

THE PAPER PODIUM



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MFA IN WRITING NEWSLETTER



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DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

—By Dr. Jeanette Lynes

The MFA in Writing has had another action-packed year! This past October our twenty-fourth student graduated. Congratulations to the Class of 2016: Courtney Loberg, Leah MacLean-Evans, Patrick O'Reilly, Brent McFarlane, Nicole Haldoupis, Meaghan Hackinen, and Taxis Walkem. This past fall we also welcomed seven new students from across Canada and Simon Boehm from Germany. Every day it's a joy to direct the MFA in Writing, and engage with all our students. Given the broader scope of events in the world over this past year, we need our writers more than ever.

Our MFA students were fortunate to study creative non-fiction with award-winning author Candace Savage this past semester (winter 2017). We continue to be blessed with amazing mentors in the MFA in Writing. This year's projects brought in authors Gregory Scofield and Michael Crummey as visiting mentors. Elizabeth Philips, Leona Theis, Sean Virgo, and Arthur Slade return as mentors. The MFA welcomes Terry Jordan as a mentor this year. Arthur and Terry are both nominated for Saskatchewan Book Awards – congratulations! Leona Theis and Sheri Benning received Saskatchewan Writers' Guild John V. Hicks

Long Manuscript Awards in fall 2016. Elizabeth Philips also carried home a Saskatchewan Book Award for her novel *The Afterlife of Birds*.

Congratulations, too, to MFA in Writing student Katherine Lawrence for being



MFA in Writing Director Jeanette Lynes at the 2016 Fringe Festival in Edinburgh where she presented her poetry with 'The Shaken and the Stirred' Canadian poets: Steve Heighton, Catherine Graham, and Ian Burgham.



Congratulations to the MFA in Writing Class of 2016!

Pictured left to right: Patrick O'Reilly, Brent McFarlane, Courtney Loberg, Leah MacLean-Evans, Nicole Haldoupis, (Jeanette Lynes, MFA in Writing Director), Meaghan Hackinen, Taxis Walkem

short-listed for two Saskatchewan Book Awards for her poetry collection *Never Mind* (Turnstone Press). Katherine's novel, *Stay* was just released by Coteau Books. The first MFA thesis to be published in its entirety is Mika Lafond's poetry collection in English and Cree, forthcoming from Thistledown Press. Kudos to Mika and Katherine! Other publications by MFA students and alumni are featured in this newsletter; a noteworthy piece is Patrick O'Reilly's feature article on poet M. Travis Lane in *The Walrus* magazine in January 2017. Our MFA students and alumni are unstoppable. Several work as editors at *Vallum Magazine*, *Grain Magazine*, *Untethered Magazine*, and Thistledown Press. Other happy MFA in Writing news: Julianna McLean received an Aboriginal Graduate Scholarship from the College of Arts & Science. Alumnus Andrea Ledding was shortlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize. Daniel Yetman was awarded a SSHRC and found time to make the National Track Team. Finally, wonderful

late-breaking news for Cassi Smith! – she was recently selected by author Ross King, winner of the 2017 RBC Taylor Prize, as recipient of the RBC Taylor Emerging Writer Award which carries a value of \$10,000 and a mentorship with Ross King. We're so proud of our MFA in Writing students, alumni, and mentors.

The River Volta Reading Series continues in grand style. Thanks to Lindsay Kiesman and Shannon McConnell for running it last year and doing a stellar job; the new reading series organizers are Simon Boehm, Geoff Pevlin, and Daniel Kim. They've been doing a fine job as well, and we look forward to the new season beginning this fall, 2017. The MFA in Writing supported the annual College of Arts and Science Book Club; it was a thrill to hear author Lawrence Hill present the lecture, 'My Writing Life'. At Writing North 2017, another MFA-supported event, we were privileged to hear keynote speaker Madeliene Thien, along with the other superb featured authors Falon Johnson, Arthur Slade, Phil Hall, and Zoe Roy. My colleague in the Department of English, Dr. Joanne Leow, did a fascinating interview with Madeliene as well. Saskatoon's own Jack Pine Press was the featured publisher at Writing North. Thanks go out to Tracy Hamon at the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild for another knock-it-out-of-the-park Writing North! We've also had a number of wonderful visiting speakers this past year including Marilyn Dumont, Joanne Gerber, Catherine Graham, Bill Waiser, and Rosemary Nixon. Please forgive me for any names I have omitted; all our visiting speakers are greatly appreciated!

There will be some happy changes in the coming months; I am on sabbatical leave until July 2018. We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Sheri Benning to the University of Saskatchewan; Dr. Benning will be teaching in the MFA in Writing. Dr. David Parkinson from the Department of English will direct the MFA during my sabbatical leave. On a sadder note, playwriting instructor Kenneth Williams will head to the University of Alberta this summer;

we're thrilled for Ken on his new position but we will miss him and his superb playwriting instruction a lot.

As for my own writing activities, *Bedlam Cowslip: The John Clare Poems*, received the 2016 Saskatchewan Arts Board Poetry Award and was short-listed for Book of the Year at the Saskatchewan Book Awards. I was also thrilled to receive a 2016 Saskatoon YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Arts, Culture, and Heritage category. In October 2016, I read my poems at the Bowery in New York City along with MFA in Writing alum dee Hobsbawn-Smith and other Canadian poets. Thanks to the Saskatchewan Arts Board for travel funding support. This summer I will read my work once again with 'The Shaken and the Stirred' Group of Canadian writers at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival as well as events in London and Northern Ireland. I am grateful to the Canada Council for the Arts for supporting last summer's readings at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. It will be a pleasure to return this summer. This July I have the wonderful opportunity to teach, with Daniel Scott Tysdal, the emerging writers' group at The Sage Hill Writing Experience in Saskatchewan.

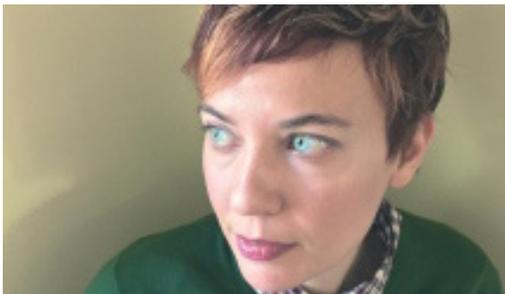
The MFA in Writing has the ongoing support of the ICCC (Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity), the Department of English, the Administrative Support Group, and the College of Arts and Science. Special thanks go out to Justine Gieni in the ICCC for support on this annual newsletter, website maintenance, and numerous other program-related tasks. Thanks, too, to the MFA students who contributed pieces to this newsletter. No newsletter can fully capture the vibrancy of a writing community, but I hope readers can glimpse the energy and breadth of activities and accomplishments of MFA in Writing students, both on campus and in the city of Saskatoon. I know that the 2017-18 year will bring exciting new dimensions to our growing program!

LOOKING AHEAD

MFA in Writing Welcomes Dr. Sheri Benning

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Sheri Benning to the MFA in Writing this fall. She will be teaching workshops in poetry and non-fiction in the MFA in Writing, as well as the new English 120 course, Introduction to Creative Writing. Sheri is no stranger to the U of S, having studied here, and we welcome her back to her alma mater.

Sheri grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan. She has since travelled widely while studying. Her third collection of poetry, *The Season's Vagrant Light: New and Selected Poems*, was recently published in the UK by Carcanet Press. Her previous collections, *Thin Moon Psalm* (Brick Books) and *Earth After Rain* (Thistledown Press), each won two Saskatchewan Book Awards. *Thin Moon Psalm* also received a ReLit Prize nomination and the Alfred G. Bailey Manuscript Award. Her poetry, short fiction and essays have appeared in numerous Canadian, British and Irish journals and anthologies, including *Breathing Fire 2: Canada's New Poets* (Nightwood Editions); *New Poetries V* (Carcanet Press); and *Best Canadian Poetry 2016* (Tightrope Books). She completed a PhD at the University of Glasgow and is currently the Faculty of Arts Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Regina. At the moment, she is working on what she *hopes* is the final draft of a novel. A previous draft won second place in the John V. Hicks manuscript awards. Excerpts have been shortlisted for the CBC short story prize, and won first place and honourable mention in *Grain* magazine's short story contest.



The MFA in Writing Welcomes Dr. David Parkinson

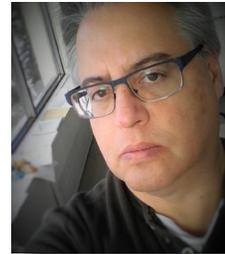
The MFA in Writing is delighted that the Program Director for the 2017-18 year will be Dr. David Parkinson. Dr. Parkinson is a Professor in the Department of English at University of



Saskatchewan, a former Director of the ICCC and Vice-Dean in the College of Arts and Science. David is also a fine scholar and a recent Visiting Fellow at IASH (Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh).

MFA in Writing Bids A Fond Farewell to Kenneth Williams

Since 2011, MFA in Writing students have had the opportunity to study with acclaimed playwright Kenneth Williams. Ken's playwriting classes have always had rave reviews. We are thrilled that Ken has accepted a position at the University of Alberta, but it is a huge loss for us. When asked to comment on this time working with MFA in Writing students at U of S, Ken had this to say:



"I recognize myself in many of the MFA students who've attended my class. I didn't set out to be a playwright, I had big plans on being a novelist. For many in the of the MFA students, my class was the first time they attempted to write for theatre. So, I could see them struggle with the concept of writing words for someone else to perform had layers of challenges that they'd never considered. I faced these very same challenges when I started out. I hope that I've made that experience enjoyable and enlightening, and that the techniques and ideas I've shared with them stay for the rest of their careers."

Ken has enlightened us greatly and has been such a generous playwriting instructor. We will miss him and wish him all the best!

FIRST-YEAR COHORT

— *By Geoff Pevlin*



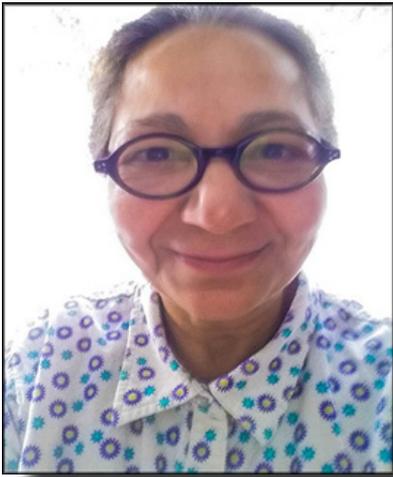
Daniel Yetman is a 2014 graduate of Dalhousie University and a current MFA student at the University of Saskatchewan. His three most recent publications are “Pieces of Beijing” in *The Red Rock Review*, “Caught in the Rain” in *Tulane Review*, and “A Crow Named Ceres” in *the Fieldstone Review*. He has been a nationally ranked triple jumper for the past ten years and competes in the 77kg weight-class for Olympic weightlifting.



An alumnus of Athabasca University, **Jennifer Wymore** lives in an alternate reality and prefers to be called Jenny so she knows she isn't in trouble. Again. She spent most of her childhood in the northernmost communities of Alberta and moved to Saskatoon after almost ten years living in a cabin in the middle of the Boreal Forest. Her obsessions include rocks, black pens, smoked moose hide, and the smell of books. She tends to wander through the storybook of her life and accomplish her tasks - like this bio - just on time while dancing through her apartment to classic rock n' roll in oversized Harley Davidson t-shirts.



Dylan Rea is from Southern Ontario and received his Honours BA in English from the University of Guelph. He worked as a teacher's assistant at the U of S last semester, leading a tutorial for an undergraduate English class. Now he's focusing on his novel and MFA thesis, which is set in the Great Lakes region. His writing centres around the Canadian landscape, human identity, and a search for meaning. Dylan studies French in his spare time and loves kiteboarding.



Born in Kashmir, India, **Vijay** made Canada her home in the 1970's. Prior to her arts vocation, Vijay consulted for corporations in Canada, the United States, and Britain. She is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan USCAD program. Her paintings have been exhibited at the Affinity Gallery, the Stall Gallery, the Thomas More Gallery, and Le Relais. Her stories have been published in Spring Magazine and The Society. She volunteers as a board member for the Saskatchewan Book Awards and The Word On The Street Saskatoon.



Daniel Kim grew up in Mimico, Ontario, and still carries the smell of Lake Ontario in his toes.



Geoff Pevlin hails from St. John's, Newfoundland and has a Bachelor's in Business Administration. After finishing school, he fled Canada to teach literature, history, economics, creative writing, and ESL to international high school students and adults in South Korea, Istanbul, Dublin, and Shanghai while travelling to over 40 countries. Geoff writes semi-autobiographical short stories and poetry usually centred in Newfoundland or in various places he's lived and worked around the world.



Born and raised in Munich, Germany, **Simon Boehm** studied American Studies at the University of Regensburg. He then decided to pursue his two biggest dreams—becoming a writer and living in Canada—and entered the MFA in Writing program at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon this past September. English is only his second language, yet that somehow doesn't prevent him from writing (most) of his dark, horrifying stories in English. He is currently working on his MFA thesis and first novel.

SECOND-YEAR COHORT



Pictured left to right: Shannon McConnell, Cassi Smith, Katherine Lawrence, Danielle Altrogge, Lindsay Kiesman, Julianna McLean

The graduating class of 2017 engaged in a rich range of thesis projects. Katherine Lawrence wrote a stunning play, the first play-thesis in the program. Lindsay Kiesman wrote a futuristic medical thriller with scary real-world resonances. Danielle Altrogge, a seasoned spoken word performance poet, wrote an intense long-poem performance piece. Shannon McConnell penned a poignant collection of poems based on Woodlands School in lower mainland, British Columbia. Cassi Smith, in a beautiful non-fiction project, engaged with Elders' stories. We are so proud of these students and their fine work - looking forward to them crossing the convocation stage to receive their degrees in October 2017!

THE RIVER VOLTA

The River Volta Reading Series: Three Wise Men (Trying Not To Screw Up)

—*Story by Simon Boehm*

The River Volta Reading Series was started by two female first year students of the MFA in Writing in 2014. It had been handed down from generation to generation (read: year to year) to yet another group of female students. Not so this year. This year, the River Volta Reading Series got its first male organizers. And despite all expectations – even our own – we haven't ruined it. Yet.

Taking over a blooming operation from our second year cohorts Shannon and Lindsay in January, a group of first year "brohorts" - Daniel, Geoff and myself - have so far been able to avoid going bankrupt, mostly because we have put our plans of getting a smoke machine for dramatic effect on the backburner (it's not off the table though – just postponed indefinitely).

We've had the honor of hosting Sylvia Legris, Lisa Bird-Wilson, Adam Pottle, and Eric Neufeld in January and February, as well as our MFA cohorts (including Saskatchewan book award nominee Katherine Lawrence) in March, as featured readers. All three events were well attended, with the highlight being our

SRO (standing room only) crowd in February, with Guy Vanderhaeghe in attendance and playwright Terry Jordan reading during our open mic session. Just saying.

Our group dynamic has proven effective with Daniel getting us great featured readers, Geoff creating great posters and using his natural charm as a host, and my rather unimpressive skills as social media ambassador and accountant.

But it wouldn't have been possible without the great work of all the women who created and took care of the event before us. They laid the foundation for the River Volta Reading Series. From Sara-Jane and Chelsea, over Nicole, Courtney and Leah, to Shannon and Lindsay, they all did a wonderful job. And to be honest – we don't want to screw this up.

We'll be hosting another four events – from September through December – before handing the reading series over to those incoming students willing to take up the task. We're confident to pass this baby on into capable hands – whatever gender. And maybe, just maybe, we'll also hand over a smoke machine.

We're working on it.



WRITING NORTH 7

MUTATIONS

—Story by Vijay Kachru



Pictured above: MFA in Writing students join Writing North speakers in the event after party.

When you attend a literary festival or a writer's conference as a student or an unpublished writer you could spend your day wandering from booth to booth and wondering if you should just pick up the courage and talk to the presenting authors and ask them whatever to get some pixie dust shifted from them to you. Well that's not what Writing North is about. What it is about is building a community of authors, readers and students. Here you gain friends who are also writers and you talk and talk and talk about your stories, share secrets and get inspired all in an informal and what seems like a spontaneous gathering of like-minded people.

The backbone of this understated elegantly informal two-day event are Jeanette Lynes (MFA program), David Parkinson (English department), and Tracy Hamon from the Writers Guild of Saskatchewan.



Pictured below: Joanne Leow (English, U of S) in interview with Madeleine Thien.

2017 Writing North began on Friday evening with a panel discussion by Slade, Pricelys Roy, Hall, Johnson, and Legris about Mutations; how writing flourishes when we accept and adapt to change. Friday's keynote speaker Madeleine Thien, winner of both the 2016 Giller and Governor General's awards gave a musical interpretation of the theme of her latest book *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* (2016). On Saturday, the writers conducted writing practice seminars, performed excerpts of the plays, and read their poetry, all interspersed with Q & A with the audience, coffee chats and book signings.

Come join in for the Writing North 2018; get involved and get inspired.

EVENTS: A SAMPLING

Acclaimed Poet Marilyn Dumont Visits MFA in Writing Students

On March 8, 2017, MFA in Writing students were treated to a writing workshop with poet Marilyn Dumont. Marilyn returned our minds to place, and the everyday details around us. While in Saskatoon she was also part of a panel presentation and gave a reading of her work. We are grateful for Marilyn's poetic brilliance and generosity. Marilyn is pictured here with MFA in Writing students from both cohorts.



Learning From the Experts

This past fall, the graduating students presented a panel, 'What to Expect from your Mentorship'. This panel, a Writ 990, contained a great deal of useful information as well as some funny anecdotes.

Pictured left to right: Danielle Altrogge, Lindsay Kiesman, Katherine Lawrence, Shannon McConnell, Julianna McLean, Cassi Smith

OTHER MFA IN WRITING ACTIVITIES

Let's Do Sports — The MFA in Writing Students Go Curling

—*Story by Simon Boehm*

When you're from Germany, the only time you'll see curling on TV is every four years during the Winter Olympics – and then probably only for those five minutes of condensed footage that shows a German representative losing. So when I told my cohort Daniel Kim that I'd never played it he said: "Why don't we all go?" and before I could come up with an excuse he had sent an email to all MFA students.

Two weeks later we had settled on a date, a place, and a time and went to the Granite Curling Club on 26th Street East.

When we got there, a grandfatherly man who carried his age well equipped us with sliders and brooms, and instructed us in some ground rules (like not throwing the rocks). Before we even got started or organized (and if you want to know how long it takes for writing students to get organized, see above) he also informed us that we could use an adjacent lane as well, since nobody had booked anything after us. Also, he let us know that there was a bar upstairs where we could take a break and have a pint any time we wanted.

So there we were, cutting the age average in the Granite Curling Club in half, sliding across the ice less graceful than penguins on skates, and trying hard not to make ourselves look even worse. Nobody had any curling experience but at least we knew the rules. Well, somewhat. Enough to play a game that all of us could identify as curling. But then again, we're writers not athletes, and why became pretty clear during the next couple of hours.

On a more positive note, the injury report was left blank – except for yours truly who fell flat on his back, getting the wind knocked out (but thankfully only that). By the end of the night, toes frozen and backs aching, we got the knack of it – well, somewhat, at least. But we all agreed that it had been a lot of fun. To celebrate our accomplishment – mostly the fact that nobody was injured – we went to Finns Pub afterwards for a pint.

Considering its rousing success, curling will probably be back on the MFA schedule this year.



JENGA!



Writing Takes the Concentration of a Jenga Master

At the Writing North after party this past January, a couple of MFA in Writing students engaged in an intense game of jenga. Pictured here is Geoff Pevlin, strategizing his next move. Jenga is a lot like writing a novel!

MORE MFA IN WRITING NEWS



New Study Space for MFA in Writing Students

MFA in Writing students, along with other graduate students from the College of Arts & Science, have a new study space in Arts 257. The new space is crisp, clean, and newly furnished with work stations, meeting rooms, common area reception, personal lockers, computers and printer, and even a kitchenette.

The space is versatile and can be adapted to suit various needs. There are quiet cubicles for students to study, read, and write, bookable meeting areas equipped with presentation screens, full wireless capability, along with a comfortable seating areas for students to read and socialize with their peers.

WHERE I WRITE

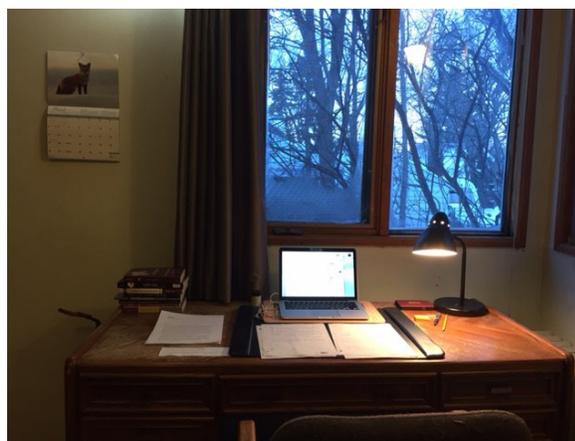
Vijay Kachru

Since I started my MFA program and writing seriously, I only write here in the dining area beside the kitchen. From my desk, I can see the North Saskatchewan River beyond the Victoria park. That's Rosie, my 18-month-old Collie Shepherd. After a good run in the dog park Rosie keeps me quiet company when I write. My breaks are usually a walk in the park or playing catch with Rosie, inside or out depends on the season and weather conditions. Often, I stare at the trees without seeing them, when they move my brain shifts as well.



Dylan Rea

I write at an old desk that used to be in my mother's study when I was a child—it came with me halfway across the country, rattling around in the back of a U-Haul all the way from Southern Ontario. I have a nice spot in the corner by the window, a calendar to keep myself organized, and a clean space to think and write. I keep printed quotations on my desk that I switch around every few weeks—any sentence or two I've read recently that I find beautiful or inspiring.



Geoff Pevlin

I tend to be quasi-nomadic most of the time so I don't have one single place where I write, but this is my desk in Newfoundland. It's full of memories and miscellaneous junk—sporting trophies, Guatemalan daggers, Irish tin whistles, Chinese flutes, old board games, books, magazines, foreign currency from dozens of countries, and a slew of other such nonsense. I wake up around 5am and write as fast as I can for as long as I can, eat breakfast, drink tea, and then try to sort out what it is I'm after writing. Sometimes it's usable. Most often it's utter hogwash.



RBC TAYLOR EMERGING WRITER AWARD: CASSI SMITH



Cassi Smith, a current MFA in Writing student who also received her BA at the U of S, has been awarded the 2017 RBC Taylor Prize for Emerging Writers. The award consists of a \$10,000 prize and mentorship by Saskatchewan born author Ross King, who was this year's Taylor Prize recipient. The RBC Taylor Emerging Writer Award was created to recognize and assist a Canadian published author who is working on a significant writing project. Smith is working on a collection of nonfiction short stories based on her interviews with Saskatchewan's First Nations Elders.

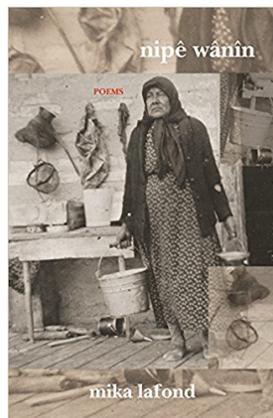
RECENT STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Katherine Lawrence has a new book entitled *Stay* that will be released by Coteau Books in May 2017. The book is a young adult novel-in-verse.



Katherine received two nominations from the Saskatchewan Book Awards for her poetry collection *Never Mind* (Turnerstone Press, 2016). The nominations are for Book of the year, sponsored by the Regina Public Library; and the Saskatoon Book Award, sponsored by City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Public Library. Katherine will be the guest instructor at the Sage Hill Teen Writing Workshop in Moose Jaw, July 11-15.

Mika Lafond will release *nipê wânîn*, a book of poems published by Thistledown Press in May 2017. The poems are written in both Cree and English, on facing pages. The poems reflect the close relationship Lafond had with her grandmother and the teachings that were offered to her.



Shannon McConnell has a number of publications in 2016-2017, including a poem "52.1332 °N 106.6700°W" published in *The Society* (March, 2017), along with "Gum Wall" and "Snap" published in *The Fieldstone Review* (Summer, 2016) and "Take

Off" in *untethered* (August 2016).

Julianna McLean has been awarded an Aboriginal Graduate Scholarship. McLean's thesis will use poetry to express the legacy of the residential and day school system passed down from several generations of her family.

Daniel Yetman has much to celebrate. He has been awarded a prestigious SSHRC award. In addition, Yetman competed in the triple jump at the Canwest Championships representing the Huskies and advanced to the Usport National final. Daniel's MFA in Writing thesis is a novel about an Olympic athlete.

Leah MacLean-Evans recently published poems "Blood Days Recipe" in *Qwerty* (35, Nov. 2016) and "Dressformed" in *untethered* (3.1, Aug. 2016); she has also published a piece of creative nonfiction entitled "Cheeky Monkey, Or The Strangest Sentence on my Hard Drive" in *The Fieldstone Review*, and has a forthcoming op-ed piece with the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance. MacLean-Evans currently works as the Program Assistant at the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild. In this capacity, she attended Writing North and Talking Fresh festivals, and will be attending the Festival of Words in July in Moose Jaw. She also serves as a proofreader on issue 44.2 of *Grain*.

Meaghan Hackinen is pursuing her love of all things bike related. She is coordinating Bike to Work YXE again this year, and will be racing across America this summer as part of Trans Am Bike Race - a self-supported, non-stop 7,200km road race across the USA from Astoria, Oregon, to Yorktown, Virginia. There is just a handful of other women on the roster, and about a dozen Canadians participating in this event.

RECENT STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Geoff Pevlin worked as a copyeditor for *untethered* magazine's latest issue. He also worked at the Global Gathering Place's Weaving Words Workshop, which will release a forthcoming anthology of pieces by new Canadians, including immigrants and refugees. Geoff does stylistic and copy editing for some websites, including kaikoperformance.com and anchoringaway.com, as well as freelance editing with some small local businesses.

He's still building up enough courage to send out his work to publishers.

Danielle Altrogge has a long list of publications in 2016-17. Her recent publications include "Blood Grief" published in *untethered* 3.1, "47 Ways to Love Your Home" published in *Oratorealis* 1.1, "In a Garden" published in *In Medias Res* (Winter 2017), "cunt worship" and "The body remembers" in *isms magazine* (2.1) and "Little Girl Poetry" published in *Silence* 6. Danielle's forthcoming publications include "Grandmother" and "The Day the Smoke Came" in *Folklore* (2017) and "The Docks" in *Poetry All Over the Floor* (Vol. 1, 2017). Danielle's self-published chap book, *On the Rocks* came out in June 2016.

In addition, Danielle is now co-chair communications for the board of directors for Spoken Word Canada and she will be participating at the Banff Centre for Spoken Word this April. She will also be doing a number of live performances throughout the year.

Nicole Haldoupis, along with a number of MFA students, just finished putting together the sixth issue of *untethered*, which will feature works by current MFA student Lindsay Kiesman

and MFA alum C. Isa Lausas. Nicole joined the board/editorial collective at JackPine Press, and started working at Thistledown Press as their new Sales and Fulfillment Coordinator.

Nicole published "Tough Pants," a flash fiction piece from her thesis in *The Feathertale Review*. She also has a poem "Cool Cool Cool Ranch" published in a forthcoming anthology for *Tonight it's Poetry*.

dee Hobsbawn-Smith is currently working as an editor of two non-fiction book manuscripts for MacIntyre Purcell Publishing, both by Saskatchewan authors and due out later this year. Her poem "Prairie winter" earned second prize in FreeFall magazine's annual open prose and poetry contest and will be published this spring. In January 2017, dee and her partner Dave Margoshes read together at St. Peter's College. dee read her poem "Oranges & pomegranates" at the Global Citizen Awards Gala in February 2017.

She is on a reading tour of the West Coast in April 2017, reading at Planet Earth Poetry, Victoria, Fat Oyster Reading Series, Fanny Bay, Hornby Poetry and New Westminster Poetry Series. She has been accepted to Sage Hill Poetry Colloquium in May 2017 with Tim Lilburn, where she'll be working on her 2nd poetry collection, *Pirate Sky, Oars of Light*.

She is co-organizing Slow Food Saskatoon's 5th Annual "Eat These Words" Fundraising Dinner in May 2017, at which MFA in Writing grad students are invited to share their work. Her poem "Sestina" appeared in FreeFall magazine's chapbook 70 earlier this year. dee has a story on recycling appearing in the next issue of *U of S's Green & White*.