



Congratulations to everyone for another successful year! This spring saw the launch of another edition of *The Artery*, the celebration of our scholarship winners and so much more! It was exciting to see so many students, faculty and alumni featuring their work in the community at both the Northwestern Ontario Writers' Workshop, and the 10x10 Play Showcase. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Even though it's summer, there is still lots going on in the Department of English. LU English is sponsoring this year's Thunder Pride Literary Night, which takes place on Tuesday June 12 in Mariner's Hall from 7pm to 9pm. BC-based writer Michael V. Smith will be the headline reader; he will be joined by a roster of local readers for an exciting evening of creative readings. Michael is also conducting a writing workshop, open to the public on Monday June 11, 7-9pm in Definitely Superior Art Gallery (250 Park Avenue). If you're in Thunder Bay in June, come check it out!

Information about registration for 2018/2019 is now available via myinfo. An advising email has also gone out. Please feel free to contact me with questions about course selection and degree progression.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing everyone back on campus in the fall!

Dr. Anna Guttman, Chair, Department of English



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SUMMER-TERM COURSES

These courses are delivered online via my-CourseLink. There is space available, register now.

English 1015ADE—
Introduction to Academic
Writing—Prof. C. Soldan

English 2917 ADE—
Popular Fiction—Dr. H.
Morgan

English 3911 ADE— Special
Topics: *History of
English*—Dr. R. Dubec

FULBRIGHT RESEARCH: ENVIRONMENTAL TIMES

*Lakehead Orillia professor
Dr. Cheryl Lousley spent part
of the past term doing re-
search in California. Here's
her report:*

The day I arrived in California to take up a visiting research chair at the University of California Santa Barbara, a mudslide swept down a residential area in the city, leaving 23 dead. The storm hit quickly in the wee hours of the morning, but the disaster was slow in coming: a month of forest fires stripped the absorption capacity of the soil, seven years of drought made the forest easy to burn, and a century and a half of burning fossil fuels has prompted climate changes that make such droughts more likely. Literary scholar Rob Nixon uses the term “slow violence” to describe how the aesthetics of spectacular violence so familiar from film and television can make it hard to see and appreciate harm when it is mediated through environmental relationships and develops over longer periods of time. The concept is central to my research. I went to Santa Barbara with funding from the Fulbright program, a

United States initiative to promote international academic exchange, to start a book project on environmental memory and mourning in contemporary Canadian writing. I am interested in how national narratives tend to forget and omit accumulated environmental losses—the poisoned workers, the eroded landscapes, the regions depopulated, the species vanished—and how Canadian writers such as Lisa Moore, Michael Winter, Anne Michaels, and Dionne Brand craft stories and poetry that remember such injustices. I think that environmental creative writing plays a role in shifting how public debate on environmental questions tends to be framed. When concerned with memory and mourning, it broadens the set of relevant voices and experiences and it explores how time shapes the terms of those experiences and events.

STUDENT PRESENTS RESEARCH AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

McKenna Boeckner presented a paper entitled “‘You’ve Got the Wrong Bitch’: Empowered Queer Identity through the Contemporary Witches in Oz” at the annual conference of the Undergraduate Network for Research in the Humanities in Michigan in February. Here’s McKenna’s description of his experience:

The Undergraduate Network for Research in the Humanities (UNRH) is an international organization founded in order to promote the innovation and influence of undergraduate researchers all around the world. Their mission statement is to “aggregate, present, and promote student research that questions the methods of traditional humanities research,” partly by seeking out undergraduate students working on groundbreaking projects to speak at their annual February conference. This past reading week, I travelled to Hope College in Holland, Michigan, to represent Lakehead University, and the innovation in our undergraduate programs, on a global scale.

As the only Canadian at conference, I met with students from countries such as Nigeria, Pakistan, and the United States. Although my main purpose was to present the extracurricular research project I have been working on these past few months, I also had the chance to represent both Canada and Lakehead University on a panel discussing how I, and other Lakehead undergraduate students, am able to pursue innovative research beyond the classroom. On this panel, I spoke to my experience with Lakehead University’s Summer Undergraduate Research Internship with Dr. Judith Leggatt and Dr. Monica Flegel; I promoted the YouTube series “Unboxing The Internet” that Dr. Leggatt, Dr. Flegel, and I produced as part of the internship; and I praised Lakehead University’s Research and Innovation Week for creating a space for student voices to be heard. Furthermore, throughout the conference, I was able to network with a wide range of creative writers to discuss Lakehead University’s literary magazine, *The Artery*, and the events that I have planned for *The Artery* as our president. By the end of the conference, I was able to represent Lakehead University as a powerhouse in Canadian academic institutions when it comes to undergraduate student life.

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PUBLIC TALKS

Fans vs. Critics: English Professors Discuss Film Reviewing in the Age of the Internet

On Saturday, January 27th, Drs. Judith Leggatt and Monica Flegel presented “Fans vs. Rotten Tomato: How the Internet has Changed Reviewing Culture” at the Brodie Public Library. Their talk was offered as part of the Thunder Bay Public Library’s “In Conversation” series, in which Lakehead University Faculty share their research with the public. Drs. Leggatt and Flegel discussed recent conflicts between fans and critics over reviews of blockbuster films, and how internet culture has complicated film review. More people than ever are participating in reviewing culture on platforms such as YouTube, allowing for a greater diversity of opinion in terms of what makes a film worth watching, but the nature of internet comment sections has also led to an increased polarization and politicization in ways that are detrimental to debate and criticism as a whole. The audience engaged in vigorous discussion after the talk, demonstrating the continued relevance of criticism in contemporary culture.

Comix in an Authoritarian Age: What Graphic Novels Can Tell Us About Democracy

As part of this year’s Research and Innovation Week, the Department organized its third annual roundtable discussion at the Brodie Street Library on Sunday, March 4. As an underground genre now finding a wider audience and greater recognition, comics and graphic novels provide a crucial vantage point on ongoing negotiations of democracy. Panelists discussed the connections between the production, selling, and reading of graphic novels (comics), a frequently subversive and sometimes undervalued genre, and the current political climate.

Two English faculty members, Dr. Daniel Hannah and Dr. Judith Leggatt, discussed “Social Media and Political Disengagement in Comics” and “The Political Work of Indigenous Graphic Novels,” respectively; McKenna Boeckner, an English honours student, discussed “Homosexuality as a ‘Politically Loaded Subject’ in Marvel Comics Fandom;” Laura Prinselaar, a librarian from Thunder Bay Public Library and English graduate, discussed the TBPL’s graphic novel collection and Christopher Merkley (aka Merk), a local graphic novel writer, discussed the politics of graphic novels and fan reactions.

Work in Progress Talk: Batman and Yeats

Prof. Cindy Soldan presented an intriguing presentation exploring the connections between Batman and W. B. Yeats’s “The Second Coming” on February 7. In her talk, she posed the question: “Could Yeats’s ‘rough beast’ be the Dark Knight?” An engaging and thought-provoking talk, it generated a productive discussion by the faculty members and students (from English and across the university) in attendance. Prof. Soldan later presented a version of this talk to the Popular Culture Association of Canada at Brock University on May 4.

EVENTS

McLeod Lecture: Poet and Activist El Jones

On the afternoon of March 13, the Department was pleased to present this year's McLeod Lecture by Halifax-based spoken-word poet and activist El Jones, the Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies at Mount Saint Vincent University and former Poet Laureate of Halifax. The author of the spoken-word poetry collection *Live from the Afrikan Resistance!* (2014) and a prominent anti-racist and prison justice activist, El Jones gave a lively, impassioned performance of her spoken-word poetry and discussed the relationship between her poetry and activism. She gave a second reading that night to a packed audience in the ReImagining Value Action Lab (RiVAL), and also participated in a roundtable discussion organized by the Department of Women's Studies. Thanks to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Department of Women's Studies, the ReImagining Value Action Lab, LUSU, and the Caribbean and African Multicultural Association of Thunder Bay for their support of El Jones's visit to Lakehead.

STUDENT EVENTS AND NEWS

Career Day

The Department of English held its first and very successful Career Day on Monday, March 12th. The event featured a round-table discussion of past graduates from our undergraduate and graduate programs who have gone on to diverse careers to help current students plan their path from English studies to job success. Our panel participants answered questions and provided advice on how to enter and prepare for their specific professions. Representatives from the Student Success Centre were on hand to provide feedback on preparing resumes and job letters, outlining the various services the Centre can provide to students newly on the job market. Hope to see you at next year's Career Day!

Graduating English Honours Student Sweeps Writing Awards

Congratulations to McKenna Boeckner, who won all three creative writing awards adjudicated by the English Department in 2017-18. As announced in April, in a strong pool of submissions he won the Munro Family Prizes for both Prose and Poetry, and in November was awarded the Bill MacDonald Prize for Creative Writing. In addition to his own writing, McKenna has made important contributions to creative writing at Lakehead through his work with the English Students Association, playing a key role in the publication of the ESA's literary magazine, *The Artery*, and organizing literary events on campus. McKenna will continue his creative writing work at the University of New Brunswick, where he will begin an MA in English (Creative Writing) supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Second Annual English Student Conference

On April 11, students and faculty from both campuses gathered to share and discuss student research in the Second Annual English Student Conference. Fourteen undergraduate and graduate students gave exciting and insightful conference papers on a wide range of topics. The presenters were:

Sharmin Ahmed (MA): 1971 War and Birangona Discourse: What Went Wrong While Telling Their Stories?

Lindsay Benner (MA): Construction of Identity in Prenatal Obituaries

McKenna Boeckner (HBA): "You've Got the Wrong Bitch": Empowered Queer Identity Through the Contemporary Witches in *Oz*

Riley Cummine (MA): "Who Killed the World": Immortan Joe and Corporate Superpowers, 'Redeemer(s)' or Climate Warlords of the Global Economy in *Mad Max: Fury Road*

Samantha Dewaele (MA): Community Gardens and Apocalyptic Survival in Margaret Atwood's *The Year of the Flood*

Ryley Fingler (MA): Sexism, Storytelling, and the Manic Pixie Dream Girl in *Looking for Alaska*

Elizabeth Garofalo (HBA): The Inescapable Nightmare in "The City of the End of Things"

Jade Hermans (HBA): The Subaltern Can Speak when Demanding to be Heard

Jordan Johnston (MA): Border Stories: Reconciliation through Indigenous Storytelling

Greg McGrath-Goudie (HBA): Writing Indigenous Peoples out of Existence: An Analysis of Duncan Campbell Scott's Poetry

Kelsey Raynard (MA): Examining Feminism on Instagram

Rumi Roy (MA): Climate Change, Distress, and Disruption in James Bradley's *Clade*
Christopher Teo (MA): Melville's Modern Masculinities

Maeghan Verardo (MA): The 'Tech Geek Girl' on Television

Reflections of a Graduating Master's Student

Abdul Wahab completed his MA program this past term. Here are his thoughts on his time at Lakehead:

It was September 2016 when I came to Thunder Bay to study in the two-year English MA program at Lakehead. I was so nervous and tense since it was my first time abroad in Canada. Luckily, very welcoming professors and a lovely graduate student-community made my academic journey much easier and smoother at Lakehead. I cannot imagine how fast time has gone by. Coming from a developing country like Bangladesh and having a Canadian degree after my name will be a huge achievement in my life.

I did another MA in English before coming to Lakehead and I had more than three years teaching experience back in my country. So, I have a keen desire to go back in the teaching profession; either in Canada or my home country. However, before starting my next career phase, I will visit my country to meet my family and friends. It will be an exciting journey after completing the two-year long program abroad!

The English department of LU has not only given me a degree, but so much more. Usually, scholarship or funding is so limited in Social Science and Humanities disciplines, especially for international students. That is why I was very lucky to get the Faculty Research Award. Then, I was awarded with the Drs. Min-sun & Anita B. Chen Lakehead University 30th Anniversary International Graduate Award In the Social Science and Humanities in the Winter semester of 2017. Both these awards eased my financial life and helped me to reach my academic goal. The department also encouraged me to improve my organizational skills by attending several events throughout the program. I even became involved in some organizations outside of the department as well. I was a member of the Student Health Advisory Committee of Lakehead's Student Health and Counselling Centre. In 2017, I was one of the founders of Lakehead University Bangladeshi Students Association (LUBSA), and I worked with this organization as the founder Treasurer for more than a year. While the coursework in the classes has enriched my academic knowledge, the outside activities shaped my professional and organizational skills, and both are vital for my future career. In a nutshell, I can say that I had a successful journey at Lakehead University and I am so proud to be a member of the English department where excellent scholars produce great work on literature, culture and modern media.

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ENGLISH STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION (ESA)

A Message from The ESA President

I have always considered *The Artery*, Lakehead University's literary magazine, to be the heart of creativity on campus. As a creative writer with aspirations of writing as a professional career, I find it easy to be absorbed in myself and my own writing. So, by "heart" I mean to imply not only that *The Artery* is a central hub of Lakehead's creativity, but also that *The Artery*, in essence, allows Lakehead writers to act as hearts themselves, taking in as much as they are putting out. As president of *The Artery* over these past few years, I have witnessed first hand the importance of storytelling and writing to all of our submitters and participants, when I previously only saw its importance to me.

Our major event during the Winter semester was the International Women's Day Writing Workshop. *The Artery* and The Gender Equity Center (GEC) worked together to generate and celebrate stories of womanhood, leading up to International Women's Day in March by hosting a "writing workshop," providing a space for the Lakehead University community to cultivate stories about what it means to be a woman in 2018. This workshop featured writing mentors Taina Maki Chahal, Batia Stolar, Cindy Sol-dan, and Donna Faye.

We also concluded the semester by welcoming the tenth-anniversary edition of *The Artery* (Now available for \$5.00 in The Bookstore and The Study) with a celebration of creativity. For this celebration, we teamed up with Lakehead University's Get Real chapter to create a space for the Lakehead University community to share their voices through their art. The general theme of "Let Your True Colours Shine" encompassed both the sharing and telling stories focus of *The Artery* and the queer focus of Get Real. I was proud to see every participant show up, honestly bearing their true colours! In addition to the open mic, Lakehead University artists displayed and auctioned off visual art they had created throughout the year.

I myself am graduating from Lakehead this year, so I will be passing on my executive position to an amazing group of motivated students. I would like to welcome Clint Fleury as President, Leandra Howard as Vice President, Taylor Murphy as Editor-In-Chief, Mario Koëppel as Treasurer/Officer Of Finances, and Melanie Oakes as Orillia Representative. If you would like to get involved and witness the heart of Lakehead's creativity either as a volunteer or as an editor, I encourage you to reach out to Clint through *The Artery*'s email at luartery@lakeheadu.ca. Additionally, if you are a creative writer or visual artist yourself, send your creations his way, or visit our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/thearterylu) or our website (www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/english/english-student-association/the-artery) for more information on how to see your name and your work in print.

Proudly,
McKenna James Boeckner

ALUMNI NEWS

English alumni win Writing Contest Awards

Three Lakehead English alumni won first place prizes in the 20th Annual North-western Ontario Writers' Workshop writing contest: Doug Diaczuk (Historical Fiction; and 2nd in Short Fiction); Holly Haggarty (Poetry); and Kirsti Salmi (Short Fiction). The NOWWW writing contest is adjudicated by leading writers such as George Elliott Clarke, Heather O'Neill, Helen Humphreys, and Michael Christie, and the awards ceremony was held on May 5th at the Prince Arthur Hotel.

The Artery

The ESA's literary magazine, The Artery, is now accepting submissions for the upcoming Winter 2019 edition. We accept all forms of creative writing including poetry, short stories, plays, rants, jokes, visual art and everything in between.

If you want to know how you can get involved outside of submitting, email us at any time or drop by the English department and we'll see what we can do. To purchase The Artery (only \$7.00), check out The Study on the Thunder Bay Campus and The Bookstore on either campus, the Department of English RB3029, or send us an email and we'll work out the details. Whether you submit to The Artery or find yourself reading one, enjoy yourself!

Stay posted through:

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