2021), with Heather Benning and Chad Galloway. An official selection at the Montreal Independent Film Festival. From Sheri: "Winter Sleep" is based on my poem of the same name which appears in my forthcoming collection *Field Requiem* with Carcanet Press. The film is supported by a Canada Council Grant.

Dr. Lucy Hinnie - Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellow 2018-2020

As I write this, I am sitting in a small terraced house in York. It has been a rainy day, with a chill in the air, and at lunch I took a walk down to York Minster, to eat a sandwich in Museum Gardens and watch the world go by. It was, in truth, very idyllic, but in my head and my heart I am still thinking about my home back across the Atlantic, and my two years in Saskatoon.

I miss the brilliant blue skies and the deep white snow. On a particularly emotional day, one might say I even miss the temperature, but I wouldn't want to commit myself to that statement: suffice to say 'it's a dry cold' is sometimes preferable to 'it's really very wet all of the time', as is the norm in the north of the United Kingdom. Most of all, I miss the people.

My two years at the University of Saskatchewan as a Leverhulme Postdoctoral Fellow were an experience I would not change for anything. (I may, however, redact the pandemic and the final year of isolation, as I'm sure we all might.) My partner Peter and I arrived in Canada at the end of January 2019, soon to be followed by our two worldly and very grumpy cats. We were met with exceptional kindness, generosity and consideration by the people we encountered. There was not one point at which we doubted our decision – as two Scots with a proclivity for pessimism, that is saying something.

Having the opportunity to live and work in Saskatoon, on Treaty Six territory and the homeland of the Métis, was incredible. In my time in the department, I met and worked with exceptional people, students and staff alike. I was privileged to work with outstanding minds, and students with a sense of curiosity and drive that inspired me to be bolder and better in my teaching, and to push both myself and them to new heights.

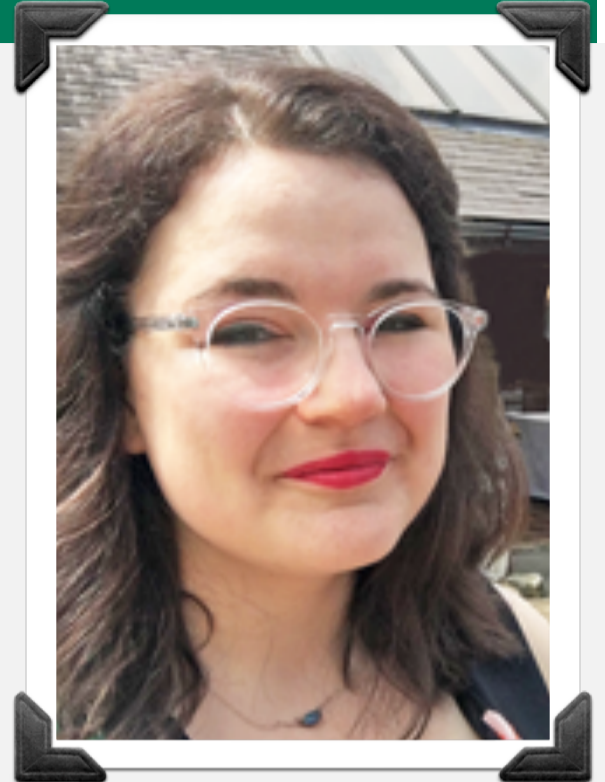
My first teaching experience in Saskatoon was working with a group of SSCL students, sharing a study of Scottish Literature. I treasure these memories dearly, as my class were truly a pleasure to teach, as well as being deeply supportive of my own work and my new adventure in Canada. Shaking the snow off my boots on a Tuesday morning to talking about the green hills and rolling heather of my homeland was a joy.

Working one-on-one with Tiana Kirstein on CMRS 433 as part of an Advanced Manuscript Studies module was a further wonderful experience: Tiana's considered and meticulous transcription bolstered ongoing work on the Bannatyne Project, and I learned much about the rich Ukrainian heritage of Saskatchewan through talking with her. I stepped out of my comfort zone and taught Shakespeare in early 2020, where I was gifted with highly-engaged and motivated students, appreciating them all the more as we pivoted suddenly and swiftly to online delivery.

A true highlight was, of course, working on the Medieval Women 400/800 seminar in Fall 2020: I could not have imagined a finer cohort of scholars to embark upon this course, in such trying circumstances as we found ourselves. [Their blog](#) remains a personal and professional standout for me.

The Bannatyne Manuscript edition is nearly ready for web publication, having been offered a short Covid-19 extension thanks to the generosity of Leverhulme. I have had the privilege of travelling across Canada, from Guelph to Vancouver Island, to work on developing my skills, sharing my research and growing both as a person and a scholar. The most memorable moments, however, often came in the quiet of a prairie day: a sunset walk at Cranberry Flats; a game of slow pitch on a summer evening; stumbling in knee-high snow at Wanuskewin under a blinding sun; watching the full moon from our balcony on 5th Avenue.

I am embarking upon a new adventure, [working with the British Library as their new Wikimedian-in-Residence](#). My time in Canada has shaped my approach to this role. I will embody active decolonisation, reconciliation through open data and an inclusive approach to digital praxis. I will take what I learned in my time on the prairies to push for bigger and bolder representation of marginalised identities, and to open up the field of wiki-based research and activity in classrooms, research and community engagement.



Put simply, this work has its very roots in the halls of the Arts building. As part of Medieval Women, I was encouraged and supported by David Parkinson to coordinate and facilitate a Wikipedia edit-a-thon as part of the assessment for the course. Sitting alongside our reflective blog, this work served to engage students in conversation about the meaning and value of open knowledge, its pitfalls and benefits, and to address the questions of gaps in knowledge and the silenced voices that rightly demand to be brought into sharper focus. The event allowed us to collaborate with the National Library of Scotland, and the University of Edinburgh, in an internationalised approach to collaborative learning. I was, and remain, very proud of each and every participant.

~

It would not be right to reflect upon my time at the University without thinking about how I got there. It starts, if you would believe, in Italy. It is 2011, and I am a very scared and painfully enthusiastic Masters student, giving a paper at my first conference. The setting is sublime: it is a hot summer in Padua, and we take our lunch (pasta, ripe fruit, cheese and wine abounds) and rich Italian coffee in a small, green courtyard in the centre of the university. (They do not do conferences like this anymore!) I give my paper in a wide but shallow wood panelled room, and I am nervous. The paper goes well but the questions – they are surely the scariest part. I answer as best I can, noting a very thoughtful and patient question from a reassuringly calm academic who I think may be from Canada.



Later, I agonise over my answers. I decide to take ownership of this, and write three postcards. One goes to Florida, the other somewhere in Europe and the third to Saskatchewan, to Professor David Parkinson, who responds most generously by email. Some years later, 2015 I believe, we are sitting in the ubiquitous Press Coffee in Edinburgh, David having taken up an IASH Fellowship, and I find myself tongue-tied trying to describe my ambitions with my doctoral research and my interest in the digital potential. And so, a project and an idea is born. Despite the practicalities of life interventions, PhD commitments, part-time work and the organising of a transatlantic move, I touched down in Saskatoon for the first time in 2017 and again in 2019. It could not have been done without the vision and patient machinations of David.

For those who have worked with David, and know his thoughtful and erudite manner, you will understand what I mean when I say working together for the last two years has been an enlightening, intellectually stimulating and enriching experience. Writing this feels strange, as I am certain that David will shy away from such superlative attention, yet it would not be right to let the immense contribution he has made go without comment. This influence extends not just to my own life, but to so many others including, but not limited to, generations of undergraduate and graduate students both from the University of Saskatchewan and from further afield.

Indeed, David's work engaging students in activities such as World Class Day and through diverse and exciting internships with SURJ, is remarkable and speaks to his strengths as an academic visionary and someone who understands fundamentally the importance of looking outward and building rich connections across cultures and borders. In late 2019, a group of students in his Older Scots seminar led an incredibly stimulating teleconference with peers from the USA and St Andrews in Scotland – and bear in mind this was before the ubiquity of Zoom!

I knew David's work before I knew him as a person – both have offered me insight, academic rigour and challenge, and a sense of my own location in both the landscape of my field, and my profession. He met us at the airport with kindness and grace, offering us some homemade bread and Saskatoon honey, very understanding of my jetlag. We have shared many lunches in Marquis and STM, and ponderous cups of tea in Arts 320. David's enthusiasm for showing me the very best of Saskatchewan was the perfect introduction to Canada, and I believe it earned him his own pass to Batoche, bestowed upon him by the staff there as recognition of his unofficial ambassadorship.

To have worked alongside David is an honour, and to take this space to recognise the great things he has given to the scholarly community, both at home and abroad, is my privilege.

Graduate Student Awards

PhD Graduate Thesis Award
(HUMFA)

Jessica McDonald

“Complicated Geographies:
Douglas Coupland’s North
America”



MA Graduate Thesis Award (HUMFA)

Rhonda West (MA 2019)

“Unsettled Narratives: Indigenous Absence and Vengeful Land in Martha Ostenso’s *Wild Geese*, Sinclair Ross’s *As for Me and My House*, and Sheila Watson’s *The Double Hook*”

Teacher Scholar Doctoral Fellowship

Kyle Dase

2020-2021 - mentored by Ann Martin

Mark Doerksen

2020-2021 - mentored by Yin Liu

Congratulations

Graduate Student News

Department of English Awards

Ron George Graduate Award - **Drumlin Crape** (MA student)

Joel and Lily Green Memorial Award in English - **Emily Pickett** (MA student)

Margaret Mackenzie Scholarship - **Nicole Jacobson** (PhD student)

Edward McCourt Fellowship - **Gunnar Ohberg** (MFA student)

Kathleen Prescott Daykin Scholarship - **Caragana Ennis** (MA student), **Matteo Sestito** (MA student), **Dee Hobsbawm-Smith** (MA student)

Edward McCourt Memorial Award in English & Scott Truitt Memorial Book Prize - **Darius Simonot** (MA student)

Summer 2020 Degree Completions

Lindsay Church: MA (project)

Ryan Gayowski: MA (project)

Sam Rezazadeh: MA (project)

Jasmine Redford: MA (thesis)

Rob Imes: PhD

Martin Winqvist: PhD



Undergraduate Student Awards

The Department of English honoured the 2020-21 undergraduate award recipients through an awards reception over zoom where some \$53,000 of award money was disbursed.

The event brought together students, faculty, family, and friends to celebrate these achievements.

Vice-Dean, Academic Gordon DesBrisay: "It is a real privilege to have been invited to this party, which captures the fabulous community that the English Department can conjure, even in this weirdest of years."



Pictured: Ann Martin, Diana Tegenkamp, Megan Gorsalitz, Cara Schwartz, Mariana Martinez Guevara, Ally Arthur, Ludmilla Voitkovska, Sarah Haugen, Brent Nelson, Wendy Roy, Lisa Cargo, Ana Cristina Camacho Alarcon, Angelica Breland, Cori Thorstad, Alexander Edmunds, Megan Fairbairn, Logan Thienes

Reginald J G Bateman Memorial Scholarship in English:

Megan Fairbairn

Yuans Award in Canadian Literature:

Megan Fairbairn

Ronald and Mary Dyck Memorial Award:

Logan Thienes

Alexander Edmunds

Peter T Millard Scholarship:

Eunice Domingo

Award for Excellence in English:

Drumlin Crape

Hannon Scholarship:

Ana Camacho Alarcon

Alexander Edmunds

Megan Fairbairn

Sarah Haugen

Mariana Martinez Guevara

Cara Schwartz

Cori Thorstad

Gabrielle Torres

Elizabeth Brewster Memorial Scholarship:

Nathan Metivier

Mary Lou Ogle Award for the Study of Communications:

Angelica Breland

Avie Bennett Prize in Canadian Literature:

Ally Arthurs

JB McGeachy Prize in English:

Noah Callaghan

Roscoe R Miller Scholarship:

Megan Gorsalitz



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

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CORI THORSTAD
Hannon Scholarship Winner



MARIANA MARTINEZ GUEVARA
Hannon Scholarship Winner



LOGAN THIENES
Ronald and Mary Dyck Memorial
Award Winner



MEGAN FAIRBAIRN
Reginald JG Bateman
Memorial Scholarship Winner



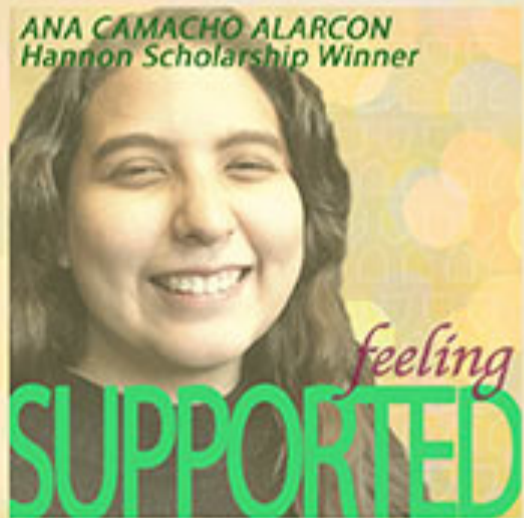
SARAH HAUGEN
Hannon Scholarship Winner



ANGELICA BRELAND
Mary Lou Ogle Award Winner



ANA CAMACHO ALARCON
Hannon Scholarship Winner



Design: Diana Tegenkamp

Undergraduate Student News

Drumlin Crape was awarded the Copland Prize in Humanities, given to the top graduate at spring convocation, and the Award for Excellence in English Studies.

Crape has worked with OUTSaskatoon, an organization that plays an important role in 2SLGBTQ wellbeing, research and advocacy, and TransSask, a non-profit that serves the province's transgender and gender diverse communities. Crape is the facilitator of Gender Revolution, a social and support group for transgender and gender diverse people in Saskatoon. It provides a space to discuss trans-related topics as well as to meet and befriend other trans people.

At USask, Crape has had the opportunity to serve as a research assistant on the [Canterbury Tales project](#) as well as to serve as a teaching assistant for a 100-level English course. Additionally, they served as a panelist for a [Department of English Literature Matters event](#) and worked with a committee examining departmental policy on inclusive language. Throughout their undergraduate studies, they were also involved with the English Undergraduate Society and recently published their [first academic article](#) with the *University of Saskatchewan Undergraduate Research Journal* (USURJ). The article was chosen as a [Best Paper Prize winner](#)



Congratulations, Drumlin!



English Undergraduate Society

2020-21 was a year of change for the English Undergraduate Society as we made the transition online. We experienced a year of growth and development as we were challenged to connect EUS members in new and exciting ways.

This year we expanded our executive, which included Cori Thorstad (President), Ava McLean (VP), Mae McDonald (Communications and Outreach), Nakita Funk (Events Coordinator), and Megan Gorsalitz (Secretary).

The shift to online presented a new set of challenges for our executive, but throughout the year we were able to provide a number of virtual events such as movie nights, study sessions, trivia nights, and commons.

Although, we deeply missed being able to get together in person the EUS was an excellent refuge to connect with fellow students and friends outside of our classes. Despite the challenges of being distanced from each other we gained some wonderful new members and saw continued involvement from members.

Cori is excited to see the return of some of our executive members as a part of the incoming 2021-2022 executive: Ava McLean (President), Nakita Funk (Events), and Mae McDonald (Communications and Outreach).

Thank you to all of our members and faculty who have supported the EUS throughout the year!

In Memoriam

Don Kerr

Don Kerr, Professor Emeritus, long time faculty member in the department of English, and a Saskatoon institution. After retiring several years ago, Don could be found at his usual window seat at the Broadway Roastery (in the mornings) or the Yard and Flagon (in the afternoons) writing a poem, a play, or some new piece of local history. In 2007, he was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honour, for his writing and public service, and from 2011-2014 he served as Saskatchewan's poet laureate.

- Brent Nelson



Photo: David Stobbe

Don Kerr was a compassionate, witty and beloved member of our department. When meetings threatened to become fractious, and the opposing parties were sitting in clenched anticipation for the dreaded encounter to begin, Don would amble through the door, look around, and find just the right joke to get everyone laughing. This always made for better meetings. As Bob Calder recalls, Don might sit silently during a meeting, well after the early forays and arguments had been made, and then he would read the room and suggest a motion that would touch on all of the major concerns. The motion would pass, and we would all go home. His students of drama and film loved him. He had one rule for late essays: before the offending student would hand in his late paper, they would have to write an abject apology, and if the apology wasn't abject enough, the student would have to deliver the apology down on one knee.

Don's presence in the larger community was equally positive. He was a committed community man, sitting on many municipal boards such as the Heritage Society or the Public Library. I don't know where he found the time and energy, but he wrote a great deal about these beloved institutions. He loved Saskatoon about which he co-wrote a history with the late Stan Hanson. He knew so much about our town that he became a sort of walking memory of it. And now it feels to me as though our city, our history here, is in danger of being forgotten without Don Kerr to write it down and talk it back into our consciousness.

I will miss him very much. There is too much to say about Don Kerr, most of it laudable, and most of it funny. He was a joy to work with, a joy to write with, a joy to drink with, a wise and outlandish oddball whom I will never forget. - David Carpenter

In Memoriam

Peter Hynes

On November 25, 2020 our much-loved colleague, Peter Hynes, died at home, following a period of palliative care for glioblastoma. For 30 years, until July 2018, Peter's gentle Scots accent and gentle wit enlivened our classrooms and our department meetings. His family immigrated to Canada in 1964, residing first in Winnipeg, and then in Kentville, NS. Peter earned his undergraduate degree at Acadia, where he met his wife Janet Drysdale. He earned his master's degree at the University of York, England, and his PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto, before joining the U of S English Department.



Peter's scholarship remained comparative, exploring the cross-channel cross-fertilization of English and French literary culture, from Voltaire's dramatic adaptation of Richardson's *Pamela* to the English assimilation of Diderot's theory of the "Genre Sereieux." His fluency and expertise in French language and literature made him an asset to our Modern Language colleagues. He wrote and published on Richard Steele, George Lillo, Sophia Lee, and William Wycherley, and more recently on Ursula K. Le Guin. It is a mark of Peter's professional courtesy that when he began to study Le Guin's work, he wrote to the author, out of a conviction that living writers are entitled to know who is "working on them."

Peter carried over his wit and concern for others into his teaching. Twice nominated for a USSU teaching award, he inspired real devotion in many students. A sampling of his many "awesome" ratings on Rate My Professor includes comments on his accent: "Such an amazing prof! Is super helpful and really knows his stuff! I plan on taking another class from him! Is Scottish but very easy to understand his accent and is super funny!" Another student "cannot say enough good things about Peter as a prof! He is absolutely fantastic! He gives great feedback on essays, and every lecture is fun and entertaining as well as educational! He is absolutely hilarious! . . . Easily my favourite prof ever." His helpful marking is often cited: "His feedback for essays was beyond anything I'd ever seen. I'd take another class of his without any hesitation." The desire to take more of Peter's classes and to recommend him is a constant theme. Students regularly signed up for Eighteenth century fiction, with its famously daunting novels, based on their enjoyment of Peter's first year classes. "The only professor who made class truly enjoyable and fun. Was very easy to approach after class or during office hours, was flexible with due dates when we got behind, and overall excellent person. Really made coming to class worth it! Super sad he's retiring and no one else will get to experience his awesome insights."

Peter's teaching interests expanded over the years, from Eighteenth century literature, especially sentimental drama and epistolary fiction, to contemporary popular culture and science fiction. A devoted father of four, Peter took seriously the literary and cultural world his children inhabited, and he incorporated it into his own intellectual work—a practice that began with Richard Scarry and culminated in his famous honours seminar on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

In Memoriam

Peter was also a gifted versifier who occasionally delivered his comments on thesis proposals in heroic couplets, and his departmental communications in limerick form. Here's an example, on the University's 2012 "Transparent Activity Based Budgeting" (TABBS) initiative:

Please let me be the first one who nabbs
An occasion for punning on TABBS:
If I don't, others will,
And the tab (or the bill)
Or the glory will be up for grabs.

And another, arising from Professor Lisa Vargo's apology for nagging him to organize a meeting (with a nod to her research subject):

There's no need for retraction, dear Lise;
No apologies, no bended knees!
From the pew of Barbould
One's entitled to scold:
You may send all the missives you please.

When a department meeting was mistakenly announced for a date that had passed, Peter wrote:

Human life has its flow and its ebb,
And the present and past form a web;
But it's pushing quite far
To neglect coming Mar.
And sign on for a meeting last Feb.!

And, on the eve of his retirement, he shared this one with then Department head, Wendy Roy:

After thirty hard years as a prof,
I am happy to take some time off.
It was hardly a lark
To mark, mark, mark, mark, mark:
Three long decades worth — that's quite enough!

Outside the university, Peter played and coached soccer, and played guitar with friends and colleagues in a series of local bands including "The Wrong Johnsons," "Sanctuary Much," and "Standard Transmission." He was also something of a "gear" enthusiast, and many musical friends were beneficiaries of his willingness to part with a well-cared-for guitar or amplifier so he could try out something new. When Professor Jeanette Lynes's budding career as a rock drummer was challenged by noise complaints from neighbouring apartments, Peter generously offered the use of his drum kit and his basement practice space. He loved to travel, to camp, to cross-country ski, and to return to the Maritimes for family holidays most summers. Peter was only beginning to savour the pleasures of retirement when illness began to limit his activities. His colleagues, friends, and family miss him deeply.

- Ron Cooley



In Memoriam

Janice Acoose

Janice Acoose/Miskwonigeesikokwe (Red Sky Woman) (1954-2020) began her journey to the Spirit World on 4 December after a lengthy illness and hospitalization for liver disease. Her ancestry was Nehiowè-Metis and Ninakawè/Saulteaux), and she was specifically rooted maternally in the Ninankawe Marival Metis Community and paternally in the Sakimay (Saulteaux) First Nation. Janice was featured for her difficult but amazingly resilient life story and her teaching of Indigenous students at First Nations University of Canada in Christine Welsh's important documentary *Finding Dawn*. The documentary is centrally about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, but also the violence that so many Indigenous females endure, and some, herself included, survive.



Janice achieved the very rare distinction of having her 1992 University of Saskatchewan MA thesis published in revised form but under the thesis title, *Iskwewak Kah' Ki Yaw Ni Wahkomakanak: Neither Indian Princesses nor Easy Squaws*. Jeanette Armstrong excerpted the thesis in the first collection of Indigenous literary criticism in Canada and the first literary critical book solely by Indigenous authors, *Looking at The Words of Our People: First Nations Analysis of Literature*. Deanna Reder and Linda M Morra used as their lead article for *Learn, Teach, Challenge: Approaching Indigenous Literatures*, another thesis excerpt, "Iskwewak Kah' Ki Yaw Ni Wahkomakanak: Re-memembering Being to Signifying Female Relations."

Janice used her First Nations spiritual name, Miskwonigeesikokwe, alongside Janice Acoose in her 2011 University of Saskatchewan PhD dissertation, *Minjimendaamowinon Anishinaabe: Reading and Righting All Our Relations in Written English*. She was the first Indigenous person to earn her doctorate in the Department of English, and she went on to teach not just at the First Nations University but also at the U of S, in the latter case in both English and Indigenous Studies. In all her critical work, Janice was an advocate for Indigenous languages, practising and modelling their importance while also recurrently centring connections to land and community.

Many people who visited Wanuskewin in its early years will also have seen and heard her as a narrator of the introductory film to the park, a film in which she recurrently asked, "What does Wanuskewin mean to you?" Others will know her for her work as a journalist, including her Indigenous-centred columns in the *StarPhoenix*.

Janice is survived by her two beloved sons, Blair and Blue Pelletier, and by her treasured grandchildren, for whom she held a specially warm place in her heart.

May the spirits of Kah' Ki Yaw Ni Wahkomakanak welcome you home, Red Sky Woman.

- Susan Gingell

In Memoriam

Christopher Dean

1930 - 2020

Christopher Dean passed away peacefully in the early morning of November 6, 2020. He was born in Middlesbrough, England on March 13, 1930. His greatest joy was his family and left to grieve are his wife Jeanette, his three children Christopher, Andrew (Cathy) and Kathy and much loved grandchildren and great-grandchildren, together with his brother Allan and his sister Irene in England.

He gained his PHD on the phonology of Yorkshire Dialects at the University of Leeds where he met Jeanette, a fellow student. They were married there in 1953 and he had his first University position at the University of Malaya. The family immigrated to Canada in 1959 where he taught at Queens University and the University of Western Canada. He eventually stopped moving westwards and taught at the University of Saskatchewan for thirty-two years. He gave numerous papers on phonology, Old English and Medieval Literature all over the world. Late in his career he specialized in Arthurian Studies, becoming the Canadian authority in the field, giving papers in Europe, and writing books on Arthur, Merlin and Guinevere. He loved teaching and particularly enjoyed working with senior classes for ten years after his retirement. Chris was a man of many parts. He and Jeanette together enjoyed life to the fullest and giving back to the community. He was a lay reader in the Anglican Church and treasurer for several churches, clubs and UNICEF Saskatchewan. He ran Gateway Box Office and did the program for several years. He loved to travel and he was a gifted and meticulous photographer. The travel shows he made, together with exhibitions, were shared with many groups and libraries in Saskatoon. Singing, woodwork, renovating, chess and bridge all had a part in his life. He played cricket, as wicket keeper and opening bat for the R.A.F. In England and the R.M.C. in Kingston, and was an avid soccer watcher who loyally supported his little hometown team. A favourite hobby was stamp collecting and after retirement he and Jeanette began a small philatelic business and travelled to shows across Western Canada. This was a whole new world. They didn't make much money but they had fun and made so many new friends. Whatever he undertook he did well. Most of all he cared for Jeanette lovingly and completely over many years as her mobility grew steadily worse and he never gave up.



in medias res

in medias res is a student-led literary magazine at St. Thomas More College with the mission to foster the literary and artistic community at the University of Saskatchewan.

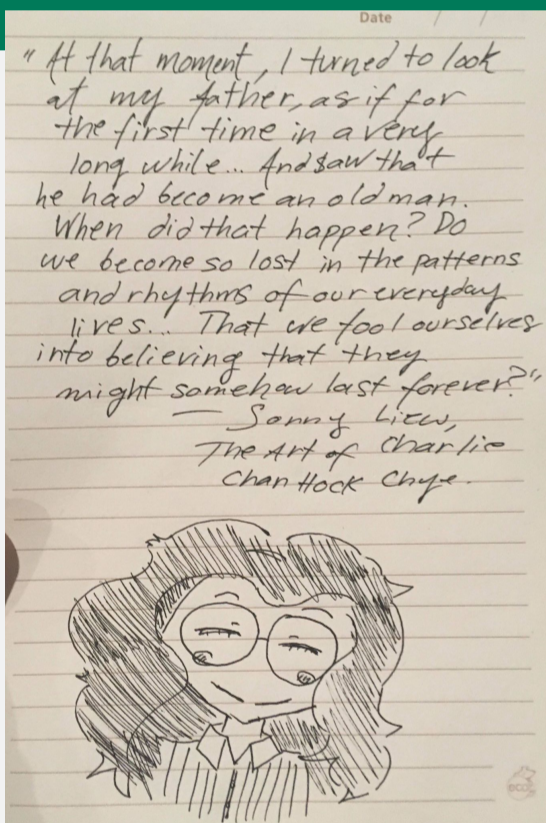
We publish two issues each academic year featuring fiction, nonfiction, poetry and visual art from USask students, alumni, faculty and staff. Our March 2021 publication, [The "Love" Issue](#), is out now!

You can find us online at stmcollege.ca/imr and on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



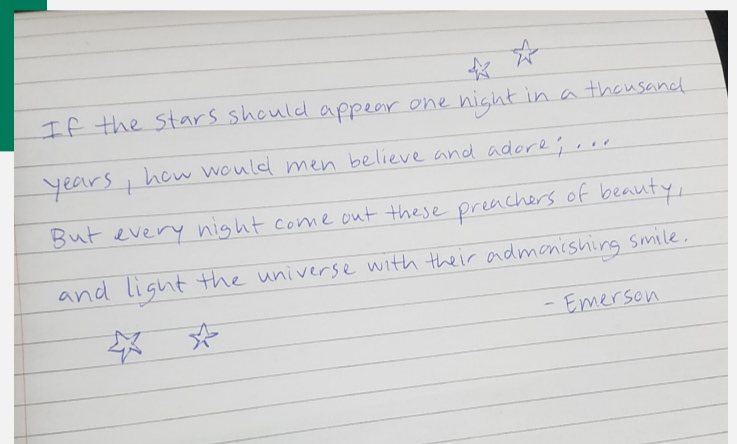
Image: Evangeline by Emma Wood

Reading and Learning during the Pandemic



From *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye* by Sonny Liew, shared by Eunice-Grace Domingo (3rd year English Honours BA) and read for ENG 444

It seemed like every department *but* English tried to keep pretending that nothing was different. I had a class where the prof marked everything the way she usually would if it were in-person and normal. I had another where my teacher thought challenging the students with extra work, forced notetaking, and an assignment every week would be just what we needed. I have many personal challenges, and these people didn't make the year bearable. The English Department wasn't perfect, but my literature classes felt like a refuge; a lot of my professors really stepped up and helped. So thank you. -- Eunice-Grace Domingo, 19 March 2021



Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Nature*. *The Norton Anthology: American Literature 1820-1865*, 9th ed., edited by Robert S. Levine, W. W. Norton, 2017, pp. 181-210.

Submitted by: Dana Kasdorf. 4th yr. English Honours. From ENG 380. Winter Term 2020. Not a quote we looked at directly in class, but it stood out to me when I read it. Love Emerson's style of writing!

A Poem Written During a Meeting: Reflection on A Pandemic Year

"Daddy, can I tell you something?"

An eager boy so sweet looks up.

"Yoshi has a Bullet Bill so

He smashed the others – really, yup!"

"Awesome!" Feigned, my answer is and,
I think, so cunningly contrived.

"Daddy, will you listen, please, Dad?"

So acidly now does he chide.

"Then, and then, and then, and then, dad— "

I shut the tome so'as not to bruise.

"Tell me, son, what else does happen?"

The book remains, unread, unused.

– Joel Salt, PhD Candidate, 15 March 2021