

# Social Sciences & Humanities NEWSLETTER

## CONCERT GRAND PIANO ARRIVES

A very warm welcome to the third edition of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Newsletter. I hope that this publication, whether read in paper format or electronic, will give you a glimpse of the many exciting achievements and activities that we have cause to celebrate. In this issue you will read about Cameron Reid (BA'10) and his entrepreneurial spirit, new work by faculty members Todd Dufresne and Aris Carastathis, and the important research that Professor Valerie Hébert is involved with in the area of Holocaust studies.

As well, I am delighted to announce the successful conclusion of our fundraising campaign to raise \$100,000 to purchase a Concert Grand Piano for the Department of Music. Thanks to the generosity of Colleen Kubinec and many others who donated funds, Lakehead University was able to purchase a nine-foot Steinway Concert Grand Piano. It arrived on March 29, 2017, which was, coincidentally, International Piano Day! This superb instrument will enrich our music programs. It will help us to recruit and retain some of the finest musical talent and foster continued engagement with our community partners.

As some of you may already know, I have accepted a new position as Principal of Lakehead's Orillia campus, replacing Dr. Kim Fedderson who retired from Lakehead in June 2017. As this will be my last Newsletter in my role as the Interim Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many alumni and friends for their continued interest and support for the Faculty. Together we have much to be proud of and to celebrate. Additionally, I would like to welcome Dr. Rhonda Koster on board as the Acting Dean of the Faculty and wish her all the best as she embarks on her new and challenging role over the upcoming academic year.

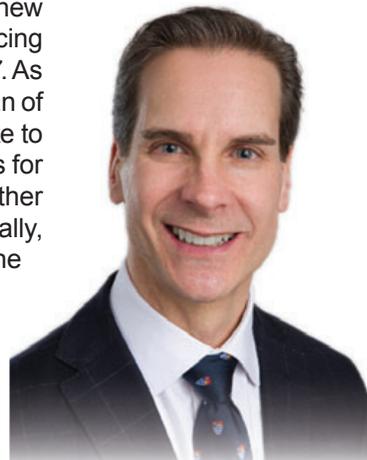


*Department of Music Chair Aris Carastathis celebrates with donor Colleen Kubinec on the successful conclusion of a \$100,000 fundraising campaign to purchase a Steinway Concert Grand Piano for Lakehead's Jean McNulty Recital Hall. The piano will enable students to pursue advanced opportunities in music performance and education and it will be an exciting focal point for the performing arts in Northwestern Ontario.*

As always, stay in touch and keep us updated on exciting news and events that we might consider for inclusion in future editions of our Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans  
Principal, Orillia Campus  
Email: [djobinbe@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:djobinbe@lakeheadu.ca)



# ALUMNI PROFILES

## Yolanda Wanakamik

### Integrated Policy Officer



**Y**olanda Wanakamik (HBA'98) was 13 years old when she left her family in Armstrong, Ontario to attend high school in Thunder Bay. She remembers how important the city's Indian Friendship Center was in helping her manage that transition.

Now in her mid-forties this Lakehead U graduate and mother of two boys is dedicated to seeking out and creating "culturally-safe" spaces for Indigenous people.

Yolanda Wanakamik is the Integrated Policy Officer for Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, situated on the Fort William First Nation. She has been working with her colleagues to develop a new Aboriginal Midwifery program that has received funding from the Province of Ontario. It is part of the government's plan to support culturally appropriate and safe health care services that meet the specific needs of Indigenous women and their families.

Before joining Dilico Yolanda spent six years working at Lakehead in the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives. In the beginning she focused on Aboriginal student recruitment and had the opportunity to visit numerous high schools across the province. Towards the end of her employment there, while serving as Acting Vice-Provost of Aboriginal Initiatives, she established an Aboriginal Mentorship program to connect Indigenous university students with Indigenous high school students in Thunder Bay.

Yolanda enjoys helping students develop their potential through education. That is why she is enrolled part-time in Lakehead's Master of Education degree program. It's also why she chose to become a director on the Board of the Mazinaajim Children's Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization that awards bursaries to Anishinabek children, youth, and families to improve their health and wellbeing.

"I love mentoring young people interested in education," she says. "I get phone calls and requests through social media all the time from students asking me "What do I do?" and "How do I navigate this situation?"

Clearly, Yolanda Wanakamik knows how to walk the talk. Her success growing up as a member of Whitesand First Nation, managing her parents' fly-in fishing resort (along with her husband Jason Magill), and completing a Confederation College diploma and a Lakehead University degree, speaks eloquently of her leadership and ability.



## Q & A with

### Cameron Reid

Co-owner,  
St. Paul Roastery  
Thunder Bay

#### **What was your favourite coffee experience?**

The first time I ordered a flat white (espresso and steamed whole milk) at a café in England. Until that moment, I had no idea that coffee could taste so delicious.

#### **Why did you start a business?**

My business partner Stefan Pakylak and I can't agree on who first found out about Sweet Maria's, a company that sells green coffee along with roasting and brewing equipment. We started by splitting orders of green coffees, roasting them in popcorn poppers, and sharing our results. When we upgraded to home roasters our friends and family asked to buy freshly roasted coffee from us. When people want to pay you for what you are doing, that's a business.

#### **What do you most value in a business partner?**

Trust.

#### **What do you like most about owning a business in Thunder Bay?**

Opportunities seem to be easier here than in other cities. Thunder Bay has a bunch of businesses being opened by people under 40 who don't have massive amounts of money behind them. But they have enough to start and an idea of what they want to do.

#### **Why did you choose Lakehead University?**

I applied on a whim in late August 2006 because I had nothing planned for that year.



## Janine Landry

### Indigenous Outreach Worker

**A**t 26 years of age Janine Landry (HBA'13) is working as the Indigenous Outreach Worker with the Thunder Bay District Catholic School Board. "My greatest challenge is helping people understand the differences between the Indigenous worldview and the Euro-Canadian worldview," she says. "My greatest joy is when I see their attitudes and perspectives change."

Janine is of Anishinaabe Métis ancestry and the eldest of six children. She recalls spending many happy hours with her family "out on the land" around Nipigon, Ontario where she learned to hunt and fish. Later, when she developed an interest in traditional medicine, she learned all she could from her Aboriginal elders.

As the Indigenous Outreach Worker, Janine works closely with the School Board's Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee to support students of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit ancestry.

Two new projects were launched this past year including a "Student Voice" initiative and the Tikkun Leadership Project, which is being carried out with the assistance of Dr. Lisa Korteweg from Lakehead's Faculty of Education. Janine also serves on a variety of local committees such as the city's Urban Aboriginal Strategy, the National Aboriginal Day Committee, and the Aboriginal Youth Achievement and Recognition Awards.

Janine Landry is a proud graduate of Lakehead's Indigenous Learning program. While working on her undergraduate thesis she realized how much she enjoyed engaging in social sciences research. Now, four years later, she is enrolled in Lakehead's Master of Education degree program and thinking about doing a PhD.

Having time alone is important to Janine. "I like having time to think deeply and to reflect ...and I like questioning and analyzing things." Fortunately, her contract with the School Board gives her ample time to do just that. For two months each summer she and her partner Tyler pack up their motor home to enjoy some quality time together in the bush.

*"My greatest joy is when I see attitudes and perspectives change."*

A couple of weeks later, I was in classes and studying.

#### **Is there anything you would have done differently?**

I'm really happy with what I did at Lakehead. I paid no attention to majoring in a specific subject. Instead, I chose courses on subjects that interested me such as vocal ensemble, piano, physics, calculus, philosophy, and psychology. Then, when I was feeling finished, I spoke with the Registrar and discovered that I was a credit short of a BA (General Arts). I believe I took a half-course in meteorology, and perhaps another, and by 2010 I had my degree. A Bachelor of Arts from Lakehead University looks a little sharper on a résumé than "took a bunch of courses at university over a period of a few years."

#### **What do you want people to know about St. Paul Roastery?**

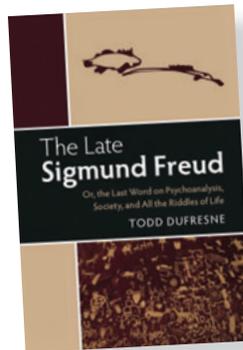
We want our customers to know they've got the best coffee we can make, and that they can get it again tomorrow. We also like changing up our coffees in keeping with seasonal changes. People are often surprised by the incredibly wide variety of flavours that can be found in different coffees.

# BOOKS



## The Late Sigmund Freud: Or, The Last Word on Psychoanalysis, Society, and All the Riddles of Life

By Todd Dufresne  
Published by Cambridge University Press



Philosophy Professor Todd Dufresne has spent most of his academic career examining the ideas of Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), an Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis.

His latest book is being praised by reviewers for being “a provocative and engaging study” and “a superb book that will count among a handful of landmark works in the field of Freud Studies.”

Todd’s new book examines the philosophical relevance of Freud’s later books: *The Future of an Illusion* (1927), *Civilization and its Discontents* (1927), and *Moses and Monotheism* (1939).

“I argue that Freud’s last publications reveal the true meaning of his life’s work,” says Todd. “They validate beliefs that Freud always held, including the psychobiology that provides the missing link between the individual psychology of the early period and the psychoanalysis of culture of the final period.”

Todd Dufresne earned an MA and PhD in Social and Political Thought at York University. Since joining the Department of Philosophy at Lakehead University, he has served as Department Chair and is the founding director of The Advanced Institute for Globalization & Culture (aig+c). From 2008 to 2010 he was Research Chair of Social & Cultural Theory.

In September 2015, Professor Dufresne was interviewed by Alejandra I. Doerner for an article in *Figure/Ground*, an open-source, interdisciplinary collaboration. The text of the interview is posted online: <http://figureground.org/interview-with-todd-dufresne/>

Readers may also wish to listen to a podcast of Todd Dufresne discussing his work with Alex Tsakiris from Skeptiko posted online: <http://skeptiko.com/235-todd-dufresne-freud-deception/>

Todd Dufresne

# RESEARCH

The art of photography always played a key role in the academic life of Professor Valerie Hébert. In fact, it was her encounter with one particular photograph of murdered Polish slave labourers that led her to study history at McGill University and the University of Toronto. This Second World War image is one of the reasons why she chose to specialize in 20<sup>th</sup> Century European history, genocide, and the evolution of human rights discourse.

“Photographs can distill big ideas,” she says. “They serve as a kind of shorthand for complex historical events. They elicit strong emotions, they stick in the memory. But they must be analyzed as carefully and as rigorously as any other historical source. Photographs transcend language, geography, and time, and as we become more and more a visual global culture, the methods for dealing with them responsibly become ever more important.”

This past summer, Hébert had the privilege of leading a 10-day International Research Workshop at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Workshop was funded by the Mandel Centre for Advanced Holocaust Studies and the 10 participants included historians, a war photo-journalist turned anthropologist, a legal scholar,



# WORKSHOP



as well as professors of literature, and cultural and gender studies. Their goal was to share their unique perspectives on atrocity photography and to learn from each other.

Now that the workshop has concluded, Professor Hébert is hoping to publish a book of essays written by the participants as they reflect on a well-known series of photos documenting the Liepāja Massacre of December 1941 when approximately 2730 Latvian Jews were executed by the Nazi regime and its local collaborators. Hébert says the interdisciplinarity of the book “will help professors and students to see the richness of photographs as a research and pedagogical source.”

## Valerie Hébert

Professor Hébert is based at the Orillia campus where she is part of the Departments of Interdisciplinary Studies and History. She loves the classroom and says teaching at Lakehead “is a dream come true.” She often uses photography as a teaching aid and as part of her research, has been developing an ethical framework for using pictures of the dead and dying to teach history. This year she is teaching a full-year course on The Holocaust (available to Thunder Bay students via telepresence) and a fourth-year Inquiry course on International Conflict and Human Rights.

# MUSIC



## Aris Carastathis



For close to three decades, Professor Aris Carastathis has been forging an international reputation for excellence in the field of contemporary music. “I write music for myself,” he says frankly, “but without trying to alienate the public.”

One of his latest compositions for flute and piano, entitled “Three Moods of Summer,” is included on *Aleph*, a CD released in 2016 with performances by Iwona Glinka (flute) and Vicky Stylianou (piano). The CD features music written mainly by Greek composers. A shorter piece called “Tweet” written by Aris appears on a companion disc entitled *Beth*.

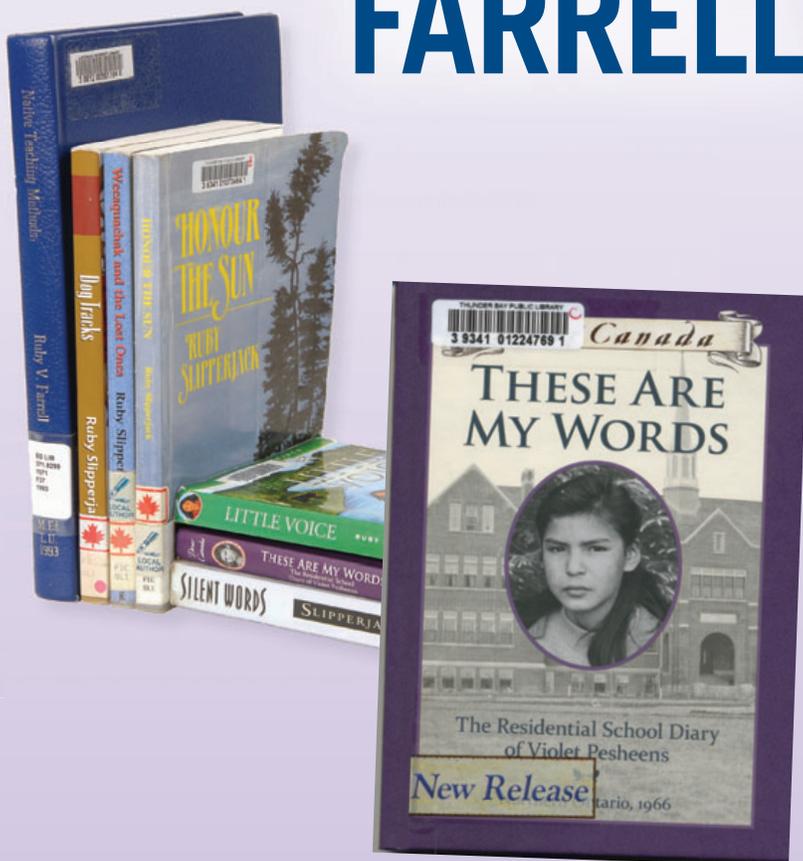
“Three Moods of Summer” is a playful interchange between two instruments that combines folk dance rhythms with outbursts of contrasting dissonance. It premiered at Lakehead University in 1999 and was featured in a concert at New York’s Carnegie Hall the following year.

Growing up in Greece where, according to Aris, “everybody sings all the time” may account for his unpretentious approach to music.

As a teenager, he played guitar, sang, and composed his own tunes without formal music training. This came later when he formally studied music in Athens for two years before he decided to go to the United States to study guitar at the University of Northern Iowa. There, he became interested in music of the avant-garde and, after completing a master’s degree in composition, pursued doctoral studies at Louisiana State University.

To date, Professor Aris Carastathis has composed over 110 works that have been performed and broadcast in Europe and North America. He has received commissions from several Canadian and American music organizations and ensembles. His compositions and recordings are distributed worldwide through the Canadian Music Centre in Toronto.

# RUBY SLIPPERJACK- FARRELL



“Ruby Slipperjack is one of the strongest Native voices in Canadian literature.”

Thomas King

Professor Emerita Ruby Slipperjack-Farrell is shredding documents in her office on Lakehead’s Thunder Bay campus. She is retiring after nearly three decades of teaching and jokes about having a strict deadline to make way for a new faculty member to join the Department of Indigenous Learning.

She won’t be easy to replace! Ruby’s understanding of Ojibwa culture combined with her literary, artistic, and academic achievements have made her a respected colleague and a much-loved mentor.

“Ruby was born in Northwestern Ontario and is well-versed in the knowledge of her community,” says Professor Rob Robson, Chair of the Department of Indigenous Learning. “She still speaks the language. She hunts, traps, and fishes, and she brings all of that into the classroom.”

Ruby Slipperjack has been writing short stories and drawing illustrations for as long as she can remember. As a child, she used to write on the paper lining of empty sugar bags using the tiny pencils stubs she would salvage from school. When her stories became longer, she would burn them in the fire for fear her brother would read them and make fun of her.

Ruby began her first novel, *Honour the Sun*, before she met her husband, Patrick Farrell, and before the birth of their three daughters: Rosanna, Amy, and Lindsay. The book was published while the family was living in Thunder Bay and when Ruby had just begun studying at Lakehead University.

She laughs as she recalls the stress of editing the publisher’s galleys while trying to figure out “how in the heck” to write her university essays. Then, when the book was published, she was asked to travel around the country with other Aboriginal authors to give public readings – something she discovered she enjoyed very much!

In *Honour the Sun*, we are introduced to life in an isolated Native community through the diary entries of a 10-year-old girl, and like all good diaries we learn about the things that make her laugh and cry. In her next book, *Silent Words*, we meet a young boy who travels by canoe on a journey of self-discovery. Both books feature landscape paintings by the author on their covers.

Ruby Slipperjack-Farrell spent her formative years on her father’s trapline near Whitewater Lake, north of Armstrong, Ontario. She went to a residential school for several years and finished

high school in Thunder Bay. Ruby earned three degrees from Lakehead University: a BA (History) in 1988, a BEd in 1989, and a MEd in Curriculum Studies in 1993. In 2003, she was awarded a PhD in Educational Studies from the University of Western Ontario.

After completing her BEd, Ruby worked as a coordinator and counsellor with Lakehead's Native Support Services. In 1990, she began lecturing in the Faculty of Education and in 2000 transferred to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities to teach in the Department of Indigenous Learning.

For her master's thesis Ruby explored the teaching methods of Native teachers in Northwestern Ontario by examining their use of traditional practical knowledge in the classroom. The research was conducted in an isolated community of about 300 residents over a 10-day period. Through her observations and the interpretation and analysis she was able to make as "an insider," Ruby shared some of the practical ways in which Native teachers make decisions in the classroom that are aligned with the cultural values of the community.

For example, at the beginning of the year, one Native teacher "finds out what rules and consequences the students would like to abide by. Then he takes their ideas and writes them down and those are what they follow." Says Ruby, "This is an example of non-interference, giving personal autonomy ... respect for others, shared control and responsibility, and group consensus."

"There is a dire need to address the lack of recognition of Native teachers and their contributions to the education of Native students," she concludes.

For her doctoral thesis, Ruby examined the presence of traditional Ojibwa ethics and values in the myths and legends of Northwestern Ontario and demonstrated where and how they appear in two of her own novels, *Honour the Sun* and *Silent Words*. Her PhD thesis, entitled *Aboriginal Teachings in Native Literature*, includes a fascinating examination of "Native Ethics and Rules of Behaviour" identified by Clare Brant, a Canadian Aboriginal psychiatrist.

Back in her office, Ruby continues to sort through hundreds of papers and keepsakes from the many



northern classrooms she has visited during her career. There is no question that her gentle way of teaching has impacted hundreds of students over the years, including Janine Landry, a young Anishinaabe Métis woman who now works for the Thunder Bay District Catholic School Board.

Ruby helped Janine and others better understand the Ojibwa culture – its myths, legends, and traditional crafts. "There is so much that people can learn from the land," says Janine, "And it is knowledge that is just as important

as the more structured learning you find in the academy. As an Aboriginal writer, researcher, and university professor, Ruby Slipperjack-Farrell embodies that knowledge, and by her example she has taught us to honour both ways of knowing."

## Books & Stories by Ruby Slipperjack-Farrell

*Honour the Sun*, Pemmican Publications, 1987

*Silent Words*, Fifth House Publications, 1992

*Weesquachak and the Lost Ones*, Theytus, 2000

*Little Voice*, Coteau Books, 2001

*Weesquachak*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Theytus, 2005

*Dog Tracks*, Fifth House Publications, 2008

"The Charlston at the Trapline: The Diary of Insy Pimash" in *Hoping for Home: Stories of Arrival*, 2011

"Winter with Grandma" in *A Time for Giving: Ten Tales of Christmas*, Scholastic Canada Ltd, 2015

*These Are My Words: The Residential School Diary of Violet Pesheens*, Scholastic Canada, 2016

# Social Sciences & Humanities NEWS & NOTES



## Canada-United States Bilateral Relations

Relations between Canadian and American governments during the administration of President Donald Trump have become increasingly unsettled. This volatility, however, is the exception to the general pattern of stability that has characterized the “special relationship” between Canada and the United States since the 1950s. Funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant, Professor

Michael Stevenson, Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies and a faculty member in the Department of History in Orillia, is undertaking a comprehensive examination of bilateral relations during the presidency of Dwight Eisenhower from 1953 to 1961, exploring how this pattern of long-term diplomatic stability developed. Stevenson analyzes how Eisenhower and his two Canadian counterparts, Louis St. Laurent and John Diefenbaker, successfully tackled a complex set of issues, including continental water and petroleum policy, cross-border investment, and international security problems in North America, Asia, and the Middle East.

## Public Personas: Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton

In a publication that received widespread media attention, Professor Beth Visser, a faculty member in Interdisciplinary Studies and Psychology in Orillia, had 10 personality psychologists analyze the public personas of the two presidential candidates in the 2016 U.S. Election.

Visser, along with Brock University co-authors, Angela Book and Tony Volk, reported that the psychologists rated both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump as being low on the trait of Honesty-Humility, with Trump rated as *exceptionally* low on Honesty-Humility as well as Agreeableness. In the authors’ previous research, Trump’s (public) constellation of traits was associated with the “Dark Triad” of personality: narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy.

Professor Visser and colleagues suggest that voters seeking change might have been attracted to the fact that Trump’s public persona is very different from that of the traditional politician. This research is published in *Personality and Individual Differences*: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S019188691631090X>



“We included Lakehead University in our will because we believe in the transformative power of education.”

Dr. Bill Heath, Professor Emeritus, Lakehead University  
Ms. Betty Heath, Lakehead Alumna

## YOUR WILL IS A GIFT

Creating a Will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. Not only can a Will protect those you care for, it can also detail how you would like your estate managed.

A gift in your Will to Lakehead University can provide future financial support to a student, create a lasting legacy and provide significant estate tax benefits. Your Will is a Gift.

- I would like more information about leaving a Legacy gift to Lakehead University
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For information call Lee-Anne Camlin, Philanthropy Associate (807) 346-7792 Email: [rlcamlin@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:rlcamlin@lakeheadu.ca)  
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