



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017



St. Thomas
UNIVERSITY



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

ISABELLE AGNEW

On 9 May 2017 I walked across the stage at the Grant-Harvey Arena and received my Bachelor of Arts with Honours in English Language and Literature, and, to be moving on from STU is a bitter-sweet moment for me.

My time at STU, but especially working within the English Department, has exceeded my expectations. When I came to university in 2013 my goal was simply to make it through my degree. I had no idea that the education I would receive, and people I would meet along the way would change me as a person as well.

Over the course of my degree I have had the pleasure of working with professors who have helped shape me as an academically-minded individual. Where I was certain my Bachelor of Arts would be the only degree I attained four years ago, the professors in the English Department have fostered in me a love for English literature and I look forward to pursuing that in future degrees.

In the fall of 2018 I hope to return to school to get my Masters in English Literature. In the meantime, however, I will be working in communications for the City of Fredericton this summer, and as a Legal Assistant in Moncton from September 2017 to August 2018. If it weren't for the communications skills I've learned through my English degree, I don't think I would have had these job opportunities, and for that I am very thankful.

To all of the professors who I have worked with at STU, thank you for everything you have taught me (both within and without the classroom) over the years. To those students returning to STU next year, good luck! And, to my fellow graduates of 2017, congratulations! I wish you all luck on future endeavours!

WELCOME

Welcome to the newsletter of the Department of English Language and Literature at St. Thomas University. We will be producing two issues each academic year, in winter and spring.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will provide information about the Department, including recent events and notices about events to come. We will also include book reviews and other articles of interest to our readers.

We would be delighted to receive contributions from faculty, students, and alumni. They may be sent to the English Department Chair, Dr. Dawn Morgan (englishchair@stu.ca).

EDITOR 2016-2017
Isabelle Agnew (BA Hons. 2017)

FACULTY ADVISOR
Dr. Elizabeth McKim

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

The English Department Newsletter invites reviews from faculty, students, and alumni. Tell us about what you're reading, what you think of it, and why. Submissions may be sent to Isabelle Agnew (hjbnh@stu.ca).

STUDENT NEWS

English Prizes and Awards

Congratulations to the student winners of prizes for high achievement in English courses, in Drama, and in Creative Writing:

ENGLISH

Prize for English in 1st Year

Sydney Hallett

Edwin Flaherty Prize for English in 2nd Year

Melissa Moore

Prize for English in 3rd Year

Hannah Zamora

Essay Prize for English in 3rd Year

Alexis McCormack

Bishop Hill Prize for English in 4th Year

Isabelle Agnew

DRAMA

Ted Daigle Memorial Drama Award

Hannah Blizzard

Kira Chisholm

CREATIVE WRITING

Robert Clayton Casto Prize in Poetry

Alexis McCormack

David Adams Richards Prize in Prose

Luke Beirne

David Velensky Prize in Creative Writing

Monica Furness

Creative Writing student **SARAH COOPER** launched her first collection of poetry, *Of Feathers and Fire: Fragments from a Fractured Mind* (Penumbra Press, 2017).

The collection features poetry on themes of mental illness, hope, lost love, and others.

Congratulations Sarah!



HANNAH ZAMORA, a 3rd year student double honouring in English and Great Books, presented her paper "Knowing the Audience: Deception as Henry V's Constant Political Tool" at the Association for Core Texts and Courses Conference, held at Concordia University, Irvine. The focus of Zamora's paper is Shakespeare's depiction of Henry V in *Henry IV Part One* and *Henry V*. Henry learns from Falstaff and the thieves, and applies their lessons in deception and the manipulation of honour to his later role as King.

ANNUAL ATLANTIC UNDERGRADUATE ENGLISH CONFERENCE

In March, students from the English Department travelled to the University of Prince Edward Island to participate in the Annual Atlantic Undergraduate English Conference (AAUEC).

Students presenting papers and creative writing at AAUEC 2017:

H. ISABELLE AGNEW, 4th year Honours English: "Verse-disguising Verse': John Donne's Irregular Metre and Poetic Form in 'The Flea' and 'Holy Sonnet X: Death Be Not Proud'"

HANNAH BLIZZARD, 3rd year Honours English: "The Grail, the Fisher King, and the Waste Land: Reconsidering Jessie Weston's Influence on T.S. Eliot"

KATLIN COPELAND, 4th year Honours History and Double Major in English and Great Books, and **VANESSA LEBLANC**, 4th year Honours English: "The Cats at Rapallo"

MONICA FURNESS, 4th year Honours English with a Concentration in Creative Writing: "Baby Rallo"

LEXI MCCORMACK, 3rd year Honours English: "Mary Butts and the Study of Phenomena in the Material World: Her Disenchantment with Aleister Crowley, Magic, and Decadence"

LAURA NOBLE, BA (Honours English) 2012, B.Ed 2013, post-grad work in Creative Writing 2017: "Business as Usual"

FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Stewart Donovan

STEWART DONOVAN RESEARCH IN IRELAND

Dr. Stewart Donovan was awarded the Dobbin Atlantic Scholarship for 2016/17 by the Board of Trustees of the Ireland Canada University Foundation. The award allowed him to travel to Ireland for research in spring, 2017



Dr. Kathy Mac

NEW POETRY BY KATHY MAC, CREATIVE WRITING ADVISOR

Human Misunderstanding, Roseway Press, 2017, is Kathy Mac's latest work. The first of the book's three long poems compares a fictional child soldier (a hero) with a real child soldier (a victim). The second juxtaposes eighteenth century philosophy with one person's search for another in downtown Halifax. The final poem explores two court cases in which an immigrant faces deportation, and torture, if found guilty of assault in a Canadian court.



Dr. Elizabeth McKim

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH BY PROFESSOR ELIZABETH MCKIM

Schiff, Brian, A. Elizabeth McKim, and Sylvie Patron, Eds., *Life and Narrative: The Risks and Responsibilities of Storying Experience*. Oxford UP, 2017. Professor McKim and colleagues examine the problem of life and narrative, the central mystery of how persons encounter, manage, and inhabit a self and a world of their own—and others'—creation. *Life and Narrative* includes chapters by prominent scholars in the social sciences and humanities who are driving forward the study of narrative in their respective disciplines and beyond.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH

Cornelius & Katherine Kingston Memorial Scholarship

Value: \$1,000

Criteria: Awarded annually to a third year student majoring in English. Selection is based on academic achievement. Generously funded by members of the Kingston family.

Dick and Judy Kennedy Scholarship in English

Value: \$750

Criteria: Awarded annually to a student entering third or fourth year with a major or honours in English. Selection is based on academic achievement. Generously funded by Dick and Judy Kennedy.

Fenton Burke Memorial Bursary

Value: \$500

Criteria: Awarded annually to a student who has completed third year (or a minimum of 90 credit hours), and is majoring in English. Preference will be given to students who do not already hold a scholarship or bursary. Selection is based on financial need with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Priority will

be given to students from Cape Breton. This bursary is awarded in memory of Fenton Burke, who was a member of the Department of English from 1963 until his death in 2001, and who served as chair from 1990 until 2001. Generously funded by friends and colleagues of Fenton Burke.

Kay Smith Memorial Bursary

Value: \$500

Criteria: Awarded annually to a student in third or fourth year who is majoring or honouring in English with a Concentration in Creative Writing. Generously funded by friends of the late Saint John poet, Kay Smith.

LITERATURE & LANDSCAPE TRAVEL STUDY COURSE

From 17 May 2017 to 10 June 2017, Dr. Andrea Schutz and her class on **Advanced Old English: Literature and Landscape (ENGL 3793)** will be travelling to the United Kingdom as part of their travel study course.

The course takes place while travelling to sites across the United Kingdom associated with the literature studied: Hadrian's Wall, St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, Wicken Fen in East Anglia and many more. Students translate literature about these sites from Anglo-Saxon (Old English), and use the geography, geology, history and

material locations of their travels to inform their translations.

Students have been fundraising all year long to make their travels possible. In February a fundraiser at Chapters raised 15% of all purchases that day. A Harry Potter Trivia Night in April boosted funds for the travel study even more.

Students looking for information about future travel study opportunities in the English Department may contact englishchair@stu.ca.



NB DRAMA FESTIVAL AT STU AND THEATRE FEVER TOUR

The annual New Brunswick Drama Festival took place at St. Thomas University from 1-3 May 2017 for middle schools, and 10-13 May 2017 for high schools. STU hosts the annual Drama Festival to celebrate theatre performance and production by high school and middle school students from across the province.

The festival is open to the public. Students perform plays for fellow students, their teachers, and a panel of adjudicators. Theatre workshops are offered for the duration of the festival.

STU THEATRE FEVER TOUR

In April and May, STU English Drama Professor Lisa Anne Ross travelled across New Brunswick. Building on last year's success, **Theatre Fever** offers themed drama workshops to high school students across the province.



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