THE WOORD A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UBC ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

University of British Columbia 397 - 1873 East Mall Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 www.english.ubc.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD 2

FACULTY NEWS 2-7

- department ranks 10th worldwide
- NEW HIRES AND APPOINTMENTS
- CANADIAN WOMEN IN THE LITERARY ARTS
- AWARDS & RESEARCH
- RECENT PUBLICATIONS

GRADUATE NEWS 8-11

- MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE CHAIR
- NEW SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES GRADUATE PROGRAM
- AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS
- PLACEMENTS

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS 12-15

- MESSAGE FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE CHAIR
- GARDEN STATUARY LITERARY MAGAZINE
- ALUMNI MENTORSHIP
- WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
- GRADUATE SCHOOL BOUND
- INTERVIEW WITH POET FRED WAH (BA 1962)

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT 16-17

- UPCOMING EVENTS
- SUPPORTING ENGLISH

A BACKWARDS GLANCE 18-19



EDITOR: Mary Chapman (English.Newsletter@ubc.ca) DESIGNER: Lucia Lorenzi (llorenzi@alumni.ubc.ca)

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD Dr. Stephen Guy-Bray



Welcome to the first issue of the English Department's annual newsletter, *The Word*. For many of you, this will represent a return to the department you graduated from. We want you to feel that you're still part of this department and we hope that this newsletter will make it easier for you to stay in touch with us.

Like every year, 2011-12 was busy. Eric Levy retired after just over forty years in the department. We were able to hire six people: on July 1, 2012 Daniel Heath Justice joined us as an associate professor, Ian Hill and Greg Mackie joined us as assistant professors, and Kathryn Grafton, Laurie McNeill, and Tiffany Potter became tenure-track instructors. In the next few years we'll have quite a few retirements and we hope to continue to be able to attract the best teachers and scholars.

We also want to continue to attract the best students at both the undergraduate

and graduate levels. To this end, we are working with the UBC Development office to increase the endowments for our scholarships.

We are very proud of our accomplishments. In the department we have a range of scholars and teachers working in almost all areas of English linguistic and literary areas and, for the first time ever, a top-ten finish in the QS University Rankings (see below). We hope to build on this success and continue to be one of the best English departments in the world.

FACULTY NEWS

DEPARTMENT RANKS 10TH WORLDWIDE!

The Department of English at the University of British Columbia has been ranked the 10th best in the world in the 2012 QS World University Rankings. Beating out English departments at such prestigious universities as Duke and UCLA, and rubbing shoulders with the likes of Oxford and Cambridge, UBC English tied with University of Toronto, ahead of all other English departments in Canada. The QS World University Rankings, created in 2004 by Quacquarelli Symonds Limited, annually rate the top 700 post-secondary institutions in the world. They are intended to help prospective students make an informed decision about where to study. The rankings are based on citations, academic peer review and recruiter review, with the weightings for each dependent upon the culture and practice of the subject concerned. http://www.topuniversities.com/ university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2012/ subject-rankings/arts-humanities/english



department of english GENERAL OFFICE



FACULTY NEWS NEW HIRES

DANIEL HEATH JUSTICE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF THE FIRST NATIONS STUDIES PROGRAM

Daniel Heath Justice is a Colorado-born Canadian citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He is the author of *Our Fire Survives the Storm: A Cherokee Literary History* and numerous critical essays in the field of Indigenous literary studies, as well as co-editor of a number of critical and creative anthologies and journals, including the recent *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature*. His Indigenous epic fantasy novel, *The Way of Thorn and Thunder: The Kynship Chronicles*, was released last year by the University of New Mexico Press. His current and forthcoming projects include a cultural history of badgers, a new fantasy novel, a critical monograph on kinship in Indigenous writing, and, with co-editor James H. Cox, the *Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literature*. He is delighted to be joining UBC and learning from and contributing to its vibrant intellectual community.

IAN HILL Assistant Professor, Rhetoric

Ian Hill successfully defended his dissertation this past fall, and received his PhD this spring (2012) from the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His research into rhetoric and technology focuses on how people resist, advocate, design, appropriate, market, and otherwise argue and debate machines and systems. He has articles published or forthcoming in *Western Journal of Communication, Kenneth Burke Journal*, and *Burke in the Archives* (Univ. of South Carolina Press). He is currently working on a book project that examines weapons rhetoric in the period between the French Revolution and the Unabomber's mail bombing campaign. He is also helping to construct an interactive online digital video archive of U.S. nuclear test films that were produced from the 1940s to the 1960s.



GREGORY MACKIE Assistant Professor, Dram

Gregory Mackie received his PhD from the University of Toronto in 2006. His areas of specialization include late-Victorian drama, especially Oscar Wilde; book history and print culture; and turn-of-the-twentieth century architecture and design. He has articles published or forthcoming in *University of Toronto Quarterly, Modern Drama, ELT*, and *Theatre Survey*. His current book projects concern dramatic forgeries of Oscar Wilde and the impact of the aesthetic movement on the Victorian stage.

FACULTY NEWS NEW APPOINTMENTS



KATHRYN GRAFTON

CO-CHAIR, COORDINATED ARTS PROGRAM

Kathryn Grafton is an Instructor in the Department of English and Co-Chair of the Coordinated Arts Program (CAP), a cohort, multidisciplinary program for first-year students in the Faculty of Arts. Her areas of specialization include Canadian literature, genre theory, and reception studies, with a particular focus on digital literary culture. She has articles and chapters published or forthcoming in *Linguistics and the Human Sciences, Genres in the Internet*, and CBC Radio and the *Rise of CanLit*. Currently, she is working with Dr. Laurie McNeill on a series of initiatives to enhance multidisciplinary teaching and learning in CAP; these initiatives are funded by UBC's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF), the Dean's Innovation Fund (DIF), and Arts Learn.

LAURIE MCNEILL Co-Chair, Coordinated Arts Program

Laurie McNeill has been hired at UBC as an Instructor in English and as co-Chair, with Dr. Kathryn Grafton, of the Coordinated Arts Program, a first-year cohort program. With Dr. Grafton, and with the support of several university grants, she is developing initiatives to research and implement best practices in collaborative, multidisciplinary learning and teaching. She continues to work in auto/biography and genre studies, with a particular focus on digital life writing; her most recent research will appear in *Biography* and *Identity Technologies* (U of Wisconsin P).



TIFFANY POTTER First-year English Coordinator

Tiffany Potter, the First-Year English coordinator for the academic year 2002-3 and since 2008, was recently promoted from Twelve-Month Lecturer to Instructor I. Tiffany received her Ph.D. in 1996 from Queen's University. Her research encompasses both eighteenth-century literature and modern popular culture and television studies. Her current SSHRC-funded research combines these two interests, and the first major publication from that project, *Women, Popular Culture, and the Eighteenth Century*, is an edited collection (University of Toronto Press 2012). She also has published scholarly editions of eighteenth-century dramas, a monograph, and two co-edited books on popular television. Tiffany was awarded the **Fairclough Teaching Prize** in 2006.

FACULTY NEWS AWARDS & RESEARCH

Congratulations! Several senior professors in the Department have been recognized by major awards this year. **Barbara Dancygier** has won a **Killam Research Prize**. Up to 10 Killam Research Prizes, funded by the Killam Trust, are awarded annually for excellence in research at UBC. Five prizes go to professors in the humanities and social sciences, and five to professors in the natural, applied and health sciences. Dr. Dancygier was recognized for her ground-breaking work on Cognitive Linguistics. Glenn Deer has been awarded the Killam Teaching Prize. Dr. Deer has pioneered the teaching of Asian North-American writing at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and is known for his focused and generous attention to students. In large undergraduate classes, his meticulous pedagogy ensures that all students follow the lectures and participate in discussion. As a long-time Associate Editor of *Canadian Literature*, he has mentored and trained generations of work-study and Arts Co-op students in editorial work and so has prepared them for graduate study and the job market. Finally, as the English department's Chair of the Curriculum Development Committee, he has used his pedagogical and organizational talents to implement innovative courses and programs. Jerry Wasserman has been awarded the Union of BC Performers' Sam Payne Award, which recognizes professional performers displaying humanity, artistic integrity and encouragement of new talent. Dr. Wasserman has acted in numerous films and plays, writes a theatre column for The Province, and currently serves as Head of the Theatre program at UBC. Dennis Danielson was recently awarded the Konrad Adenauer Prize by Germany's Humboldt Foundation, in recognition of his exceptional scholarly contributions to Milton studies and his work on the historical, cultural, and cosmological meaning of the Copernican Revolution. Julie Sutherland has won the Ian Fairclough **Teaching Prize** for 2011-2012. The Ian Fairclough Teaching Prize, awarded annually to a sessional lecturer in the Department of English and/or the UBC Writing Centre, was established in 1996 as a memorial to former sessional instructor Dr. Ian W. Fairclough (1951-1995).



CANADIAN WOMEN IN THE LITERARY ARTS

Announcing the founding of Canadian Women in the Literary Arts (http://cwila.com/), an inclusive national literary organization for people who share feminist values and see the importance of strong and active female perspectives and presences within the Canadian literary landscape. CWILA was founded by UBC English sessional instructor, poet, and essayist **Gillian Jerome** and others, in response to a conversation on gender representation in Canadian literary reviews. The conversation expanded to include several professors, students, and alumni in the

Department (**Larissa Lai, Laura Moss, Mary Chapman, Sonnet L'Abbe, Jennifer Delisle**) as well as a wide range of women active in various literary communities across the country who collected data on scores of Canadian periodicals and newspapers that regularly review Canadian literature and exposed some shocking gender disparities! Continuing in the path set by the US organization VIDA, founded in 2009 "to address the need for female writers of literature to engage in conversations regarding the critical reception of women's creative writing in our current culture," CWILA calls for a discursive space to address the politics of representation, the critical reception of all ages including genderqueer writers, indigenous writers, as well as other women and/or genderqueer writers of colour.



FACULTY NEWS RESEARCH

Canadian Literature: A Quarterly of Criticism and Review is proud to launch "Reading and Writing Canada: A Classroom Guide to Nationalism," the first online learning resource from our CanLit Guides project (full guide available at canlitguides.ca). With support from the UBC Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, the guide was developed by



English department faculty members **Margery Fee** and **Laura Moss** and grad students **Mike Borkent**, **Alissa McArthur**, and **Karen Correia Da Silva**, as well as **Matthew Gruman** (BA 2006) and the creative staff of *Canadian Literature*, to bring Canadian culture, writing, and criticism to classrooms in a new way. "Reading and Writing Canada" takes full advantage of *Canadian Literature*'s online archives (195 issues) to introduce students to both classic and contemporary Canadian literature, as well as to the complex scholarly conversations surrounding the rich history of writing in Canada. Drawing extensively on articles, poems, reviews, and editorials from *Canadian Literature*, "Reading and Writing Canada" provides a condensed overview of the development of nationalism in Canada, examining topics such as cultural nationalism, colonialism, war, immigration, globalization, discrimination, and multiculturalism.

CanLit Guides also provide hundreds of suggested activities, reading strategies, discussions of close reading approaches, and questions to spur debate. By bringing academic discussions into the digital classroom in an open-access platform, *CanLit Guides* share UBC's historical dedication to Canada's literature with the rest of the world. Guides to Indigenous literatures, literature and gender, the environment, and public spaces are forthcoming. Stay tuned!

If you teach Canadian literature, at high school or university, we hope you will consider integrating *CanLit Guides* into your classroom. Please send Laura Moss (<u>laura.moss@ubc.ca</u>) feedback on the guides. We'd love to hear from you.

CANADIAN DICTIONARY ABOUT TO LAUNCH

DCHP-1 ONLINE

skookum (< Chinook Jargon < Chahalis akukm) Pacific Coast and Northwest 🍄

· adj. powarful; strong; big; brave

See also: hyin skonkass skonkum taustass

1891 For instance he believed that a bear would hold out its pare towards a man at a distance and feel whether he was skookam brave and seen would hold out its pare towards a man at a distance and feel whether he was skookam three and the "Push" he says to me/ "We've got some skookam donkeys and a taugh spar-teen/ If n good level yarding out there in the brash....." If a good level yarding out there in the brash......"

\$963 The girls provided us with a shoakum bacon and egg breakfast complete with toast and coffee. 🖬

The Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles Online (<u>www.dchp.ca/DCHP-1</u>), brainchild of **Stefan Dollinger** (editor-inchief), assisted by **Laurel Brinton** and **Margery Fee**, as well as many student research assistants, will launch any day now. The Dictionary, first published in 1967, documents words and meanings of Canadian English over time. If you have ever wondered where the terms "Canuck", "skookum",

"toque" or "Indian register" originated, the Dictionary will be your authoritative resource. Although not yet officially launched, the Dictionary has already sparked scholarly interest. At UBC, **Katrina Lo** recently defended an MA thesis entitled "(Re)Defining the 'eh': reading a colonial narrative in the Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles"; earlier this year, University of Kiel MA student Bojana Petrović submitted her thesis, a case study of DCHP-1's fascicle "F". The Dictionary is now being updated, a process that will likely be completed at the end of 2014.

Fall 2012 7

FACULTY NEWS RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Christopher Lee, *The Semblance of Identity: Aesthetic Mediation in Asian American Literature*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012.

Ira Nadel and Donald MacDonald, *Alcatraz: History and Design of a Landmark*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2012.



RENAISSANCE LITERATURI

Vin Nardizzi and Jean E. Feerick, eds. *The Indistinct Human in Renaissance Literature*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Jeffrey Severs and Christopher Leise, eds. *Pynchon's* Against the Day: *A Corrupted Pilgrim's Guide*. Newark, DE: University of Delaware Press, 2011.

Laura Moss, ed., *Leaving the Shade of The Middle Ground: The Poetry of F.R. Scott*, Selected and Introduced by Laura Moss with an Afterword by George Elliot Clarke. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2011.

Deanna Kreisel, *Economic Woman: Demand, Gender and Narrative Closure in Eliot and Hardy.* Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2012.

Suzy Anger and James Paradis, eds. *The Cultural Authority of Science*. London: Pickering & Chatto, 2011.

Kevin McNeilly, Embouchure. Madeira Park: Harbour Publishing, 2011.

Barbara Dancygier, The Language of Stories: A cognitive Approach. Cambridge UP, 2011.

Barbara Dancygier and Eve Sweetser, eds. *Viewpoint in Language: A Multimodal Perspective*. Cambridge UP, 2012.

Siân Echard. The Arthur of Medieval Latin Literature: The Development and Dissemination of the Arthurian Legend in Medieval Latin. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2011.

Susanna Egan, Burdens of Proof: Faith, Doubt and Identity in Autobiography. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2011.

Margery Fee and Janet McAlpine. *Guide to Canadian English Usage*. 2nd ed. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Mary Chapman and Angela Mills eds., *Treacherous Texts: US Suffrage Literature 1846-1946*. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 2011. (Winner of the Susan Koppelman Prize in Women's Studies).

Stephen Partridge and Leonard Cassuto, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Baseball*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge UP, 2011 (Winner of the book prize of the North American Society for Sport History).

Laurel J. Brinton and Andrew Bergs, eds., *English Historical Linguistics: An International Handbook*. Vol. 1. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2012.







Treacherous Texts















LANGUAGE OF

- Barrow - Frank

WOMAN

GRADUATE NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE CHAIR Dr. Patsy Badir



I am delighted to be contributing to the first issue of *The Word*. This endeavor is an opportunity for us to highlight all aspects of our graduate program and to showcase the accomplishments of its students. As most of you know, our MA is research-based, combining coursework with directed study in a range of fields. Our doctoral students undertake rigorous research training involving coursework and candidacy preparation that increasingly seeks to combine general field coverage (with an eye to future teaching opportunities) with specialized depth. They present their work at international conferences, publish in prestigious venues, and write ground-

breaking dissertations that make original contributions to every subfield of our discipline. Our program continues to offer teaching opportunities for our graduate students, either in first-year English or, in the case of advanced doctoral students, in senior undergraduate courses. This kind of experience is, we think, increasingly valuable preparation for careers in any kind of communication-based environment.

It is often said that graduate programs in Humanities do not produce employable graduates and are therefore, at best, irrelevant and, in tough times, a frivolous extravagance. Yet our alumni demonstrate that quite the opposite is true: As *The Word* highlights, our MA graduates hold leadership positions in education, publishing, journalism, business, and law while others go on to further graduate study at UBC or at top- flight universities in Canada, the U.S. and the U.K. Graduates of our doctoral program hold academic positions around the world. Take a look at the cvs of employees of major television networks and radio stations, newspapers or on-line information sources, software companies, and government, and you will often see a graduate degree in English listed. Our impact is so great it is immeasurable.

NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE PROGRAM In Science and Technology



The Science and Technology Studies (STS) Graduate Program at UBC will admit its first students in autumn 2012. The program comprises an interdisciplinary MA in STS and PhD research streams in the Departments of English, History, and Philosophy. The Program offers several research strengths including history and philosophy of nineteenth- and twentieth-century physics, biology, and economics, science and empire, comparative studies of scientific institutions (especially in the USA, USSR, and China), rhetoric of science and scientific communication, and the representation of science and technology in literature. http://sts.arts.ubc.ca/

GRADUATE NEWS

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL AWARDS

Congratulations to this year's winners of SSHRC fellowships: Ph.D. students **Carmen Mathes**, **Steven Maye**, **Jonathan Newell**, and **Brendan McCormack**; and MA students **Raquel Baldwinson**, **Alayna Becker**, **Evan Choate**, **Henry Heavy Shield**, **Emily Marroquin**, **Tiffany Percival**, **Michaela Posthumus**, **Erin Ramlo**, **Madeleine Reddon**, **Fannina Waubert de Puiseau**, and **Alec Whitford**. Congratulations also to **Carmen Mathes** who won a **Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Scholarship** to go to the University of Konstanz where she is working on her dissertation on Romantic poetic form. Several SSHRC-funded graduate students won Michael Smith Foreign Travel Supplements this year. Below are reports from two of this year's winners.

MICHAEL SMITH FOREIGN TRAVEL SUPPLEMENTS

With the help of my host

extended Visiting Scholar

status at Amherst College,

Dickinson Manuscripts at Amherst College Special

archives in the Five College

which allowed seamless access to the Emily

Collections, and other

area, which inform my

dissertation "Emily

supervisor, Prof. Karen

Sanchez-Eppler, I was



Judith at Dickinson's grave.

Dickinson and the Ethos of Nineteenth-Century Women's Poetry". I examined Dickinson's hand-written poems and letters, and documented poetry columns in 150-year-old newspapers. Outside the archives, I attended fascinating talks on nineteenth-century American print culture and New England women's fashion, toured the Emily Dickinson Museum, photographed old hand-etched gravestones, and enjoyed the fall colours of Western Massachusetts, and, of course, the great city of Boston. While in Amherst, my research led me to discover Fidelia Hayward Cooke (1816-1897), an important female contemporary of Emily Dickinson, whose pioneering work as writer and editor at a major New England newspaper helped shaped the reception of women's poetry during the Civil War. The final two weeks of my research trip were something out of a detective novel, as I tracked the material existence and genealogical record of Cooke through archives all over Massachusetts! These primary sources have made a very positive impact on my dissertation and will surely inform my future academic work.

- Judith Scholes



Sarah on the London Clipper near Tower Bridge.

I received the Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement in the fall of 2011 to fund a fourmonth research trip to London for my dissertation project, "Stage and Street: Theatrical Water Shows and the Cultural History of the Early Modern Thames". I spent my time getting to know

colleagues at King's College London, through my host supervisor, Dr. Gordon McMullan, and researching key archives in and around the city. I had a great time soaking up the city atmosphere, attending seminars through the London Shakespeare Centre, and walking the old pageant routes. I particularly enjoyed getting the chance to witness the still rather medieval splendour of the Lord Mayor's Show in November. The British Library, Guildhall Library, and London Metropolitan Archives were my main haunts when I was working in the archives. My contacts at King's College and the archivists in the various libraries were incredibly helpful and very encouraging about my project. I can't stress enough how lucky I feel to have had this opportunity or how important it has been to my project's development. Not only have I gathered critical information for my dissertation, but the information I turned up in the archives on the legal ownership, and disputes surrounding ownership, of the Thames, has caused me to rethink the direction my project, as well as providing me ample fodder for future projects. - Sarah Crover

GRADUATE NEWS PUBLICATIONS



Monica Brown. "Inoculating the Public: Managing Vaccine Rhetoric." Present Tense: A Journal of Rhetoric in Society 2.2-3 (2012): forthcoming.
Sunny Chan. "To Read Eth(n)ically: Fred Wah's Alienethnic Poetics as Reading Practice." West Coast Line 45.3 (2011): 86-91.
Sunny Chan. "Pride: Parading Civil Rights and the Alterity Industry." Cutting Edge. 1.1 (2012): <<u>http://isgp.ubc.ca/cuttingedge/?tag=summer-2012</u>>

Christian Hendriks. "Hyphenated Religion in Asian Canadian Studies." *West Coast Line* 45.3 (2011): 80-5.

Matthew Hiebert. Hebop: Archive Interface Software for the Web (version 0.2). Software. 2012. Available from <u>http://sourceforge.net/projects/hebop/</u>.

Matthew Hiebert. George Woodcock Online Research Centre, April 2012. Web. 1 August 2012. <u>http://www.georgewoodcock.ca</u>

Sonnet L'Abbe. "Permanent Residents' Test" The Capilano Review (Ecologies Issue) 3.16 (2012).

Sonnet L'Abbe. "Pipeline to Harper" in Leclerc, Christine, Nikki Reimer et al, eds. The Enpipe Line. Smithers, BC: Creekstone, 2012.

Sonnet L'Abbe. "A Poem for Jack Layton" Globe and Mail, August 26, 2011. **Sonnet L'Abbe**. "Haenyo Song" in Paik Sunoo, Brenda. Moon Tides: Jeju Grannies of the Sea. Seoul: Seoul Selection, 2011.

Sonnet L'Abbe. "Theory, My Natural Brown Ass" in Astley, Nick, ed. Being Human. London, UK: Bloodaxe, 2011. **Lucia Lorenzi.** "Shikata Ga Nai: Mapping Japanese Canadian Melancholy in the Field of National and Literary Trauma." *West Coast Line* 45.3 (2011): 100-05.

Sean McAlister. "Revolution of Thought/Revulsion of Feeling: Edgar Allan Poe and the Interest-Concept," forthcoming in *Criticism*.

Andrew McEwan. repeater. Toronto: BookThug, 2012.

Michelle O'Brien. "Reframing the Human: Posthumanism and Asian Canadian Studies." West Coast Line 45.3 (2011): 106-11.

Serina Patterson, ed. *Games and Gaming in Medieval Literature*. Ed. Serina Patterson. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. Forthcoming 2013.

Serina Patterson. "Reading the Medieval in Early Modern Monster Culture." *Studies in Philology* 111.2 (2014). In Press. Serina Patterson. "Casual Medieval Games, Interactivity, and Social Play in Social Network and Mobile Applications." *Digital Gaming Re-imagines the Middle Ages.* Ed. Daniel Kline. New York: Routledge. Forthcoming 2014.

Garrett Peck, "Realism and Victorian Astronomy: The Character and Limits of Critique in Thomas Hardy's Two on a Tower." *Pacific Coast Philology* 46 (2011): 28-45.

Garrett Peck, "Nature of the Gothic(s): The Urban Aesthetics of Ruskin and Engels." *The Eighth Lamp: Ruskin Studies Today.* Forthcoming (2012).

Michaela Posthumus. "Ideology and Power Dynamics in *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*." Undergraduate Journal of Religious Studies Vol 2, Spring 2012 (2012): 152-162.

Szu Shen. "Where is Taiwan on the Map of Asian Canadian Studies?" West Coast Line 45.3 (2011): 112-17.

Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair and Warren Cariou, eds. *Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water.* Winnipeg: Highwater Press, 2012. http://www.portageandmainpress.com/book_detail.cfm?biD=304

Mike Taylor, "The Temptations of the Trigger: Demythologizing Violence in Cooper's *The Pioneers*, in *British and American Studies*. XVIII (2012): 69-80.

GRADUATE NEWS PLACEMENTS

ACADEMIC JOBS:

Sonnet L'Abbe is a lecturer at UBC-Okanagan. Sarah Banting (Ph.D. 2010) has accepted an Assistant Professor position at Mount Royal University; Manuela Costantino (Ph.D. 2005) has been appointed Associate Dean of the Faculty of Language, Literature, and Performing Arts at Douglas College; Colleen Derkatch (Ph.D., 2010) recently became an Assistant Professor of Language at Ryerson University; Mark Diotte (Ph.D. 2012) is currently an instructor at the University of the Fraser Valley and Kwantlen Polytechnic University; Kathryn Grafton (Ph.D. 2010) was hired as Co-chair and Instructor I for the Coordinated Arts Program, UBC; Victoria Kuttainen (BA Hon. 1992, MA 2002) is currently Senior Lecturer at James Cook University, Australia; Alyssa Maclean (Ph.D. 2011) is a Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Kentucky; Laurie McNeill (Ph.D. 2004) was



hired as Co-chair and Instructor I for the Coordinated Arts Program, UBC; **Charity Matthews** (ABD) has accepted an instructor position at College of New Caledonia; **Stephen Ney** (Ph.D. 2011) began an assistant professorship at the U of Gambia; **Noelle Philips** (Ph.D. 2011) SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship at University of Toronto; **Jacky Shin** (BA, MA 2003) has been hired as Assistant Professor at Towson University; **Niigon Sinclair** (ABD) recently began an assistant professorship in Native studies and English at the University of Manitoba; **Kate Stanley** (MA 2004) has been hired as Assistant Professor by University of Western Ontario; and **Tyson Stolte** (Ph.D. 2009) recently took up an assistant professorship at New Mexico State University—Las Cruces. **Michael Wells** (Ph.D. 2007) is a Professor in the Department of English at Humber College.

NON-ACADEMIC JOBS:

Raquel Baldwinson has landed a part-time job as Project Lead of the Neglected Global Diseases Database (NGDD) for the Neglected Global Diseases Initiative (NGDI) at UBC; after graduation, **Genevieve Gagne-Hawes** (ABD) is returning to her position as editor at Little, Brown and Company; **Brooke Heller** (MA 2012) has been appointed State Data Director, "Organizing for America"(grassroots branch of "Obama for America") - New Mexico; and **Amanda Lewis** (MA 2007) is now Associate Editor at Knopf Canada.

FURTHER GRADUATE STUDY:

Sunny Chan (MA 2012) begins a PhD at University of Wisconsin in the Fall; Grant Hurley (MA 2012) begins a Masters at SLAIS UBC, funded by the Canadian Library Association Dafoe Award; Anita Law (MA 2012) will begin a PhD at Stanford; Steven Maye (MA 2012) will begin a PhD in English at UBC; Amanda Perry (MA 2011) begins a PhD at NYU; Lauren Schachter (MA 2011) will begin a PhD in English at University of Chicago (read her blog about teaching in Africa at http://shacs86.blogspot.ca/; Anne Stewart (MA 2012) is beginning a PhD at University of Texas—Austin; Jeffrey Wajsberg (MA 2011) is enrolling in York University's PhD program in Science and Technology Studies; Melissa Walters (MA 2012) begins a Masters at the Library School at the University of Toronto.



Find the English Department on Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/ubcEnglish</u> (If you "like" us, you will be able to post on our wall and receive updates about the department in your news feed).

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE CHAIR Dr. Miguel Mota



We have had a terrific year in 2011-12. The Department of English is very fortunate to attract some of the very best students at UBC into our Majors and Honours programs, and it is a genuine pleasure to have the opportunity to interact and work with such intelligent and promising young people. A number of our students won or were nominated for highly competitive prizes and awards both in the department and across the university. Notably, **Justin Yang** won the prestigious Dean's Outstanding Leadership Award, a highly coveted prize in the UBC community; and **Chelsea Pratt** won the Honours Gold Medal. We are very proud of all of them, as indeed we are of all our students. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague **Mary Chapman**, who has worked so hard to

make this first issue of our newsletter possible. She and the rest of *The Word* team have put together some great stories: on our undergraduate journal, *The Garden Statuary*; on some of our undergraduates who are moving on to even greater glories in graduate school; and on a few of our alumni; I hope you enjoy reading them.

THE GARDEN STATUARY: English undergraduate Journal By Laura Ritland ('13)

During the 2011-2012 academic year, English undergraduates were excited to start a new English undergraduate journal, *The Garden Statuary*. Published twice a year and featuring a broad range of creative and academic work (essays, fiction, poetry, photography, film and music), *The Garden Statuary* has been warmly welcomed by students and faculty. Its first issue received 151 submissions and both its launch parties were well attended. With a board of fifteen editors and executives, *The Garden Statuary* is part of a larger initiative to foster the English undergraduate community in general. You can find the journal online at <u>www.thegardenstatuary.com</u>. Next year. it will become a print publication.



The Garden Statuary Executive (left to right): **Kelly O'Connor** (Submissions Manager), **Bronwyn Malloy** (Publicity Manager), **Jackson Li** (Faculty Liaison), **Nick Thornton** (IT Support), **Sara Shayan** (Design and Illustration), **Luke Fraser** (Treasurer), **Kim Nakai** (Social Coordinator), **Laura Ritland** (Editor in Chief)

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS ALUMNI MENTORSHIP

TRI-MENTORING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH BY JOANA COMAN ('13)



Valerie Casselton and Tiina Kokko

Tri-Mentoring is an exciting way for alumni and students to connect and to exchange ideas about how to use a UBC English degree to navigate the turbulent waters of life after graduation. The program pairs two undergraduate students--one junior (in first or second year) and one senior (in third or fourth year)--with one alumnus who completed a degree in the same discipline. Over the course of the year, the "triad" have the opportunity to meet and discuss all things career- and academic-related.

Valerie Casselton (BA'77 English), Executive Editor of *The Vancouver Sun*, and one of her protegés,

English student **Tiina Kokko**, are two participants who found the program particularly enriching. Tiina, an aspiring writer, emphasized the fantastic opportunity she had to "job-shadow" Casselton. Though she was only connected to one alumni mentor through the program, Tiina also had the exciting opportunity to network with Casselton's colleagues.

When asked why she has been motivated to participate in the program over the past few years, Casselton says: "It's all about giving back and treating people the way you want to be treated. The program didn't exist when I was a student at UBC, and I recognize how useful it is". Reflecting on her time at UBC, Casselton says she would have appreciated a similar program when she was a student, making it all the more compelling to participate as an alumna.

The success of the Tri-Mentoring program hinges on the generosity and commitment of alumni like Casselton; without their willingness to offer their valuable time and advice, UBC English students wouldn't have access to this excellent tool.

If you are interested in mentoring a UBC English undergraduate, please contact <u>bonita.perko@ubc.ca</u>

Are you interested in learning about opportunities to support the Department of English? Drop us a line! We'd love to hear from you! Do you want to get involved in alumni events, serve as a career mentor to current students, share your experiences at a Career Event? Please let us know! We can also help you connect with your old classmates or the English Students Association. For more information, please contact Christine Lee (Christine.Lee@ubc.ca)

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Valerie Casselton (BA 1977) is Executive Editor of the Vancouver Sun. Simon Goldenberg (BA English and First Nations Studies 2012) works as a Project Manager of a documentary film that a non-profit organization is producing on Dakota history, language, and contemporary revitalization work. Ariel Lebowitz (BA 2000) is the founding librarian of the Bhutan Royal Society for the Protection of Nature. Fraser MacDonald (BA Hon. and B. Eng. 2012) is working in London, England, for COSM, a company that designs devices for 'intelligent cities': meters that report on energy usage, boxes that publicly record radiation levels or air quality, technological navigation aids that help tourists figure out where they are and what's interesting around them, etc.--anything that connects cities together and shares physical (as opposed to digital) information. Lauren Milden (BA 2009) is working in London UK for a public lobbying media relations firm after completing a Law Degree at Cambridge. Katherine Monk (BA Hon. 1988) is a film reviewer for the *Vancouver Sun*. Loren Plottel (BA 1981) works as Print Communications Manager for UBC Faculty of Arts Communications. Lindsey Richardson (BA Hon. 2001) will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at UBC in the Fall, after completing a PhD in Sociology at Oxford University. Philip Storey (BA 2012) designs and develops games independently in Vancouver, BC. Fred Wah (BA1962) is currently Parliamentary poet laureate of Canada. John Wesley (BA 2003) recently began working as an Assistant Professor of English at University of Puget Sound.

GRADUATE SCHOOL BOUND!

Congratulations to Chelsea Pratt (BA Hon. 2012) who will be beginning her MA in English at McGill; **Alexandra Lawson**, who will begin a postgraduate degree at the University of Edinburgh; Peter Macdonald (BA Hon. 2009) who will be starting a PhD at U of Chicago; Angelina Tagliafierro (BA 2012) who has been accepted to SFU's Master's program in publishing; Alisa Bagshaw (BA 2012) who will begin an M.Ed. at UBC's Faculty of Education; Bronwyn Malloy (BA Hon. 2012) who will begin an MA at McGill; Yongo Ding (BA Hon. 2012) who will attend Cornell Law School; Richard Kemick (BA 2012), who will begin a graduate program at UNB in Creative Writing; Greer Attridge (BA 2011) who is going to the Courtauld Institute of Art in London; and Tiffany Kwong (BA 2012) who will begin a Masters in Journalism at UBC.



Do you have an idea or article for possible publication in *The Word* newsletter? Please email <u>English.Newsletter@ubc.ca</u>!

A CONVERSATION WITH PARLIAMENTARY POET LAUREATE FRED WAH (BA '62)

BY SCOTT INNISS, DOCTORAL STUDENT

I recently had the chance to sit down with **Fred Wah** in his Strathcona home to discuss his recent appointment as Parliamentary poet laureate as well as his experiences as a UBC undergraduate in the late 50s and early 60s. Our conversation touched on a variety of other topics. But what struck me most was the frequency with which Fred kept coming back to the idea of collectivity. Whether talking about his involvement with the Canadian poetry newsletter *Tish*, his time spent coordinating the innovative writing program at Nelson's David Thompson University Centre, or his participation in the important "Writing Through Race" conference sponsored by the Writers' Union of Canada in 1994, Fred continually identified the possibility for collaboration and community formation as an integral component of his work as a poet, critic, and cultural activist.

When I asked Fred how he would characterize his early days as a student, what he stressed most was the excitement and sense of opportunity he felt upon arriving at UBC in the late 1950s. Initially intending to study music, he got the chance to take classes with Jean Coulthard and Barbara Pentland, two prominent Canadian modernist composers. Taking advantage of the annual UBC Arts Fest, he also took



in performances and talks by visiting artists John Cage, Merce Cunningham, and Stan Brakeage. But what really opened things up for Fred was a seminar with English Professor **Warren Tallman**. Whereas most English courses at the time focussed on historical British literature, Tallman's seminar focussed on contemporary American poetry. With their emphasis on the local as well as the body and breath of the poet, poets such as Charles Olson, Robert Duncan, and Robert Creeley introduced Fred to a poetics that not only converged with his interest in jazz music but also displayed a vital connection to the cultural concerns of the present.

Trading in his music charts and trumpet for a copy of Donald Allen's *The New American Poetry* and (later) a mimeograph, Fred abandoned his plans to become a musicologist, choosing instead to pursue an English degree and dedicate himself to the study and writing of contemporary poetry. But perhaps the most significant effect of Tallman's class was that it led Fred to join together with other student poets to start the newsletter *Tish*, which quickly became a forum for exploring what it meant to produce and publish poetry from the "margins." According to Fred, although most Tish poets met at UBC, many came from working-class or rural backgrounds. As a result, the idea of "margins" became an important way to signal their status as members of a social—and, later for Fred, racial—demographic typically excluded from literary production and higher education. It also allowed them to mark their geographical distance and cultural difference from Toronto and Montreal, then twin centres of Canadian literary nationalism.

Whether detailing the geological detritus of a Kootenay mountain scree slope or the racial histories of the Chinese-Canadian cafes of his youth, Fred's poems have always maintained a personal and political fidelity to place, to embodied experience, and to the particular—rather than to the abstract universalism of the national. Given both his poetics and history, then, it is somewhat ironic that he is currently Canada's poet laureate. What interests Fred most about the position are the opportunities it provides for new forms of community engagement and collaborative work. Indeed, since being appointed, Fred has been in contact with other local writers interested in joining forces for a range of projects, particularly those that hinge on the relation between poetry and politics. In a manner that recalls his relationship to UBC in the 60s, as well as his later articulation of a poetics of cultural and racial hybridity, it appears that for Fred the use value of the laureateship resides neither entirely within nor without its official institutional locus, but rather in the hyphenated spaces in between.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

PLAY CHTHONICS

Currently in its fifth year, **Play Chthonics** is a reading series that focuses on linguistically adventurous and innovative Canadian poetry; readings by pairs of poets take place at 5:00 at Green College on the third Wednesday of each month, followed by a dinner at the college. A committee of graduate students from the English Department curates the series, and this year's roster will offer an exciting mix of prize-winning and emergent poets, including winners of the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Governor General's Award for Poetry.

September 19Ryan Fitzpatrick and Peter CulleyOctober 17Barbara Langhorst and Gillian JeromeNovember 21Garry Thomas Morse and Brad Cran

- January 16 Jamie Ried and W. H. New
- February 27 Jen Currin and Ken Babstock
- March 20 Jan Zwicky and Robert Bringhurst

The departmental co-ordinator for the series is Kevin McNeilly: please contact him if you want any further information about the series: <u>Kevin.McNeilly@ubc.ca</u>

VISITING SPEAKERS

Laura Ashe (Worcester College, University of Oxford)

"The *cniht* and chivalry: the formation of knighthood in English culture." Thursday, September 13th 5:15 pm, in Buchanan B 313.

Rachel Blau Duplessis (English, Temple University)

"Polymorphous Poetics: Robert Duncan's *H.D. Book* and the Erotics of Reading / Writing." Wednesday, October 3rd 4:00 pm, in BuTo599.

Ellen Gruber Garvey (English, New Jersey City University)

"What the 99 Percent Read, and What They Did with It, a Hundred Years Ago." Wednesday, October 31st 12:00 pm, in the Dodson Room, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre.

FACULTY RESEARCH SERIES

Please consider joining us for one of our Friday afternoon talks. The **Faculty Research Series (FRS)** is a mainstay of intellectual exchange in the department. It is an opportunity for faculty to present and respond to new research projects at any stage of development. There are generally around ten presentations each term, including one or two from speakers invited from other departments and institutions. Presentations last forty minutes followed by Q and A. The FRS takes place most Fridays in the term at 4pm in our newly renovated meeting room, Buchanan Tower 599. Come early for cookies and coffee or tea. Upcoming presentations are posted at http://www2.english.ube.ca/events.htm and on the office doors of the series organizers, **Jeffrey Severs, Scott Mackenzie** and **Bo Earle**.

department of english MEETING ROOM The first two presentations this term are:

Sept. 21: Deanna Kreisel, "The Insides of Things': Edwin Abbott's Flatland and Victorian Theories of Space."

Sept. 28: **Stefan Dollinger, Laurel Brinton, Margery Fee**, "What makes a word, sense or usage Canadian? Good tales and wiki demos from the new Dictionary of Canadianisms"

SUPPORTING ENGLISH

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, we are proud to announce two new awards:

The Mo Steinberg Memorial Award, which honours the legacy of **Dr. Moses Steinberg**, a UBC professor of English literature (MA Queens, Ph.D. Toronto) for 52 years, commencing in 1946, will be awarded to the student who best exemplifies an amalgam of academic excellence in English literature and the attributes of good citizenship. "Mo" instilled a love of literature in thousands of students and was twice honoured as a UBC "Master Teacher". He was one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Arts One program and served on numerous university committees as well as on the Senate, Board of Governors, and as an executive member of the Faculty Association. Both undergraduates and graduate students are eligible for the award, in alternating years.

The Mary Ellen Henley Award honours the legacy of **Mary Ellen Henley** (1929-2011), who completed her doctorate in English at UBC after 36 years as a classroom teacher. Dr. Henley's areas of specialization were English, Choral Music, and Band; her dissertation, supervised by **Dr. Paul Stanwood**, was a critical edition of Sir Edwin Sandys' Europae Speculum (2001). The award will be given to the most accomplished graduate student working in the field of Early Modern Studies.



DR. MOSES STEINBERG Photo Credit: UBC Archives [UBC 41.1/ 2136]

Photo Credit: Dominique Yupangco

AWARDS TEA

On September 20th, the Department will host its first Awards Tea, an event that will bring together undergraduate and graduate winners of department awards, donors, faculty and alumni, to celebrate student achievement and the generosity of UBC English's many friends and supporters. For more information, please contact Laura Quilici <laura.quilici@ubc.ca>.

ESTHER BIRNEY LECTURE SERIES

The Esther Birney Lecture Series at Brock House, 3875 Point Grey Road, has been running for over 20 years. Please consider attending one! These popular, accessible lectures by faculty and graduate students from the Department cover a wide range of literary and cultural topics. The lectures always prompt animated conversations that inevitably carry over to the lunch with the guest speaker. Thursdays @ 10:30 am -11:40 am, resuming in January 2013.

The annual Garnet Sedgwick Memorial Lecture will happen some time in the Spring. Check www.english.ubc.ca for more information in early 2013.

A BACKWARDS GLANCE

a regular feature recalling some of the people and events in the history of the Department of English



Some faculty and alumni might remember Dr. Mabel Mackenzie Colbeck, one of a small cohort of women teaching in the Department in the 1950s and 1960s. Dr. Mackenzie, as she was known then, cut a dashing figure on campus. Her grandson Charles Lyall (BFA 1975) remembers freshmen's reaction to her on their first day of English 100 in the Fall of 1970, the year before she retired: "Suddenly the door opened and in flew an elderly woman, black hair pulled back in a tight bun, red lipstick, black-rimmed "Jackie O" glasses, two-piece black suit, sensible walking shoes, and a stack of books that she piled up on the desk. Under their breath people were muttering, oh no. They'd been expecting a cute 24year-old TA... But she very properly introduced herself and set down the ground rules. "I will ask you questions and you will stand and answer." Within the week, students loved her and never looked back. At once stern and charming, brilliant and generous-this is how former students, colleagues, and family remember her.

Associate Professor Emerita Mackenzie was born in Scotland around 1900. Although she was very bright, her education was interrupted by the Great War, marriage, and motherhood, but she was always reading. "When I would come home from school, she would be reading, and by the time you finished answering her question about how school had been, she'd be back with her book," her daughter **Marigold Mackenzie Lyall** (BA English, 1949) remembers. The public library in Victoria, BC, where she settled

with her husband Alexander Mackenzie, was, "her second home". While her three children were growing up, Mabel wrote for the *Vancouver News-Herald*, and created and hosted a popular CBC radio series "Mirror for Women". "She took the boat to Vancouver from Victoria, walked up from the dock to the CBC studio, did her broadcast live, and then got back on the night boat and went back to her family in Victoria," Marigold recalls.

During World War Two, Mabel took up studies at UBC, completing a BA and MA in English in record time, followed by a PhD at the University of Toronto. After her comprehensive exams, Mabel returned to Vancouver, and began teaching at UBC, as an instructor until she was hired as a professor on completion of her dissertation, "Scottish Ballads in the Eighteenth Century" in 1956. In the 1950s, women on campus, both students and faculty, experienced gender discrimination. When Mabel began her doctoral studies, she was not assigned office space. The department head, when asked, replied "My dear Mrs. Mackenzie, I thought you'd want to spend more time at home!" When women were hired to teach English literature, they were routinely hired at a lower rank, paid less, assigned lower-division courses, and promoted later than similarly qualified male peers. The presumption was that women didn't need employment as much as male colleagues who had families to support. Mabel wasn't the first woman professor in UBC's Department of English--Dorothy Blakey Smith began teaching English at UBC in 1935, after completing a PhD at the University of London on the Minerva Press, and several other female instructors followed-- but Mabel was one of the few women with doctorates in the English department in the late 1950s. She was a dynamic and popular teacher, a dramatic reciter of poetry, and a regular performer at the Faculty Club's annual Robbie Burns supper.

...continued...

The Mabel Mackenzie Colbeck Award was the brainchild of Mabel's daughter Marigold, who completed a BA in English in the late 1940s, Mabel's son Ian Mackenzie, and Marigold's friend **Joyce Lewison**, who graduated with an MA in English from UBC in 1974. When Mabel died in 1997, Joyce said "We should do something!" "We tried to think of what Mother would have liked," Marigold remembers. Eventually they decided on a scholarship to support graduate students. "She wasn't much to contribute to big causes, but she would be very generous to an individual in need." So a scholarship to support a graduate student in English seemed a good idea.

Since 2001, the scholarship has funded 10 students, typically in their final year of the doctoral program in English, dispersing over \$11,000. **Sonnet L'Abbe**, the most recent recipient of the award, says the Mabel Mackenzie Colbeck prize offered "crucial support that allowed me to finish my dissertation when my four-year funding package ran out. Funded by the Colbeck award, I was the first literary scholar to present a poster in the Brain and Behaviour category of the annual congress of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, which has led to an arts-science collaboration that will take place this fall at TRIUMF."

If you are a previous winner of this award or are interested in contributing to the endowment of this award, please contact Laura Quilici (laura.quilici@ubc.ca) in the Development Office.



The Word welcomes contributions from students, faculty, and alumni. **Do** you have an idea for a future article in *The Word*? Please send us your suggestions! **Do you want to share your thoughts on** something featured in The Word? Please send along your comments, reactions, and opinions! Would you like to share your news? Please email us before next July and we will be happy to include it in the Fall 2013 issue. We also welcome photographs of alumni and department events. Please email English.newsletter@ubc.ca. We would be delighted to hear from you.

The Department of English works closely with colleagues in the **Development and Alumni Engagement Office in the Faculty of**

Arts. Together, we would like to thank the alumni and friends who support our programs and our students. With your help, we continue to enrich the university experiences of our students and to prepare them to be innovative leaders, global citizens, and agents for positive change.

The editor and designer of *The Word* would like to offer their special thanks to **Eva-Marie Kröller, Dominique Yupangco, Donna Shanley,** and Nick Lewis for making it possible.

startanevolution.ca

<u>UBC generates ideas that start</u> <u>evolutions</u>. Ideas that change the way people think and the way the world works. We see this change as an evolution, one that improves upon what has come before and inspires the generations that follow. Our start an evolution campaign has two ambitious goals—to raise \$1.5 billion and to double the number of alumni engaged in the life of the University. Why? To increase our capacity to change the world for the better, through student learning, research, and community engagement.

SUPPORT THINKING THAT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD CONNECT. ENGAGE. DONATE.