



News and Letters

Welcome to the inaugural English Department e-newsletter! We will be issuing bi-annual newsletters, and want to take this opportunity, in our first ever issue, to celebrate the achievements of the last year and look forward to the events, opportunities, and accomplishments of the new one. You can also reach us on [Facebook](#) – please take a moment to check us out, like us, and share your stories with us online!

Why Take an English Degree?

Students in English should remember that humanities degrees “all produce expected lifetime earning increments far in excess of the cost of college tuition, even at expensive private colleges” (Forbes, 2014). There is great value in a Humanities education. The ability to think critically, to problematize what is often taken for granted, and to express oneself with clarity and persuasiveness all prepare students for a working world in which employment increasingly requires flexibility. An English degree, in particular, provides students with superior writing skills that can be applied to a wide variety of jobs and that never lose value or become outdated. These writing skills are particularly important in a global world connected by new media. Our students have gone on to work in fields as diverse as human resources, public service, non-profit organizations, research, and banking.



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NEW CURRICULUM

Fall 2016 will see the introduction of a new curriculum at the second and third year level. The new common second year courses on the History of English literature will be compulsory for all English majors, and provide a chance to get to know everyone else in the program! All courses will now be half-credits, so that you can mix and match a wide variety of choices. From “Adaptions of Shakespeare” to “Young Adult Literature,” there will be something for everyone!

NEW DIRECTIONS

Our department is rolling out a new curriculum this year and the next, which we developed to acknowledge new directions in English literature studies and writing instruction, and to capitalize on the expertise of the department. At the first-year level, we are now teaching courses such as “Native and Newcomer Literatures in Canada,” “Introduction to Popular Culture,”

“Introduction to Film Studies” and “Foundations of Literary Study.” We’ve also added new writing courses at the first year, including “Introduction to Academic Writing” and “Introduction to Professional Writing.” These courses reflect the wide diversity of interests and learners at the first-year level, as well as introducing students to subjects they can continue on with at the upper years in our program.

NEW WRITING PROGRAM

Fall 2016 will also see the launch of a new specialization in writing. English majors who take at least 5 half courses in writing at second year and above can have the new specialization recognized on their transcripts. The new writing specialization is an opportunity for English majors to develop a critical and creative skill set that will enhance their prospects as learners and future professionals. Although the cultural transition from print to digital media brings more attention to visual and aural formats, the need for clear and accurate written communication has never been stronger, especially in the workplace. Students coming out of university with a mastery of English grammar, punctuation, and usage and an ability to write clearly and confidently for a broad audience will have a distinct advantage in the job market. Our writing specialization is your pathway to a better future.

EVENTS

PUBLIC TALKS

The Department of English held a number of public talks representing different areas of the discipline.

We had two guest speakers: In February, Mark Kaethler, a former MA student at Lakehead, presented work based on his PhD entitled, "This is Your Brain on Shakespeare?: Diagnosing the Recent Trend in English Studies, and in October, guest lecturer Mehdi Ghasemi (U of Turku, Finland) presented "Sleep, Death's Twin Brother: Quest/ion of Identities in Suzan Lori-Park's 'The Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World.'"

The Department of English held its annual McLeod Lecture Series, hosting Dr. Dennis Denisoff's (Ryerson University) talk, "Coding Against Erasure: Visualizing Gender and Nationalism in Victorian Periodicals."

The Department of English was also pleased to hold public talks by two creative writers: the Orillia campus held a reading by Gary Geddes from his book of poetry, "What Does a House Want?" The Thunder Bay campus participated in an International Festival of Author's Class presented by Alexander McLeod.

In February 2016, English co-sponsored a talk with Women's Studies, Dr. Susanne Luhmann (Women's and Gender Studies, University of Alberta), who lectured on "Managing Perpetrator Memory: Female Guard Exhibit at the Former Ravensbrück Concentration Camp for Women."

In March 2016, Dr. Rachel Warburton gave a Women's Studies Brown Bag lecture titled "Taming Lucrece/Raping the Shrew: Re-thinking Rape in Shakespeare."

FEATURED

EVENT

"Take Ten: Plays in Progress": When was the last time live theatre was written and performed by English students? This past fall ENGL 3817 Creative Writing focused on writing 10 minute plays. Students not only wrote their own plays but also acted in them. Along with workshops with theatre professionals, students benefited from using the Media Lab room, which enabled a collegial writing environment. For the final assignment, groups of two or three students collaboratively wrote a 10 minute play; the plays were then performed in December at the Bora Laskin Auditorium. The event, "Take Ten: Plays in Progress", was well-attended and organized thanks to the assistance of the English Students Association. For the new playwrights, the process of both writing and acting in their own plays was transformative, fostering a sense of professionalism, accomplishment and elation.

EXCEPTIONAL. UNCONVENTIONAL.

FACULTY NEWS

AWARDS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Laureen and Biff Weiler Memorial Award (LBWSI), is still open and accepting applications. Deadline is April 15.

Recommendations are being made for the Bill MacDonald Prize.

Considering Graduate School? Applications are still being accepted for English Graduate studies.

The English Department is hosting a Pizza party on April 4, 2016 in AT5036. All English program students are invited to enjoy good food and social comradery with peers and faculty.

Registration is now open for Spring and Summer courses.

The past year has seen a number of our faculty honoured for their work as researchers and teachers.

Dr. Monica Flegel received Lakehead's Contributions to Research Award, for work including her monograph, *Pets and Domesticity in Victorian Literature and Culture: Animals, Queer Relations and the Victorian Family* (Routledge 2015) and her co-edited collection, *All the World's a Stage: Theorizing and Producing Blended Identities in a Cybercultural World* (Inter-disciplinary 2015).



Dr. Scott Pound has received Lakehead's Distinguished Instructor Award for 2015, recognizing his dedication to teaching, particularly in terms of the innovation and creativity he brings to his classes. He also received the inaugural Research Capacity Development Award, which recognizes, among other things, his work as co-founder and co-editor of [Amodern](#), an open-access online journal.

Finally, Dr. Cheryl Lousley was awarded an Insight Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for her project, "Planet and Narration: Narrative Testimonies and World-Making at the Brundtland Commission Public Hearings." 2013-2016.

FACULTY NEWS

PUBLICATIONS AND

EDITORIAL WORK

Our faculty continues to publish widely within the discipline, contributing to the scholarly community in a variety of ways.

A number of our faculty published books over the past few years, including:

Dr. Lesley Clement, co-edited with Dr. Leyli Jamali: *Global Perspectives on Death in Children's Literature* (Routledge 2015) and co-edited with Dr. Rita Bode: *L.M. Montgomery's Rainbow Valleys: The Ontario Years, 1911-1942* (McGill-Queens University Press 2015).

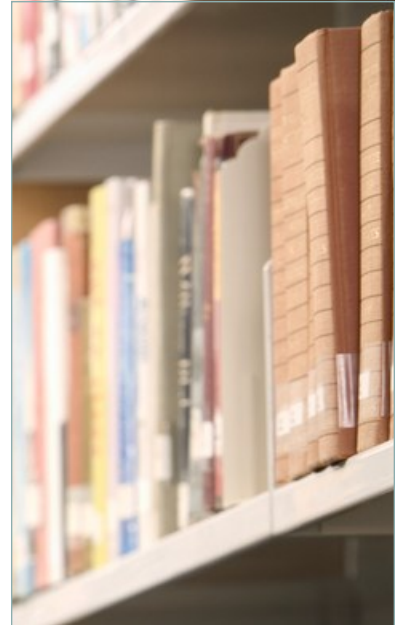
Dr. Mike Richardson, with Dr. Douglas Rabb: *Joss Whedon as Shakespearean Moralizer: Narrative Ethics of the Bard and the Buffyverse* (McFarland & Company 2015).

Faculty also published peer-reviewed work in scholarly journals, including:

Daniel Hannah. "unlyrical, unmusical, and unrhythmical, unmanageable": Attending to Henry James's Music." *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 57.2 (2015): 129-161.

Frederick M. Holmes. "Divided Narratives, Unreliable Narrators, and The Sense of an Ending: Julian Barnes, Frank Kermode, and Ford Maddox Ford." *Papers on Language and Literature* 51.1 (2015): 27-50.

Scott Pound. "Kenneth Goldsmith and the Poetics of Information." *PMLA* 131.2 (March 2015).



English Literature in the News

As part of the ongoing debate about the relative value of Humanities/English higher education (of course, we're in favour of it!), *Forbes* magazine published this fantastic article on the success of Liberal Arts graduates in the Tech Industry:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/georgeanders/2015/07/29/liberal-arts-degree-tech/#709247295a754969aa525a75>

Check it out!

FACULTY PROFILE



Dr. Cheryl Lousley came to Lakehead in January 2011 from Munich, where she was a Carson Fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society. Before Munich, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of English at the University of Leeds (UK).

She has previously taught at York and Wilfrid Laurier universities. She has also worked professionally in publishing, serving from 2002-2004 as Executive Editor of *Alternatives Journal*, a Canadian environmental magazine that brings together academic, activist and professional audiences.

Cheryl Lousley is the series editor for the [Environmental Humanities book series](#) published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

ENGLISH STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ESA)

The ESA (English Student Association) is a student-run organization that offers opportunities for students to perform, publish, and participate in events. In the past, the ESA has hosted everything from Open-Mic nights to slam poetry contests. This December, the ESA partnered up with one of Lakehead's creative writing classes to perform ten-minute plays written by the students. On February 23, we hosted our annual Genderf@&\$ed night with the Gender Issues Centre and Pride Central in the Study. There was Open-mic, raffle prizes, and even a walk-off. ESA is also accepting creative writing/visual art submissions to our literary magazine, *The Artery*. Any submissions, questions, or comments can be sent to: [The Artery](#).



ALUMNI NEWS

FEATURING: COLEMAN HELL

Musician/Electronic Artist

Pop star and Lakehead grad Coleman Hell (BA '11) has now officially gone SuperNOVA.

Despite rocketing popularity and an extremely busy schedule, Hell took the time to come back home to Thunder Bay to receive SHIFT Thunder Bay's Young Professionals Network's first ever SuperNOVA award on January 22, 2016. Each year, the Northwestern Ontario Visionary Awards (NOVA) recognize 20 young professionals from the region under the age of 40.



"It's a great honour," he said during the ceremony. "I'm excited to be back in Thunder Bay again and to have the support of my hometown – it means a lot to me."

In fact, it was his third visit to Thunder Bay in less than a month.

Over the Christmas holidays, he played a sold-out show at Crocks, and in January he performed at the Rogers Hometown Hockey event.

Currently he is on tour with stops across Canada and the United States, riding the wave of his hit single "2 Heads." The song went double platinum in January with 160,000 downloads – not to mention over 50 million streams on Spotify and over 4 million views on YouTube.

Perhaps part of the reason for its success is the song's fresh, new sound that is hard to pigeonhole. Although Hell describes himself as an electronic artist, he also uses hip hop, rock, and even bluegrass elements. (The twangy banjo riff in "2 Heads" is actually played on his keyboard using a sampled note.) But at the heart of his genre-mixing style is a solid song both musically and lyrically sung with his strong, distinctive voice.

"I feel like recently I've put it all together and found my real voice," he said. "What I'm aspiring to, I hope is a little different... I always want to write, good, honest songs, but deliver them in an unconventional way."

Born and raised in Thunder Bay, Hell graduated from Lakehead in 2011. In the early 2010s, he was one half of the hip hop group Burnz N Hell with Joey Burnz. He moved to Toronto for more exposure and opportunities and helped form the Toronto-based music collective called *sideways* "to create a world where accessibility meets innovation." Although not a band in the conventional sense, all four members have similar musical directions and help out on each other's records, right down to the writing.

Hell signed a record deal with Columbia Records last spring and released his self-titled LP on October 23, 2015. Musically, "2 Heads" seems a little out of place on the record; Hell said that his latest hit is more in line with his upcoming full-length album, slated for release sometime in 2016.

"Every little milestone has seemed to show more growth," he said. "I've written and recorded a lot of songs people haven't even heard yet. I'm ready."

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Thunder Bay Literacy Group

The Thunder Bay Literacy Group (TBLG) was formed in 1983, at which time volunteer tutors worked one-to-one with adults who wished to gain or improve basic literacy skills. Over the years, the services expanded to include numeracy and computer skills, and the teaching moved from one-to-one to small group classes, and eventually to the establishment of the Adult Learning Centre where TBLG now offers full- and part-time classes to over 200 students per year. It now has a substantial budget and receives funding from Employment Ontario and the United Way, as well as its own annual fund-raising Scrabble tournament. The organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, of which Dr. Michael Richardson of the Department of English is currently the Vice-Chair. The Board is charged with ensuring that TBLG meets the needs of the community, and to that end has prepared documents on such subjects as parent and child literacy, health and literacy issues, and literacy and the legal system.

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