Welcome. The English Department is undergoing a radical transformation in how it communicates with its students, alumni, and retired faculty. We have a new website and a newsletter, which is appearing for the first time in both a printed and an electronic form. An alumni email listserv will soon be up and running. All of this activity is part of an effort to keep in closer touch with that large community of people who in all sorts of ways are interested in knowing what is happening in English at the University of Toronto. At the core of all our activities is our educational mission to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the rich history and geographical diversity of the English language and the cultures that have developed from it. English is as diverse as the people who speak it. Communication will help us to strengthen this very diverse community and to allow you to become more actively involved in the excitement and creativity of this community.

The newsletter and our new website are inextricably tied to each other: the events from the new website should be more up-to-date and will inform the content of the newsletter, while the newsletter will not only be published peri-

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The new home of the Department of English, the Jackman Humanities Building

The Post-English Life of Brian

By Pamela Coles

Even the bleak mid-winter brings its boons. In February of this year, the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board approved the appointment of Professor Brian Corman as Dean of the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto for a five-year term, beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2014. The Executive Committee of the Governing Council approved the appointment of Professor Corman as Vice-Provost, Graduate Education for a concurrent term. Come

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“Thyf so short, the
craft so long to lerne.”

— Chaucer

“Thyf so short, the
craft so long to lerne.”

— Chaucer

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students. In the future we
want build upon that rela-
tionship to further our edu-
cational mission and to
strengthen the ways in which
English can continue to play
a valuable role in the lives of
our past students.

This newsletter has been co-
edited by Marguerite Perry
marguerite.perry@utoronto.ca
and Pamela Coles
deptofenglish.graduate@utor
onto.ca>. They would be

delighted to hear from you if
you have any comments or
suggestions.

We hope you enjoy the
newsletter.

Alan Bewell

The Post-English Life of Brian

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The summer, the life of Brian
will get a whole lot more
interesting!

Professor Corman is hardly a
stranger to administrative
work. Nor is he a stranger to
SGS. It will likely be the
scope and scale of the work
that will be new to him once
he settles into Simcoe Hall.
He has served the University
in a number of administrative
capacities since 1997 when he
became the Chair of the De-
partment of English, Faculty
of Arts and Science at the St.
George campus and also the
Graduate Chair of the tri-
campus graduate English de-
partment. For nearly a deca-
de, he was a member of the
Governing Council and his
capacity to bring leadership
and guidance to the Univer-

Department of English Jackman Humanities Building, 170 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2M8
The Post-English Life of Brian

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Nothing, we suspect will change about that. During what he foresees will be a prolonged period of transition Professor Corman identifies his role at SGS as twofold: He will support the expansion of graduate programs at the University of Toronto as per the recommendations of the 2030 Task Force on Enrolment of which he was Chair. He will improve and streamline the services at SGS. Anyone familiar with the bureaucratic complexities of the SGS might call these Herculean tasks. Brian’s response to that notion is to smile. Broadly.

Professor Corman readily offers that while the projects he faces are daunting, he certainly will not be tackling them alone. Brian is quick to speak to the fine qualities of the team he will soon be joining. He looks forward to working with extremely capable and future-minded colleagues in the Provost’s office whose collective labours will contribute to the creation of what he hopes will become a more streamlined, and effective administrative body. His ambitions are collective ones predicated on making the most of every available means in order to enhance student opportunities for growth and learning while boosting the overall health of the university administration.

For any other with such a formidable record of service at this juncture in his life, this year could have spoken to a well-deserved opportunity for rest, for a sabbatical or even for retirement, but for Brian Corman his appointment as Dean of SGS is just another opportunity to achieve excellence.

P. Coles

Eleanor Cook’s preferred form of learning: publications

Eleanor Cook’s, A Reader’s Guide to Wallace Stevens (Princeton UP, 2007) was just published in paperback. The book was voted a Book of the Week by www.readysteadybook.com and was also one of five favourite books of 2007 by a reviewer from www.projo.com: “In addition to superb commentary, there’s an Appendix — 27 golden pages — on how to read poetry. And the guide to Steven’s poems is full of shrewd, humane, often witty insights into a poetry that we thought we had gotten over.” On the other end of the scale, Eleanor wrote a note, “No Pink Elephants: On Reading to Children” in Literary Matters (fall 2008).
English Faculty Members Cozy up to Science

By Pamela Coles

Interdisciplinarity, once considered the territory of dilettante comparativists and the academically promiscuous, has definitively achieved a reputable status in its engagement by academics in the Department of English.

The challenges of interdisciplinary work are not few nor are they easily overcome. Despite the recent establishment of cross-disciplinary programs at a number of Canadian post-secondary institutions, those who take it on do so knowing that they are still working against the academic current rather than with it. Some of the particular challenges to cross-current projects include trying to find peer reviewers who are conversant enough in the methodological frameworks or ‘languages’ of additional disciplines to evaluate interdisciplinary work with comfort or confidence. Many academic peers simply refuse to vet chapters or to write journal reviews because they are unwilling—and understandably so-- to sponsor projects they do not fully comprehend and therefore cannot critique justly. There is also the battle against the tremendous potential of interdisciplinary work to alienate readers in ‘home’ disciplines by demanding that they instantaneously acquire a certain proficiency in and a passion for the complimentary subject at hand. Not everyone who loves 19th Century British novels will love, in equal measure, evolutionary theory. Not all aficionados of H.G. Wells, for example, wish to take on the complexities and corollaries of genetic engineering or astrophysics. Then there are the charges of academic promiscuity and dilettantism which the interdisciplinary often suffer in academic environments wherever an institutional castle-keep mentality persists. And finally, while no one can be the master of all universes, the multi-disciplined writer must convince specialists in complimentary fields that their homework in those subjects has been properly done.

But, despite these and other challenges, interdisciplinary work can also be extremely rewarding. Reaching out and into other fields of study is an enriching exercise, particularly for the intellectually curious and daring who, in an increasingly globalizing academic environment recognize the merits of dialogue between disciplines. The English Department at the University of Toronto boasts a number of intrepid interdisciplinary types; among them, Dana Seiter, Ian Lancashire, Cannon Schmitt, and Chair, Alan Bewell.

Like most interdisciplinary works, Cannon Schmitt’s recent publication, Darwin and the Memory of the Human takes full advantage of two seemingly contradictory attributes that the academic hybrid relies upon most; a ferocious attention to detail and a broad-spectrum academic lens. There is a beautiful synchronicity to Schmitt’s work that is not accidental. Nor is it forced. In fact, its multi-layering of science, literature and cultural commentary is the rather organic outcome of a pre-existing predilection for Victorian literature and narrative theory and an enduring curiosity about the natural world, inspired by a favourite scientist-aunt. In his work, Schmitt reveals how temporality and the divisibility of human nature come under the scrutiny of the... 

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English Faculty Members Cozy up to Science

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Victorian naturalists, Charles Darwin, Charles Kingsley, W.H. Hudson, and Alfred Russel Wallace; men of letters and ‘science’ who, through their influential encounters with various ‘savage’ populations in South America, are compelled to redefine both. At the same time as Schmitt demonstrates the inevitability with which Darwinian evolutionary theory became implicated in many mechanisms of Victorian imperialism he also reveals the significant contents these authors offer to imperialist notions of racial difference and superiority. Through Schmitt’s nuanced dialogues with their scientific, historical, literary and sociological narratives of encounter, we see the ways in which their theorizations of separateness, popularly characterized as being explicit and unyielding, were also shot through by incertitude that arose through these author’s explorations of themselves and the “other” under what were often adverse and alienating conditions.

A self-confessed late-comer to the interfacing of evolutionary theory and literature—Gillian Beer arrived more than two decades before him with Darwin’s Plots: Evolutionary Narrative in Darwin, George Elliot and Nineteenth-Century Fiction (1983)—Schmitt has, nonetheless written a formidable next generation analysis of the impact of evolutionary theory on contemporary culture.

In Atavistic Tendencies: The Culture of Science in American Modernity (2008) Dana Seitler also takes on Darwinian Theory’s influence but her focus is on its impact upon the cultural coordinates of early twentieth century America. In particular, she makes evident the role of the sociobiological concept of atavism in that culture’s reconsidering of notions of self-determination and degeneracy in both the individual and collective sense. In her enquiry into late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century science, fiction, and photography, Seitler exposes the dehumanizing effects of Darwin’s theory on certain segments of the American population and describes the way in which concepts of animal-

ity and degeneration shape emergent representations of the bodies of ‘degenerate’ individuals. Highly scrutinized in this interdisciplinary work that presses heavily into both the biological and the sociological is the cultural logic of scientific discourse of atavism as it informs feminist and popular narratives in which the influence of the concept became prevalent. The most innovative gesture of Atavistic Tendencies is its revelation of the way in which the concept of atavism upsets time’s linearity by displacing historical markers of race, gender and class based on its remapping of the boundaries between the animal and the human.

Taking interdisciplinarity to a whole new level, Professor Ian Lancashire has something few English faculty members can boast of: a scholar’s equivalent to a “Bat cave.” His TaPor (Text Analysis Portal for Research) Lexical Analysis lab is where he and colleague Graeme Hirst investigate the linguistic patterns of older authors in order to demonstrate a correlation between

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“Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge; it is those who know little, not those who know much, who so positively assert that this or that problem will never be solved by science.”

—Charles Darwin

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English Faculty Members Cozy up to Science

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dementia and recognizable patterns of vocabulary decline in their texts. After analyzing vocabulary and phrase repetition in 16 of Agatha Christie’s novels, the pair argued that they were able to perceive the presence of Alzheimer’s disease in the great detective writer’s later work. Having noted a 30 percent discrepancy between the relative simplicity of the vocabulary of her penultimate novel, Elephants Can Remember, a book Christie wrote at 81, and the complexity of her writing at 63, Lancashire was able to isolate the type of cognitive decline associated with long-term memory loss and Alzheimer’s to answer for the disorienting digressions of her later plots. Lancashire’s CFI, SHRRC, NSERC and CRSNG funded work was presented recently at the 19th Annual Rotman Research Institute Conference on “Cognitive Aging: Research and Practice” 8-10 March, 2009. The title of the paper, “Vocabulary Changes in Agatha Christie’s Mysteries as an Indication of Dementia: A Case Study” speaks plainly to the hybrid nature of the project and for sceptics concerned about just how the humanities might hold its own in the scientific community it conveys the aplomb with which Lancashire moves about in the language and methodology of science. For those in need of additional proof of the lab’s claims to its cross-disciplinary prowess, their study confirms neurologist Peter Garrard’s analogous examination, in 2005, of writer-philosopher Iris Murdoch’s texts. Based on his linguistic analysis of three of her novels representative of the beginning, the middle, and end of her career, Garrard concluded that Alzheimer’s was widely detectable in Murdoch’s last work, Jackson’s Dilemma, a novel which was panned by critics in 1995.

Uncertain as to whether or not textual analysis will ever become a diagnostic tool for Alzheimer’s disease, Lancashire is resolute, however, that his work proves that the linguistic analysis of literary texts offers a great deal of insight into an author’s mind at work.

Finally, Chair of the English Department, Alan Bewell is currently engaged in an intellectually cross-pollinating project that will reveal the impact of colonization on the global mobilization of nature from 1492 to the 18th Century. Natures in Translation is the working title for the book that he hopes to publish in the coming year and which promises to supplant our belief in the botanical stability of the British landscape as it was represented by British authors across centuries. In it, he will suggest that the British Romantics are patent in their expression of the instability of nature in the face of contemporary worldwide commodities flow and the exploration and expansion of “new” European territories. Wordsworth’s poetry, in particular, he will argue, affords us tremendous insight into the way in which the familiar fauna of Europe was being made to vanish by the permeation of “modern” fauna brought from abroad to its fields, forests, gardens, and marketplaces. Bewell posits that British Romantic poetry gestures ultimately to the disquiet and nostalgia that such environmental

I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved by the term Natural Selection.

—Charles Darwin

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English Faculty Members Cozy up to Science

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transplantation ultimately provoked and asks that more attention be paid to what was truly happening on the ground level of these texts.

Collectively, these projects attest to the eclectic and innovative nature of interdisciplinary research currently being done by members of the faculty of the English Department at the University of Toronto. They speak strongly to the forward reaching ambitions of their authors who are clearly at ease with leaving the confines of their own disciplines to engage with others in a bid to bring a broader context to the interpretation of English literature in general.

Pamela Coles

New Faculty

At. St. George: Christian Campbell, a specialist in Caribbean Literature, completed his PhD in 2007 at Duke University. His dissertation was entitled "Romancing 'the Folk': Rereading the Nation in Caribbean Politics."

He was Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 2007-8. He took up his position at the University of Toronto in 2008, and has been teaching courses on Derek Walcott: "Race" and "Nation" and on contemporary poetry of the African diaspora. Professor Campbell has poems, books and articles forthcoming with, among other presses, Peepal Tree Press and Routledge.

At UTM: Geoff Hamilton has a BA with Honours from Queen’s University, an MA in English Literature from the University of Toronto, and received his PhD in English Literature from the University of Toronto. His dissertation was entitled "Prophets of Disaffection: Antisocial Individualism in the Contemporary American Novel." This examined the antisocial or psychopathic type and its relationship to the legacy of frontier mythology in exemplary American novels by Norman Mailer, Vladimir Nabakov, Don DeLillo, Cormac McCarthy, and James Ellroy.

His areas of teaching and research include Contemporary American, British and Canadian Novel; Constructions of Criminality and Psychopathology; Literature and Medicine; Canadian/American Relations; the Pastoral Tradition; Samuel Beckett. Prof. Hamilton has published essays on Norman Mailer, Don DeLillo, Robert Stone, Samuel Beckett, Robert D. Hare, and James Frey. He has also written, published, and edited many articles and essays for collections, refereed journals and other scholarly publications. Currently he is researching hyper-autonomy in the contemporary American imagination.

At. St. George: Jenny Kerber has a BA in English from the University of Saskatchewan, a MA English from the University of Victoria, and her PhD in Environmental Studies, York University.


Professor Kerber is currently...
working on two main projects: the first is a book-length study that examines 20th and 21st century Prairie Canadian literature from an environmental perspective, while the second considers the relationship of storytelling to changing constructions of national/regional identity and environmental issues in the borderlands of the Canadian Prairies-US Great Plains.


He is currently working on a book project that investigates the effects of the Vietnam War on Canadian literature, Canadian-US relations, and Canadian identity.

St. George: Cheryl Suzack completed her PhD in 2003 at the University of Alberta, and her dissertation was entitled Law, Literature, Location: Contemporary Aboriginal/Indigenous Women’s Writing and the Politics of Identity. She taught at the university in Edmonton before moving to the University of Victoria in 2005, where she was Assistant Professor in the Department of English.


UTSc: Marjorie Rubright received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 2007. She teaches and researches in the areas of early modern literature and culture. Her areas of research include Anglo-Dutch relations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, cultural performance (city comedy, royal and civic pageantry, restoration drama, and ceremonies of distinction in East Indies), epistemologies of ethnicity and race in early modern England, print history, and early modern emigration/immigration in the European north. She was a contributor to "Reading Early Modern Women: An Anthology of Texts in Manuscript and Print, 1550-1700," has published on city comedy, and is currently completing a book manuscript that explores cultural ideas of proximity, resemblance, and approximation through a study of early modern Anglo-Dutch relations.

UTSc: Daniel Scott Tysdal (MA, Toronto, 2008). Daniel’s first collection of poetry, Predicting the Next Big Advertising Breakthrough Using a Potentially Dangerous Method (2006), is the winner of the ReLit Award for Poetry (2007), the John V. Hicks Manuscript Award (2004), and the Anne Szumigalski Award (Saskatchewan Book Award for Best Book of Poetry, 2006). A finalist in CBC’s 2005 National Poetry Face-Off, his poetry has also been published in literary journals (including New Quarterly, Prism, and Grain), poetry anthologies (Boredom Fighters! (2008), Fast Forward: New Saskatchewan Poets (2007)), and received Honourable Mention at the National Magazine Awards (2003). Born and raised on a farm in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Daniel recently received an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto.
The Annual Arts Science Outstanding Achievement Awards

Each year, members of our faculty and staff are recognized for their excellence in research, service and/or teaching. This year we would like to celebrate the achievements of Michael Cobb, who won the FAS Outstanding Teaching Award, and Nick Mount, who was this year’s recipient of the President's teaching Award.

Paul Stevens's pedagogical talent was also recently recognized when he was voted in the Top Ten of TVO's best lecturers at a Canadian University. With winning colleagues like these, we can certainly lay claim to being one of the leading teaching departments at the university.

Germaine Warkentin has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada! This is terrific news and an important recognition of the influential role that she has played in Canadian studies. Also, finally, thank you to the Awards Committee for their role in forwarding such successful nominations.

Awards and Accolades

The Faculty of Arts & Science meets each year to recognize and acknowledge the achievement of its staff and faculty. The annual Faculty of Arts & Science Outstanding Achievement Awards were handed out recently at Hart House. The evening was a enjoyable affair which included the awards ceremony followed by a wine and cheese reception. Faculty, students and staff from Arts & Science faculty, along with their families were treated to many humorous and moving speeches by both staff and faculty.

This year’s recipients included two very deserving members of the English Department. Professor Michael Cobb was presented with the Outstanding Teaching Award and the Administrative Service Award went to Cristina Henrique, the Department’s Financial Assistant at St. George Campus. These recipients exemplify the high quality of teaching and service we strive for in our department. We congratulate both on their well earned awards and accolades.

New Faculty

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and cultural struggles. She is a publisher and cofounder of Commodore Books, the first black literary press in Western Canada, and is active with the Hogan’s Alley Memorial Project, a grassroots cultural organization engaged in local archival work toward the publication of an oral history of black Vancouver.

At this time, we would like to extend a belated but warm welcome to Alexandra Peat, who also joined the faculty at UTSc last year.

Visit us online at www.utoronto.ca/english
Thank you, Ted Chamberlin

English is not the only unit at the University of Toronto to be loosening its hold on Edward Chamberlin. This year Ted is retiring not only from the Department of English, where he was appointed in 1970, but also from Comparative Literature and from New College, where he served as Principal for a term in the 1980s. Ted’s status as University Professor acknowledges publications and related public honours that I cannot attempt to enumerate today. The breadth of his interests and of his intellect is epitomized by the subject of his first degree at the University of British Columbia - a BA in pure maths. Ted’s mathematical talents can be inferred from his subsequent Rhodes Scholarship. However, it was English he studied at Oxford, and subsequently poetry, for his U of T PhD with Northrop Frye, on Wallace Stevens and the Aesthetics of Modern Art. In one story Ted has published about himself, he claims to have abandoned math because he was dissatisfied with the limits in calculus. (In another story, he claims it was because he feared limits to the contribution he could make in the field of pure math.) Ted has in fact returned to math in his work on human storytelling in arts and science; and the Gerstein Science library is the home of his most recent book on How the Horse has Shaped Civilizations. In his numerous publications, limits (and their transcendence) have been a theme rather than an impediment.

Ted’s many honours include Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada, an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies, and U of T’s Jus Memorial Human Rights prize, which he received in 2006. The Jus prize acknowledged not only Ted’s intellectual explorations of aboriginal and Caribbean cultures, but also his longstanding advocacy of them at personal and institutional levels. On leave from U of T for a year in 1972, Ted then and subsequently worked in various capacities on native land claims: his monograph on White Attitudes towards Native Americans (1975) appeared a few years before The Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry (1977); his CV similarly juxtaposes work on the poetry of such writers as Michael Ondaatje with reports on native land claims and northern hydrocarbon development. More recently Ted has published on Poetry and the West Indies - Come Back to me my Language in 1993, and in 2003 a work on aboriginal, diasporic, and human storytelling, If This is your land, where are your stories?, which (like his earlier work) takes treats as well as tales as its subjects. In summary, the title of Ted’s very first publication, an essay for the Hudson Review on “Oscar Wilde and the Importance of Doing Nothing” does not at first seem to be an accurate predictor of his interests or of his future productivity. But the title of this first essay - along with the subject of his second book, on The Age of Oscar Wilde - in fact anticipated a lifetime’s consideration of the relationship between the ethical and aesthetic properties of art and the relationship of art and life. And its publication in the Hudson Review anticipated Ted’s lifelong commitment to writing, reviewing and edit-

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Thank you, Ted Chamberlin

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Art should never try to be popular. The public should try to make itself artistic.

—Oscar Wilde

ing for a broad audience - reviewing poetry for the Hudson Review and editing it for Saturday Night, for instance. Ted's work on humans, storytelling, and land has reached outside our discipline to its subjects: If this is your Land has not only been nominated for two prizes in non-fiction, but has been stolen from the Robarts Library.

As we mark Ted's retirement, it is tempting to make a little too much of one of the three enigmatic epigrams he presented for examination in a chapter of this most recent book - "Service is perfect freedom." (The other two: "Life imitates art" and "Life is short, art is long.") Widely travelled for his work and often appearing to be in his native province of BC and Toronto simultaneously, Ted seems to have retained a degree of freedom from institutions while serving and leading in an extraordinary range of capacities within and outside U of T - I have not even mentioned his thirty-four primary PhD supervisions. It is difficult to fix the limits of his service, but I would like to thank University Professor Ted Chamberlin of the Department of English for his contributions to literature and culture, and their scholarly study.

Carol Percy

Placements

Academic Positions: Permanent

• Andrea Stone (African-Am, 08, Clarke), Smith College, Mass. —tenure-track

• Lindy Ledohowski (Can, 08, Brown), St. Jerome’s College, University of Waterloo —tenure-track

• Sarah Brouillette (PoCo, 06, Kanaganayakam), Carleton U —tenure-track

• Kit Dobson (Can, 06, Hutcheon), Mount Royal College, Calgary —tenure-track

• Bill Friesen (Medieval, 08, Orchard), Tyndale University College, Toronto —tenure-track

• Kirsty Campbell (CMS / Medieval, 07, Akbari), Yeshiva U, New York —tenure-track

• Keavy Martin (Comp Lit / Aboriginal, ABD, Chamberlin), U of Alberta —tenure-track

New CLTAs

• Alex Peat (Modernism, 06, Cuddy-Keane) —UTSC —3-year CLTA

• Stephen Yeager (Medieval, ABD, Orchard) —Concordia —3-year CLTA

New Post-Doctoral Fellowships

• Piers Brown (Early Mod, ABD, Harvey) —SSHRC pdf (York, UK)

• Sarah Copland (Modernism, ABD, Cuddy-Keane) —SSHRC pdf (Ohio State)

Non-Academic

• Romi Mikilinsky (Contemporary, 08, Hutcheon) —Marketing Manager, Aniboom Animation Studio, Tel Aviv

We would like to congratulate everyone, and express our best wishes for continued success in all of their future endeavours.

Thank you to Paul Stevens, Professor and Canada Research Chair, Department of English, University of Toronto
Donna Bennett: In recognition

by Neil ten Kortenaar (presented at the A.G.M. 19 April 2008)

There may be many, like myself, who first encountered Donna as the author of "English Canada’s Postcolonial Complexities," a 1994 article that rendered comprehensible the debates surrounding the category of the postcolonial and elucidated just what was rhetorical and what served analysis, where the problems were, and what was at stake. The breadth of vision and the balance of judgement manifest there might have led readers to imagine the author was a senior scholar. They would have been half right. Donna had been teaching courses at the University of Toronto’s Scarborough College since 1985; she had been co-editor of the literary magazine Descant since 1979; and she had edited the work of such prominent Canadian poets as Lorna Crozier, Bronwen Wallace, Don Coles, and Joe Rosenblatt. Canadian literature specialists no doubt already knew her as the author of a dozen scholarly articles and book chapters in such prominent venues as the Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature, Robert Lecker’s The Canadian Canon, and Shirley Neuman and Smaro Kamboureli’s A Mazing Space: Writing Canadian Women’s Writing. Of her article in the Oxford Companion, Clara Thomas wrote, "I can imagine no better or more balanced introduction to the progress of English-Canadian literary criticism than Donna Bennett’s comprehensive sixteen-page article." And, of course, Canadianists were certain to know her as co-editor of Anthology of Canadian Literature in English, published by Oxford in 1982-3 in two volumes and then in a revised single-volume edition in 1990. Robert Weaver had previously edited an anthology of Canadian literature, but the collection that Donna edited with Russell Brown and Nathalie Cooke was the first annotated anthology and remains the only one. It is no exaggeration to say that two generations of university students across Canada came to the national literature through that anthology. It has had enormous impact on shaping the canon and the literary history of Canada.

Donna was a successful and respected scholar, but she had accomplished all this without a regular university appointment. She was too busy editing, writing, and researching, as well as teaching, to finish the PhD that she had started at the University of Connecticut and was not eligible for most jobs advertised at universities. She taught stipend courses at Scarborough and in the Canadian Studies program at Woodsworth College. She even acted as Supervisor of Studies for the English program at UTSC and coordinated the writing courses.

The university does not hire scholars in recognition of their merit nor as a reward for hard work. If that were the case, Donna would have been hired years before. In 2001, when the university understood that her presence as teacher and researcher increased its reputation, it appointed Donna associate professor of English at the University of Toronto at Scarborough and a full member of the graduate department. Donna has always been...
Donna Bennett: In recognition
Story continued from page 12

haved as a full member of Scarborough English: not just pulling her weight in terms of administrative duties, but taking leadership roles, initiating important curriculum reforms, and introducing innovative courses in new media that stretched the traditional definition of English. In the larger English department she has served as co-editor of UTQ. Donna has been invited to give lectures on Canadian literature around the world and to examine theses at other universities. 2002 saw the publication of the New Anthology of Canadian Literature in English, redefining the canon twenty years after the original anthology has done so much to define it. An anthology of Canadian short stories came out in 2005. Donna has published extensively on the forces that have shaped Canadian literature, such as the canon, multiculturalism, Canadian-American relations, postcolonialism, nationalism, and thematic criticism. Prominent among the forces shaping Canadian literature, however, we should include Donna herself.

Neil ten Kortenaar

Rosemary Sullivan: Villa Air-Bel

Rosemary Sullivan was nominated for a Trudeau Senior Fellow for 2008-2011. She was awarded the Lorne Pierce Medal in 2008 for distinguished contributions to Canadian Literature and Culture by the Royal Society of Canada. Her latest book, Villa Air-Bel: World War II, Escape and a House in Marseille came out with Mladá fronta, the Czech Republic, translator Katerina Hilská and with Rocco Publishers Brazil, translator Ana Derio.

St. George Undergraduate News

On June 30, 2009, after a superb five-year term as Associate Chair, Julia Reibetanz stepped down. She has been an extraordinary administrator in very challenging times. Her commitments to undergraduate education and to achieving transparency and fairness in how teaching is assigned are outstanding. Julia has been absolutely indispensable in providing wise and practical advice to two Chairs, and she has met the demands and frustrations of the undergraduate office with unflagging energy. She has worked hard for us all, and we are all indebted to her for the manner in which she has met very difficulty budgetary and staffing challenges. We are grateful to her for all that she has done in the Department. Her service to us has been exemplary.

Obviously, it was a challenge to find someone who might reasonably take over from Julia. We are delighted that Nick Mount has agreed to a three-year term. We all know his achievements as a teacher and his devotion to undergraduate education, and can now look forward to Nick playing a very important leadership role in moving us forward in these difficult economic times. Despite the budgetary constraint, we still need to work towards strengthening the undergraduate program, and are confident that we can look forward to Nick assisting in that goal.

Alan Bewell

Nick Mount, New Associate Chair Undergraduate Studies

Visit us online at www.utoronto.ca/english
Russell Brown: 32 years of teaching English at UTSC

In an entirely different life, Russell was a Texan who did his MA and PhD on Renaissance poetry at SUNY Binghamton. There, however, Russell made the acquaintance of Robert Kroetsch, the novelist, who first made him conscious of Canada and Canadian literature. As a result, Russell accepted a job at the University of Lakehead in the town of Port Arthur Ontario. The year after Russell got there the town changed its name to Thunder Bay (but I cannot confirm the rumour that the new name had something to do with the sound of Russell's laugh.) Russell finished writing his thesis on Sidney's "Astrophil and Stella," on the shores of the Kaministiquia River. By that time, however, something of the garrison mentality seems to have infected him, and he became a student of the literature of his adopted country. After eight years in Thunder Bay, Russell forsook his tenure-track job and came to Scarborough College, University of Toronto, as a CL T A in order to be closer to the people he wrote about: Robertson Davies, Northrop Frye, and Marshall McLuhan.

It no doubt says something about the state of Canadian literature at the time—but what?—that the foremost Canadian university hired a former Texan and new citizen to teach Canadian literature. The wisdom of that hire made Scarborough College and helped make the University of Toronto centres for the study of the national literature. Within four year of coming to Scarborough, Russell was teaching in the graduate program.

With Donna Bennett and Nathalie Cooke (whose PhD he had supervised), Russell published An Anthology of Canadian Literature in English with Oxford University Press, the first and still the only annotated anthology of Canadian literature. Even before he and Donna gave a shape to the canon of Canadian literature, they had been deeply involved in shaping the literature itself. They co-edited Descant, the literary magazine where many new writers got their start. As poetry director at McClelland and Stewart, he oversaw the publication of such prominent names as Jiles, Cohen, Borson, McFadden, Lee, Steffler, and Crozier. Russell worked as creative editor with a veritable who's who of Canadian poetry: Gustafsen, Musgrave, Di Michele, Di Cocco, Bringhurst, McKay, MacEwen, Dewdney, Lee, and Helm. He edited collections by Irving Layton, Joe Rosenblatt, and Douglas LePan. His edition of the Collected Poems of Al Purdy won the Governor-General's Prize in 1986. In other words, when Russell and Donna Bennett published their anthology, they were publishing people whose work they themselves had fostered. Moreover, as critics, Russell and Donna have also shaped the reception and understanding of Canadian literature. There can be few people as involved at every step of the growth and development of the national literature, acting as midwives, godparents, mentors, champions, and judges. An important stamp Russell put on the literature was the strong spirit of collaboration that began at

“The most technically efficient machine that man has ever invented is the book.”
—Northrop Frye

The printing press was at first mistaken for an engine of immortality by everybody except Shakespeare.
—Marshall McLuhan

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Russell Brown: 32 years of teaching English at UTSC

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home but extended to his entire scholarly career.

Russell has written more than forty articles or chapters in books on Canadian literature, especially on Kroetsch, Rooke, Purdy, Munro, and Bowering, as well as thematic criticism on the trickster, the open road, the Northrop Frye effect, Telemachus and Oedipus as images of tradition and authority in Canadian and American literature, rainmakers, borderlines, crow and raven, as well as articles on thematic criticism itself.

Russell has played a similar role in the English group at Scarborough as he has in Canadian literature more generally, opening the doors of his home to colleagues as he has to poets and novelists, providing guidance, putting his mark on the curriculum and pedagogy, and just as important and characteristic of the man, teaching us all to laugh at the foibles of the institution, deflating pretension, and fostering camaraderie. Russell did not just shape how Canadian literature is taught across the nation; his own teaching was fittingly honoured with a teaching award in 2004. He leaves behind a strong department that he helped build, but with his departure, the cavernous corridors of the Humanities Wing at Scarborough will seem a little more silent. Something will be missing.

Neil ten Kortenaar

“The great book for you is the book that has the most to say to you at the moment when you are reading. I do not mean the book that is most instructive, but the book that feeds your spirit. And that depends on your age, your experience, your psychological and spiritual need.”

—Robertson Davies

Graduate News

Will Robins was appointed to serve as the acting Principal of Victoria College from January 1 of this year until June 30, 2009. Unfortunately this appointment left the English Department without a Director of Graduate Studies. Will had been an extraordinary director of the program, so his loss was greatly felt. The Department of English has a long history of working with Victoria College, furthering the role of the humanities at the University of Toronto, and working together in matters of mutual interest. We would like to thank Will for his commitment to our graduate students and to the program, and wished him the very best success in his role at Victoria College, and in all his future endeavours.

We were delighted that Deidre Lynch agreed to serve as the new Director of Graduate Studies, beginning in September 2009. This is wonderful news for the English Department, as she will bring energy, wisdom, creativity, and a deep commitment to graduate education to the job. We are looking forward to working with her at a time when graduate education will play and increasingly important role at the university of Toronto.

Additional thanks needs to be extended to Greig Henders, who graciously agreed to serve as the Interim Director of Graduate Studies from January 1st, 2009, to August 31, 2009. We recognise his generosity in taking on this interim position, and appreciate his hard work for our students.

Alan Bewell

Visit us online at www.utoronto.ca/english
“Polydactyl, without most of his fur, but displaying his signature thumbs.”

Ruth Harvey

“Nowher so bisy a man as he ther nas,
And yet he semed bisier than he was.
—Geoffrey Chaucer

Ruth Harvey: Retirement Congratulations

by Suzanne Akbari (presented at the A.G.M. 14 April 2009)

Ruth Harvey has been a professor in the Department of English since 1970, when she arrived in Toronto as a rather shy twenty-six-year-old who had just completed her Ph.D. in the austere libraries of the Warburg Institute. Toronto was a very different world, but it immediately became Ruth’s new home, where she raised a family (as well as several generations of cats) and established herself as an important member of Toronto’s medieval community, both within the Department itself and within the then-recently founded Centre for Medieval Studies.

Ruth was educated at the University of London and completed her Ph.D. at the Warburg Institute, a place known for its role as the wellspring of a certain kind of intellectual history that combines literature, science, philosophy, and iconography. Ruth’s work exemplifies this extraordinary disciplinary range, combined with a thorough knowledge of manuscript culture that is all Toronto. Her first book, The Inward Wits, is a study of faculty psychology — that is, the ways in which medieval people thought that the mind worked. When I arrived at Toronto for a job interview in 1995, I was thrilled to realize that I would finally meet the “E. Ruth Harvey,” author of The Inward Wits, a book I had virtually memorized while in graduate school. I imagined that this “E. Ruth Harvey” must be a rather formidable person, but instead found her utterly approachable and warm, and fascinating to talk to; Roberta Frank literally had to pull me away for my next appointment.

Ruth’s first book was followed in 1984 by The Court of Sapience, an edition of a fifteenth-century English allegorical text, along with a series of articles on a wide range of topics. In my opinion, perhaps most impressive among her publications of this period is what deceptively looks like a minor piece of work, an Appendix called “The Image of Love” appearing in the Yale Edition of the Complete Works of Thomas More: tucked away in the supplementary matter of this edition, “The Image of Love” is the best piece of writing that I know of on the complicated relationship between image and viewer, and on the fine line that separates image-worship from idolatry. Over the last decade or so, Ruth’s research has centered on an area which, at first glance, looks a little peculiar: she has studied medieval texts on uroscopy, that is, the practice of diagnosing illness through examination of urine. This work isn’t just valuable in terms of reconstructing medieval medical practices: on the contrary, through their examination of the “little world” of the human body, medieval people believed that they could understand the “great world” around them. The rivers of blood and vital humors coursing through the flesh corresponded to the rivers and streams of the geographical landscape, and the physiological changes of maturity and age were also tracked in the stars. This research project has resulted in a major monograph now in press, called The Faithful Messenger: Urine and Uroscopy in the Mid-
**Ruth Harvey: Retirement Congratulations**

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She was so propre and sweete and likerous,

Dar not sayn, if she hadde been a mous,

And he a cat, he wolde hente anoon."

—Geoffrey Chaucer

She was so propre and sweete and likerous,

Dar not sayn, if she hadde been a mous,

And he a cat, he wolde hente anoon."

—Geoffrey Chaucer

Ruth Harvey: Retirement Congratulations

Ruth’s contributions to the Department of English have been, above all, in the classroom, where she has taught courses on medieval and Renaissance literature ranging from Chaucer to Spenser; and, at Victoria College, she developed their signature course on “Renaissance Culture.” She has also given generously of her time as an administrator, acting as M.A. Secretary in English and Secretary of the Victoria College Council, and taking on a host of committee assignments. Her administrative generosity has been greatest to the Centre of Medieval Studies, where I have calculated that, of the last twenty years, Ruth has been either Graduate Coordinator, Ph.D. Secretary, or Associate Director for nine of them.

Her nurturing of the community around her goes beyond the usual environments of classroom and meeting room: for a long time, those lucky enough to be at Medieval Studies on Friday afternoons would find fresh baking in the kitchen, and one faculty member I spoke to reports that someone who shall remain nameless comes quietly in the mornings to plant flowering bulbs in her garden. Ruth Harvey has cultivated the community around her as carefully and generously as she has cultivated her own garden, sometimes even when adversity has been close at hand. Perhaps Ruth’s most striking quality is her force of will and her persistent determination in the face of difficulties, traits which have been a great inspiration to all those who know her. Since her arrival at the University of Toronto almost forty years ago, Ruth Harvey has given generously to the Department of English, and she retires this year as a Full Professor. For all these many accomplishments, the Department of English expresses its gratitude to Professor Harvey for her contributions to the teaching of English literature and medieval studies at the University of Toronto.

*Suzanne Akbari*

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**The world’s a stage for Jeremy Lopez**

Directed by Jeremy Lopez, *Ram Alley, or Merry-Trickes*, was performed at the Koffler Student Centre, Robert Gill Theatre from March 5 to 8, 2009.

The only surviving work of Lording Barry, *Ram Alley* was written around 1608. Unable to make a living with a share of a boy-acting theatre company, Barry turned to piracy, a lifestyle that informed this adventurous, earthy, bawdy farce. *Ram Alley* is set in the Whitefriars area of west London infamous for its crime and less than savoury characters. Also, on March 30th, Professor Lopez gave a lecture on Ben Jonson’s “Bartholomew Fair” at the Toronto Public Library. The event was co-presented by the Toronto Reference Library and the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.
Hugh MacCallum, 1928-2008 In Memoriam

Hugh MacCallum, one of Canada’s wisest and most distinguished Miltonists, died of a respiratory ailment at Toronto General Hospital on the 18th July 2008. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and their son, Sam, and his young family. His daughter Elizabeth died in 1982. Hugh was Toronto born and bred. The son of Reid MacCallum, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto, he was educated as an undergraduate at Trinity College (1948-51) where he was taught by A.E. Barker, and as a doctoral candidate at University College (1953-59) where he was supervised by A.S.P. Woodhouse. After a short period of teaching at the University of Western Ontario (1955-59), he returned to a tenure-track position at Toronto where he stayed until his retirement in 1993.

From the late 1940s into the 1960s, during the period of Hugh’s education, the University of Toronto experienced a remarkable renaissance in English literary studies. It was during this period, for instance, that Northrop Frye published Fearful Symmetry (1947) and Anatomy of Criticism (1957) and Marshall McLuhan published The Mechanical Bride (1951), The Gutenberg Galaxy (1962), and Understanding Media (1964). Nowhere was this renaissance more apparent than in Milton Studies.

The small graduate English faculty of which both Frye and McLuhan were members was dominated by the formidable figure of its chair, Arthur Woodhouse. It was Woodhouse who gave Frye his first graduate course, not as one might expect on Blake but on Spenser in 1943, and it was under Woodhouse’s aegis that early modern studies at Toronto took off, attracting very early on such brilliant students as Arthur Barker and Ernest Sirluck. The school of criticism inspired by Woodhouse was deeply historical. Focused as it was on Milton, it was determined to take both his religion and politics seriously. Unlike so much mainstream Milton criticism, especially in Britain, it was convinced that the poetry could not be understood independently of the prose nor the prose independently of the great political upheaval of the English Revolution. In the shadow of Fascism and under the threat of the Second World War, its theme was liberty. Woodhouse published Puritanism and Liberty in 1938, Barker Milton and the Puritan Dilemma in 1942, and Sirluck, it was hoped, would complete a major work on Milton and classical republicanism. To Barker’s great annoyance, Sirluck was beaten to the punch by Zera Fink, but Sirluck went on to incorporate the political implications of his work on natural law into his magisterial introduction to the second volume of the Yale prose in 1958. Their allies in the United States were such legendary figures as Don Wolfe at New York’s New School, Merritt Hughes at Wisconsin, and Douglas Bush (himself a Toronto graduate and close friend of Woodhouse) at Harvard. The apotheosis of this larger North American movement in a re-invigorated form of historical criticism was, of course, the eight-volume Yale prose (1953-82). Frye is usually seen as standing apart from the Woodhouse group, but its influence on him, as Hugh frequently explained, was deep and abiding. It is more than evident, for instance, in

“Many a man lives a burden to the Earth; but a good Book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.”

—John Milton

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Frye’s dependence on Woodhouse’s distinction between the orders of nature and grace in Frye’s monograph on Milton, *The Return of Eden* (1965). Balachandra Rajan, who moved from India to the University of Western Ontario in 1966, had also long been involved with the Woodhouse group, both influencing it and being influenced by it. In one memorable encounter at Cambridge in the early summer of 1944, Sirluck turned up at Trinity College to deliver a copy of Barker’s book, unavailable to Rajan in wartime England, while on his way to join his regiment in Normandy. It was clearly crucial to the redoubtable Sirluck to connect with E.M.W. Tillyard’s brilliant young student before dealing with Hitler. Rajan had not committed himself to Milton studies at this stage of his doctoral work, but Sirluck’s gift did the trick.

Hugh was the youngest and last of the Woodhouse group — he was drawn to it not so much by Milton’s politics as by his religious thought, and his enduring contribution to Milton studies remains his extraordinary ability to illuminate the subtlety, originality, and reasonableness of what sometimes might appear harsh or crabbed in Milton’s theology. His doctoral dissertation was on Milton and scriptural interpretation. The first fruits of that dissertation was a classic essay called “Milton and the Figurative Interpretation of the Bible” published in *University of Toronto Quarterly* 31 (1962). The essay is an outstanding piece of work, demonstrating how reductive it is to separate a poem like *Paradise Lost* from the interpretative practices Milton developed in reading the Bible, especially as those practices are explained in *De Doctrina Christiana*. It shows with great forensic skill how Milton ultimately denied any simple split between the letter and the spirit, that the “spiritual understanding of the letter requires the apprehension of the letter through faith and charity” rather than any simple rejection or “substitution of an allegorical meaning for a literal one.” In insisting on the immediate value of the letter, Hugh anticipated much of the later distinguished work that has been produced on Milton’s monism. When I first read this essay as an undergraduate at the University of London in the early 1970s, it seemed like a voice from another world. Its unusual learning, measured tone, and the elegant unfolding of its thesis made the polemics of Eliot and Leavis, with which we were saturated, and even the interventions of the much admired Empson and Ricks, suddenly seem partisan, subjective, and indeed amateurish in their ignorance of anything to do with Milton other than their endless scrutiny of the poems. I was delighted years later when Hugh agreed to supervise my doctoral dissertation.

Hugh’s first book was a brilliant edition of *The Elegant and Learned Discourse of the Light of Nature* by the Cambridge Platonist Nathanael Culverwel which he co-edited and published with R.A. Greene in 1971. The gentle, painstaking and imaginative and intellectually sophisticated moderation of Culverwel sat well with Hugh’s own wonderfully good-natured and self-effacing personality. The following year Hugh completed his obligations to
Hugh MacCallum, 1928-2008 In Memoriam

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Woodhouse as his heir and academic son by completing and bringing out the now deceased chief’s monograph, *The Heavenly Muse: A Preface to Milton*. In 1986 Hugh published his own outstanding book, *Milton and the Sons of God: The Divine Image in Milton’s Epic Poetry*. The book, like his UTQ article, is a classic and is impossible to study Milton’s religious thought adequately without reference to it. With Hugh’s deeply intelligent contemplation of the meaning of “Sonship,” the Woodhouse tradition, it might be argued, arrived at its fulfillment. Not only does Hugh make clear the profoundly democratizing implications of reformed Christianity, but he does so by focusing on Milton’s highly original treatment of God the Son. The liberty implicit in Protestantism is crystallized in Milton’s exhaustive working out of the significance of the biblical Son. In a way that anticipates and fully complements David Norbrook’s perception of the “reduction” of the Son as image of republican enfranchisement in *Writing the English Republic*, Hugh shows how the Son’s trial and mediation raises us up and makes us all, regardless of gender, equally “sons not servants.”

As he moved towards retirement, Hugh became increasingly interested in the Restoration Milton; he wrote two fine articles on Dryden and in 1988 the remarkable quality of his work was recognized by the Milton Society of America when he was awarded its Hanford Prize for most distinguished article – “Samson Agonistes: The Deliverer as Judge,” *Milton Studies* 23 (1987).

Hugh’s influence on Milton studies was not confined to his writing. Through his teaching, both directly and indirectly, he touched many students who went on to produce distinguished work – Anthony Raspa, Jeanne Shami, Mary Nyquist, Gordon Teskey, Paul Klemp, H.S. Marjara, Walter Lim, and James Nohrnberg immediately come to mind. Nohrnberg remembers Hugh vividly at his dissertation defense in 1970. When one member of his committee was upbraiding Jim for his lax scholarship in what was to become, more than a little ironically, his famously learned and encyclopedic book, *The Analogy of ‘The Faerie Queene,*’ Hugh intervened and drew everyone’s attention to a passage that he found especially admirable. In doing so, he completely changed the mood of the defense. This was typical and Hugh is remembered by a generation of English graduate students at U of T as the Director of Graduate Studies through 1970s for his sensitivity and efficiency. Patrick Cheney remembers Hugh’s quiet encouragement as he headed out to the wilds of Montana to finish his dissertation and many others, not as resourceful as Patrick, recall Hugh’s constant willingness to help them through the stress of graduate school. Rather like Captain Rivers in Pat Barker’s *Regeneration*, however, he tended to internalize their anxieties to the point where the job clearly began to take its toll on him. He was the kindest of supervisors, cudite, incisive, and quite firm when he needed to be. I lived for his approval and will always remember him, those long arms folded across his chest, rubbing his shoulders, and responding to a piece of writing with his great smile and hushed words like: “Yes, I think this is fine, just fine.” The ultimate accolade.

Every year in early May we now hold the Canada Milton Seminar which is meant, among many things, to commemorate the achievements of Hugh and other members of the Canadian Milton tradition. It needs to be emphasized in this the 400th anniversary of his birth that Milton is not just another poet but, for all his imperfections, the author of the single greatest poem in the English language, a political activist and a thinker of extraordinary range and complexity whose contributions to our understanding of what real liberty and a truly civil society should be were profound. It is no small achievement to devote one’s life as assiduously and as successfully as Hugh MacCallum did to the study of such a man and his works.

*Paul Stevens*

Note: I am grateful to the following for help with Hugh’s obituary – Patrick Cheney, David Galbraith, Glenn Loney, Doug MacArthur, Lynne Magnusson, Nicholas von Maltzahn, Feisal Mohamed, James Nohrnberg, Balachandra Rajan, Ernest Sirluck, and Ray Waddington
The Department of English’s Annual Spring Reunion was held at the Jackman Humanities Building on Thursday, May 28, 2009.

The evening featured a short lecture entitled “The Poet and the Writing Life,” by the eminent Renaissance and Canadianist scholar, Professor Emeritus Germaine Warkentin.

We were extremely pleased to welcome back many faculty and alumni, who thoroughly enjoyed the talk, and later participated in a short question and answer session with Professor Warkentin. This was followed by a reception that proved to be a great opportunity for everyone to reconnect and renew ties with the department and each other.

We plan to offer more of these events, specifically directed at reaching out to our English Department Alumni and to the greater University community. If you are interested in getting involved or if you would like more information about upcoming Alumni events, please contact Marguerite Perry at (416) 416-946-3026 or marguerite.perry@utoronto.ca.

Special acknowledgement should be made to Clare Orchard (the Executive Assistant to the Chair of the English Department), and to Virginia Ise (Manager Alumni Relations, Faculty of Arts & Science, Advancement) in appreciation for their work planning, organizing, and producing this event. Without their dedication and effort this reunion would not have been such a success.

We look forward to next year, and what should prove to be an exciting and productive relationship with our English Alumni.

Marguerite Perry
Representative Poetry Online News

Every great and original writer, in proportion as he is great and original, must himself create the taste by which he is to be relished.

- William Wordsworth

rpolibrary@utoronto.ca is still growing as it approaches 2012, the 100th anniversary of Representative Poetry, which was first edited by Professors Alexander and Clawson in 1912 (and published by the University of Toronto Press in its first year). Placed online in late 1994 with fewer than a hundred poets, RPO now has 542 poets and 3,687 poems (237,645 lines) with 16,829 line notes and 30 commentaries. Representative Poetry cost $1.00 when it came out in 1912; today, RPO is free. We dedicate it to the poets who add so much to life and on whose works English studies are founded.

Our newest poets are Margaret Atwood (with her heart-rending “Flowers” and “Notes towards a Poem that can never be Written”), Earle Birney (including his “David,” which transformed high-school poetry study for so many Canadians), our own Jay Macpherson, and the rambunctious Henry John (“Play up! play up! and play the game!”) Newbolt.

Our editors are busy. Professor John Baird has joined RPO as Associate Editor (Restoration and 18th Century) and has added Samuel Johnson’s “London” and the complete “The Vanity of Human Wishes”, Edmund Waller’s “Upon His Majesty’s Repairing of Paul’s”, John Oldham’s “A Satire, in Imitation of the Third of Juvenal” and John Dryden’s John Dryden’s “The Third Satire of Juvenal.” I completed editing the 154 poems of Shakespeare’s sonnet cycle (1609) and am working on annotating poems by our new living poets. Marc Plamondon, now teaching in the English Department at Nipissing University in North Bay, our founding and continuing programmer, has added a “collections” feature and has made possible our lawful citation of in-copyright poetry.

The Advisory Board for RPO is in its third year now. We’re lucky to have the help of John Baird, Eleanor Cook (Professor Emeritus), Alan Bewell (Chair, English), Sian Meikle (Toronto’s digital librarian), and two international poets who live in Toronto, Al Moritz and Molly Peacock (the new poem-collections of these—our greatest RPO fans—are, respectively, Sentinel from Anansi and The Second Blush from McClelland and Stewart Ltd.).

The RPO Advisory Board has urged us to increase the number of living poets to its list.

The RPO lab is Room 7061-62, Robarts Library, thanks to the wonderful support of chief librarian Carole Moore and IT director Peter Clinton. We welcome Ana Berdinskiikh full-time this summer to the RPO lab. She is adding poets and poems to what we believe to be the greatest anthology of classical English poetry online. Ana’s going into fourth year in the specialist English program at Toronto. She and I work with Shannon Robinson, our CBC-trained copyright-clearance officer. Shannon’s a short-story writer (see her “Second Body” in the online “Whiskey Island Magazine) and is just entering the MFA program in St Louis, where she and her husband-poet, James Arthur, have just moved.

RPO gets email regularly from poetry-lovers around the world and would enjoy hearing from former Department of English students, especially if you have a suggestion or a personal comment. Howard Leigh in Ottawa wrote re-

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Representative Poetry Online News

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recently:

I was a bit astonished to find in Archibald Lampman’s poem EVENING, his use of the phrase; "... The stilly woods grow dark and deep ...". As he was born about 13 years before Robert Frost, I was tempted to speculate that Frost ["The woods are lovely, dark and deep" in his "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"] may have been inspired by Lampman’s vision ... and perhaps ... Lampman’s WINTER EVENING where ... "To-night the very horses springing by toss gold from whit-

ened nostrils ..."] [Frost’s “My little horse must think it queer ...”]. Having crossed the Lievre on many an occasion AND having photographed 7 ducks in a row at Ottawa’s Bruce Pit ! [Lampman’s “Morning on the Liève”] I grow fonder of Archibald the more I read his work!

Become a friend of RPO if your love of English poetry, past and present, takes you our way.

Ian Lancashire.

Professor Lancashire’s teaching and research is in the fields of Early Modern English lexicography, cybertextuality, and poetry. His current research includes: “Forgetful Muses” (book on textual evidence for cognitive authoring); "Teaching Literature and Language Online" (a collection of essays, edited for the Modern Language Association); a book on the making of the Early Modern English lexicon, 1480-1700; LEME; RPO".

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Prescriptivism(e) & Patriotism(e) Conference - 17—19 August, 2009

What’s happening to language norms in this age of globalization? Find out at our August conference!

Co-organized by faculty and students of English and other departments, a dynamic academic conference will take place at University of Toronto’s New College from 17-19 August 2009. Prescriptivism(e) & Patriotism(e) explores how local and global politics affect language and language rules in Canada and abroad. This meeting brings together local teachers, linguists and dictionary-makers, and an international panel of students and scholars. We will share our perspectives on what has shaped the diverse varieties of languages we use and the different language norms we observe.

This bilingual conference extends the notion of prescribing language usage often associated with national academies and reference books. Some historical topics consider how certain languages, dialects, and speakers were established as more legitimate than others. Our contemporary topics range from Acadian French to Zimbabwean English, from educators standardizing Creole spelling to performers who use Jamaican and Haitian Creoles in Québec hip-hop. Speakers at the special ‘Jackman Panel’ will present on language norms in contemporary Canada. Join us!

This conference is open to the public: we all use language. Everyone can attend the free keynote lectures — which even includes one by Prof. Ian Lancashire (see above). We have a special day for educators, during which we shall examine how the negotiation between traditional language rules and the evolution of language makes modern-language pedagogy extremely dynamic and vibrant in the Canadian classroom. This event will include presentations, a panel discussion among professors, instructors, and distinguished teaching assistants, and an open question forum. This conference will also have special rates for students. Our conference website has information about the program and about how to register: http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/prescrip/

CONTACT FOR EDUCATORS: George Lamont Centre for Medieval Studies UTM English and Drama george.lamont@utoronto.ca

http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/prescrip/education.htm
http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/prescrip/education.pdf

GENERAL CONTACT: Professor Carol Percy Department of English University of Toronto (416) 978-4287 linguistic.prescriptivism@utoronto.ca

Visit us online at www.utoronto.ca/english
Highlights from 2008-2009

The study of English continues beyond the classroom. English language is constantly evolving; English Literature is richly vibrant, dynamic and relevant. Here is but a sampling of the many diverse events that our faculty, students and alumni participated in during the past year. Most events not only welcome members of the university community and alumni, but also interested members of the community as well. To learn more about upcoming events, please bookmark our website at www.utoronto.ca/english and watch for upcoming future events, invitations, announcements and dates.

The Alexander Lectures: Linda Hutcheon

The Uses and Abuses of Reviewing was the subject of the 2008-2009 Alexander Lectures by Linda Hutcheon. Linda presented the lectures at University College over four days in March, 2009. The titles of the lectures were:

- Why Review Reviewing Today?: “No customer reviews yet. Be the first.” (Amazon.com)
- The Review: “a slender inconsequential thing” (A. Brandt) or a license to kill?
- The Reviewer: executioner (Anon.) Louse (V. Woolf) or “monarch-maker” Byron?
- The Reviewed: “Praise cancels blame; and blame cancels praise” (V. Woolf)?

In the age of the ubiquitous blog and the constant online invitation to be a “customer reviewer,” it is time to review the task of reviewing. The review is usually considered a secondary, even a subservient, genre, but it can also wield considerable poser across all the arts and even into the academy. That power explains why any investigation into the ethics and politics of reviewing today must engage the complicated interrelations of the review—either generous or with “an itching to deride” (Pope)—and the reviewed. Whether lauded or libeled.

Paul Stevens: Big Ideas

This year, Professor Paul Stevens was nominated as one of the top ten finalists in the TVO Best Lecturer competition. His TVO lecture, “Milton’s Satan,” was broadcast on the TVO show “Big Ideas” at on Saturday, March 14th. The winning professor’s department was awarded a $10,000 bursary scholarship to fund undergraduate education. The competition was fierce, and although the bursary money ultimately went to another university, Professor Stevens exemplified the fine instructional quality of our faculty’s teaching. We are justifiably proud, and look forward to next year’s competition.

A professor and Canada Research Chair in English Literature at the University of Toronto, Professor Stevens is a leading authority on the works of the great English poet, John Milton, and was Head of the Department of English at Queen’s University during the late 1990s. Last year he was President of the Milton Society of America and Visiting Research Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. He has won numerous teaching prizes, most recently the 2008 Northrop Frye Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research at Toronto.

To read more about Paul Stevens and the TVO competition, visit: <http://www.tvo.org/TVOsites/WebObjects/TvoMicrosite.woa?best lecturer_professors#Paul%20Stevens>

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NASSR 2008 Conference

The North American Society for the Study of Romanticism was established in 1991 as a forum for the discussion of a wide variety of theoretical approaches to Romantic works of all genres and disciplines and of subjects relevant to the international and interdisciplinary study of Romanticism. The University of Toronto hosted the 16th annual NASSR 2008 Conference, in association with Brock University, the University of Ottawa, Queen’s University, and York University. The theme was “Romantic Diversity.”

The program for the four day conference included 229 papers presented in 78 sessions (of which 22 were special sessions), along with 7 seminars, a special presentation and field trip on “The Claude Mirror and the Picturesque,” and featured three outstanding plenary presentations, by Jeffrey Cox, Esther Schor, and Linda Colley:

“Diverse, sheer opposite, antipodes’: Diversity, Opposition, and Community in Romantic Culture,” Jeffrey Cox’s remarkable survey tour of the diversity of global Romantic culture, which highlighted the challenge of embracing the period’s incredible diversity while attempting to retain or conceive coherent notions of Romanticism.

Esther Schor’s memorable plenary, “Universal Romanticism,” ranged across worlds in order to trace the diversity at the heart of Romantic conceptualizations of universalism. The lecture included a reading of “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer” in Esperanto, and a genealogy of the word “universe” along with its derivatives in the context of universal language, universal rights, and universal egotism.

The third plenary by Linda Colley, “Trans-Continental Romances, Gender, and Power: The World-Wide Political Thought of Philip Francis,” explored competing visions of the Irishman Francis: rake, member of Calcutta’s Supreme Council in the 1770s, fierce critic of Warren Hastings both in India and London, political theorist and writer, and supporter of the American and French Revolutions. The lecture crossed from Bengal to the Cape of Africa, London, and Paris to provide new perspectives on questions of empire, gender, war, nationality, race, and religion during the early Romantic period.

With acknowledgements to Dan White and NASSR

This year’s “New Narrative Conference” took place within the confines of The Toronto Comic Arts Festival at the Central Reference Library. The conference was smaller than last year’s (which was held over two days at University College). There were 15 papers given by participants from the United States and Canada. About three-quarters of these people are professors or instructors, and the others are people working in the field and graduate students. Attendance was strong at the conference, and discussion was spirited and keen. As it was part of the conference’s mandate to make the proceedings as accessible as possible, all panels were open, and free, to both presenters and the public.

One of the most interesting things about the conference and the field is the increase in its theorization. Professor Bart Beatty (Calgary), for example, presented a paper entitled “Comics Off the Page: Towards a Theory of Performance in the Comics World.” (He is the author of Unpopular Culture: Transforming the European Comic Book in the 1990s, and The System of Comics, a translation of Thierry Groensteen’s Système de la bande dessinée (1997), a semiotic analysis of the structure of comics as a visual language.) Jeet Heer, who gave a lunchtime interview of the Canadian artist David Collier, is the editor of numerous books in the field and, most recently, A Comics Studies Reader. I hope that this will become an annual event!

Andrew Lesk

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Highlights from 2008-2009
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Literature for Our Time

The guests in this year’s Literature for Our Time series were playwright Karen Hines, poet Karen Solie, and novelist Sam Lipsyte. This was the fifth year of the Literature for Our Time series, author visits held each spring within the Department’s first-year course of the same name. The series is sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts, Victoria University, and the Department of English, and is open to the university community, alumni, and the public.

Both the class and the series Literature for Our Time focus in the spring term on significant works published in the last decade by emerging writers who have won the attention of critics, awards committees, and readers. Previous guests in the series have included Camilla Gibb, Eden Robinson, Richard Powers, Ken Babstock, Lynn Crosbie, Seth, and Chris Ware.

TVOntario filmed the final guest in this year’s series, Sam Lipsyte, and plans to air his appearance this fall on Big Ideas.

KAREN HINES “Pochsy is the light that keeps us laughing as we plunge into the darkness. Beckett would have fallen for her.”

—Simon Houpt, eye Weekly

KAREN SOLIE “Karen Solie’s work reminds me that there is at the heart of metaphor a delicious amoral joy.”

—poet Don McKay

SAM LIPSYTE “Writing this deep is rare enough—writing this deep and this hysterical pretty much didn’t exist until Lipsyte began pouring it on the page.”

Henry Purcell’s 350th anniversary

As part of the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Henry Purcell, the University of Toronto held a conference on the greatest of Purcell’s semi-operas, King Arthur, along with performances of King Arthur by Henry Purcell and John Dryden, by The Toronto Masque Theatre. Papers were presented scholars Michael Burden, Brian Corman, Todd Gilman, David Klausner, Ken McLeod, Andrew Pinnock, James Winn and Stephen Zwicker. The conference included a round-table discussion of the performance with members of the artistic team.

King Arthur was presented at the MacMillan Theatre, University of Toronto, from April 23-24, 2009. The production was directed by Derek Boyes and Marie-Nathalie Lacoursière, musical direction was by Larry Beckwith, and choreography by Marie-Nathalie Lacoursière. It was designed by Caroline Guilbault, with lighting design by Gabriel Cropley.

Milton, Chaucer, Podcasts, Poetry, Prose & Graphic Novels!

Our faculty and students have participated in a variety of events too numerous to list here. While exemplifying the meaning of diversity, all of these experiences enrich our knowledge of English language and literature. From the study of Paradise Lost to the latest book launch by one of our grad students, the many metamorphic changes of English are traced, explored, analysed and celebrated in our department. We invite you to participate, get involved, be entertained, be challenged, and be stimulated! Visit our events page and calendar of our website regularly, come out, and get involved!

Visit us online at www.utoronto.ca/english
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