

# *the* **WORD**

a newsletter for alumni and friends of the UBC english department

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**alumni**UBC

While there was a departmental newsletter under the editorship of Jan de Bruyn, now emeritus, *The Word* represents our first newsletter in several decades, so I am especially pleased to welcome you to its second issue and I thank Mary Chapman, our intrepid editor.

The past year has brought in a number of important changes. We welcome Tiffany Johnstone, Assistant Professor, Limited Term, to the Department. We have also lost two colleagues: John Cooper retired after a long and distinguished career as a teacher, administrator, and researcher—he is one of the leading experts worldwide on British modernism—and our dear colleague Judy Brown died at the beginning of September. She was a superbly talented teacher and administrator and an ideal colleague (see the Tribute to Judy on pp. 3-4). Details of a memorial service on October 23rd at the Longhouse will soon be posted on our website ([english.ubc.ca](http://english.ubc.ca)) and on Facebook.



This year, we will hire two assistant professors in Canadian Literature and Modernism. Later this fall, I will ask the Dean for new positions; there are several retirements coming up in the next 18 months and more after that, so the Department will experience further changes. The Faculty of Arts has scheduled an external review of the Department for early 2014 and we will profit from this opportunity to reform and reimagine the Department, seeking to maintain our strengths and investigate new directions in English Studies.

We continue to be a department of excellent teachers and researchers, and it is a great honour for me to be the head of such a strong department. We are internationally recognised as one of the best English departments in the world. Our strengths lie not only in our faculty and staff, but also in our students, both past and present. I invite you to read this newsletter, check our website and Facebook page, and keep in touch with us as we continue to grow and change.

*Dr. Stephen Guy-Bray*







"Congratulations [on] a splendid first issue of the departmental newsletter. It was a reminder that my academic career in English began with Craig Miller's MWF 8:30 English 100 class, which directly led to an Honours degree in 1970. Keep up the good work!"

**Cameron Louis** (BA '70), Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Arts, University of Regina

"I love this! So happy to see Tiffany Potter receive tenure and to read updates about Vin Nardizzi. They're my absolute favourite professors from my undergraduate degree. Thanks for this!"

**Vinnie Yuen** (BA '10)

"Thanks for sending the newsletter. I have fond memories of my time at UBC. I am currently in Singapore and editor of an online journal/ website Philosophers for Change which deals with post-capitalist issues. Please let faculty / grad students whom you think may be interested to see if they want to contribute any pieces to it."

**Sanjay Perera** (MA '02)

"Congratulations on your first issue of The Word and also on your QS ranking. My time at UBC goes back to the Garnett Sedgewick and Freddie Wood days! I still remember that those lectures were among my favourites." **Joan Collum** (BA '50)

"Congratulations on The Word. You have done a fine job and I particularly like the student emphasis. While it's helpful to learn of colleagues' accomplishments, we reveal more when we can show what our students have done and can do. The interview section is also useful, giving the department a sense of its past and its people. Well-done. I look forward to many future issues."

**Professor Ira Nadel**

*do you have a story for the next issue of the word?*

email [English.Newsletter@ubc.ca](mailto:English.Newsletter@ubc.ca)



**Our colleague and friend Professor Judy Brown, Associate Head and Senior Instructor, MA (University of British Columbia), died on 1 September 2013. She was a woman of outstanding achievements, fierce integrity, and great modesty, and we will miss her very much.**

One of UBC's finest teachers and most gifted administrators, she accumulated many recognitions over the course of her career, including a 3M Teaching Fellowship, a Killam Teaching Prize of the Faculty of Arts, the Margaret Fulton Award, and UBC's 75th Anniversary Award for Service. At the time of her death, she was being considered for promotion to Professor of Teaching.

"I fell in love with teaching when I realized after my first eight months as a TA that being in the classroom was by far the most exciting, frightening, challenging and thrilling part of any working day," she wrote. No wonder she practically glowed in the classroom, and students thanked her by attending class after class with her, and recommending her to their friends. To the

last she worked passionately to be an even better instructor, no matter what the changes in the student population and the technologies used to teach them, and with equal dedication she instructed others in the techniques of effective teaching. Her achievements in the pedagogy of first-year English were particularly impressive. Former teaching assistants, now university professors themselves, recall being taught the virtues of precision and helpfulness in marking student papers: "I learned never to write 'awkward' in the margin of an essay but instead to find ways to pinpoint the source of the awkwardness and to give specific directions for improvement." Generations of her students, whether first-year or graduates, will remember her precise, always highly legible handwriting, the extensive comments in the margins and at the conclusion of their papers, the helpful checklists for review of points--usually in her signature purple ink. Students and instructors alike benefited from the textbooks she wrote alone and with others, such as *The Harbrace Pocket Guide for Canadians* (2000), *The Canadian Writer's Handbook*, 4th ed., with William Messenger, Jan de Bruyn, and Ramona Montagnes (2005), and the *Harbrace College Handbook for Canadian Writers*, 3rd and 4th ed., ed. with Jane Flick (1989, 1994).

Her areas of expertise included children's literature and Canadian literature, and she supervised dozens of Honours and Master's theses in English and in the MA in Children's Literature program, instilling in her students the principles of imaginative argument and flawless documentation. She was a founding faculty member of the MA in Children's Literature program, a multi-disciplinary venture involving English, SLAIS (the School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies), Language and Literacy Education and Creative Writing. A look at the reviews of children's books she wrote for the journal *Canadian Literature*, where she served as Associate Editor from 2005 onward, reveals her deep engagement in the subject, in particular her outspoken impatience with injustice of any kind, but most particularly towards children.

"I only took one class with Judy, but it was a graduating seminar that was absolutely formative for me and my approach to graduate school in English. I only wish I'd written to her and told her what her class meant for my own teaching practice - she was a true mentor. Her absence will be felt." (Kasim Husain)



Judy Brown's influence extended well beyond the English Department across the university and the province, and especially through her involvement in Arts Co-op, across the nation and around the world. If there was one faculty member in our midst whose name was known right across campus, it was hers. She believed that students should be taught to be exemplary citizens as well as fine academics, and it was therefore no surprise to find her for almost a decade on the President's Advisory Committee for Student Discipline or to note her significant role in formulating the Faculty of Arts guidelines to students on how to avoid plagiarism. She served on the University Transition Program which caters to highly gifted adolescents from the province, teaching students between thirteen and fifteen years of age, and "playing on their love of politics, their interest in history, their fascination with media and scandal, and their appreciation of the absolute absurd." The attempt to describe all that she did at UBC quickly becomes a breathless and admiring list, including presentations on "10 Myths about Writing" in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems, lectures to students at the University Writing Centre and the Centre for Continuing Studies, workshops on evaluating student writing for the Centre for Teaching and Academic Growth, adapting courses for distance education, and leading the tutor training program at UBC's Writing Centre.



Judy Brown's life of work and dedication had space for friends and time out in Vancouver, a city she loved. She relished especially a weekend Dim Sum around a big table with conversation flying and lots of hilarity with her university friends. A passionate reader, she was always giving and sharing books, and she would leave a box of "free books" for students on a bench outside her office. Off the campus, Judy delighted in nature, and loved her regular long walks on the seawall. The only thing that Vancouver lacked for her was her beloved family, who lived across the country.

She found great joy in her work at UBC, especially her teaching, and she deserves the last word: "After [more than] thirty years, I am occasionally asked by friends and colleagues whether my teaching still matters to me as much as it did in 1978 when I was in my first nervous days as a teaching assistant. Quite simply, the answer is yes. It matters more today than it did a world ago when I knew so much less about what it could be. Teaching -- not facilitating, pontificating, or perorating -- matters at least as much to me and, I hope, has more of an impact on others than anything else I do in my professional life."

by Stephen Guy-Bray (Head), Eva-Marie Kröller, Jane Flick, and Herbert Rosengarten.

A memorial service will be held on  
**October 23rd from 3:30-5:00 PM in the Longhouse of the First Nations House of Learning.**  
Also, the **Judy Brown Memorial Scholarship in Canadian Literature** is being established by the  
Department of English, family and friends to honour Judy Brown for her many contributions to life at  
UBC. See [www.english.ubc.ca](http://www.english.ubc.ca) soon for details.

- **Daniel Heath Justice** has been appointed **Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Literature**. Congratulations, Daniel!
- **Ira Nadel's** radio program, *Arts on Air*, is broadcast on CiTr 101.9 FM Wednesdays at 6 p.m. **Dina Al-Kassim, Jerry Wasserman, Adam Frank, Margery Fee, Janet Giltrow, Sherrill Grace** and her graduate students, and Garden Statuary editorial staff were some of his interviewees. TUNE IN or listen to podcasts available [HERE](#).
- Many faculty members have added blogging to their repertoire. Check out **Laurel Brinton's** blog about language <http://blogs.ubc.ca/englishlanguagestudies/> and **Kevin McNeilly's** blog <http://frankstyles.blogspot.ca/> about Poetry, Music, and Improvisation.

## killam teaching awards



Laura Moss

Two of this year's **UBC Killam Teaching Prize** winners are members of the Department of English: **Laura Moss** and **Dory Nason**! The UBC Killam Teaching Prizes have been awarded since 1989: they are funded by the Killam Endowment Fund, and awarded to faculty nominated by students, colleagues, and alumni in recognition of excellence in teaching.

**Laura Moss**, a postcolonial literary historian and Canadian literature specialist, is known for her stellar classroom teaching; her work as Chair of UBC's Canadian Studies Program; her masterful anthology *Canadian Literature in English: Texts and Contexts*; and for her tireless mentoring of graduate students. As Editor of *Canadian Literature*, she is currently collaborating on a TLEF-funded project to produce *CanLitGuides*, an online modular resource that brings the 50-year archive of the journal into Canadian Literature classrooms.



Dory Nason

**Dory Nason** is a joint appointee in English and UBC's First Nations Studies Program. She works on contemporary Indigenous Feminisms and related Native women's intellectual history and literature, and this May, she was the commencement speaker at UC Berkeley's American Indian Studies Graduation. Students in English and First Nations Studies praised Dory's teaching and mentorship, calling her challenging, passionate, and brilliant.





President Steven Toope with  
Sherrill Grace

Congratulations to **Sherrill Grace** who was awarded the **Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal** by the Royal Society of Canada. The Diamond Jubilee Medal is a commemorative medal, created in 2012 to mark the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne. It is awarded to Canadians who made a significant contribution to their community or to Canada over the previous sixty years. Dr. Grace has been a professor of English for over thirty years. She has published four scholarly editions, eight monographs, 11 edited collections, and 104 scholarly articles, as well as 109 review articles and related publications.

Congratulations to Professor Emeritus **Bill New** (MA' 63) on his receipt of the **George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award** for an outstanding literary career in B.C. Co-sponsored by the Writers Trust of Canada and Yosef Wosk, the George Woodcock Award is the province's most prestigious literary honour. <http://www.georgewoodcock.com/williamnew.html>



Bill New



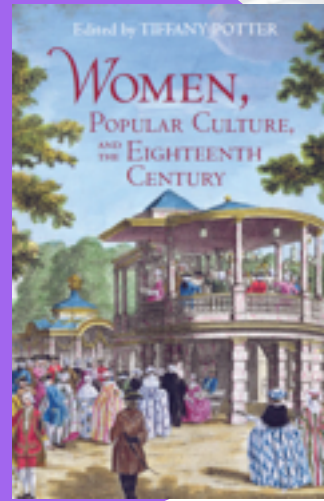
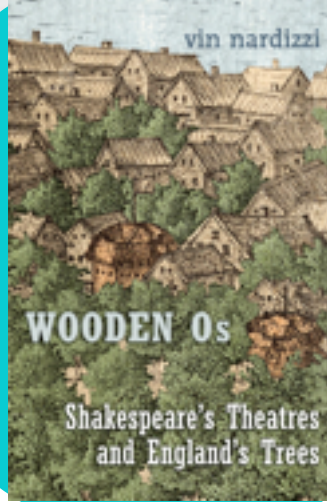
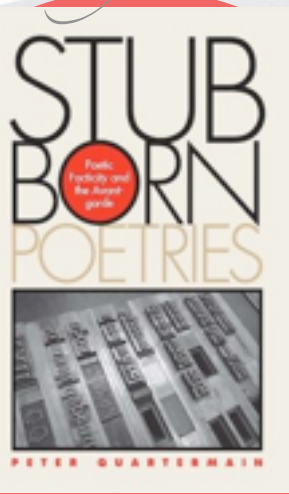
Laurie Ricou at the ASLE  
ceremony

Congratulations to Professor Emeritus **Laurie Ricou**, the first and only Canadian honoured with a **Lifetime Membership to the Association for the Study of Literature & Environment (ASLE)**! Members of ASLE's Executive Council described Professor Ricou as "one of the most important and original practitioners of environmental literary criticism writing in Canada today." <http://www.asle.org>

Congratulations also to **Stefan Dollinger, Adam Frank** and **Deena Rymhs**, this year's winners of SSHRC Insight Grants, and **Alexander Dick** and **Vin Nardizzi**, this year's winners of SSHRC Insight Development Grants.

**The Department of English Facebook Page** has over 660 members. If you are interested in receiving department news, links to articles about career opportunities for English majors, and other news of interest to English alumni, please "like" the page and tell your friends about it!





**Alexander Bergs and Laurel J. Brinton**, eds. *English Historical Linguistics: An International Handbook*. (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science 34.2) Vol. 2. De Gruyter Mouton, 2012.

**Alexander Dick**. *Romanticism and the Gold Standard: Money, Literature, and Economic Debate in Britain 1790-1830*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

**Stefan Dollinger (Editor-in-Chief), Laurel J. Brinton, and Margery Fee** (eds.). DCHP-1 Online: *A Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles Online*. Based on Avis et al. (1967). <http://dchp.ca/DCHP-1/> Open access is made possible thanks to Nelson Ltd., who hold the copyright to the work.

**Scott R. MacKenzie**. *Be It Ever So Humble: Poverty, Fiction, and the Invention of the Middle-Class Home*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2013.

**Ira Nadel**. *Modernism's Second Act, A Cultural Narrative*. New York: Palgrave, 2013.

**Vin Nardizzi**. *Wooden Os: Shakespeare's Theatres and England's Trees*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013.

**Tiffany Potter, ed. Elizabeth Cooper**. *The Rival Widows, or Fair Libertine (1735)*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013.

**Peter Quartermain**. *Stubborn Poetries: Poetic Facticity and the Avant Garde*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2013.

-----, ed. *Robert Duncan: The Collected Early Poems and Plays*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2012.

**Derek Soles**. *The Essentials of Academic Writing*. Toronto: Nelson, 2014.

**Sandra Tomc**. *Industry and the Creative Mind: The Eccentric Writer in American Literature and Entertainment, 1790-1860*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2012.

**Mark Vessey** ed. *A Companion to Augustine*. Malden, MA and Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

----- et al., eds. *The Calling of the Nations: Exegesis, Ethnography, and Empire in a Biblical-Historical Present*. Green College Thematic Lecture Series. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011.

**Jerry Wasserman**, ed. *Modern Canadian Plays, Volume One, 5th ed.* Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2012.

-----, ed. *Modern Canadian Plays, Volume Two, 5th ed.* Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2013.



# writing the future: george woodcock, margaret atwood, and canadian literature



November 22, 2012 was a big night for *Canadian Literature*. The journal hosted the George Woodcock Centennial Celebration in honour of the anniversary of the birth of the journal's founding editor, launched the e-book collection *George Woodcock: Collected Editorials from Canadian Literature* (compiled and edited by Canadian Literature's **Glenn Deer** and Matthew Gruman, now in the iTunes store!), and launched Canadian Literature's 21st-Century Poetics issue (210/211) with readings by **Stephen Collis**, **W.H. New**, **Sonnet L'Abbé**, **Larissa Lai**, **Meredith Quartermain**, Rita Wong, and guest editors Clint Burnham and **Christine Stewart**, among others. In addition, we helped sponsor Canadian literary luminary (and former UBC ENGL sessional instructor!) **Margaret Atwood**'s sold-out talk in the Terry Global Speaker Series that followed our celebration. Atwood's talk, "Writing the Future", introduced by **Laura Moss**, explored the prevalence of the idea of the "zombie apocalypse" in the contemporary popular imagination. The night showcased the exciting work that continues to be done in the field of Canadian writing.



Professor and author **Larissa Lai** and Canadian writer **Rita Wong**



Author **Margaret Atwood** speaking at the Chan Centre

## department speakers

The Department also hosted **Laura Ashe**, author of *Oxford English Literary History (1000-1350)*, and **Ellen Gruber Garvey**, author of *Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance*. A podcast of Professor Garvey's talk is available [HERE](#).

## garnett sedgewick memorial lecture

This year's Garnett Sedgewick Memorial Lecture was given by parliamentary poet laureate **Fred Wah** (BA '62) at St. John's College. The title of Wah's talk was "TISH poetics 1963 Thereafter--". In the early 1960's, Wah studied music and English literature at UBC where he was one of the founding editors of the poetry newsletter *TISH*. The annual lecture honours **Dr. Garnett Sedgewick** (1882-1949), founding Head of the University's English Department. If you would like to donate to the **Garnett Sedgewick** Memorial Fund, please visit [start an evolution](#).



## visiting scholars

**Yukiko Toda** teaches American literature, comparative literature, and children's literature at Sugiyama Jogakuen University in Nagoya, Japan. Her interests include women's fiction, African American literature, and literary translation. Her recent research examines the politics of motherhood in African American women's writings. "While at UBC, I hope to expand my knowledge of Canadian literature and children's literature. My husband, two sons, and I love skiing, cycling, and being in the mountains, and are very happy to be here."

**Li Wei**, Professor of English and Director of the Canadian Studies Centre at Inner Mongolian University, is also a visiting scholar in the Department this year.



**Larissa Lai, Laura Moss, Margery Fee, Li Wei and Sherrill Grace** at a reception to honour **Li Wei**





the “exoterics”:  
spelling champs for the  
third year in a row

Photo by Karen Ranalletta

**Angela Kaija** led the Department of English “Exoterics” to spelling supremacy victory! The 2012 team included, in addition to **Angela, Sandra Norris, Tiffany Potter, Donna Shanley, Carol Wong, Dominique Yupangco,** and **Paul Stanwood**. There were some nail-biting moments, i.e. when the second “I” of “bouillon” was omitted at the last minute. But our team actually knew how to spell “axolotl”, as well as some “easy ones” like “balalaika”, “verisimilitude”, “boutonniere”, “daub”, and “diaphanous”. They faltered over “ageusia” and “triskaidekaphobia”, but after a sudden-death spell-off with the Classics department, English emerged victorious, defeating 16 other teams.



## dean’s award for staff excellence

Congratulations to **Donna Shanley**, Undergraduate Program Assistant, who was awarded the Dean’s Award for Staff Excellence! Well done, Donna! Previous winners of the award include **Angela Kaija, Louise Soga, Dominique Yupangco, Niroshi Sureweere,** and **Carol Wong**.

message from the graduate chair *Dr. Patsy Badir*

These days, we hear a lot about the “crisis” in the humanities: how costly a humanities education is; how irrelevant that education can be; how graduate students will not get jobs or, if they do, how consistently underemployed they will be. This rhetoric is not entirely hysterical; these are not the best of times. But the English Department’s Facebook page has assembled a large inventory of recent articles in major news organs outlining the value and viability of English graduate degrees. We have always known, at least anecdotally, that our students get good and interesting jobs, and statistics backed by solid research are starting to make it clear that we are right.

Graduates of our MA and PhD programs work not just in education but also in government, media, not-for-profits, fine arts, management, and even finance – in any position that involves writing, argument, synthesis, explication or imagination... anywhere, as MLA president Michel Bérubé puts it, “there is thinking to be done”. Perhaps more crucially, our graduates drive policy, determine content, and change opinion, not just because they have all these highly valued “transferable skills” but also because they actually “know stuff”.

We need, however, to become more persuasive about what our graduates know. To this end, keep us posted of your professional accomplishments as this will help us identify, for current students, pathways to success. We are also doing what we can to show students that their knowledge is highly sought after. Our pilot PhD co-op program, for example, which allows students to apply skills honed in the library or seminar room outside the university, is not designed simply to teach the scholar how to “transfer her skills” to the business world but also to show business that the scholar has tangible knowledge as well as skills that can make that business more sensitive to particulars of the world he or she is trying to affect.

## department of english to pilot ubc’s first ph.d. co-op program

In 2013-14 the **UBC Department of English** will pilot **UBC’s first PhD Co-op program**, an initiative that will allow selected PhD students to widen their range of professional skills beyond teaching and research through paid work experience in professional fields such as academic administration, communications, project management, and archival, government, and NGO research. Co-op PhD students will gain skills and experience that may make them more desirable for both academic positions and government and private-sector work that requires their highly-developed talents and training as scholars. If you are interested in hiring a Ph.D. Coop student, contact **Julie Walchli** <[julie.walchli@ubc.ca](mailto:julie.walchli@ubc.ca)> in the Arts Coop Office.



## going digital: "DH" in the department

Did you know that the UBC English department was essential in the shaping of Digital Humanities (DH)? Professor Emeritus **Paul Stanwood**'s brother developed the first key word in context dynamic index at IBM, and this consanguineous connection between literary studies and computation produced an environment for alumnus **Ray Siemens** (PhD '97) to use computing in his doctoral work--but quietly, advised by sages in the department that some more traditionally-minded humanists might consider his scholarship tainted if they learned of his techniques. Siemens, now Canada Research Chair in Humanities Computing at the University of Victoria, directs the Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE) project, the Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI), and the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab (ETCL).

Since its early days, DH has evolved to encompass a diverse range of humanities-based computing approaches and our graduate students' research involves DH in its broad spectrum. For example, **Anita Law** (MA '12), whose MA thesis reconsidered literary analysis by way of scale, is now a PhD student working on "The Taxonomy of Titles in the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Literary Marketplace" at the Stanford University Literary Lab directed by Franco Moretti. Doctoral student **Serina Patterson** is determining new ways to bring medieval literature online. Doctoral student **Monica Brown** contributed to the development of an interactive visualization tool for analyzing narrative fiction (<http://blogs.ubc.ca/plotviz/>) as part of a DH research team working in UBC's Digital Literacy Centre. Doctoral student **Dustin Grue** worked on quantitative models of formulaic language in literary criticism for his MA ('12), currently works on computational models for reported speech in genres of criticism, and has recently integrated this research into the beta version of an online writing tool helping writers to explore how language is shared. **Geoff Roeder** (MA '12) contributed to the INKE project as a research coordinator in UBC's Digital Literacy Centre, developing and executing usability studies for online software prototypes with goals including: providing researchers in the humanities with novel modes of viewing, reconfiguring, and analyzing digitized literary texts; supporting project management across multi-site, collaborative DH research projects; and designing dynamic visualizations of bibliographic data to expose the development of an idea over space and time, from first articulation in a given field through present usage in another. Supported by Editing Modernism in Canada, **Reilly Yeo** (MA '12) assisted with a digitization of unknown work by Asian North

As a new member of the ETCL team, I am researching collaborative knowledge environments through digital modeling and prototyping. When my doctoral supervisor **Richard Cavell** encouraged me to pursue DH after he learned of coding I had done <http://www.georgewoodcock.ca/>, I attended my first DHSI. Scholarships and bursaries are still available for DHSI 2014 in Victoria ([www.dhsi.org](http://www.dhsi.org)). Among the 26 courses planned are new courses in "Cultural Codes and Protocols for Indigenous Digital Heritage", "Feminist Digital Humanities", and "Fundamentals of Programming". Hope to see you there in June 2014!

- **Matthew Hiebert** (PhD '13). Matthew is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of English at the University of Victoria and INKE Postdoctoral Fellow at the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab.



photo by **Ryan Cordell**

## endnotes 2013: department graduate conference



The annual UBC English Graduate Conference, Endnotes 2013, took place from May 10th-12th at Green College and Thea Koerner House. The theme of our conference was “Anonymity” – inspired on the one hand by the interventions of hacktivist collective “Anonymous” and on the other by a posthumously published essay by Virginia Woolf called “Anon,” where she longingly looks back to an era of collective creativity. Over the course of the weekend, presenters admirably and eloquently took up the idea of anonymity to explore questions of identity, subjectivity, and authorship --asking what it means to write and speak as “anon.” From an ethical standpoint, conference presenters also addressed how anonymity can be both a force to gain collective strength in an increasingly globalized and digitized world, and a means to oppress and dehumanize. As the linchpin for discussions on polyvocal seventeenth-century poetry to twenty-first-century authorless websites, “anonymity” proved to be a versatile concept for thinking through a variety of histories, spaces, phenomena, and contexts.

The conference kicked off with a Creative Night Gala on Friday May 10th featuring a keynote address by writer and UBC professor **Larissa Lai**, followed by creative readings and performances. Academic panels, composed of presenters from UBC and universities across Canada and the U.S., ran in concurrent panels all day on Saturday and Sunday morning. On the Saturday evening, we had a conference reception and keynote address by UBC professor **Sneja Gunew**. Finally, we concluded with a roundtable luncheon on Sunday afternoon addressing how the word, idea, or practice of “anonymity” might be vital (or not) via a range of perspectives on gender, politics, modernity, authorship, linguistics and creativity.



Alec, Judith, and Sheila

The weekend was a tremendous success and we owe our thanks to Green College, the Graduate Student Society, the English Graduate Caucus, the English Department, presenters, keynote speakers, organizers and volunteers for making it so. Please look out for Endnotes 2014!

- **Judith Scholes, Sheila Giffen** and **Alec Whitford**  
Endnotes Conference Co-chairs



## trains, planes, and medieval games: sshrc recipient serina patterson reflects on graduate research travel experience

A **SSHRC Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement** funded my recent four-month research trip across England, Scotland, Ireland, and France. My dissertation, “Game On: Medieval Players and their Texts,” explores the convergence of medieval game culture and literature in order to theorize the ways in which games operate as forms of cultural expression in the Middle Ages. I examined medieval manuscripts and material artifacts in archives and museums around Europe, including the British Library, British Museum, London College of Arms, Cambridge University Library, Bodleian Library, Berkeley Library at Trinity College Dublin, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Bibliothèque Publique de Dijon, and various colleges at Cambridge and Oxford. Librarians and archivists were incredibly helpful in all aspects of manuscript retrieval and consultation.



**The photograph was taken at Wilder's Folly (also known as Pigeon Tower), Berkshire (during a hailstorm!)**

Archivists at the London College of Arms assisted me in locating an exciting collection of little-known fourteenth-century chess problems! I also had the pleasure of exploring medieval locations in Dijon, St. Albans, Winchester, and other cities, hiking parts of the Thames River trail and Howth Peninsula, and speaking about medieval game culture at three conferences. My “chronicle” [blog](#), titled “Leaf & Leisure,” allowed friends and colleagues to follow the trip. This trip has yielded new insights into medieval gaming; accessing the many copies of Jacobus de Cessolis’ *Liber de moribus. . . de ludo scaccorum* has enabled me to clarify my chapter on translation and transmission. Examining the compilation of gaming texts manuscripts such as Ashmole 344 and Cotton Cleopatra B IX has provided me with nuanced cultural contexts for medieval players. Thanks to my funding, my research trip has not only provided the primary sources critical to writing my dissertation, but also produced other tangents and opportunities for further research.

## more news

**Sonnet L'Abbe** (Ph.D. 2013) has received a mid-career Canadian Council grant of \$25,000 for a work-in-progress, *Sentient Mental Flower Book*. Sonnet will work with CBC Radio and Via Rail on 2017 Starts Now, a project that looks to Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. She will blog and create poetry about her cross-Canada journey as she interviews Canadians about national identity. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Sonnet's work with students.

Congratulations to **Reilly Yeo** (MA 2012) and the rest of the team at OpenMedia.ca who were recently given the BC Liberties Association's [Award for Excellence in Youth Advocacy](#)!

Congratulations to MA student **Andrew McEwan**, whose book *\*repeater\** (BookThug) has been shortlisted for the [Gerald Lampert Memorial Award](#)!

Doctoral student **Judith Scholes'** paper "American Women's Poetry and Civil War Relief" in *The Drum Beat* was selected for honorable mention in the Society for the Study of American Women Writers' 'best conference paper' contest. Judith also was awarded the International Emily Dickinson Society fellowship.

Doctoral student **Mike Taylor's** paper, "The Missing Native Poets of the American Modernist Magazines: Ethnographers, Anthropologists, and 'The American Indian Magazine,'" received an honourable mention for the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association 2013 Student Paper Prize.

**Grant Hurley** (MA '12) has been awarded the O'Brien Fellowship for his Master's at SLAIS.

**Jessamyn Swift** (MA '13) has won a Mellon Scholarship to do a Ph.D. in English at Brown University.

**Steven Maye** (MA '12) has accepted a Ph.D. offer from University of Chicago.

**Evan Choate** (MA '11) is going to Rice University for a doctoral program.

Doctoral student **Lucia Lorenzi** attended the [McMaster Centre for Scholarship in the Public Interest Summer Institute](#) this summer.

## graduate student placements

**Bettina Stumm** (Ph.D. '10) has been hired as an Assistant Professor Without Review, Corpus Christi College, UBC.

**Tiffany Johnstone** (Ph.D. '12) has been hired as an Assistant Professor, Limited Term, Department of English, UBC.

**Moberley Luger** (Ph.D. '10) has been hired as a Lecturer in UBC's Coordinated Arts Program. **Emel Tastekin** (Ph.D. '11) has accepted a teaching position at Yasar University in Turkey. **Tanya Christiansen** (MA '10) is Project Manager at Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute. **Martin Parlett** (MA '13) is Stakeholder & Communications Manager for a major energy decommissioning program with a \$350 million budget; responsible for managing a significant stakeholder community, and delivering all internal and external communication strategies. **Jeff Strain** (MA English '09, MA Library and Information Studies '12) is a Librarian with Access Services, Manitoba Education.



## graduate publications

**Alayna Becker**, edited with **Rob Breton** and Katrina Schurter. *From Seven to Seventeen: Poems by John Ruskin*. Sydney: Juvenilia Press, 2012.

**Natasha Chenier**, "Vladimir and Estragon: Descendents of Edgar." *University of California at Berkeley's Undergraduate Journal of Comparative Literature* 2.3 (2012).

----. "Thought for Food: Why Emma Bovary Would Rather Not Eat." *Ellipsis...An Online Journal for Undergraduate Research in the Humanities* (2012).

**Weldon Gardner Hunter**. *The Stella and Pony Years*. Calgary: small ghosts, 2012.

**Donato Mancini**. *You Must Work Harder to Write Poetry of Excellence*. Toronto: BookThug, 2012.

----. *Spit*. Vancouver: STAG Library, 2012.

----. "In the Present as Well: Polytemporality and Archival Anamnesia." *Anamnesia: Unforgetting*. Ed. Amy Kazymierchyk. Vancouver: VIVO Media Arts, 2012. 37-103.

----. "Can Poetry Be Matter?" *The Last Vispo Anthology*. Eds. Nico Vassilakis and Craig Hill. Seattle: Fantagraphics, 2012. 62-8.

**Martin Parlett**, "Barack Obama, Social Media and the American Political Revolution." *Social Media Go To War – Civil Unrest, Rebellion and Revolution in the Age of Twitter*, ed. Ralph Berenger, Marquette Press, 2012.

----. "Like a Lion Bound, Hear Him Roar: Richard Harvey Cain and a Rhetoric of Reconstruction." *Before Obama: A Reappraisal of Black Reconstruction Era Politicians*, (2 vols.) Ed. Matthew Lynch. New York: Praeger, 2012.

----. "Yes We Can and the Making of a (Post) Racial Super Slogan?" *Journal of American, British and Canadian Studies*, Special Issue - Post-Racial Americas: Cultural Studies in the Age of Barack Obama (2011). 13-41.

**Monica Brown**, Teresa Dobson, **Dustin Grue**, and Stan Ruecker, "Challenging New Views on Familiar Plotlines: A Discussion of the Use of XML in the Development of a Scholarly Tool for Literary Pedagogy." *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 28.2 (June 2013): 199-208.

**Dustin Grue**, Teresa Dobson, and **Monica Brown**. "Reading Practices and Digital Experiences: An Investigation into Secondary Students' Reading Practices and XML-Markup Experiences of Fiction." *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 28.2 (June 2013): 237-248.

*Letters from Laura and Eveline*. Ed. **Justin O'Hearn**. 1883. Richmond, Va: Valancourt Publishing, 2013.

## graduate alumni bookshelf

**Graeme Abernethy** (MA), *The Iconography of Malcolm X*, Lawrence: U Press of Kansas, 2013.

**Jennifer Delisle** (Ph.D. '08) published *The Newfoundland Diaspora: Mapping The Literature of Out-Migration*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2013.

**Sandra Djwa** FRSC, UBC (Ph.D. '68) is the author of *Journey with No Maps: A Life of P.K. Page*, which was a finalist for the 2012 Gabrielle Roy Prize and the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize, and shortlisted for the Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction and the Basil Stuart-Stubbs Prize for an Outstanding Scholarly Book on British Columbia.

**Tamas Dobozy's** (Ph.D. '00) collection of short stories, *Siege 13*, won the Rogers' Writers Trust Fiction Award and was a finalist for the Governor-General's Award for Fiction.

**Travis Mason** (MA '03, Ph.D. '07) published *Ornithologies of Desire: Ecocritical Essays, Avian Poetics, and Don McKay*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2013.

**Shih-Wen Chen** (MA '01) recently published *Representations of China in British Children's Fiction, 1851-1911*. (Ashgate Studies in Childhood, 1700 to the Present series).

## message from the undergraduate chair

*Dr. Miguel Mota*



2012-13 was another very exciting and productive year for our undergraduate programs. Our English Majors and Honours programs continue to attract many of the most accomplished students at UBC and, as always, these young people continue to impress us with their intelligence, ingenuity, enthusiasm, and promise. A number of our students won or were nominated for highly competitive awards and distinctions both in the department and across the university. Notably, **Morag McGreevey** was the winner of both the **English Honours Medal** and the **English Honours Prize**; and **Laura Ritland** was honoured to be selected as the Student Speaker at the May graduation ceremonies.

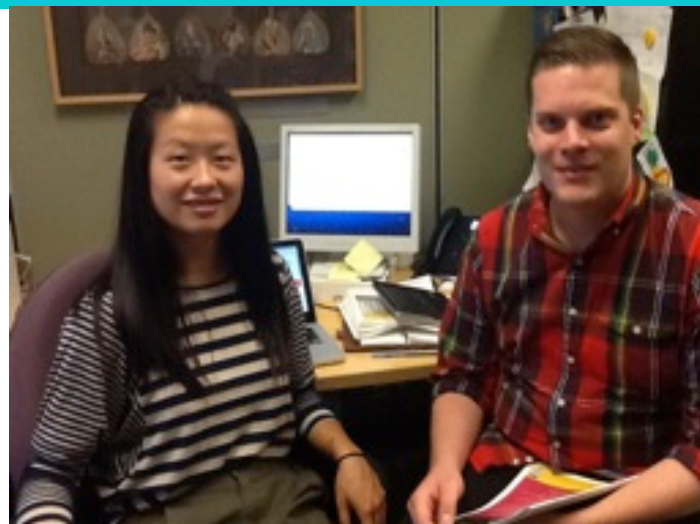
Laura was also the winner of our newest Honours prize, the **Lee Johnson Prize** for best graduating essay. The prize is named in honour of our retired colleague, **Lee Johnson**, who for many years spearheaded the Honours

program and was instrumental in getting it to where it is today. We are very proud of

all our students. We expect that they will go on to do great things in the future. We are also very proud of our alumni, who excel in the fields of Arts and Culture, Media, Business, Teaching, Law, and more. We are particularly appreciative of alumni who contribute to the education and future prospects of current students. In this context, I would like to encourage all of you to consider becoming more involved in the following ways: as a mentor in UBC's Arts Tri-Mentoring Program, a program that arranges for alumni in particular fields to mentor undergraduates <http://students.arts.ubc.ca/tri-mentoring.html>; as an employer in the Arts Co-op Program <http://artscoop.ubc.ca/>; or as a donor to one of the many award funds administered by the Department. We particularly welcome donations to the capstone award for students in the program which Lee founded. <http://www.english.ubc.ca/donors/endowments.htm>

## english majors are the "hot new hires"

This summer, **Cameron Paul** (BA Hon '13) and **Betty Yan** (BA '12) helped Mary Chapman spearhead an effort to track the career trajectories of over 400 ENGL alumni. What they discovered was pretty inspiring! UBC ENGL grads work as journalists, editors, librarians, professors, teachers, lawyers, and fundraisers. They also work in software development, the video gaming industry, film, social media, marketing, advertising, and government. As **Bruna Martinuzzi** (BA '81, MA '84) argues, [English majors are "the hot new hires"](#). Betty and Cam investigated leads regarding alumni who are doing interesting things with the knowledge and skills they acquired in their ENGL training. They also wrote articles, crafted headlines, and did copy-editing. Thanks, Betty and Cam!





## irving k. barber library set to host historical dictionary exhibit: collection includes rare english dictionaries spanning from renaissance to modern day



In November and December 2013, Special Collections in Irving K. Barber Library will host a large exhibition of historical English dictionaries from the outstanding H. Rocke Robertson Collection. The exhibit is curated by **Katherine Kalsbeek** (BA Hon. '01) Acting Head of Rare Books and Special Collections, with materials supplied by **Laurel Brinton's** 2012-3 English 320: History of the English Language class. A selection of seven students' reports are included in the exhibition. The Robertson Collection spans the entire history of the English dictionary from the Renaissance to the modern day, ranging from early "hard word" dictionaries, such as Henry Cockeram's *The English Dictionary: or, An Interpreter of Hard Words* (11th ed., 1661), through Samuel Johnson's monumental *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755) and Noah Webster's groundbreaking *An American Dictionary of the American Language* (1828) to the unparalleled *Oxford English Dictionary*--along with unusual items such as a 1907 Ojibway-English dictionary.

## critiquing the critics: english minor sylvia mckelvie helps CWILA measure gender inequities in canada's reviewing culture

“ I know that when I put fingertips to keyboard, I am expanding the classroom and my own engagement with literature. ”

Working with **Canadian Women in the Literary Arts** ([www.cwila.com](http://www.cwila.com)) these last few months as a UBC Arts Intern, I've learned one simple truth: for writers, the story doesn't end with getting published. In fact, after publication, the battle begins for writers to be reviewed and thusly, read. I am one of the new faces behind the 2012 "Count" to determine gender representation in reviewing culture in Canada, working alongside CWILA members and volunteers to address gender inequity in the literary world through feminist and quantitative methodology. The process isn't easy, nor pretty-- spending hectic hours sifting through the who's who in the national picture in over 25 journals and newspapers and then translating those names into numbers. Quite a few impressive profanities and countless cups of Earl Grey later, the product truly is what makes it all worth it - an accessible, honest and essential report considering gender and Canada's review system. Whether the "Count" is a launch for further qualitative investigations, a bridge between researchers and writers, or simply a starting point for dialogue, the raw numbers are the first stones cast. I know that when I put fingertips to keyboard, I am expanding the classroom and my own engagement with literature. Like a second layer of ink that darkens the print, reviews influence the visibility and profitability of writers. For me, CWILA's conversation accompanies me in the everyday - I can't simply skim reviews any longer and I have an even more expansive reading list, keeping a critical tab on my own readership of women and genderqueer writers. As a student, an intern and a reader, I owe huge thanks to CWILA members, especially **Gillian Jerome, Laura Moss, and Judith Scholes** for guiding and challenging me - I am excited to grow with CWILA and to continue the pursuit of a dynamic and an inclusive literary landscape.

## alumni putting their english degrees to work

**Pritpaul Bains** (BA '10) is a Technical Publications Writer, Macmillan. **Megan Baker** (BA '09) is a Research Analyst, Egon Zehnder International Global Search firm. **Millie Bojic** (BA '08) has just completed her J.D. **Sheldon Brammall** (BA Hon. '07), after completing a doctorate at Cambridge (with a thesis on early modern translations of Vergil), has just received a research fellowship at the Ludwig Boltzmann Neo-Latin Institute in Innsbruck. **Liz Brant** (BA Hon. '08) moved from Arts Development Coordinator at Arts Umbrella, to be Development Director at SEVA. **Paul Brownsey** (BA Hon. '00) is Product Manager, SAP. **Brian Cannon** (BA '87) is President at Assured Software. **Meghan Chapman** (BA '11) is Promotions Assistant, Marketing Department, Vancouver Aquarium. **Sulynn Chuang** (BA Hon. '09, MA '11) is teaching English in Singapore. **Milena Constanda** (BA '11) provides Undergraduate Student Support for the Computer Science Department at UBC. **Nicky Darwin** (BA '11) is at Options Solutions Educational Consulting. **Anna Dupas** (BA '96) is working in corporate communications and journalism. **Brady Gordon** (BA '09) is an LLM candidate at Trinity College Dublin. **Carolyn Grafton** (BA '95) is Senior Communications Manager, BC Medical Association. **Emily Hitz** (BA '10) teaches high school in the US. **Zahida Jaffer** (BA '02) is Campaign Coordinator at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada. **Gary Kent** (BA '67, English and Sociology) has a new book, *Gubby Builds a Boat* (Harbour Publishing), sequel to *Fishing with Gubby* (2010), which was nominated for several awards including the Governor General's Literary Award for Children (illustration) and a BC Book Prize for best book. **Sasha Lallouz** (BA '12) is a copywriter at Organika Health Products. **Kendi Lam** (BA '11) is a finance consultant with a big international firm. **Danielle Leblanc** (BA '08) blogs at [poorandglutenfree.blogspot.ca](http://poorandglutenfree.blogspot.ca). **Megan Leitch** (BA '08) is now a Lecturer at University of Cardiff. **Alex Leslie** (BA Hon. '07) has published a chapbook of microfictions, *Twenty Objects For The New World* (Freehand/Nomados Press 2011). Leslie is the winner of a Gold National Magazine Award for personal journalism and a 2008 CBC Literary Award for fiction. **Adrienne Matei** (BA '13) is Editor, *Leacock's Magazine*. <http://leacocks.com/>. **Mike McGreer** (BA '07) works in Surrey's Economic Development Office. **Frances McInnis** (BA Hon. '08) is Online editor at *Toronto Life*. **John McKay** (BA '87) is professor of Slavic Languages and Literature at Yale University. **Genie MacLeod** (BA '11) is doing an MA at Oxford. **Lauren Milden** (BA '09) is a Senior account Executive at [PLMR](http://PLMR). **Kai Nagata** (BA '07) is a freelance journalist and videographer in Vancouver. **Louise Osborn** (BA '96) is a poet. **Leanna Orr** (BA '11) did a journalism degree at Columbia University and is now working at the *aiCIO* magazine (a magazine for institutional Chief Investment Officers). <http://www.ai-cio.com/>. **Gary Paterson** is 41st Moderator of the United Church. **Amanda Reaume** (BA '07, MA '09) works in Advancement at Simon Fraser University. **Stephanie Rudnisky** (BA '07) is the Participation and Development Director for the Canadian Blind Sports Association. **Mika Sissonen** (BA 1996) works as a marketing manager at SAP. **Chelsea Stout** (BA '09) is a disability program clerk at UBC. **Victoria Tang** (BA Hon. '09) is Publications Assistant, Continuing Legal Education Society of BC. **Eric Tung** (BA '00, MA '04) is a Communications and Change Management Consultant. **Samantha Wagner** (BA '09) works as a Graphic Designer at a magazine in Calgary! **Shane Walters** (BA '07) is a Regional Program Specialist with the Canadian Coast Guard, radio operations group. **Basil Waugh** (BA '04) is Communications Coordinator, UBC Public Affairs. **Mimi Yiu** (BA Hon. '98) is an Assistant Professor, English, Georgetown.

Aside from working in Communications (Marketing/Communications at Sauder), **Visnja Milidragovic** (BA '09) also volunteers as a production manager and book designer for "My Mothership Stories Society", a non-profit publisher. Each year, the Society collects submissions through an online repository: [www.mymothersstory.org](http://www.mymothersstory.org) and then chooses 30-40 of them to publish in an anthology (working with each author through a transformational editing process in which authors often delve deep into their family histories and (re)approach relationships to heal). The chosen stories (edited to retain the flavour of each author's style) also serve as the basis of a script for a theatrical performance put on each Fall. Currently, "My Mothership Stories Society" is in production of its second book (*North Vancouver Stories*), and its first book (*The Originals*) is available on Amazon."





## storytelling through literature and music: lydia hol (BA '09)

Since graduating, **Lydia Hol** has been putting stories to song all over Canada. Her music, which blends folk vocals, bluegrass instruments, and soulful narrative, has received accolades from the musical community. Lydia was a finalist in the CBC Searchlight: On The Coast competition and was featured in the 102.7 PEAK Performance Project (<http://peakperformanceproject.com/>).

When it comes to song writing, Lydia is inspired by characters she has encountered through literature. As a lifelong book lover, Lydia was amazed that she could earn a degree reading literature across time and space. Her English degree allowed her to study several national literatures as well as the wider context of cultures and histories from which these texts came. As a performer who tries to take audiences away and capture their attention with her music, she was inspired by the amazing storytelling of Victorian literature professor Ira Nadel and by the vibrant music culture and history of great storytelling in Ireland, where she went on exchange.

Lydia credits her English degree with constantly introducing her to new ideas. She believes that reading a diverse canon makes for a better-rounded person. "It's an interesting place to be in an English degree," she says. "You are a more intelligent person when you're done with it." Success for Lydia is going to bed at night feeling that she has done the best job she could and brought something positive to the world. <http://www.lydiahol.com/>

- **Betty Yan**



## from honours english to public health: justin yang (BA Hon. '12)

“His career path, while not typical, demonstrates how English studies can provide ambitious students pursuing careers in fields beyond language and literature a real advantage.”

In 2008, a science student asked if I would allow him to join my third-year class on eighteenth-century humour. **Justin Yang** (BA Hon. '12, B. Sc. '12) quickly showed an appetite and aptitude for English that carried him into the Honours program. A few years later, I supervised Justin's honours thesis, which synthesized analysis of eighteenth-century literary texts with a history of eighteenth-century chronometric science. This fall, Justin begins a Master's degree in Public Health. His career path, while not typical, demonstrates how English studies can provide ambitious students pursuing careers in fields beyond language and literature a real advantage.

This is how Justin describes the process that carried him from the Sciences, to English, to Public Health: "English made a lot of sense for me," he said, "because I already had a passion for it and I appreciated the many methods that English scholars adopt to work with texts. I also appreciated the opportunity to work on my own writing style in an environment where, as Professor Janet Giltrow says, 'style matters'." English complemented Justin's science studies because he gained fluency in research skills (i.e. reading papers, drawing inferences, making arguments, critically analyzing others) that were also invaluable in Biology. After completing his English degree, Justin decided to study Public Health because "I wanted a career in which my background in both science and humanities would be put to use and that would challenge me intellectually and professionally. Public Health combines aspects of my education in a way that will prepare me to participate meaningfully in the public arena and potentially affect millions of lives in positive ways." Having an English B.A. Hon. made Justin stand out to graduate admissions committees. "They noticed I could excel at interdisciplinary modes of inquiry without sacrificing depth of study for breadth," he said. "Studying English prepared me to be a competent professional by demonstrating the ways in which we construct and create knowledge through language and successful argumentation. Moreover, studying English has made me an effective writer in several genres pertaining to the field and provided me with the flexibility to explore various modes of thought, which will be invaluable as I tackle the theoretical frameworks of public policy."

- **Scott Mackenzie**

*Justin begins a Master's at the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University this fall.*

## more student news

**Lillienne Zen** (BA Hon. '12) was recently awarded the **2012 Edgar Wickberg Undergraduate Prize** from the Chinese Canadian Historical Society of British Columbia for her undergraduate thesis, "The Poetics of Offering: An Approach towards Chinese Canadian/Indigenous Relations" (supervised by **Chris Lee** and **Dory Nason**). The essay identifies Chinese Canadian poet Rita Wong's vocabulary of debt and offering as a meaningful lens through which settler communities can approach their ongoing relations and history with indigenous peoples.

Children's author **Sarah Ellis** (BA '73) was just awarded the **Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Literary Excellence!** Congratulations, Sarah! [www.sarahellis.ca](http://www.sarahellis.ca)

**Vivien Chang** (BA '13) contributed to **Maclean's** blog <http://oncampus.macleans.ca/education/2013/02/01/consumerism-on-display-at-the-university-of-b-c/>

**Joe Thillaiampalam** (BA '13) published his ENGL 472 essay on Nella Larsen's novella *Passing* in UC Berkeley's *Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal* <<http://ucb-cluj.org/>>, a journal exclusively dedicated to undergraduate research in the field of languages and literature.

**Laurel Rogers** published her ENGL 492 essay on suffrage literature in [\*NeoAmericanist\* 6.2](#).

## graduate school bound!

**Laura Ritland** (BA Hon. 2013) and **Michael Prior** (BA '13) are heading to University of Toronto to do MAs in Creative Writing. **Jennifer Wong** has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Brown University. **Genevieve Barrons** (BA Hon. '12) has won a Gates scholarship to Cambridge University to do an M. Phil. in International Development. **Allie McHugh** (BA '11) is attending the University of Toronto's Masters of Global Affairs Program. **Sharleen Sendjaya, Ceilidh Irving, Kevin Solis, Rebecca Thomas** and **Rachel Montague** are going to UBC's Education program next fall. **Kyla Everall** (BA '13) is doing a Master of Information and Master of Museum Studies. **Daniel McBain** (BA '13) is headed to law school. **Abraham An** (BA '13) will be studying law at UBC beginning this September. **Heather Klassen** (BA '13) has been accepted into UBC's West Kootenay Teachers' Education Program. **Cam Paul** (BA Hon. '13) and **Stephanie Fung** (BA '13) will begin English Master's programs here at UBC.





## 2012 awards tea



On September 20, 2012 the Department hosted a tea to celebrate undergraduate and graduate award winners and the generous donors who endowed their awards. Awards Committee Chair **Glenn Deer** and Graduate Chair **Patsy Badir** read out short paragraphs about the history of each award and then we clapped wildly for each recipient. It was heartening to see students stand proudly beside donors who had honoured their friends and loved ones by supporting awards in their names. After the official ceremony, I met Dr. **Donald Munton**, who had funded an award for a Canadian Literature undergraduate student in his wife's honour. His wife **Ann Munton**, a Canadian literature specialist, taught in the Department in the 1980s and passed away in 1992. Twenty years later, she was beautifully remembered in the prize awarded to one of my own promising young students, **Ainsley Fowler** (BA '13). I was glad to be able to tell him all

about the wonderful student who won the award but was not able to attend the event). I felt as if I were providing a link between the past and the future, connected by a passion for Canadian writing. I also realized in talking to Dr. Munton about his late wife's research and teaching how much the endowment of a memorial award is an act of love.

- **Laura Moss**

## play chthonics

Organized and curated by the Department of English at UBC, this cutting-edge reading series offers some of the best and most challenging new work by both young and established writers from across the country. These provocative and unmissable events are all free, open to the public, and graciously hosted by Green College, Centre for Interdisciplinary Scholarship, UBC on occasional Wednesdays at 5pm. LIKE the [Play Chthonics Facebook page](#) to receive information about upcoming readings.

*guess who is turning 100?*

2015 is the centenary of the department of english at ubc!

Please contact [English.newsletter@ubc.ca](mailto:English.newsletter@ubc.ca)

if you are interested in helping with the Centenary festivities!

## the frances milburn peo scholarship

## helping female ubc english honours students achieve their goals since 1922!



Frances Milburn's entire life was focused on family and philanthropy. Although she died in 1934, she left behind her a legacy that continues to reach out to women born over a hundred years after her. The third of five siblings, Frances Chalmers Edwards was born on May 8, 1883 in Iroquois, Ontario. At a time when many women had to struggle to be acknowledged for their intellectual abilities or to be accepted as professionals, Frances received secondary and post-secondary education, attending both the Ontario Ladies' College (now Trafalgar Castle School) and the Toronto Conservatory of Music. After graduating, Frances was able to pursue a musical career, accepting a position as a vocal soloist in the Methodist Church in Kingston, Ontario.

When her family moved to Calgary, she continued to work as a soloist until she met Dr. Harry Milburn, a general practitioner in Vancouver, whom she married on Christmas Day, 1912. She had many friends, and photographs of Frances as a young woman show her to be full of high spirits; one photograph shows her dressed up as Charlie Chaplin for a costume party. Frances and her husband and their three children lived on the west side of Vancouver until her death from heart disease at the age of 51. Her deep commitment to women's education was

made clear through her involvement with educational charities. Frances demonstrated strong leadership qualities in her volunteer work in the church and with her children's parent-teacher associations. Her greatest commitment, however, was to the PEO Sisterhood <http://www.peointernational.org/>, an international organization that has been providing moral and financial support for women pursuing higher education since 1869, and that continues to support several scholarships, including the Milburn Scholarships. The Milburns instilled the value of philanthropic work in their children, which is continued by her descendants.

The initial \$25 scholarship established by Milburn's local chapter when she was its President in 1922, went to the UBC English student who wrote the best essay on Canadian nationality. Over the next ten years, the value of the scholarship increased as more and more PEO chapters contributed to it. After her death, her husband added \$75 to the fund, which was now specifically named in honour of Milburn and expanded so it could be offered to two students. Over time, the award evolved from being an essay prize to being a prize that acknowledged overall excellence. Today, the PEO Sisterhood has consolidated contributions from 10 Lower Mainland PEO Chapters to offer awards of \$500 each to the two highest-ranking women entering third year of the English Honours Program at UBC. Previous Winners include **Elizabeth Hodgson**. This year's winners were **Elysse Bell** and **Emily Larson**. These awards, and the PEO Sisterhood's concern for the wellbeing and success of every recipient of every award, fit the ideals of Frances Milburn. At the turn of the twentieth century, higher education for women in Canada was still in its infancy, and was perhaps the only path towards independence. Frances Milburn would be justly proud to see the level of intellectual achievement in young women today, and would be delighted at the explosion of opportunities available to women who are pursuing independence through higher education.

- **Sarika Bose** (BA '86, MA '89)

If you are a previous winner of departmental awards, please consider making a donation to help this generation of students achieve their academic goals. You might be able to take advantage of the 2013 federal budget's first-time charitable donors "[super tax credit](#)" this year!

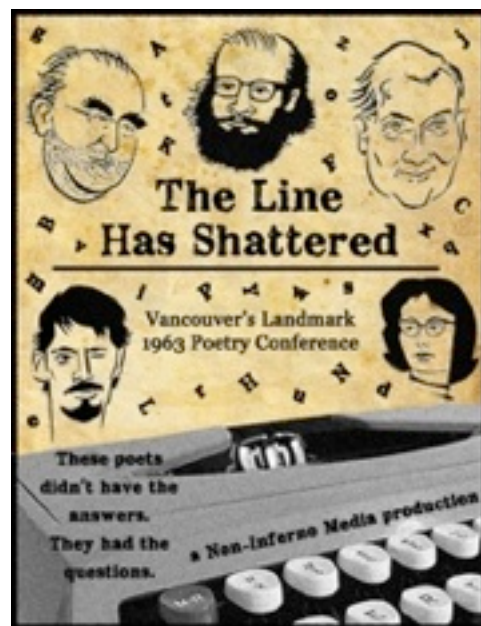


## 50th anniversary of the vancouver poetry conference

July 2013 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Vancouver Poetry Conference,” held at UBC in the summer of 1963. This conference is now regarded as a foundational event which put the city ‘on the map’ of international avant-garde literature. Only, the conference wasn’t really a “conference” at all – it was a summer credit course offered by the English Department at UBC: English 410, “Poetry Writing and Criticism,” nominally taught by faculty member **Warren Tallman**. Tallman recruited a number of swashbuckling American poets to liven up the proceedings, all of whom had appeared in the then-recently published anthology *The New American Poetry 1945-1960*, which remains one of the best-selling poetry books of all time. The most famous of the invitees was Allen Ginsberg, who, as Tallman later wrote in an unpublished essay, got around town more than the other poets (the bearded bard went to all the parties and even tried out kayaking!). Other participants included Charles Olson, the former rector of Black Mountain College – a hotbed of experimental poetics and theory; Robert Duncan, associated with the ‘San Francisco Renaissance’; Robert Creeley, soon to (briefly) become faculty at UBC; and Denise Levertov, one of the few females invited to contribute.

Part of what makes the Vancouver Poetry Conference’s legacy so lasting is the effect it had on the UBC English alumni in attendance who were just beginning their careers in poetry in 1963, including future national poet laureates **George Bowering** and **Fred Wah** (BA ‘62). Wah, who spoke about the importance of Olson and Duncan on his work in his recent UBC Sedgewick Lecture, also recorded many of the conference sessions, which can be found at the Slought Foundation’s website (<http://slought.org/toc/Vancouver1963>). Filmmaker Robert MacTavish released a documentary this year, *The Line Has Shattered*, which examines the influence of the Vancouver Poetry Conference. And the University of East Anglia’s School of American Studies is gearing up for an academic gathering in November which will reassess the impact of the conference, 50 years on.

- **Weldon Hunter**, doctoral candidate



a place of mind



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