

Department of English Newsletter



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



English Honours Colloquium students: Billy Arthur, Bailey Schaan, Erin Paulhus, Seth Loeppky, Jettsun Leier, Matthew Rempel, and Mikayla McDougall

2023-2024

Welcome to the USask English Department annual newsletter.

I was cornered into being Department Head of English this past year, and part of the job, I have discovered, is giving these little introductory speeches to people who want me to go away so that they can get to what they came for. Well, you came to read all the glorious things that this department has been up to in 2023-2024, and when you do, you will see why I am so pleased and proud of our first-class, energetic, engaged, generous, accomplished, award-winning students and colleagues. If you would like to receive regular updates on English Department events and news, join our Friends of the English Department email list by sending a little note to our office coordinator, Fernanda Vera, at english.department@usask.ca. And with that, I'll step out of the way and let you read on.

-Yin Liu

The newsletter was put together by English Department Intern Jessie Warkentine and Outreach and Engagement Chair (Term 2) Jessica McDonald.

Our Department's vision is to be a place where many peoples come together to engage in mutually respectful relations and dialogues. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty Six territory and traditional Metis homeland, and we acknowledge the diverse Indigenous peoples whose footsteps have marked this territory for centuries.

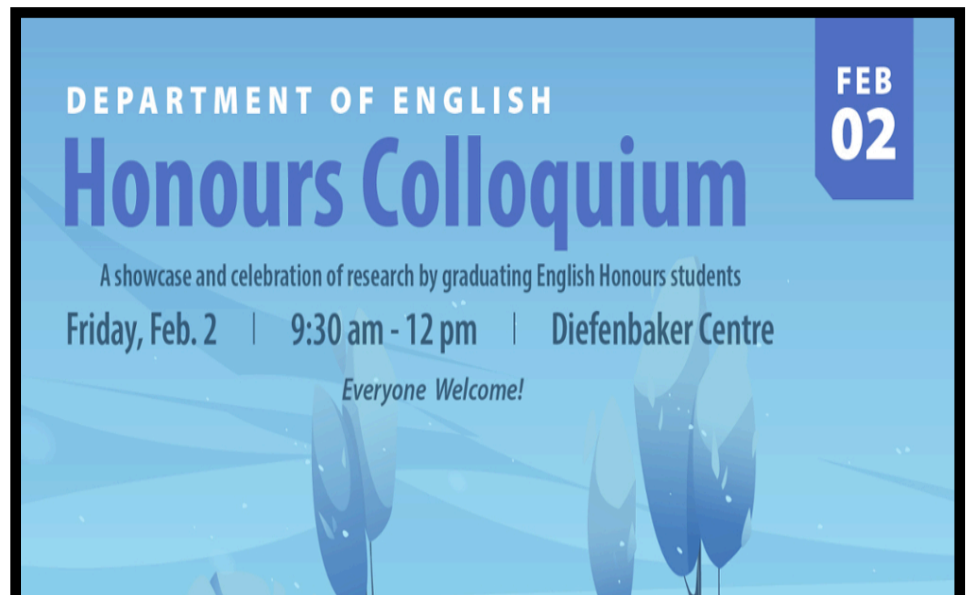
Notable Events

Honours Colloquium

The 15th Annual Honours Colloquium took place on Friday, February 2, featuring two panels of original undergraduate research. The following undergraduate students shared their ten-minute presentations at a gathering at the Diefenbaker Centre: Bailey Schaan, Billy Arthur, Erin Paulhus, Jettsun Leier, Matthew Rempel, Mikayla McDougall, and Seth Loepky.

It was a great joy for everyone involved that this year's Honours Colloquium had such a great turn out, with faculty, fellow students, friends, and family in attendance.

Congratulations to BA Honours and Double Honours students for accomplishing this part of their degrees. We look forward to seeing more of your research in the future!



Celebrating the Research of English Honours Students

Thank you!

Undergraduate Chair: Ella Ophir

Panel Chairs: Kandice Sharren and Tristan B. Taylor

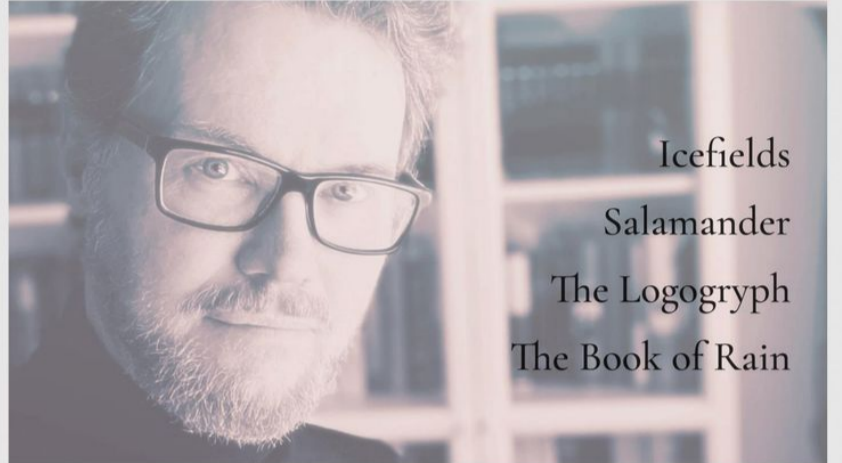


Honours Colloquium students celebrating their accomplishment.

Notable Events

Public Talks

In September, the university was lucky to be visited by Albertan author Thomas Wharton, who gave a presentation on “Realism in the Anthropocene.” Wharton’s many novels have been heavily decorated, with his most recent novel, *The Book of Rain*, considered for the Atwood Gibson Writer’s Trust Fiction Prize.



Realism in the Anthropocene

A presentation by Thomas Wharton

Date: Friday, Sept 15
Time: 2:00 pm
Location: Arts 205

Thomas Wharton, the award-winning Canadian author of *Icefields*, *Salamander*, *The Logogryph*, and *The Book of Rain*, and faculty member at the University of Alberta, will give a presentation on “Realism in the Anthropocene.”

All are welcome.



International Conference
Editing the Text, Editing the Page
 Case Studies, Tools and Perspectives for the Digital Representation of Multiple Texts
 5-6 October 2023
 Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Department of Humanities, Venice Centre for Digital and Public Humanities

Thursday 5
Workshops (CEST, Venice)
 1.30 – 2.30 pm
Peter Robinson (University of Saskatchewan/VeDPH), *Making and Publishing an Edition for the next 500 Years*
 2.30 – 3.30 pm
Ulrich B. Schmid (Münster University and Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Lower Saxony), *The Fully Integrated/ Interactive Digital Edition - How Far Have We Come After 10+ Years*
 Coffee Break
 3.45 – 4.45 pm
Diane Jakacki (Bucknell University), *LEAF and the Challenge of Making Accessible Environments for Digital Editorial Publishing*
 4.45 – 5.45 pm
Ronald Dekker (Huygens Institute), *It's More Than Just Overlap: Text As Graph*
 Coffee Break
 6.00 – 6.30 pm
Discussion

Friday 6
Lectures (CEST, Venice)
 Opening: 10.00 – 10.15 am
Peter Robinson, Franz Fischer and Agnese Macchiarelli (VeDPH)
SESSION I
 10.15 am – 12.15 pm
Gerrit Brüning (Klassik Stiftung Weimar), *Appearance or Variance? Rethinking the Separation of Documentary and Textual Encoding in the Edition of Goethe's 'Faust'*
Franz Fischer (Ca' Foscari University of Venice/VeDPH) and **Agnese Macchiarelli** (University of Wuppertal/VeDPH), *Multimodal Manuscript Traditions. Editing Peter of Poitiers 'Compendium historiae'*
Peter Robinson (University of Saskatchewan/VeDPH), *Three Decades of Struggling with Texts and Pages*
Peter Boot (Huygens Institute), *Using TEI Publisher for Page and Text Oriented Display of Medieval Miscellanies*
Discussion

SESSION II
 2.00 – 3.30 pm
Gabriel Egan (De Montfort University), *Should We Edit the Manuscript Play 'Sir Thomas More' by the Page or by the Text?*
Dirk Van Hulle (University of Oxford/University of Antwerp) and **Vincent Neyt** (University of Antwerp), *Text Versus Page in the Beckett Digital Manuscript Project*
Alberto Cantera and Ionut Valentin Cucu (Free University of Berlin), *The Zoroastrian Ritual Tradition, Page by Page*
Discussion
 Coffee Break
SESSION III
 3.45 – 5.15 pm
Elisa Beshero-Bondar (Penn State, Erie), *Reconciliation and Interchange: Collating the Page As Text*
Barbara Bordalejo (University of Lethbridge) and **Daniel O'Donnell** (University of Lethbridge), *The Implications of Multiple Hierarchies for the Future of Humanities Data*
Discussion

Coffee Break
SESSION IV
 5.30 – 7.00 pm
C. Michael Sperberg-McQueen (Black Mesa Technologies), *Concurrent Structures Using Trojan-horse Markup: Examples from the Annotated Turki Manuscripts Online Project*
Raffaele Vigiante (Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities), *Against Infrastructure for Digital Scholarly Editions*
Janelle Jenstad (University of Victoria), *By Page and/or by Act: Navigating Two Playbook Hierarchies*
Discussion
 7.00 – 7.15 pm
Closing
 Organizing Committee
Peter Robinson, Franz Fischer, Agnese Macchiarelli
 The event will be held online. Please register here: <https://uvsive.zoom.us/j/622y0X0caCLQ1pV1L>. Once you have registered, you will get the link to the Zoom room.
 Info: agnese.macchiarelli@univie.it

“Editing the Text, Editing the Page” was a two-day virtual conference that Peter Robinson helped to co-organize in collaboration with Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Department of Humanities, Venice Centre for Digital and Public Humanities, and the University of Saskatchewan. The conference combined workshops and presentations to explore the mechanics of editing texts, as well as the digital tools and environments that make complex text editing possible.

Notable Events

Public Talks

NOV
16

BATEMAN LECTURE

Canadian Speculative Fiction and the Historical Imagination

DR. WENDY ROY (PHD)



Thursday, Nov. 16
3:30 pm

Arts Building Room 263,
9 Campus Dr., Saskatoon



In the biennial Bateman Lecture, Dr. Wendy Roy (PhD)—the Bateman Professor of English—will consider how dystopian and apocalyptic fiction by Canadian writers comments on the past and present. She will discuss works such as Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Wade Compton's *The Outer Harbour*, Cherie Dimaline's *The Marrow Thieves*, and Thomas King's *The Back of the Turtle*, which ask readers to consider how traumatic events, developments, and policies in the past might be recreated in or help to shape the world of the future.

The Bateman Research Professorship was created in 1919 and is named in honour of Reginald Bateman, a professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan who was killed during the First World War in 1918.



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Pace, Break, Constrain, Sing: a presentation by David Martin

🕒 Sep 28, 2023

Join the MFA in Writing for a talk
by Canadian author David Martin.

Dr. Wendy Roy, named in 2022 as the new Bateman Professor, did a presentation in November on her research in Canadian apocalyptic fiction's socio-political commentary. During her two-year term as a Bateman Professor, Roy will be putting together *ReVisions: Speculating in Literature and Film in Canada*, a collection of essays and other scholarly works.

Canadian award-winning poet David Martin gave a presentation to the MFA in Writing Writ 900 class on "Pace, Break, Constrain, Sing: The Line as Moment of Time." Martin won the CBC Poetry Prize in 2014 and his first poetry collection, *Tar Swan*, was a finalist for the Raymond Souster Award, as well as the W.O. Mitchell City of Calgary Book Prize.

Notable Events

Public Talks

B.C. poet Jane Munro was one of many guest speakers in the MFA in Writing's WRIT 990 course, speaking at St. Thomas More College in November. Munro has published 8 different poetry collections and her collection *Blue Sonoma* won the Griffin Poetry Award in 2015. Further, Munro herself was awarded the Bliss Carman Poetry Award in 2007.



The Department of English and the MFA in Writing invite you to a reading by BC Poet

JANE MUNRO

Wednesday, November 29, 2023
2:00 pm
Arts 722

Everyone is welcome!
This is a mask-friendly event



2024 MILLARD LECTURE:

Joseph Conrad's Ukrainian Footsteps

MAR
21

A TALK BY
**LUDMILLA
VOITKOVSKA**

Thursday,
March 21, 2024
2:30 pm
Education 1004



The Ukrainian house where Joseph Conrad was born.

Ludmilla Voitkovska is a professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan. She has a PhD in linguistics from the University of Odessa (Ukraine) and a PhD in English from the University of Saskatchewan. She has written extensively on Joseph Conrad's critical reception as well as issues in his work's translation. Her latest monograph, *Exile as a Continuum in Joseph Conrad's Fiction: Living in Translation*, was published by Routledge in 2022 and was nominated for the Adam Gillon Book Award in Conrad Studies.



This year's Millard Lecture was given by Professor Ludmilla Voitkovska:

Ukrainian poet, translator, cultural studies scholar, and politician Dmytro Pavlychko wrote in the Book of Visitors in the People's Museum named after Joseph Conrad in Terekhove (Ukraine): "The name of Joseph Conrad unites three elements, three cultural forces: the land of Ukraine, the spirit of Poland, and the majesty of the English language." However, Joseph Conrad's connection to Ukraine, despite being obvious, has been generally unacknowledged or deemphasized in international discussions of this canonical author. It is either dismissed as insignificant or cloaked in concepts that stem from various narratives regarding the political history of Eastern Europe. This lecture will trace those footprints across Ukraine by way of re-framing an author whose work has been so much a part of the traditions of English studies.

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LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

FINDING THE MAGIC: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF COLLABORATION

KRISTINA FAGAN
BIDWELL

Wednesday,
Oct. 25
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster
United Church Social Hall
505 10th St. E.
Saskatoon



Kristina Bidwell is collaborating with Sophie McCall on a project on Indigenous-led collaboration in the literary arts.

While most literary scholars work alone, working collaboratively has the potential to transform our research and even ourselves. Working across cultural difference, while challenging, can open up previously unimagined possibilities. Drawing on her interviews with scholars who have extensive collaborative experience, Bidwell will share stories of how working together can create moments of magic, joy, and personal change.

This year, the Department of English's Outreach and Engagement committee organized a slate of fabulous community talks by members of the department as part of our long-running Literature Matters series. The 2023-2024 series was made possible by the hard work of graduate student Mabiana Camargo, the Outreach and Engagement committee (Wendy Roy and Jessica McDonald), Department Head Yin Liu, and English Office Coordinator Fernanda Vera. We are looking forward to the series returning again next year!

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LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

NOV
10

JANE AUSTEN ADJACENT

Austen's genteel fiction was only one of many options open to women writers of her day

KANDICE SHARREN

Wednesday, Nov. 22
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall
505 10th St. E. Saskatoon



Photo: The British Museum / CC, asset 377223001

When *Sense and Sensibility* was published in 1811, Jane Austen had been trying and failing to see a novel into print for at least 14 years. This talk considers the four publishers Austen interacted with during her lifetime. It places Austen's dealings with them in the context of the other women writers they published, in order to explore how women in the early 19th century navigated the literary marketplace and how Austen's genteel fiction was only one of many options open to them.



Literature Matters: Literature in the Community is a lecture series sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan Department of English.

LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

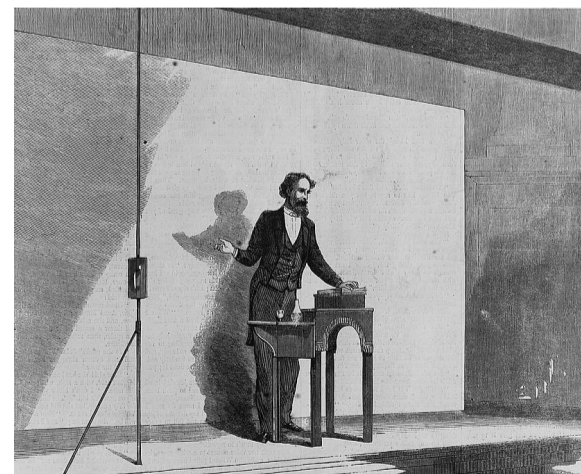
JAN
24

SELF-ADAPTATION AND AUTHORS TRYING TO CONTROL THEIR STORIES IN A NEW MEDIUM

A TALK BY
ADAM EPP

Wednesday,
Jan. 24
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster
United Church Social Hall
505 10th St. E.
Saskatoon



Engraving of Charles Dickens giving a public reading, 1867.

A select group of popular authors, including Charles Dickens and Hayao Miyazaki, have not been content to let others adapt their stories into new media. They have chosen to do it themselves. This talk considers the difficulty of self-adaptation, these authors' motivations, and why we are so eager to retell our favourite stories in new formats.



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LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

THE *STAR TREK* FRANCHISE AND THE INFLUENCE OF EARTHLY POLITICS

FEB 28

A TALK BY
LAURA FRASER

Wednesday,
Feb. 28
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster
United Church Social Hall
505 10th St. E.
Saskatoon



Dane Penland / Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum

The Star Trek Franchise has always engaged with political and cultural concerns, including collective fears of fascism, ideas about LGBTQA+ rights, and the rise and establishment of a hegemon. This talk examines how the franchise, ranging from the OS to Enterprise, uses the politics of its time to reinforce messages and themes that engage with the contemporary concerns of its fans.



LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

CARIBBEAN LITERATURE AND THE BLUES: USING MUSIC TO READ MIGRATION

MAR 20

A TALK BY
JAY RAJIVA

Wednesday,
March 20
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster
United Church Social Hall
505 10th St. E.
Saskatoon



This talk uses African American poetics to read Dionne Brand's *What We All Long For*, a 2005 novel centred on the experiences of belonging of five characters from displaced families in Toronto. Drawing on the scholarship of poet and critic Nathaniel Mackey, Jay Rajiva argues that the musical genre of the blues provides a rich critical frame for analyzing migrant experience in Brand's novel, one that contributes to the project of decolonizing the study of literature.



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LITERATURE MATTERS: LITERATURE IN THE COMMUNITY SERIES

WHY SHAKESPEARE?

APR 17

A PANEL
DISCUSSION WITH
SHAKESPEARE ON THE
SASKATCHEWAN

Wednesday, April 17, 2024
7:30 pm

Grace-Westminster United Church Social Hall
505 10th Street East
Saskatoon



Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan is a summer theatre company in Saskatoon that produces contemporary plays of the Bard.

The work of William Shakespeare continues to take up enormous space in the world of arts and culture, as well as in research and education, even while generations of dialogue between audiences, artists, and scholars have led to difficult and necessary criticisms of Shakespeare's work. This panel will consider the question: why does Shakespeare continue to be so dominant? Jessica McDonald, lecturer in the Department of English, will be in conversation with Kayvon Khoshkam, the artistic director of Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, and Skye Brandon, former co-interim leader of Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, educator, and longtime Shakespearean actor.



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MFA Highlights

River Volta Reading Series

MFA in Writing students continued the River Volta Reading Series this year, bringing esteemed writers to a community venue for poetry readings and discussion. Thanks to supervising faculty member Sheri Benning, D'Lish by Tish Café, and the dedicated student organizers from the MFA in Writing Program.


**RIVER VOLTA
READING SERIES**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 7:00 PM
LIVE POETRY READINGS FROM GARRY THOMAS MORSE
AND LISA BIRD-WILSON
Q&A TO FOLLOW.



LISA
BIRD-WILSON



GARRY
THOMAS MORSE



JOIN US AT D'LISH BY TISH CAFE
702 14 STREET EAST, SASKATOON

**RIVER VOLTA
READING SERIES**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 7:00 PM
LIVE POETRY READINGS FROM PEACE AKINTADE
ELIZABETH PHILIPS.
Q&A TO FOLLOW.




PEACE AKINTADE

EARTH SKIN (2023)

ELIZABETH PHILIPS

ELEGY FOR THE
WILLOWS (2023)



JOIN US AT D'LISH BY TISH CAFE
702 14 STREET EAST, SASKATOON

Article on Inspired Minds

Owen Schalk released an article entitled “[Inspired Minds: The Importance of Community Engagement in the MFA](#)” which details his volunteer work with Inspired Minds: All Nations Creative Writing, a program that allowed him to lead a creative writing class at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre. The piece is a moving call-out of declining prison conditions within Saskatchewan and a call for the necessity of programs such as Inspire Minds to offer incarcerated people a method of expression, as well as for the necessity of community engagement within the MFA program.



MFA Graduate Class Student Readings



On March 27, friends and family members of MFA in Writing students thronged Grace Westminster Church's downstairs to hear work by the Class of 2024. Audience members were treated to poetry and fiction. The event was organized by first-year MFA students Carolyn Gibbins, Aaron Kurmey, Wren Mynhardt, and Rachel Carline.

Department of English

MFA in Writing

Class of 2024


Graduating Class Reading

March 27, 2024
7:00 pm


Grace Westminster Church (downstairs)
505 10th St. E

Reception after Reading


Come celebrate
with these writers!




Hannah Ackerman




Daniel Bliss




Delayne Crosby




Sara Krahn




Tim Patton



Erin Petrow



Owen Schalk



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MFA Highlights

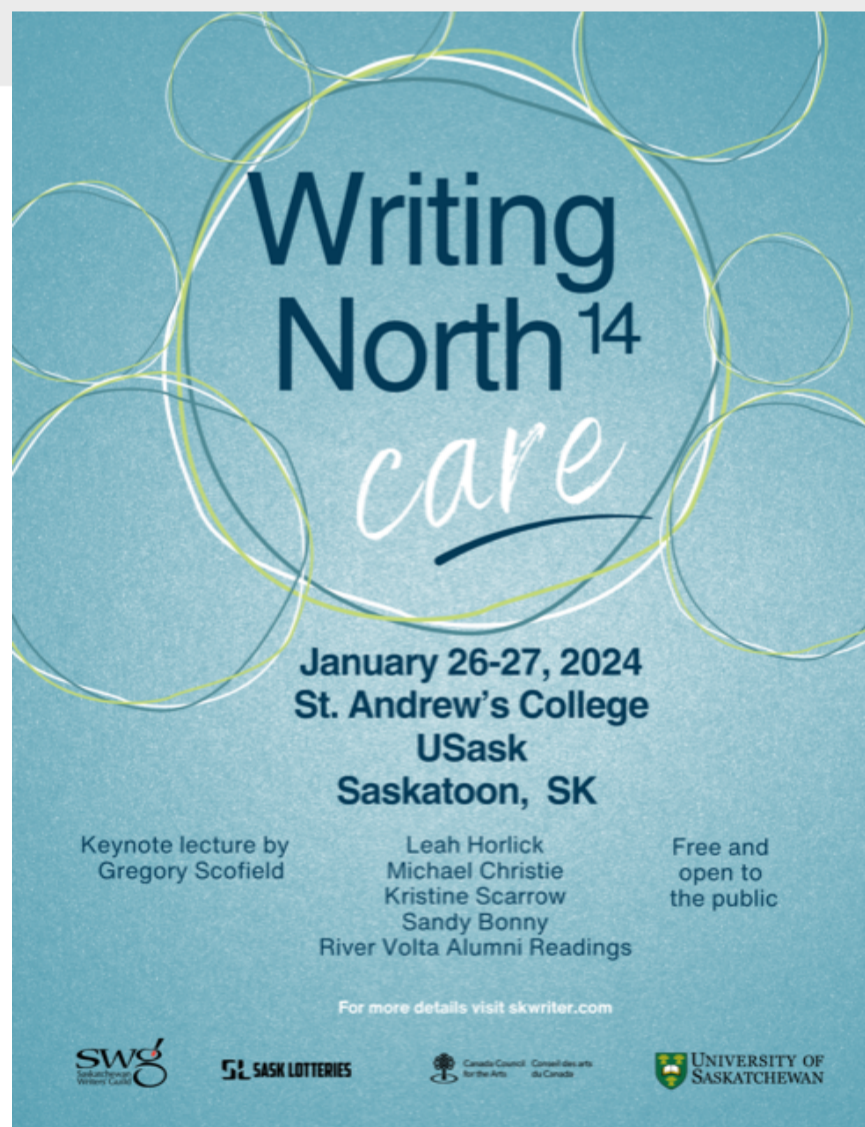
Writing North

Writing North 14: Care took place January 26-27, 2023 and was hosted by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild and the University of Saskatchewan's MFA in Writing Program. This year's festival revolved around the theme "Care."

The keynote speaker was Canadian Métis poet and non-fiction author Gregory Scofield. Scofield's poems revolve around the Indigenous experience and Indigenous advocacy. His poetry is highly acclaimed, with his book *The Gathering: Stones for the Medicine Wheel* winning the B.C. Book Prize, as well as the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Award. His lecture contributed to Writing North's theme of care and how literature can be used to foster community.

The festival events included readings from students, alumni, and other featured writers, as well as workshops about poetry and prose writing.

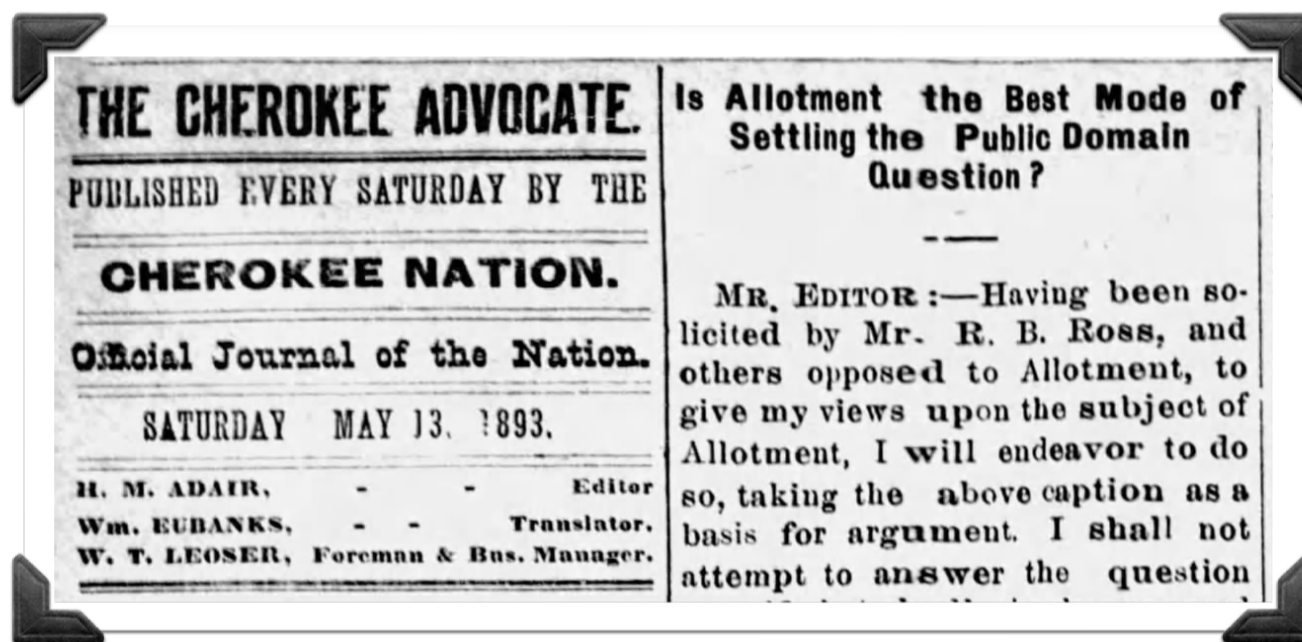
Thank you to participants from the MFA in Writing and the Writers' Guild for sharing their experience and expertise during this event and connecting people both online and in person.



Research and Funding News

SSHRC Grant

Dr. Jenna Hunnef received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$46,443) during the 2023 competition cycle. Examining newspaper articles and editorials, her project, “The Hard Press: Allotment Debates in Indian Territory Newspapers, 1866-1906,” seeks to achieve an enhanced understanding of how Indigenous peoples used their creative and intellectual faculties to respond to the United States’ General Allotment Act before, during, and after the policy was carried out, including their perception and/or promotion of or resistance to the policy and the way they framed and expressed their responses in writing. In so doing, the project also seeks to establish the literary contours of Indigenous contributions to newspapers and periodicals in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, thereby situating them within existing scholarly discourses about Indigenous nonfiction writing in the field of Indigenous literary studies.



St. Thomas More College Professor Receives Funding

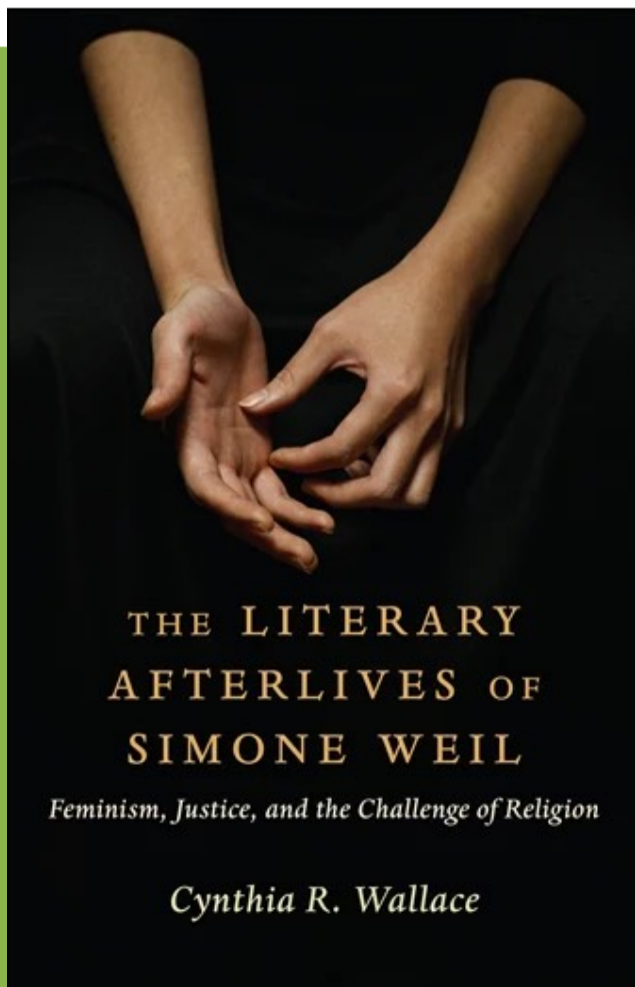
Dr. Kylee-Anne Hingston received funding from the University of Saskatchewan Office of the Vice-Provost Teaching, Learning and Student Experience for a Victorian Prose and Poetry Anthology OpenPress Paid Editing Internship Project. For this project, over Spring and Summer 2024, a student intern will update the Open Pedagogy Victorian Prose and Poetry digital anthology for ENG 334: Prose and Poetry of the Victorian Period. The intern will be adding student-written annotations and introductions, which will increase accessibility, as well as cleaning up code and proofreading for consistency.

Research and Funding News

An Access Copyright Foundation Marian Hebb Research Grant enabled Professor Jeanette Lynes to travel to Bletchley Park in Summer 2023 to do research towards her fourth novel. Prof. Lynes also researched at Churchill Archives at Cambridge and the National Archives, Kew. The grant is administered by SaskArts.



New Books



Congratulations to Cynthia Wallace on the publication of her new book *The Literary Afterlives of Simone Weil: Feminism, Justice, and the Challenge of Religion*.

Student Association Highlights

English Course Council

The English Course Council put on many events, primarily organized by the Social Committee Chair Cara Schwartz, throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

The most notable events included a three-day book sale in September in which the proceeds allowed them to award a number of one-time Book Bursaries for graduate students in the English MA/PhD/MFA programs in March of 2024.

Additionally, they hosted a Graduate School Information Night in November to provide information to undergraduate students interested in pursuing an MA or MFA with the Department post-graduation. The event was also an opportunity for SSHRC-funded graduate students to offer advice on how to prepare successful graduate and SSHRC CGS-M applications to interested undergraduate students.

Lastly, they hosted a Graduate-Undergraduate Social Hour in January as an opportunity for students within all aspects and programs within the Department of English to meet and socialize.

English Undergraduate Society

A Message from Outgoing English Undergraduate Society (EUS) President Erin Paulhus

I had a great time with the EUS this year! We had a successful Fall term book sale thanks to donations from St. Thomas More College. We hosted a “Meet the Profs” event with help from Louis’, which was a fun chance for interaction between faculty and students. We also assisted the Department of English at the “Major Possibilities” panel, in which we answered questions and advertised program certificates.

In the Winter term we planned and hosted the Humanities Spring Formal at Louis’ Loft in collaboration with the Linguistics Student Committee and the Drama Students’ Association. Our Vice President, Becca Dunkle, also produced beautiful EUS tote bags. We also attended events hosted by the ECC, which were a great opportunity for the EUS to interact with graduate students in our department.

We have now announced our executive for 2024-25 as the following: Becca Dunkle as President, Jessie Warkentine as Vice-President, Sam Tabalbag as Secretary, Maheen Abbas as Outreach and Communications, and Clara Nakoneshny as Treasurer.

I am looking forward to seeing what the EUS plans for next year!

Student Association Highlights

English Undergraduate Society



The 2024-25 EUS executive: President Becca Dunkle, V.P. Jessie Warkentine, Secretary Sam Tabalbag, Outreach and Communications representative Maheen Abbas, and Treasurer Clara Nakoneshny



Outgoing President Erin Paulhus and Incoming President Becca Dunkle.



Members of the EUS attending events hosted by other clubs in support.



Members of the EUS with new tote bags.



Students enjoying themselves at the Spring Formal, held in Louis' Loft.

Photographs courtesy of Abraham Galman.

Undergraduate Student Awards

The Department of English was delighted to honour the 2022–2023 undergraduate award recipients on April 5.

The event brought together students, faculty, family, and friends to celebrate the achievements of the award recipients.

Congratulations to all those who won awards!



Students who attended the Awards Reception included Ava McLean, Maheen Abbas, Keanna Milroy, Elisabeth Bauman, Becca Dunkle, Erin Paulhus, Matthew Rempel, Paige Humeny, Bailey Schaan, Emily Zbaraschuk, Abigail Williamson, Averi Markus, Rahul Gautham Veliyil Edwin, and Adrian Kennedy.

Hannon Scholarship:

Paige Humeny
Elisabeth Bauman
Emily Zbaraschuk
Matthew Rempel
Averi Markus
Bailey Schaan
Abigail Williamson
Becca Dunkle
Maheen Abbas
Keanna Milroy
Toni Elliott

Hannon Travel Scholarship:

Erin Paulhus
Matthew Rempel

Award for Excellence in English Studies:

Ava McLean

Elizabeth Brewster
Memorial Scholarship:

Bailey Schaan

S. Bychinsky Award for
Excellence in Creative or
Critical Writing:

Bailey Schaan

Mary Lou Ogle Award for
the Study of Communications:

Paige Humeny

Reginald J. G. Bateman
Memorial Scholarship in English
and R. A. Wilson Memorial
Scholarship:

Elisabeth Bauman

Copeland Prize in the
Humanities:

Ava McLean

Rose Litman Medal in the
Humanities:

Cassidy Serhienko

Ronald and Mary Dyck
Memorial Award:

Emily Zbaraschuk
Adrian Kennedy

Avie Bennett Prize
in Canadian Literature:

Erin Paulhus

Yuans Award in Canadian
Literature:

Cassidy Serhienko

Undergraduate Student Highlights

Career Internship Poster Event



English student Erin Paulhus talks about her internship with fellow English student at Louis' Loft, during the poster event held at the Undergraduate English Awards Ceremony. Photograph taken by Paul Sinkewicz.



English students discussing their internships with each other. Featuring Dr. Sarah Powrie (red dress, photo on right), who oversees the Career Internship course. Both photos were taken by Paul Sinkewicz.

Graduate Student Awards

Congratulations to graduate students who received Department, College, and University awards in 2023-24:

Walter S. Buchanan Book Prize

Olivia Abram
Aaron Kurmey

Dr. Edward McCourt Memorial Award

Olivia Abram
Olive Scott

Scott Truitt Memorial Book Prize

Ava McLean

Ron George Graduate Award in English Literature

Ava McLean

Joel and Lilly Green Memorial Award in English Literature

Parastoo Tahmasbi

Susan Willigar Prize

Jasmine Redford

Kathleen Fraser Prescott Daykin Scholarship

Laurel Madumere
Erin Petrow
Alexander Torvi

Elizabeth Brewster Memorial Scholarship

Josiah Nelson

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Scholarship In English

Eunice Domingo
Laura Fraser

Hantleman Humanities Scholarship

Eunice Domingo
Alexander Torvi

MacKenzie Scholarship

Laura Fraser

University of Saskatchewan Master's Thesis Award, Humanities and Fine Arts

Josiah Nelson

University of Saskatchewan Doctoral Dissertation Award, Humanities and Fine Arts

Sheheryar Sheikh, Ph.D.

Graduate Student and Alumni News

By Nicole Jacobson

Settler PhD candidate Olivia (Liv) Abram, from USask, and her Kwakwaka'wakw collaborator Leah Alfred-Olmedo, from UBC, have together been selected among twenty finalists in this year's SSHRC Storytellers Challenge. Their submission, titled "Calls to Collaboration, from a Fledgling Perspective," was based on their work with Drs. Kristina Bidwell (NunatuKavut) and Sophie McCall (settler), whose book on Indigenous-led collaboration in the Indigenous literary arts is forthcoming. Liv and Leah's submission made history as the first ever collaborative entry to the competition. They also presented their work in the SSHRC Showcase on May 5-6 in Saskatoon.



Degrees and Defences

By Ann Martin

Megan Gorsalitz graduated with a Masters of Arts and is currently pursuing doctoral studies at Queen's University in Kingston, ON.

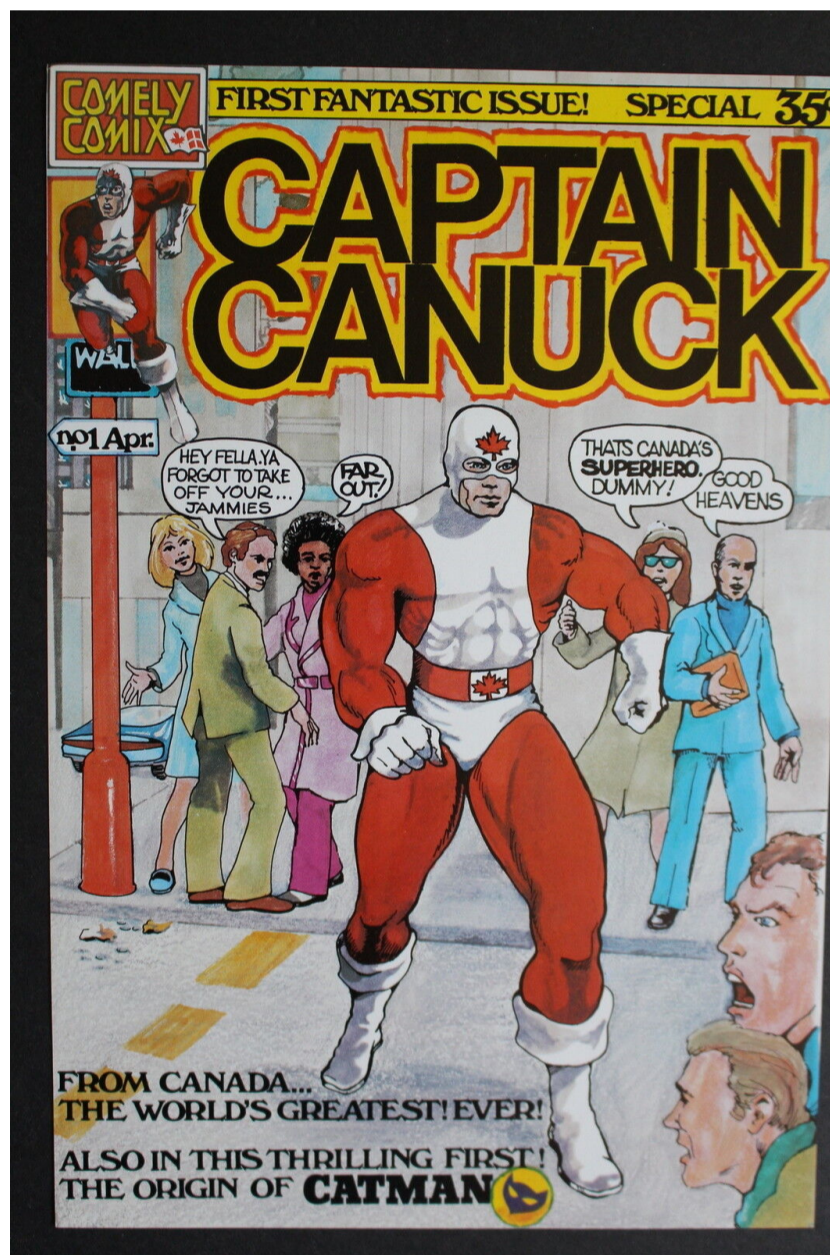
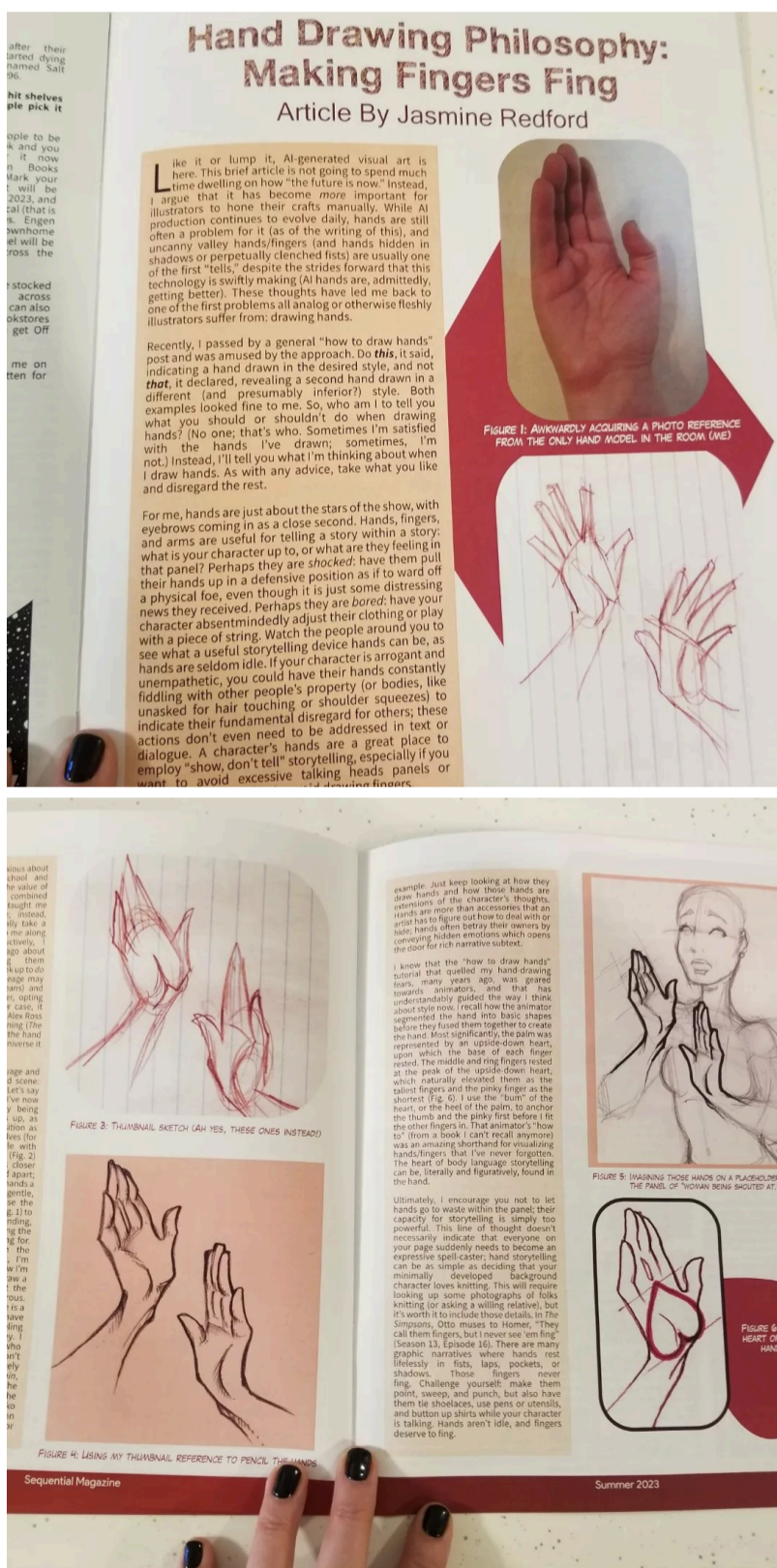
In August 2023, Jade McDougall successfully defended their doctoral dissertation, "‘I Can Tell You Now’: Métis Kinship Narratives in Community History Volumes." Jade is now an Assistant Professor with the Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan.

Kai Orca McKenzie's PhD dissertation, "‘Like a Body Without a Mouth’: Representations of Hunger and Fulfilment in Three Canadian Two-Spirit and Transgender Coming-of-Age Novels by Joshua Whitehead, Kai Cheng Thom, and Vivek Shraya," was successfully defended in April 2024. Kai is currently an English instructor at Pearson College in Victoria, BC.

Graduate Student and Alumni News

PhD Student Jasmine Redford notably published four articles this year: “Befriending the Syllabus: Comics in Canadian Universities” for *Sequential: Canadian Independent Comic Book Magazine*, “Hand Drawing Philosophy: Making Fingers Fing” for *Sequential: Canadian Independent Comic Book Magazine*, “What, then, is the Walk?: Reflecting on Pedestrianism in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*” for *The Goose*, and “Canada in its Jammies: The Promotional Self-Mockery of Richard Comely's *Captain Canuck*” for *American Review of Canadian Studies*.

Additionally, Jasmine received a SSHRC Grant to spend the remainder of her PhD studying the effects of violence in *Captain Canuck* comics.



A promotional *Captain Canuck* poster that Jasmine attributes as the basis for her “Canada in its Jammies” article.

Photographs of “Hand Drawing Philosophy: Making Fingers Fing.”

Introducing New Faculty

Jay Rajiva

Dr. Jay Rajiva (PhD University of Toronto, 2014) spent nine years as a faculty member at Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA, before joining the University of Saskatchewan in July 2023. Working at the disciplinary intersection between postcolonial literature and trauma theory, he is a comparative scholar with a strong regional focus in Caribbean, pan-African, and South Asian fiction. His second book, [*Toward an Animist Reading of Postcolonial Trauma Literature*](#) (Routledge 2020), uses the conceptual framework of animism, the belief in the spiritual qualities of nonhuman matter, to analyze representations of trauma in postcolonial fiction from Nigeria and India.



Brad Congdon

Brad Congdon has returned to Saskatoon after 15 years in Halifax, where he received his PhD at Dalhousie University. When he's not teaching, he sometimes studies 20th and 21st century American literature, magazines, and masculinity. His book, *Leading with the Chin: Writing American Masculinities in Esquire, 1960-1989*, won the Robert K. Martin Prize for best book published by a member of the Canadian Association of American Studies. His latest project focuses on Weird fiction.

Introducing New Faculty

Kandice Sharren

Kandice Sharren completed her PhD at Simon Fraser University in 2018. She originally found her way into the Romantic period by way of Jane Austen, but these days her research focuses on transatlantic book production and circulation in the early nineteenth-century, with an emphasis on women's writing—the weirder the better. Swing by her office to chat about horror movies, cats, or your favourite Austen adaptation.



Jessica McDonald

Jessica McDonald is a graduate of this very Department of English (BA in 2011 and PhD in 2019). She teaches introductory courses in English literature, as well as courses in Canadian, Indigenous, and Decolonizing Literatures. Her teaching and research explore literature in relation to social and environmental justice. Her most recent project, initially funded by a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2020-2021, thinks through the social, spatial, and environmental politics of so-called “non-places,” such as Walmart, as they are represented in literature and culture.



Introducing New Staff

Fernanda Vera

Fernanda serves as the Office Coordinator for the English Department, where she supports the department's operations and facilitates administrative processes.

Born and raised in Ecuador, Fernanda came to Canada at the age of 18 to complete her undergraduate degree in International Studies at USask. With experience in office administration in the non-profit sector, Fernanda ensures the smooth functioning of daily activities within the department. She takes pride in her role as a team player and is always willing to go above and beyond to support the needs of the English Department.

In addition to her administrative duties, Fernanda has a keen interest in contemporary topics such as immigration and global affairs. She starts her mornings by watching Ecuadorian news to stay on top of new developments back home. Outside the office, Fernanda is actively engaged in volunteering at non-profit organizations aimed at empowering newcomers, women and vulnerable demographics.

Fernanda's hobbies include watching horror movies, true crime tv shows, reading personal growth books, cooking, and listening to music. She even has an Excel spreadsheet of movies and restaurants to go to and activities to do during the summer.



In Memoriam

Leonard (Len) Murray Findlay

It is with profound sadness that the family announce the passing of Len Findlay at home, surrounded by family and friends, on May 25, 2023. Len was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, on December 14, 1944, the second child of George and Irene (Black) Findlay. He was predeceased by his brother, George; and is survived by brother, Ian (wife Elaine (Harris), Naomi (Scott Chisholm) and Natalie (Mark Crawford) and families); and sister, Irene (Gauld, husband Ken (deceased), and Jenny (Kevin Kemp) and Martyn). He is also survived by his wife of 54 years, fellow academic Isobel; by sons, Andrew and Nicholas; and by in-laws, Bill and Sandra (Reid) Downie (Bromley) and Ian and Kate (Slessor) Downie (Old Meldrum) and their respective families (Alan (Zoe), Jill (Ross McCallum), and Emma and Alison (David Latto) and Barclay and their families.

A gifted student from the outset and talented soccer and rugby player, Len was Seafield gold medallist at the University of Aberdeen and went on to achieve a D.Phil. on Victorian literature at Jesus College, Oxford. The young family came to Canada in 1974, where Len developed an impressive career at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He was Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, a founding and ongoing member of the Indigenous Humanities Group at the University of Saskatchewan, and the recipient of two USSU teaching awards. He directed the Humanities Research Unit at the U of S from its inception to its demise. He was also a Past President of Academy One (Arts and Humanities) of the Royal Society of Canada, President of the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE), Vice-President External of the Canadian Federation of the Humanities, a two-term Chair of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, an ongoing Member of the Board of Directors of the Harry Crowe Foundation for Academic Freedom, and an ongoing Senior Fellow at Toronto Metropolitan University's Centre for Free Expression. He was a Visiting Research Fellow at Western's Centre for Theory and Criticism, and the Frye Professor at the University of Toronto. He also served for three years as Senior Policy Analyst in the Universities Branch of the Department of Post-Secondary Education in Regina during a Roy Romanow government.

As an academic activist, Len, for several decades, worked as an outsider/insider, understanding organizational and power structures in order to make them more socially inclusive and imaginative in their understanding and fulfilment of their mandates. Known for his quick wit, intellectual range and rigour, fearless critique, generous mentorship, and challenging but constructive questions; in all his endeavours he tried to live by the Enlightenment maxim, "Dare to know."

Trained in nineteenth-century European elite and radical cultural theory and production, Len's more recent Canadianist work engaged with the Indigenous/settler interface, historically and currently, the distinctiveness and endangerment of the humanities in Canada, and with connections and tensions between academic freedom and the decolonizing of Canadian universities. His edition and revised translation of *The Communist Manifesto* is still selling domestically and internationally into its eighth thousand, while his edition of Swinburne sells steadily with Routledge. He also edited or co-edited three essay collections, a special journal issue, and authored more than a hundred book chapters and journal articles, several provincial and national policy papers and reports, and more than 50 academic book reviews. A passionate but critical Canadian, he continued to write about what interested him, and looked forward to reactions to two new chapters exploring Canada as the product of a distinctive interplay between a feral culture and a federal state.

Len was also proud of his family. He loved coaching his sons' soccer teams into their teen years, volunteering at Saskatoon French School, getting to know his sons' friends, cheering from the sidelines at rugby and soccer games, walking our dogs (Abby, Ceilidh, and Nick's Howie), cooking and conversation, and travel. Entertaining friends and family in our home was a special delight, including Burns suppers, summer barbeques, Thanksgiving and New Year's parties, and birthday and other celebrations. He relished fly fishing in northern Saskatchewan, including fabled fly-in trips, publishing and presenting at international conferences with Isobel, and shared vacations with Canadian friends and collaborators and UK family in Canada (from coast to coast), Cuba, Barbados, Cyprus, and across Europe, celebrating family weddings in London, Larne, Limoges, and Aberdeen, as well as glorious family gatherings in Carrbridge in the Cairngorms and Weardale in County Durham.

