

THE WORD

a newsletter for alumni and friends of the UBC English Department

FROM GAME OF THRONES TO RARE MANUSCRIPTS: WHAT'S NEW IN ENGLISH

Snapshots of some of the compelling new projects and
initiatives in the department

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TWO PHD STUDENTS WIN VANIER AWARDS

Szu Shen and Sheila Giffen win the Social Sciences and
Humanities Research Council's top prize for PhD students

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CANLIT GUIDES WORKSHOP

Kathryn Grafton and Laura Moss lead a new era of
CanLit Guides for classroom use

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THE MARY QUAN LEE LEGACY

Learn more about alumna Mary Quan Lee and her ongoing
legacy in the English department

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The Word is published by
The Department of English,
The University of British Columbia
www.english.ubc.ca

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The English Honours programme at UBC was the best home I could have found. Outstanding and caring professors, a terrific group of students, and challenging courses (I couldn't get enough and ended up doing seven one semester). The chance to do a directed study, a thesis, an interdisciplinary minor, and creative work made it deep, personalized training. My brain and I are so glad to have been there.

—*alix hawley* (BA '97)

author & winner of the BC Book Prize for Fiction, nominee for the Scotiabank Giller Prize for *All True Not A Lie In It*



WHAT'S MAKING NEWS

snapshots of recent headlines from the english department

as featured in:

TIME



THE VANCOUVER SUN

metro

TORONTO STAR
thestar.com



OCTOBER 2015

Dr. Robert Rouse's innovative course on George R.R. Martin's popular *Game of Thrones* series received significant national and international attention for how it explored how the medieval is represented in contemporary works. The course, entitled "Our Modern Medieval: *The Song of Ice and Fire* as contemporary Medievalism," debuted in January 2016.



AUGUST 2016

The UBC Library acquired a copy of the Kelmscott Chaucer, a rare imprint designed by William Morris, of which there are only 438 copies in existence. The library was able to secure a copy with the help of **Katherine Kalsbeek (BA Hon '01)**, the head of UBC's Rare Books and Special Collections. (Photo of Dr. Greg Mackie and Katherine Kalsbeek taken by Paul Joseph)



SEPTEMBER 2016

Dr. Sarika Bose (BA '86, MA '89), an avid royal watcher who lectures in Victorian literature, was asked for commentary during the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's recent tour of B.C. and the Yukon. Dr. Bose's expertise on royal life was featured in the *Toronto Star*, on CTV and Global News, as well as on CKNW.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

dr. siân echard



“I have been beyond fortunate to work with the imaginative, enthusiastic, and committed faculty, staff, and students of this department.”

It's a great treat to pen (well, type) my first Head's Message. The last year has been a whirlwind, and the learning curve has been very steep, but I have been beyond fortunate to work with the imaginative, enthusiastic, and committed faculty, staff, and students of this department. Our plans to overhaul our curriculum are well under way, with a few pilot projects and courses already on the books. We continue to explore new ways to make connections to a wide range of students, colleagues from across the university, and the public. Our new website is up and running, and we're also paying even more attention to communication, all as part of our efforts to let everyone know what the department is up to. As always, we very much want to hear from our graduates, so do keep in touch.

In a time of ever-tightening resources, we are extremely fortunate to have generous donors whose gifts enable us to support our many talented undergraduate and graduate students. This summer, the first graduate student recipient of an award from the new Shakespeare Research Travel Fund was able to make a prolonged stay in the UK, examining manuscripts in London, Oxford, and Cambridge. We will also soon be making the first undergraduate awards out of the Dr. Stanley M. Grant Scholarship, thanks to a very large bequest from the estate of Dr. Stanley Grant. We are very grateful for these new donations, as well as for the ongoing generosity of our many long-term donors.

— Dr. Siân Echard

FACULTY NEWS

new hires & retirements



RICK GOODING

Instructor, Children's Literature

After working as a lecturer in ASRW and the Department of English, Rick Gooding joins the English Department as an Instructor specializing in children's and young adult literature. Rick's literature courses address a variety of topics, including posthuman constructions of adolescence, surveillance in recent young adult fiction, and theoretical approaches to the fairy tale. His research focuses on the relationship between literary form and the representation of posthuman subjectivities in recent writing for the young. He has also co-authored writing textbooks for Pearson Canada and Broadview Press, and is currently co-editing a reader for Broadview.



MO PARELES

Assistant Professor, Medieval Literature

Dr. Pareles researches the mutual construction of species, sexual, and ethnic difference in medieval English religious literature. She is at work on two book projects. The first, *Translating Purity: Jewish Law and the Making of Difference in Old English Literature*, traces how the cultural translation of Jewish law structured Anglo-Saxon identity projects, bolstering human and Christian supremacy in Old English culture. The second, tentatively titled *Time's Others: Infant, Animal, and Jewish Temporalities in Medieval Christianity*, explores the abjected, arrested, and pregnant temporalities that make medieval Christian futures possible. Dr. Pareles has held postdoctoral fellowships at New York University and Northwestern University. Her teaching interests include animal studies, Old and Middle English literature, translation, and Jewish-Christian relations. She is a member of the Oecologies collective.



WANT TO KEEP UPDATED
ON NEWS AND EVENTS?
MAKE SURE TO LIKE THE ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT'S [FACEBOOK](#) PAGE!

FACULTY NEWS

accomplishments and honours



TIFFANY POTTER

Killam Teaching Prize (2015)

Tiffany Potter was awarded the 2014-2015 Killam Teaching Prize. Dr. Potter's citation reads as follows: "Whether teaching in the classroom, advising her peers, or developing innovative pedagogical tools and programs, Dr Tiffany Potter has shown herself to be an outstanding instructor. As a scholar whose interests range from eighteenth-century drama to twenty-first century television, Dr Potter is well placed to help her students critique contemporary culture in all its forms. One student describes her as 'passionate' and 'selfless'; another says that Dr Potter 'is one of the most influential teachers I have had at UBC.' A colleague writes that she is 'among the very best members of the UBC teaching community.' Dr Potter's many accomplishments as a deeply knowledgeable, imaginative, and supportive instructor well merit a Killam Teaching Prize."



ROBERT ROUSE

Killam Teaching Prize (2016)

Robert Rouse was awarded the 2015-2016 Killam Teaching Prize. Here is Dr. Rouse's citation: "Praised for his 'unapologetically old-school' teaching methods and an ability to spark wide interest in 'apparently arcane topics,' Dr. Rouse is clearly a gifted and unique teacher. His dynamic teaching stimulates curiosity and critical engagement in a way that makes medieval texts 'fresh, vibrant, fascinating,' and most importantly, 'relevant.' One student describes Dr. Rouse as someone who 'shows immense patience towards students,' and another that 'Dr. Rouse enables the potential of each student to thrive.' His commitment to students and his imaginative and refreshing approach to teaching make him most deserving of the Killam Teaching Prize."



MARGERY FEE

Brenda and David McLean Chair in Canadian Studies (2015-2017)

Dr. Margery Fee is the Brenda and David McLean Chair in Canadian Studies. As Chair, Dr. Fee will teach a senior seminar and also present a series of lectures under the general topic "Decolonizing Conversations: Indigenous Texts in the Pacific Northwest Before 1992." Dr. Fee's lectures will take place in Spring 2017 on the following dates (room TBA):

Thursday Feb 9: Stories We Didn't Hear: Controlling Traditional Oral Stories

Thursday March 9: Writing We Didn't Read: Manifestos, Declarations and Other Collective Texts

Thursday March 16: Lives We Overlooked: Life Writing by "Inauthentic Indians"

FACULTY NEWS

accomplishments and honours, continued



DANIEL HEATH JUSTICE

Killam Faculty Research Award (2016)

Dr. Daniel Heath Justice has been awarded a 2016 UBC Killam Research Prize. As well as Professor of English, Daniel is Chair of the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program, and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Literature and Expressive Culture. He received this award in recognition of his leadership in the field of Indigenous Literary Studies and for his many contributions to it, including *Our Fire Survives the Storm: A Cherokee Literary History* (2006), *The Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literature* (co-edited with James H. Cox, 2014), and *Why Indigenous Literature Matters* (forthcoming 2016). Professor Justice is also the author of the acclaimed speculative fiction series, *The Way of Thorn and Thunder: The Kynship Chronicles*, and of *Badger* (2015), part of the University of Chicago Press/Reaktion Books' Animal Series. Daniel's current scholarship focuses on the role of Indigenous writing, art, and performance in expressing, transforming, and creating meaningful kinship relationships, especially between Indigenous peoples and the other-than-human world.



BRETT GRUBISIC

Fairclough Teaching Award (2016)

The winner of this year's Fairclough Prize is Dr. Brett Grubisic. Brett has been a highly effective and popular teacher in the Department of English since 2001, earning remarkable praise from students for his obvious investment in their success. He has also published widely in both critical and creative modes, with three novels, two edited anthologies, two monographs, and three co-edited critical collections. He is a creative, collegial, and highly productive member of the department, and it is a great pleasure to congratulate him on this newest achievement. The Ian Fairclough Teaching Prize is awarded annually to a sessional lecturer in the Department of English and/or the UBC Writing Centre. The Prize was established in 1996 as a memorial to Ian W. Fairclough (1951-1995), who obtained his BA (Hons.) and MA in the Department of English, and taught as a sessional lecturer for a number of years both in the Department of English and in the UBC Writing Centre.

GREG MACKIE won the 2015 Dean of Arts Faculty Research Award.

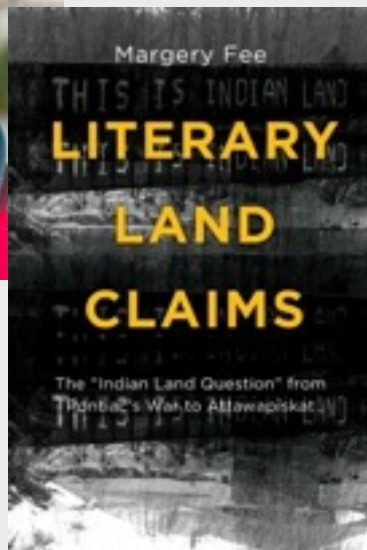
MARY CHAPMAN received a SSHRC Insight Grant for *"Going Back to Dixie": Slave Girls, Underground Railways, and Tragic Mulattas in Edith Eaton's Life and Work*.

VIN NARDIZZI received a SSHRC Insight Grant for "Marvellous Vegetables," an exploration of vegetables in Renaissance art and poetry, as well as a 2017 Folger Shakespeare Library Short-Term Fellowship.

JERRY WASSERMAN won the GVPTA Career Achievement Award at the 33rd Annual Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards in 2015.

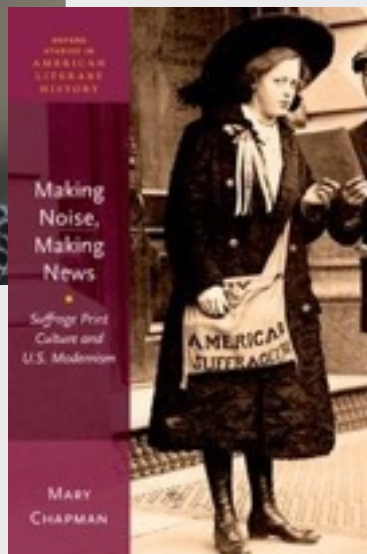
IRA NADEL was a visiting fellow at Monash University in June 2016, held a research fellowship at the National Biography Centre at the Australian National University from June-July 2016, and held a Daxia Fellowship at East China Normal University in July 2016.

prize-winning books by our faculty



MARGERY FEE

The Association for Canadian and Québec Literatures (ACQL) shortlisted Dr. Fee's *Literary Land Claims: The "Indian Land Question" from Pontiac's War to Attawapiskat* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press) for the 2015 Gabrielle Roy Prize (English section), which each year honours the best work of Canadian literary criticism published in English.

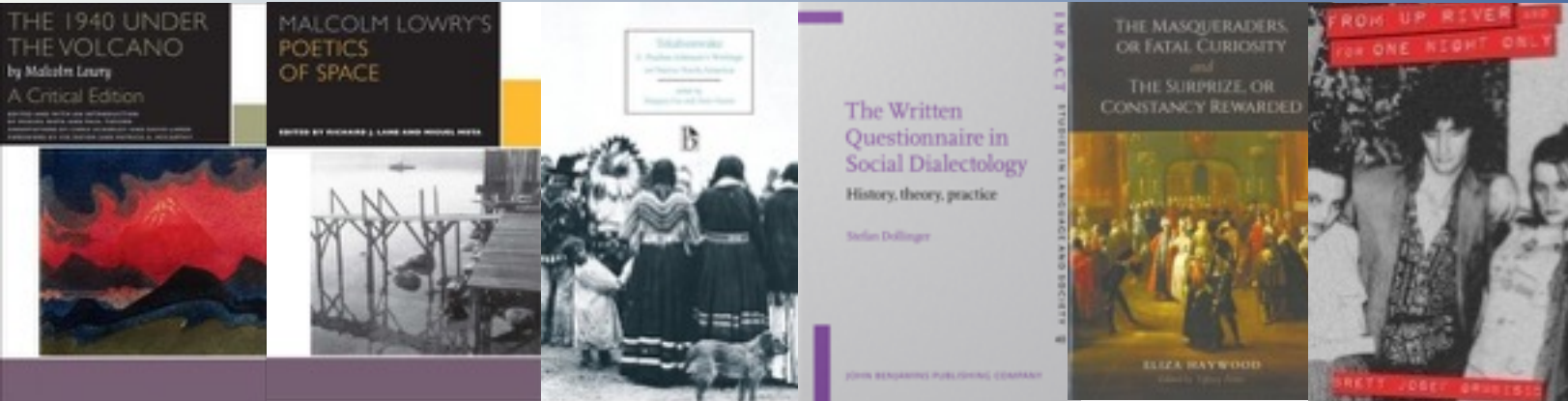


MARY CHAPMAN

Making Noise, Making News: Suffrage Print Culture and US Modernism (Oxford 2014) was awarded book prizes by the Society for the Study of American Women Writers and the Canadian Association of American Studies and was a finalist for the Modernist Studies Book Prize.

FACULTY NEWS

faculty bookshelf



Mota, Miguel, ed. *The 1940 Under the Volcano: A Critical Edition*. Ottawa: U of Ottawa P, 2015.

Lane, Richard J., and Miguel Mota, eds. *Malcolm Lowry's Poetics of Space*. Ottawa: U of Ottawa P, 2016.

Nason, Dory, and Margery Fee, eds. *Tekahionwake: E. Pauline Johnson's Writings on Native North America*. Guelph: Broadview, 2015.

Dollinger, Stefan. *The Written Questionnaire in Social Dialectology*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2016.

Potter, Tiffany, ed. *The Masqueraders, or Fatal Curiosity and The Surprise, or Constancy Rewarded*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2015.

Grubisic, Brett Josef. *From Up River and For One Night Only*. Toronto: Now or Never Publishing, 2016.

Kim, Christine, and Chris Lee, eds. "Asian Canadian Critique Beyond the Nation" *Canadian Literature* 227 (2015).

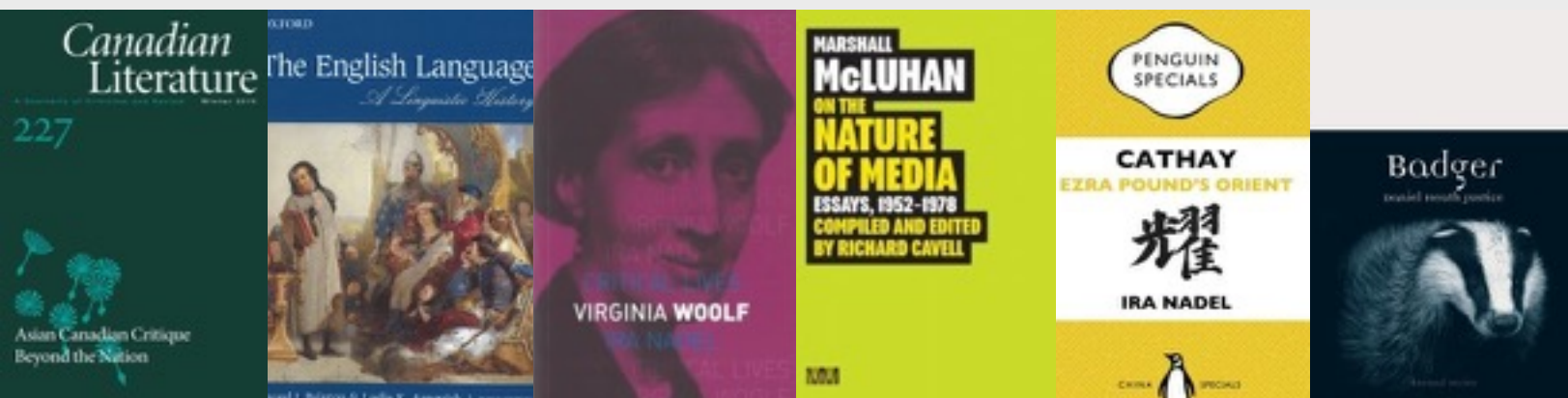
Brinton, Laurel, and Leslie K. Arnovick. *The English Language: A Linguistic History*. 3rd Ed. London: Oxford UP, 2016.

Nadel, Ira. *Critical Lives: Virginia Woolf*. London: Reaktion, 2016.

Cavell, Richard, ed. *Marshall McLuhan on the Nature of Media: Essays, 1952-1978*.

Nadel, Ira. *Cathay: Ezra Pound's Orient*.

Justice, Daniel Heath. *Badger*. London: Reaktion, 2015.



POSTDOCTORAL NEWS



DR. CHRISTINE YAO (PhD, Cornell)

Christine “Xine” Yao (B.A. Trinity College at the University of Toronto, M.A. Dalhousie University, Ph.D. Cornell University) is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow working under the supervision of Mary Chapman. She works on intersections of affect, race, gender, and sexuality in relation to science and law through long 19th century American literature. Her research has been published in *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* and *American Gothic: An Edinburgh Companion*. She is currently at work on a book project, *Feeling Subjects: Science and Law in Nineteenth-Century America*. Dr. Yao’s postdoctoral, PhD, and MA work has been funded by grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. She is an award-winning instructor of literature, culture, and writing. She pursues her interest in intersectional advocacy and interdisciplinary collaboration through projects like her co-hosted iTunes podcast *PhDivas*.



DR. DEREK GLADWIN (PhD, University of Alberta)

Derek Gladwin is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow working under the supervision of Miguel Mota. He has previously been a Visiting Research Fellow in the Moore Institute at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and the IASH Visiting Research Fellow in the Environmental Humanities at the University of Edinburgh. He researches and teaches in the areas of environmental and energy humanities, as well as postcolonial and Gothic studies, in 20th- and 21st-century literature and forms of media from Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the transatlantic networks of the North Atlantic. He has authored the forthcoming book, *Contentious Terrains: Boglands and the Irish Postcolonial Gothic* (Cork UP, 2016), and co-edited two books: *Eco-Joyce: The Environmental Imagination of James Joyce* (Cork UP, 2014) and *Unfolding Irish Landscapes: Tim Robinson, Culture, and Environment* (Manchester UP, 2015).



DR. ANDREW BRICKER (PhD, Princeton)

Andrew Bricker is a Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellow working under the supervision of Nick Hudson. Before coming to UBC, he was an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at McGill University (2014-6) and a Mellon Fellow of Scholars in Critical Bibliography at the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia (2013-6). He received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Toronto and his Ph.D. from Stanford University (2014). He is currently writing a book about 17th- and 18th-century satire and the development of defamation law, based on his dissertation, which won the Department of English’s Alden Dissertation Prize at Stanford and was supported by a SSHRC graduate fellowship (2007-11), a Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (2012-3), and a Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship awarded by the American Council of Learned Societies (2013-4). He has held visiting research fellowships at the Huntington Library, in San Marino, California; the Lewis Walpole Library at Yale University; the Clark Library at the University of California at Los Angeles; the Library of Congress, in Washington, D.C.; the Bibliographical Society of America; and the Summer School on the Cultural Study of the Law at the University of Osnabrück, Germany.



DR. JEFF ESPIE (PhD, University of Toronto)

Working across the once-conventional divide between the Middle Ages and Early Modernity, my research examines the foundations of English literary history, the origins of the English canon, the intersections between the pastoral and elegiac modes, the bases of historical periodization, and the interactions among manuscript and print cultures. I argue for the importance of the Middle Ages to Early Modern poetics, for the relevance of book history to discussions of poetic influence and canonicity, for the significance of premodern poets to modern theories of epochal change, for an understanding of “context” that is both synchronic and diachronic in scope, and for an account of English literary history that also looks beyond national and linguistic borders. My most recent research has been published in *Spenser Studies*, *Modern Philology*, *Philological Quarterly*, and *The Chaucer Review*, and I am currently developing these arguments in two books: *Forms of Mediation: Spenser, Chaucer, and the Origins of English Literary History*, and *Narratives of Early Modernity: Poets and Periodization from Chaucer and Spenser to Shakespeare and Milton*.

"While completing my English degree, I learned how to think critically and how to discuss opposing ideas in a productive manner. It opened my eyes to different schools of thought from throughout history, and taught me how to examine challenging issues from various perspectives. It was a great foundation before I later went into journalism as a city news reporter. The approaches that I learned at UBC are being applied daily in my reporting of everyday issues, where it's important to be unbiased, openminded, and constantly curious."

—stephanie ip

Reporter/Assistant City Editor
The Province & Vancouver Sun



MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE HEAD

dr. sandra tomc



It's been an exciting year for the UBC English Graduate Program. I want to extend warmest congratulations to all the PhD and MA students who received degrees in this last year. I also want to make special mention of a few people whose accomplishments are particularly noteworthy. Some of them appear in the Graduate Student News section of this newsletter. Others, who have already graduated, might not have had a chance to announce their accomplishments. Donato Mancini (2016) won this year's Paul Stanwood Dissertation Prize for his thesis "Paracanonic Activities: A Pragmatics and A Poetics." Michael Taylor, who defended his thesis in the spring, was hired as a tenure-stream assistant professor at Brigham Young University. Sean McAlister, a 2014 PhD, won the Sawyer Seminar Postdoctoral Fellowship at Emory University for 2016/17. Lucia Lorenzi, a 2016 PhD graduate, was one of six recipients of the 2016 Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case for her work on gender equality.

Special congratulations also go to our 2016 MA graduates. Catherine Lee began her PhD at Duke University this fall. Matt Warner began his PhD at Stanford. Cameron Paul, winner of a SSHRC CGS, is off to do his PhD at Alberta. Emilia Halton-Hernandez entered the doctoral program at Sussex. Finally, I want to extend congratulations to two of our current students who won competitive national and university prizes this year: Sheila Giffen, currently in her second year of the PhD, was awarded a prestigious Canada Vanier Fellowship. Jon Newell, who will defend his dissertation in the spring, won the Killam Teaching Assistant Prize. We on the English Department Graduate Committee could not be more proud of our students. We are looking forward to another banner year.

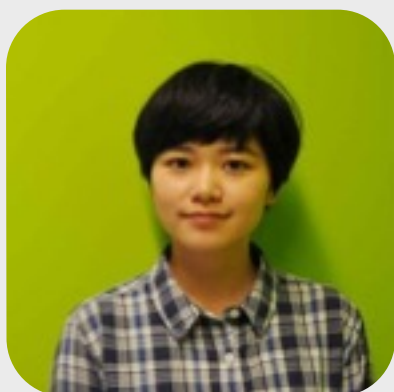
— Dr. Sandra Tomc

GRADUATE NEWS

vanier winners - szu shen and sheila giffen



The **Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship** is awarded to top doctoral students at Canadian institutions. Vanier Scholars are selected on the basis of their academic excellence, their research potential, as well as their leadership skills. The Department of English is thrilled to announce that two of its doctoral students—Szu Shen and Sheila Giffen—have received this prestigious scholarship in the past two years. Below, Szu and Sheila tell us a bit about their research projects.



SZU SHEN — Vanier Winner 2015

My research explores the difficult legacies of uranium by tracing its transnational routes and impact on Indigenous communities in Canada and across the Pacific. My research does so by reading narratives of uranium mining at Port Radium in the Northwest Territories alongside stories and cultural texts that represent two additional sites: Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, where the US government conducted a series of nuclear weapon tests from 1946-1958; and Orchid Island in Taiwan, where Indigenous Tao people have been living in proximity to the nation's nuclear waste since 1982. By reading and discussing stories about the transnational movements and management of uranium, my research aims to help us understand how unexpected forms of global relations might take shape across Indigenous and other racialized communities.



SHEILA GIFFEN — Vanier Winner 2016

My research considers artistic and activist responses to the AIDS crisis in North America and South Africa within the context of colonial dispossession and racial violence. Currently, I'm reading widely in postcolonial studies, queer theory and feminist theory for my comprehensive field list. As I look ahead to my dissertation project, I'm thinking through some of these questions: How might it be possible to read the AIDS crisis as an exemplary moment in a modern biopolitical order, and to understand the racial politics of the disease? What modes of artistic experimentation and resistant speech emerge under conditions of mass death, government neglect, and significant social stigma? Further, what forms of political, affective and erotic communities coalesce and persist in such conditions and how does writing as a form of life emerge alongside heightened mortality?

GRADUATE NEWS

2015/2016 graduation & graduate student placements



congratulations to all of our graduates!



Dr. Barbara Dancygier and Dr. Mike Borkent (PhD '15)

MAY 2015 GRADUATES

MA

Garth McClure
Kisuk Noh
Martin Parlett
Jillian Sharpe

PhD

Matthew Bennett
Michael Borkent

SEPTEMBER 2015 GRADUATES

MA

Emily Briggs
Tessa Cernik
Douglas Guilbeault
Adrian Lou
Alissa McArthur

PhD

Paisley Mann
Carmen Mathes
Judith Scholes

GRADUATE NEWS

2015/2016 graduation & graduate student placements

NOVEMBER 2015 GRADUATES

MA

Lindsey Cornum
Natasha Chenier
Karl Manis
Madeleine Reddon
Alexander Thomas

PhD

Jamie Paris
Sarah Crover

FEBRUARY 2016 GRADUATES

PhD - Daniella Trimboli

MAY 2016 GRADUATES

MA

Alayna Becker
Blaine Eldredge
Mustafa Elhennawy
Stephanie Fung
Courtney Heffernan
Olivia Kelava
Nicholas McElroy
Morag McGreevey
Roza Nozari
Daniella Spady

Michael Ruby
Danielle Spady
Taylor Stone

PhD

Lucia Lorenzi
Donato Mancini
June Scudeler



Jamie Paris (PhD '15) - November 2015 Convocation Speaker



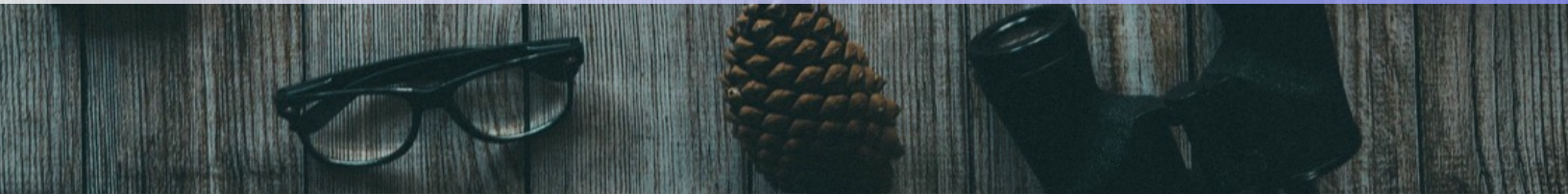
Alayna Becker (MA '16) and Dr. Deanna Kreisel

GRADUATE STUDENT PLACEMENTS

Catherine Lee (MA '16) is beginning a PhD at Duke University; **Matt Warner (MA '16)** is pursuing a PhD at Stanford University; **Nina Varsava (MA '14)** is pursuing a law degree at Yale as well as a PhD at Stanford; **Carmel Ohman (MA '14)** is doing a PhD at the University of Oregon. **Sean McAlister (PhD '14)** has received a postdoctoral position at Emory University; **Mike Borkent (PhD '15)** is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Calgary; **Jamie Paris (PhD '15)** is an Instructor at Corpus Christi College & St. Mark's College; **June Scudeler (PhD '16)** is the Indigenous Graduate Student Support Coordinator at Simon Fraser University; **Mike Taylor (PhD '16)** is an Assistant Professor at Brigham Young University; **Paisley Mann (PhD '15)** is an Instructor at Langara College; **Sarah Crover (PhD '16)** is an Instructor in ASRW as well as at Corpus Christi College.

GRADUATE NEWS

presentations, publications, & awards



Donato Mancini (PhD '16) was awarded the Paul G. Stanwood Dissertation Prize for 2016.

Jonathan Newell (PhD) received the UBC Killam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, and also published an article in *Studies in Gothic Fiction* 5.1, "The Act of Witness: Outlast and Videoludic Body Gothic."

Raquel Baldwinson (PhD) was awarded an Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Doctoral Fellowship. The Killam Doctoral fellowships are "the University of British Columbia's most prestigious merit-based graduate fellowships and are awarded annually to the most outstanding doctoral degree candidates."

Dorota Lockyer (PhD) presented at *Culture in Transfer: Translation and Transcultural Communication*, a conference held at the Institute of English Studies at Poland's University of Wrocław. She also published "Diminutive interjections in Polish: the case of (o)jejku and (o)jejciu!" *Studies in Polish Linguistics* 10.4 (2015): 197-221, and designed and taught a Slavic Studies course at the University of Victoria.

Dustin Grue (PhD) was awarded the Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction by the Alberta government, the UBC Public Scholars award, and was invited to speak at the May 2016 *Future of the PhD in the Humanities* conference at Carleton University. In the August 2016, he also presented at the *Postgraduate Conference on English Historical Linguistics*, at Kyoto University.

Pavlina Pajot (PhD) presented "'Unafraid of Change': Wharton, the Middlebrow, and *The Delineator*" at the 2016 Wharton in Washington conference organized by the Edith Wharton Society.

William Rubel (PhD) received a Francisco J. Varela Research Award from the Mind and Life Institute, a non-profit co-founded in 1987 by Francisco Varela and Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama. William is the first humanities scholar to receive this award.

Tomoharu Hirota (PhD) co-organized the Kyoto Postgraduate Conference on Historical Linguistics, which took place from August 6-7th in Kyoto, Japan. He also took part in a workshop at the ISLE Summer School 2016, hosted by the University of Amsterdam, and presented at the 4th conference for the International Society for the Linguistics (ISLE-4) Poznań, Poland, September 20, 2016. His paper title was "The split negative infinitive on the move: A diachronic corpus-based study."

Jack Knowles (PhD) won the Philip Roth Society's Siegel McDaniel Award for his essay "Yeatsian Agony in Late Roth."

Bronwyn Malloy (PhD) presented papers at the Western Literature Association conference in Reno, Nevada, in October 2016, at the Popular Culture Association of Canada conference held at McGill in May 2016, and also co-organized a panel with Dr. Stephen Guy-Bray at the American Comparative Literature Association's meeting at Harvard in March 2016. She also participated in the CanLit Guides workshop in May 2016, and has a forthcoming guide entitled "Listening to Canada: The Weakerthans' 'One Great City!'"

Sarah Crover (PhD '16) won a London Theatre Society Award.

Judith Scholes (PhD '15) received an honourable mention for the Research & Study of American Periodicals Article Prize.

GRADUATE NEWS

dr. stephen ney (PhD '10) - teaching abroad



During my PhD, I was always hoping for a job outside Euro-America. Less than a year after my graduation I had an assistant professorship at the U of the Gambia, in West Africa, partly through some contacts I made in 2010 at the Humanities Congress in Montreal. Though I maintain my position there, this year I'm lecturing at the U of Sierra Leone, 800km away, because my wife Jennifer (we met in Vancouver - married just last year) is working in Freetown.

At both universities I teach in small departments where my senior classes have just a handful of students and where very little research is going on. The majority of my literature students will eventually find jobs as high-school teachers or college lecturers. The two universities are much the same: deficient in every form of infrastructure and of organization, such that you can't predict whether there'll be chairs in the classroom or when the semester will end; but the universities are energizing and hopeful because of eager students and, for me as well as for them, fresh research opportunities. And I can't deny I enjoy filling a position for which I was the only applicant and teaching courses nobody else on faculty feels able to cover. In other words, the job market is the inverse of what you find in North America.

Since moving to West Africa I've been able to publish research on local literary production, to attend some excellent conferences in Africa and Europe, and to enjoy the beach at least twice a month. I'm open to working here for many years so I can contribute to an emerging culture of research, develop good, new graduate programs, and, as best I can, promote interactive pedagogies that challenge the authoritarian ones left behind by colonial education. It's because of my strong training at UBC that I know enough to be useful about nurturing a culture of research, about running good graduate programs, and about teaching well. My training as a postcolonialist and my PhD research into colonial and missionary antecedents to Yoruba and Nigerian literatures have given me some good ideas of the kinds of influence I want to have as a non-native in this particular sociopolitical context.

— Dr. Stephen Ney

GRADUATE NEWS

graduate student softball team

*the prose:
6th place in the
2016 season!*

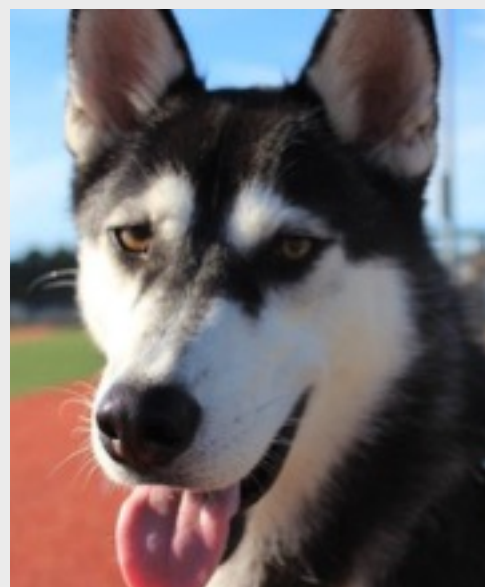


The Prose, the departmental graduate softball team, had yet another successful season out on the field. Under the leadership of co-coaches Dallas Hunt (PhD) and Stephen Cook (MA), the team rose to a 6th-place finish in the league, including a 4-game winning streak! The non-competitive league, which is organized by the UBC Graduate Student Society, offers an excellent opportunity for collegiality, socializing, and a lot of good-hearted laughter in the summer sun. The Prose will begin its annual recruitment in May of 2017!

GO PROSE!



The triumphant team after the last game of the playoffs



Alicia Fahey's (PhD) dog Moose - our mascot!

MESSAGE FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE HEAD

dr. leslie arnovick



Our undergraduate programs continue to thrive, and our students' achievements are a great source of pride for the department. Karoline Pasciano was the winner of the departmental Jane Austen Society Prize, as well as the winner of the national JASNA association's annual essay contest. In May 2016, Sara Dueck gave the convocation address, and Elysse Bell won the Honours Gold Medal for the top graduating honours student. The Garden Statuary, the UBC English undergraduate literary journal, is celebrating five years of publishing a wide variety of creative and academic work.

In addition to their excellent academic accomplishments, our undergraduate students are also making profound contributions to UBC and the community at large. James Timperley was the 2015 recipient of the Dean's Award for Outstanding Leadership in the UBC Community and Beyond, and Eva Chan was the 2015 recipient of the Dean's Award for Outstanding Leadership in the UBC Community.

Alumni from our undergraduate programs continue to excel in a variety of careers, from public service to entrepreneurship, and we are pleased to see that the skills they gained while studying literature and language at UBC are being put to good use. At a moment when humanities-based education is often said to be in crisis, our alumni are proof that a degree in English is a valuable asset in today's job market. We are also especially proud that our programs have produced a number of award-winning and award-nominated authors! As always, we are appreciative of alumni whose donations make it possible for new generations of students to pursue their English education without financial hardship. If you were the recipient of an award during your English undergraduate degree, please consider contributing to one of the award funds administered by our department. You can also get involved as a mentor through UBC's Arts Tri-mentoring Program, as an employer through the Arts Co-Op Program, or as a presenter in the department's newly-launched lunch-time Brown Bag Career Series for honours and majors students.

— Dr. Leslie Arnovick

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

english students' association



The 2015-2016 session was an exciting and busy time for the English Students' Association! We bookended the year with two of our traditional ice cream cake socials. In between, our hope was to bring more students studying English into a wider community of learning and fun. To that end, we brought in several new events, such as a monthly outing to the Letter Writing Club at the Regional Assembly of Text, a Meet the Profs! Mixer for all students, a special invitation to the RBSC bidding party for a 13th-century Bible and Book of Hours, and an Irish Literature night.

One of our major projects continues to be supporting and publishing The Garden Statuary, the undergraduate literary journal for the English department. We had a great turnout and fantastic readings at our two parties for the biannual online launches in December and April, as well as the yearly print version in April. The Garden Statuary team very creatively published issues 4 and 5 in one beautiful volume, which might be seen floating around the department office this year. Their work can be found at www.thegardenstatuary.com.

Finally, we were very proud to host our second annual Colloquium! With sponsorship from CiTR 101.9FM and the Walter Gage Memorial Fund, the event took place on January 30th in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre. Once again, we chose to feature a wide range of topics from undergraduate and faculty presenters in order to showcase both the breadth and depth of research being undertaken in the department. Presentations touched on Shakespeare, zombies, radio drama, ghosts, and medieval ecology. Many thanks to our faculty presenters, Drs. Tiffany Potter and Adam Frank; our student presenters, Taylor Tomko, Alexandra Valahu, Laina Deer-Ferris, Jane Shi, and Sebastien Wen; as well as all attendees and sponsors for making the event a success!

...continued on next page...

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

english students' association

In the upcoming year, we hope to bring students together with board game nights, more puns, and outreach to the Language side of the department. Further information about us is ready and waiting at <http://www.ubcenglish.com/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ubcenglishstudents>

The outgoing ESA executive team was Sara Dueck (President), Jennifer Wu (Vice-President), Eleanor Hoskins (Treasurer), Sonja Cvoric (Secretary), Hava Rosenberg (Editor-in-Chief of *The Garden Statuary*), Charmaine Li (webmaster), Audrey MacTavish and Sebastien Wen (social coordinators), and Fatima Ahmed (blog manager).

The incoming ESA Executive team is Eleanor Hoskins (President), Mischa Milne (Vice-President), Sasha Xu (Treasurer), Janice Lew (Secretary), Jia Faner (Social Coordinator), Mary Chen (Editor-in-Chief of *The Garden Statuary*), Charmaine Li (webmaster/blog manager), and Rebecca Peng (webmaster/blog manager).



GRADUATE SCHOOL BOUND!

Laura Ritland began a PhD at Berkeley in September 2016; **Alexis Statz** is off to Cambridge to do an MPhil in Medieval and Renaissance Literature; **Elizabeth Lorie** is at McGill completing MA in English; **Sara Dueck** is at University of Toronto doing an MA in Medieval Literature; **Jonathan Pai** has been accepted to Peking University's School of Transnational Law; **Talia Varoglu** is doing an MA in English at the University of Edinburgh; **Emily Anctil** will complete an MA in Children's Lit at UBC; **Elise Littler** is doing an MA at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs; **Andie Tomlinson** started a MA in Information Studies at McGill in the Fall of 2015; **Klaudia Wegshaidt** began an MSc in Migration Studies at Oxford University in October 2015; **Alex Sarra-Davis** has completed an MA in English Literature at Oxford, and has begun PhD at U of Toronto; **Denise Mok** was accepted into the Masters of Film Studies at Columbia University; **Christina Kim** has just completed her first year at Cornell Law School, and worked as a legal intern at the United Nations this past summer.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

undergraduates win prestigious Jane Austen essay prizes



Congratulations to ENGL Honours student **Olivia Williams**, who has been awarded the Department of English's 2016 Jane Austen essay prize. Established by the Vancouver chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) in 1986, the essay prize is awarded each year on the recommendation of the Department of English for the best essay on Austen written by a third- or fourth-year student. Congratulations, Olivia!

Congratulations, also, to ENGL Honours student **Karoline Pasciano**, who was awarded the prestigious 2015 international essay prize (college and university division) sponsored by JASNA for her essay "Beyond Earthly Appetites: Food, Consumption, and the construction of Mansfield Park." For this excellent achievement,

Karoline was awarded a \$1000 scholarship, free registration and two nights' lodging for the JASNA AGM, publication of her essay on the JASNA website, a one-year membership in JASNA for both Karoline and her mentor, and a set of North Critical Editions of Jane Austen's work! Hearty congratulations, Karoline!



Karoline Pasciano and Keiko Parker
in Regency dress at the JASNA AGM

JASNA Vancouver founding member and ENGL alumna Keiko Parker has also translated several of Jane Austen's works into Japanese. To learn more, check out the story on page 36!

Are you a past recipient of an essay prize in the English Department?
Please consider funding these awards for the next generation of
undergraduate scholars in our department!
[Click HERE](#) for more information.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS & EVENTS

visiting speakers



The English Department visiting speakers program had a successful year of sponsoring and co-sponsoring visiting speakers on many topics and from many locations.

Joseph Campana (Rice University) “Spenser’s Inhumanity” (co-sponsored with Simon Fraser University), October 21

Imre Szeman (University of Alberta) “On the Energy Humanities” (hosted by the English Department’s Faculty Research Seminar Series), November 13

Helen Thompson (Northwestern University) “Locke and Matter’s Power” (co-sponsored with Science and Technology Studies), December 3

Jonathan Elmer (University of Indiana) “Poe’s Ear” (co-sponsored with Science and Technology Studies), February 25

Peter Robinson (University of Saskatchewan) “As We May Read: Audiences, Authors and Editors in the Digital Age” (co-sponsorship for Asian Studies Department’s “Digital Textualities in South Asia” Symposium), March 4

John L. Bryant (Hofstra University) “Translation Is Revision: Imagining a Digital Tool for Editing Translation as a Fluid Text” (co-sponsorship for Asian Studies Department’s “Digital Textualities in South Asia” Symposium), March 5

Shirley Samuels (Cornell University) “Crossing the White Atlantic: Nineteenth-Century American Women Artists and Writers,” April 4

I am grateful to the many faculty who suggested speakers, acquired funding from other sources, and organized and ran talks, dinners, and accommodations. Thanks also to Lucia Lorenzi for her graphic design work.

As always, Department members are encouraged to make use of the (limited) funds available for visiting speakers, particularly where co-sponsorship is an option.

— Dr. Scott MacKenzie

DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES & EVENTS

oecologies research collective & biennial romance in medieval britain conference



Conference-goers join Dr. Sally Aitken, Professor of Conservation Sciences at UBC for a tour of Stanley Park. October 3rd, 2015.

The Oecologies Research Group convened on 1-3 October 2015 an international and multi-institutional conference: “Oecologies: engaging the world, from here.” Participants included an international roster of established scholars as well as local university faculty and graduate students who specialize in literature before 1700. The conference explored how the premodern continues to press upon the present. In particular, it asked how the theoretical dilemmas of place and identity that generally inform ecocriticism and the Humanities’ engagement with the environment might have roots within the premodern. Transhistorical in scope and multi-continental in composition (speakers joined us from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America), the conference took literally the mandate to “engage the world” (SFU’s brand) from a particular locale, “from here” (UBC’s former brand). The conference queried the tension between parts of the environmental movement summarized as its cultural or “human dimension”—its literature and stories—and ecological crisis. The conversations thus began in a common literature, but expanded to examine how different, and modern, locales shape our perception of the premodern literary past. The conference drew inspiration from our keynote speaker, Ursula K. Heise, Professor of English and faculty member of UCLA’s Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

— Dr. Vin Nardizzi



UBC instructor Noëlle Phillips presenting on *Piers Plowman* August 19th, 2016. Photograph by Karol Pasciano.

The 15th Biennial Romance in Medieval Britain in August 2016 brought more than 60 scholars from 7 different countries to present their research in the field of Medieval Romance in Britain. Romance, a widespread popular narrative genre within medieval Europe, saw a profound flowering within the literatures of medieval Britain between the twelfth and early sixteenth centuries. Poets produced romances for a wide range of audiences—courtly, gentry, mercantile, and popular—and upon a dizzying range of subject matter. In medieval Britain, romances were produced and consumed in Middle English, Anglo-Norman and Continental French, Latin, Norse, Scots, Welsh, Cornish, and Irish, positioning romance as a genre that is reflective of the cultural and linguistic diversity of the medieval British archipelago.

Held outside of the British archipelago for the first time, the conference was organized in association with the 44th Annual UBC Medieval Workshop. The conference had the welcome support of the UBC Faculty of Arts, UBC Interdisciplinary Program in Medieval Studies, Department of English, Department of History, Department of French, Italian, and Hispanic Studies, and the Department of Art History and Visual Art.

— Dr. Robert Rouse

DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES & EVENTS

Tsilhqot'in elders' visit to the Museum of Anthropology



Elder Eileen Sammy William, a highly respected maker of buckskin gloves & other leather goods as well as baby baskets, admires the work of an ancestor. MOA, 22 Sept. 2016.

Qatš'ay: The Basket Project is one facet of *The Oral History of the Tsilhqot'in Title Case*, a collaborative research project by **Lorraine Weir** with Chief Roger William & the Xeni Gwet'in community.

Qatš'ay: The Basket Project originated during interviews by Dr. Lorraine Weir with Elders in Xeni in relation to the Oral History of the Tsilhqot'in Title Case. A community-based collaborative project by Dr. Weir with Chief Roger William (Xeni Gwet'in) and the people of Xeni, the book-length *Oral History* is one of three projects undertaken by Weir at Chief William's request. These various projects comprise the Tsilhqot'in Research Cluster at UBC and include the development of a website devoted to the Title case, and the archival placement of materials of historic significance from the case at UBC Vancouver. All of these projects are now in progress.

According to the Elders' teachings, qatš'ay (Tsilhqot'in baskets) were primarily made by women in the old days and they represent an opportunity to document the Elders' knowledge about Tsilhqot'in women's cultural and historical roles which have received little attention in contemporary research. However, although collections of Tsilhqot'in baskets are in museums all over the world, the community of Xeni had no awareness of the widespread survival of the baskets or of their celebrated artistic status. Thanks to the generous assistance and support of Curators and

staff at MOA (the Museum of Anthropology at UBC), and to the academic units which supported Qatš'ay: The Basket Project, the Elders were able to make the long journey from Xeni to visit MOA on Sept. 22nd and 23rd, 2016 and to be in the presence of the magnificent work of their relatives and ancestors.

Organized by Dr. Lorraine Weir with the assistance of community organizers Annie C. Williams (Director, ʔEniyud Health Centre) and Betty Lulua, and with the support of Chief Roger William and Council, Qatš'ay: The Basket Project enabled fourteen Elders as well as Chief and one Councilor and three community translators to visit MOA and their knowledge (most of it shared in the Tsilhqot'in language) to be recorded, transcribed and translated for future generations. With their permission, some of this knowledge will be included in the Title case book and some on a website, Qatš'ay: The Basket Project, which will begin development later this year at UBC.



The conversation at MOA begins. Elders Christine Lulua & Doris William talk about the baskets in front of them as Lorraine Weir records their words. 22 Sept. 2016.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

news from Canadian Literature



From May 25 to 26, 2016, *Canadian Literature* hosted scholars from across the country for the first *CanLit Guides* Workshop. *CanLit Guides* is an online open-access resource for undergraduate teaching and learning, published by a team at the journal with many links to the English department (<http://canlitguides.ca/>). The workshop was an opportunity for a community of academics to come together as teachers, share ideas about pedagogy, and translate research expertise on Canadian writing into classroom learning.

CanLit Guides was started by then-journal editor **Margery Fee** in 2011. Chapters in the guides were initially written in-house by editors and graduate students; now, area specialists write chapters. Prior to the workshop itself, participants drafted 16 chapters on a wide range of topics (from Marie Clements' *Burning Vision* to diasporic studies to comics and more). Then, they gathered at UBC to offer each other feedback on these drafts. Participants also discussed approaches to teaching and the future of *CanLit Guides*. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of everyone involved, the workshop was an energizing and productive event.

The workshop, which received funding from SSHRC, the Department of English and the Faculty of Arts, was designed and facilitated by faculty members **Kathryn Grafton** (associate editor of *CanLit Guides*) and **Laura Moss** (journal editor). The workshop was co-organized by Laura and Kathryn, as well as Donna Chin, **Sheila Giffen** (PhD student), Josephine Lee, **Christy Fong** (BA '16), and Zoya Mirzaghitoova. Several current and former members of the English Department participated, as well: **Bronwyn Malloy** (PhD student), **Brendan McCormack** (PhD candidate), **Lucia Lorenzi** (PhD '16), **Sarah Banting** (PhD '10), **Tiffany Johnstone** (PhD '12), **Sophie McCall** (MA '95), and faculty member **Katja Thieme** (PhD '07).

The new chapters will be published throughout 2017. We invite you to read the current guides [HERE](#) and follow *Canadian Literature* on Facebook for announcements when we publish new chapters.



STAFF NEWS

new staff & patricia lackie's retirement

Change has been the order of the day for staff in the department over the last year and a half. In Summer 2015, after the well-deserved retirement of (and fabulous party for) long-time department manager Patricia Lackie, Angela Kaija stepped into the role of Manager, Administration. Mary Ramsay (Head's Assistant) and Anstey Chen (First-Year Program Assistant) are the newest additions to the all-star team of Dominique Yupangco, Donna Shanley, Louise Soga and Sandra Norris who help to keep the show running in so many ways!

— Angela Kaija

In July 2015, the English Department held a retirement party for Patricia Lackie, long-time department manager. Below is a photograph from her party, followed by the text of a beautiful speech given by Jane Flick.

happy retirement, patricia!



STAFF NEWS

jane flick's speech for patricia lackie

I come to offer Patricia thanks and admiration, and some remarks on Shoes, Cookies, and Cake. Here's to our own human resource, Patricia Lackie, the petite powerhouse with clothes and shoes—coordinated—for all occasions.

We can't think of Pat without shoes—or think of the small projectile in those shoes: the body racing in them to meet deadlines for us with Human Resources, or with dreaded Finance, or the Dean's Office for money for TA and Sessional Salaries at the beginning of term, for conference funding and who knows what else? Here's to Pat's genius for "finding" money. Worse luck for Plant Ops — she laces up her walking shoes and rushes across campus to demand, in person, some fix that didn't get done. We give thanks for every bookcase or piece of equipment. Pat is no Atalanta, slowed down by a golden distraction tossed in her direction. She is undeterred. In those shoes, Pat has dashed about to find lost forms, lost keys, and absent--if not lost entirely lost—minds. (This goes with "the professorial territory.") And she's done a run or two to turn nominations—words--for others into deeds — especially in honouring the fabulous staff she leads. Pat celebrates others. She is the untiring, unflappable creator of countless parties, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Hallow'een, even Robbie Burns Day. Celebrations? I remember decades of these. Cookies for the beginning of term, cookies for the end of term,

cookies for the first day of summer school, cookies for the last day of summer school, and cookies—20 dozen of them!--for marathon marking sessions. Of course, Patricia is a kind of cookie herself: A little sweet, but one tough cookie! And let's not forget the caffeine. Gallons. The office open early, ready for the 7:30 arrivals. And tea, tea, tea. Over the years, that's a tanker of caffeine.

But let's get to the cake! Cakes for graduation! Cakes for retirement parties! Cakes for birthdays! Cakes for all manner of "special occasions." "C" One letter is very important in Pat's alphabet: "C" is for "Cake" and "Community" and "Communication." Pat is an evangelist full of good news, and she is, above all, the Evangelist of Cakes. How many cakes has she baked? How many cakes has she ordered? Probably the only party Pat hasn't organized --and done a cake for--since arriving in the Department is this one.

So, here's to Patricia Lackie! When she says, "Let them eat Cake!" she really means it. This time, the cake has "Patricia" written all over it.

— Jane Flick

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227: *Asian Canadian Critique*

228/9: *Emerging Scholars*

230: *Indigenous Literature and the Arts of
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231: *General Issue*

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my academic and professional attitudes
than three years of university combined.
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the opportunity to see the other side of
academia, to see first-hand how ideas are
pragmatically disseminated and what roles
professional writers are expected to fulfill."*

—Christy Fong, CanLit Student Award Recipient 2012,
B.A. English Honours, ACAM Minor 2016

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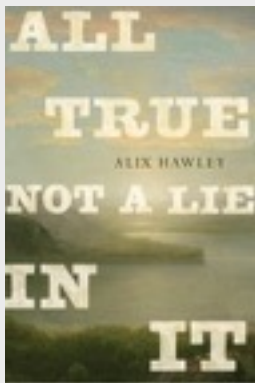


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ALUMNI NEWS

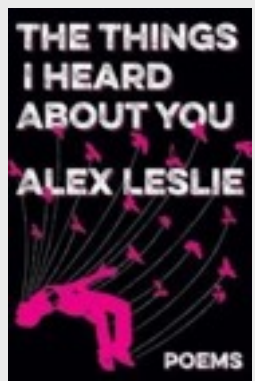
writers winning prizes



Congratulations to **ALIX HAWLEY** (BA '97) whose novel *All True Not A Lie In It* was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her novel, which explores American pioneer Daniel Boone's capture by Shawnee warriors in 1778, was also awarded the Amazon.ca First Novel Award and the BC Book Prize for Fiction.



Congratulations to **MAGGIE DE VRIES** (BA '84, MA '92) whose 2015 book *Rabbit Ears* won the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize, which is given annually as the BC Book Prize for the best juvenile or young adult novel or work of non-fiction by a resident of British Columbia or the Yukon.



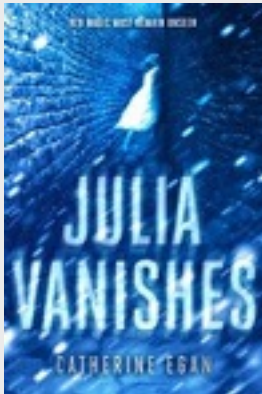
Congratulations to **ALEX LESLIE** (BA Hon. '07) who was the recipient of the 2015 Writers' Trust Dayne Ogilvie Award which honours emerging LGBT writers in Canada. Leslie was also longlisted for the 2016 Writers' Trust/McClelland and Stewart Journey Prize, which recognizes new and developing writers for the best short story first published in a Canadian literary journal during the previous year.

ALUMNI NEWS

alumni bookshelf



Juliane Okot Bitek (MA '09)'s collection *100 Days*, which records the atrocities of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, was recently published by The University of Alberta Press in their Robert Kroetsch Poetry Series. In her foreword to the collection, Cecily Nicholson writes: "With these poems we learn about the impossibility of persisting, and yet persisting, through everyday horror. In her writing, Okot Bitek shows how ripening markets, colonialism, caste and class division, austerity, war and political turmoil contribute to violence, gendered violence and to the conditions for genocide the world over."



Catherine Egan (BA Hons '99) has published *Shade and Sorceress*, a YA trilogy, with Coteau Books in 2012. Knopf (New York) and Doubleday (Canada) are currently publishing her next YA trilogy, *Julia Vanishes*, about a young woman who "the unusual ability to be ... unseen. Not invisible, exactly. Just beyond most people's senses." *Quill and Quire's* Serah-Marie McMahon has called *Julia Vanishes* "thrilling, fun and awfully hard to put down. Good for fantasy fans, but also a great entry for those new to the genre."



David Simpson (MA '07) is the author of the award-winning and best-selling science fiction series *Post-Human*. In February 2016, he gave a talk at TEDxSantoDomingo entitled "Our Post-Human Future," in which he spoke about "the incredible potential and existential risk of post-humanity and superintelligent artificial intelligence." He has also directed a short film based on his series, and is currently adapting his material into a graphic novel.



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ALUMNI NEWS

alumni putting their degrees to work

Alumni from our undergraduate programs work in many different careers across the globe! From publishing to filmmaking, law to policy advising, the career possibilities arising from an English degree are as diverse as our graduates themselves.

Jonathan Service is an Okinaga Research Fellow at Wadham College; **Anne-Marie Fleming** is a filmmaker and the 2015-2016 Phil Lind Artist in Residence in UBC's Rogers Multicultural Film Production Project; **Katherine Kalsbeek** is the new Rare Books Librarian at UBC; **Richa Dwor** is an instructor at Douglas College; **Alyssa Arbuckle** is the Assistant Director, Research Partnerships & Development, at the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab, U of Victoria; **Julia O'Hara** is the Director of Development at Disruptive Media Publishers; **Hanna Scrivens** works for the Kwakwaka'wakw Maternal, Child and Family Health Project at the First Nations Health Authority; **Kari Maaren** is an instructor at Ryerson, as well as an author with a forthcoming novel published by Tor; **Chris Cronin** is Director of Technical Services at the University of Chicago; **Claudia Hui** is a social worker with the Ministry of Child and Family Development; **Dianna DeBlaere (BA '99)** is the Associate Director, Operations and Planning, at UBC Alumni Affairs; **Pradeep Jethi (BA '87)** is co-founder and Strategic Adviser at the Social Stock Exchange in London; **Avalon Bourne (BA '07)** is Policy Advisor at Mitacs Vancouver; **Carla Byrne (BA '94)** is Director of Finance at Global Spectrum; **Allison Sullivan** is an Auxiliary Librarian at the Vancouver Public Library; **Megan Sorenson** is the Librarian for Interactive Arts + Technology and Publishing at Simon Fraser University; **Carolyn Nakagawa** works at the Nikkei National Museum in Burnaby, B.C.; **Gordon Taylor** is a lawyer at Taylor, Tait, Ruley & Company in Mission, B.C.; **Russ Cundari** is a lawyer at Cundari Siebel LLP in Kamloops, B.C.; **Vicki Howard (BA '87)** is Associate Professor of History at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York; **Don Privett (BA '82)** is a career development practitioner at Career Arts Group, Victoria; **Meagan Dallimore** is Development Coordinator and Writer for the UBC Faculty of Medicine.

ALUMNI NEWS

entrepreneurship - kaja sadowski (MA '11)



When I started my graduate program at UBC in 2009, I didn't expect to be opening a martial arts school only 6 years later. My path from Buchanan Tower to [Valkyrie Western Martial Arts Assembly's](#) East

Vancouver studio wasn't a straight one, but the distance between the two is far smaller than it appears.

My MA program was meant to lay the foundation for a career in academia, and I threw myself into building a broad range of skills. As a TA with postings in History and Medieval Studies alongside my home department, I learned to adapt to a range of audiences, learning expectations, and even citation styles, all while polishing my teaching. I presented at my first conference, and discovered that networking skills are as important as research chops, and that you can't survive as a scholar without building strong relationships with other institutions and disciplines. I applied for grants yearly, and became adept at navigating mountains of application forms, proposals, and reference letters. Though I loved my writing and research, I put the most energy into solidifying the ancillary skills that supported my work.

In 2011, I earned my Master of Arts and decided not to immediately continue to a PhD. While I was finding my feet, I landed in the small business world. A friend needed help with his e-commerce company, and I soon found myself managing a warehouse and selling boardgames online. The interpersonal skills I'd polished at UBC helped me build relationships with both clients and suppliers, and the discipline I'd needed to complete

my thesis kept our day-to-day processes on track. I enjoyed my new work, but really missed teaching and researching.

Then the informal swordplay group I trained with started coalescing into a school, and I jumped into teaching as soon as the opportunity arose. When we secured a permanent home and started working on the school full-time a couple of years later, I found that applying for small business loans wasn't all that different from applying for SSHRC awards, and that research skills could be applied as easily to the building code as to medieval manuscripts. Through two career changes, I never actually stopped using what I'd learned in my MA, and found a new path to teaching and learning for a living. "Go play with swords!" isn't an intuitive answer to the question of what to do with your English degree, but it's absolutely true for me.

— Kaja Sadowski



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ALUMNI NEWS

entrepreneurship - tanya bennett (BA '95)



In a surprising plot twist, Tanya Bennett has taken her UBC education, business experience, and adventurous spirit to the streets with her new business venture, [Vancouver Mysteries](#).



Tanya took classes in Technical Theatre, Creative Writing and Studio Art while working towards her degree (BA English Lit 1995) and then followed it up with 2 years of Film Studies at UBC. The communication skills Tanya developed while studying at UBC were always an asset during the next two decades working in the business world: in customer service, sales, operations, training, marketing, and project management. In 2011, Tanya started her first business, a digital marketing company. Full Serve Web, Inc. bridges the gap between brick and mortar business people and the web by providing consultation, coaching, and full service (websites, social media, online advertising, online reputation management, print, and more).

Today, she is also an owner of *Vancouver Mysteries, Inc* producing themed mystery games for team building activities, tourists and locals. Launched in 2014, *Vancouver Mysteries* is a 5 star attraction on TripAdvisor and a recipient of the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence (2015 and 2016). Owning two businesses is definitely an adventure, but Tanya appreciates the flexibility of setting her own schedule and hopes to make more time for writing in 2017.



Win a Vancouver Mysteries gift certificate!

Like the Vancouver Mysteries [Facebook Page](#) and/or [subscribe to our newsletter](#) (one entry for each action) **by March 1, 2017. Name will be drawn on March 2.**

Winners can choose from 3 games: "Gastown murder mystery Crime in Downtown," "spy game Secret Mission," or "superhero adventure Heroes & Villains." Games accommodate 2 to 120 players and last approximately 2 hours. Gift Certificate value is **\$125** (5 players) and can be applied to a larger private booking or to one of our daily games (available every 15 minutes).

ALUMNI NEWS

alumna keiko parker (MA '93) translates jane austen



Keiko Parker

I graduated from the English and American Literature Department of Tokyo Woman's Christian University in 1957. Soon after graduation I came to Canada and got married. I had three children. My elder son Jon Kimura Parker and my second son Jamie Parker are both concert pianists. I also have a daughter Liz. I started my music lessons and received my ARCT (Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto) in 1964. I had already started teaching music and spent a total of 46 years as a music teacher before I retired several years ago. I taught mainly theory, subjects such as harmony, music history, counterpoint, and music analysis, though I also taught piano.

Back in 1959 I read *Pride and Prejudice*, a copy my husband John had used at UBC (he was a graduate of the Pharmacy Department and worked first at Cunningham's and then at Shoppers Drug Mart). The book opened a totally new vista for me, and I read all six novels, and then extended to Jane Austen's letters and minor works. Back in the 1970's I had a dream of translating Jane Austen's works into Japanese. I could not fulfill my dream for a long time. First there was the matter of bringing up my children. Somewhere along

the way I decided I wanted to go back to school and study more. And so in 1989, I applied to the Graduate English Department to do part-time study, and was accepted. I reduced the number of my students and teaching hours, and went to UBC to take one graduate seminar at a time. I reduced my original 5-year plan by taking two undergraduate summer courses. I finally received my MA in 1993.

My husband John died in 2009. In order to fill the emptiness and to ease my pain I started my lifelong dream of translating Jane Austen. If I had a lot of time (i.e., if I were young—I turned 80 recently) I would have used the order of her writing as my order of translating. But I was getting old and did not know how long I had. And so I started with *Emma*, my favourite, which was published in October of 2012. I next went on to *Persuasion*, the work I love almost as much as *Emma*. *Persuasion* was just recently published. I already have finished the preliminary translation of *Mansfield Park*, but I am sure it will be another two years before it is polished enough to be published.

— Keiko Parker



Keiko Parker's translations of Jane Austen's *Persuasion* (left) and *Emma* (right)

DEVELOPMENT

mary quan lee memorial scholarship

QUAN, MARY—*Vancouver*

Honours in English; Chinese Students Club, Letters Club;
Badminton; Chinese Stu. Club Pres., Sec.-Treas Letters Club

QUEBEC, MONA B. G.—*Vancouver*

Maj., Eng., Min., Phil., French; Alpha Gamma Delta

RICHARDSON, S. LEEDS—*Port Alice*

Maj., History, Min., English

ROBINSON, JOYCE M.—*Mt. Lehman*

Maj., Chem., Physics; Outdoor Club



The Mary Quan Lee Memorial Scholarship, honouring the memory of alumna **Mary Quan Lee** (BA Hon. ENGL 1945), was founded in 1992 by Mary's children. The scholarship, awarded to the top undergraduate in third year, is a fitting legacy to Mary's academic successes and campus involvement. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Mary learned English when she started elementary school in Vancouver. Twelve years later, she won an entrance scholarship to UBC.



Quan family portrait, featuring Mary, her parents, and her siblings, 1935.
Top row, left to right: Mary, Allen. Bottom row, left to right: Dick, Quan Der
Shee, Joe, Jean, Quan Gow, and Ben.
Public domain.

"Mary was the pioneer in the Quan family," her daughter Carol notes. "Her father had no intention of sending a daughter to university." He expected her to help with the family produce business! But Mary had excelled at King Edward High School so her teachers encouraged her to write the junior matriculation examination taken by BC high school seniors; the top-ranking students were awarded free tuition to UBC. In 1941, Mary ranked third in the province out of around 3500 candidates and first in the region, which included Vancouver, West Vancouver, and North Vancouver.

At UBC, Mary studied English. In each of her first two years, she ranked top of her class and was awarded full-tuition scholarships. She was also a leader in several campus clubs: "She served as President of the Chinese Students Club, whose members included all of the Chinese students on campus; Secretary-Treasurer of the Letters Club, a selected group of juniors and seniors who presented papers on literary subjects; and Vice President of Delta Sigma Pi, the women's honorary sorority," her daughter recalls. Upon graduation in 1945, Mary won the University Graduate Scholarship, which enabled her to afford to do graduate work at Columbia University.

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DEVELOPMENT

mary quan lee memorial scholarship

Mary's ties with the UBC English continued after graduation. When Mary married Frank Lee two years later, Professor G. G. Sedgewick, under whom she had completed her Honours research, gave a witty toast to his prized student: "Two colleges have been glad donors / of grace to her - no stingy loaners; / and neither of them will be moaners / now Mary Quan / confers the grace of First-Class Honours / on a mere man."

Although born and raised in Canada, Mary maintained close connections with China. Her parents' lives trace trips between Vancouver, Hoiping/ Kaiping (Guangdong/ Kwantung province, China), and other places in East Asia. From early 1936 to March 1938, to enrich their knowledge of Chinese language and culture, Mary and her siblings were sent by their parents to a boarding school in Guangzhou/Canton, which they were forced to evacuate to Toisan/Taishan, and later Macau, to escape Japanese bombing.

Reflecting on her Chinese-Canadian identity, Mary quoted German writer Thomas Mann: "I stand between two worlds, and am in neither one at home" (Quan 6). Mary acknowledged her Chinese-Canadian identity, but was uninterested in being limited by racialization. Her daughter recalls that Mary had the ability to make people forget that she was different from themselves. Sensing cultural gaps, Mary felt the need for overseas Chinese to merge the worlds of China and the West; as she observed, "we all have compartments of knowledge but not knowledge itself" (Quan 16). Mary believed that knowledge from different worlds could be used to create a holistic culture that might benefit life as it was.

Time and place meant that Mary did not have a career outside the home. War disrupted her aspirations

to teach in China, and women of her generation typically didn't continue working after marriage and children. To see this as solely unfortunate, however, would be to oversimplify; Mary used her prodigious talents to create a home environment that her daughter fondly remembers as "loving" and "intellectually stimulating." Mary was Chinese-Canadian, a remarkable student, a wonderful mother, and likely also many other things to herself and to different people. If we understand Mary as holistically as she understood others, we can see that Mary was all of these things and more—meanwhile recognizing her experiences, and ongoing legacy, at UBC.

The Mary Quan Lee Memorial Scholarship continues Mary's legacy, supporting English majors in their own pursuits.

— Amanda Wan



References and Works Cited

Lee, Carol F. "Four Quans at UBC." October 2015. Microsoft Word file. 22 June 2016.

Lee, Carol F. Phone conversation. 18 July 2016.

Quan-Lee, Mary. "The Road Ahead: A Chinese Girl Visualizes the Future Woman's Role in China." *The Chinese Christian Student*. December 1945: 6, 16. PDF file. 03 July 2016.

Note: Carol F. Lee, Mary Quan Lee's daughter, was a major source of direct reference and feedback—she graciously shared her family history in the form of her own writings and extensive research on the Quan-Lee family, other research materials, a conversation about the life and character of her mother, and, later, suggestions for changes on a draft.

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DEVELOPMENT

mary quan lee memorial scholarship recipients & testimonials



winners, 1992-2015

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2014-15: Sarah Bigam , Major in Literature | 2001-02: Carly Buchanan , Major in Language |
| 2013-14: Laurenne Karmel , Major in Language | 2000-01: Julie Lanz , Honours |
| 2012-13: Javier Ibáñez , Honours | 1999-2000: Bernina Ai-Yee Butt , Major in Literature |
| 2011-12: Tanya Mathivanan , Honours | 1998-99: Paul Brownsey , Honours |
| 2010-11: Chelsea Pratt , Honours | 1997-98: Lisa Brocklebank , Honours |
| 2009-10: Vladimir Cristache , Honours | 1996-97: Gregory Mackie , Honours |
| 2008-09: Adriana Byrne , Honours | 1995-96: Alexandra Bunyan , Honours |
| 2007-08: Kaitlin Blanchard , Honours | 1994-95: Jennifer Hainsworth , Major in Language |
| 2006-07: Megan Leitch , Honours | 1993-94: Ronald Devins , Major in Language |
| 2005-06: Sheldon Brammall , Honours | 1992-93: Caroline Pond , Honours |
| 2004-05: Jana Wilson , Honours | 1991-92: Jeevan Deol , Honours |
| 2003-04: Kate Brindley , Honours | |
| 2002-03: Johnathan Chor Yip Lai , Major in Language | |



"What I remember most about the moment I received the letter informing me I'd won, along with a cheque (these things were still done by post back then!) was an overwhelming sense of relief. I was a typical poor student, and suddenly a whole world of financial worries were not as pressing as they had been a moment before. It was as if the weight of the world had been lifted from my shoulders. I can't speak for anyone else, but I can imagine that's one of the best feelings a struggling undergraduate can have -- and it's all thanks to the generosity of the donors who have endowed that scholarship."

Gregory Mackie (BA Hon '98), Assistant Professor, Department of English, UBC



"The Mary Quan Lee award was instrumental to my success during my final years at UBC; the award gave me the financial support necessary to pursue a number of initiatives among which were a national gathering on childcare in universities and a summit on women's financial security."

Kaitlin Blanchard (BA Hon '08), PhD Student, McMaster University

start an evolution

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SCHOLARSHIPS & OTHER DEPARTMENTAL
AWARDS

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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 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 editorial team at *The Word* offer their thanks to all contributors and readers, and look forward to bringing you more news from our vibrant department.



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