WELCOME!

Writer-in-Residence 2013-14, M. NourbeSe Philip

NourbeSe Philip will hold weekly office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, to offer feedback to, and consultation with, both experienced and novice creative writers from the university and the London community. She will accept works of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction and drama. Please note: Ms. Philip will begin her office hours on Wednesday, September 4th and Thursday, September 5 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, in UC 184. To schedule an appointment please contact Vivian Foglton (Secretary, Department of English), at 519-661-3403, or email her at vivian.foglton@uwo.ca. Poster attached.

Student Writer-in-Residence 2013-14, Scott Beckett

In partnership with the University Students’ Council, the Department of English and Writing Studies welcomes fourth year History and Creative Writing student, Scott Beckett. Students can schedule an appointment by emailing Scott at sbecket5@uwo.ca. His office hours are Mondays 3:30 – 5:30 pm and Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am, in UC 184.

Read more about Scott and the SWIR at this blog:

Librarian-in-Residence 2013-14, Christy Sich

The Department of English and Writing Studies is pleased to host Christy Sich, Librarian-in-Residence 2013-14. Christy has her MLIS from Western and a degree in English from Wilfrid Laurier University, and has been with Western Libraries since 2008. Please feel free to contact Christy for any library instruction, collections or service questions at csich@uwo.ca, or at ext. 84714. Her office is located in the Weldon Library, WL M1M.
Save the date! Acclaimed playwright, stage director, screenwriter, and filmmaker Mahesh Dattani kicks off this year's Creative Writers Series with a public reading and performance on September 18th, 2:30-4:00pm in UC 224A. All are welcome to this free public event. Special thanks to Writing Studies for funding the Creative Writers Series 2013-14, to Nandi Bhatia for coordinating Dattani’s visit, and to Michael Sloane for designing a superb set of posters. See attached.
McIntosh Gallery, the Arts and Humanities Students' Council (UWO), the Centre for Social Concern (King’s College), and the Public Humanities at Western are very pleased to present: Blood in the Soil: An Evening with Larry Towell, 24 September 2013, 7:00pm - 9:00pm Conron Hall.

For one night only, Magnum photographer Larry Towell and harmonica virtuoso Mike Stevens will be performing “Blood in the Soil” at Western! This is a unique two-hour performance and a CD launch that celebrates photography, music and storytelling. All are welcome!
https://www.facebook.com/events/172629156254167/

Writer-in-Residence Inaugural Reading and Reception - Poet, novelist, and this year’s Writer-in-Residence, NourbeSe Philip, reads from her latest work on Friday, September 27, 2:30-4:30 pm in UC 224A. Admission is free to this inaugural reading and reception, and all are warmly invited to attend! This year, we’re delighted to announce a feature reading by SWIR Scott Beckett. See attached.

PUBLICATIONS


oCcAsUs

Aaron Schneider and Kathryn Mockler are happy to announce the launch of the 3rd issue of Occasus, the Department of English and Writing Studies’ online student literary journal! Please share this information, and the call for submissions for the 2014 issue, with your students. Both announcements are attached.

CONFERENCES


GRADUATE WORKSHOP

CFP: Queer Studies Graduate Workshop
Chu Centre * Feb. 6th 2014, 3:30-5pm

A queer studies graduate workshop will be held in conjunction with the “Against Marriage? Queering Family in the 21st Century” symposium (Chu Centre, Feb. 6th 2013, 10:30-12:30pm). All Western PhD candidates from any discipline are invited to apply by submitting a 500-word abstract and 250 word biography. Papers need not be on the symposium theme of queering marriage, but rather may be on any topic in the field of queer studies, broadly conceived. An interdisciplinary committee will vet proposals, and notifications will be sent out by October 31st.

Participants at this workshop will circulate a 5000-word paper-in-progress to symposium speakers Judith Jack Halberstam, Elseph Brown, Steven Bruhm, and Tunji Osinubi in January 2014. At the workshop, participants will present a 15-minute talk based on their research, and receive feedback by these symposium speakers and by a general audience.

Important dates:
October 15th, 2013: 500-word abstract and 250 word biography are due. Please send submissions to the organizers care of the event RA, Mandy Penney (mandypenney@ymail.com).

January 7th, 2014: 5000 word papers are due. Please send to co-organizer Thy Phu (tphu@uwo.ca).
February 6th, 2014: 3:30-5pm. 15 minute presentation. To allow sufficient time for discussion, all presentations must adhere to this brief time limit.

AWARDS

Sexuality Studies Association

Congratulations Jeremy Greenway! Jeremy is the Sexuality Studies Association 2013 Student Paper Prize winner for his paper “Marginalized Musicality: Fitzroy’s Despised and Rejected Reconsidered”.

The prize committee was strongly impressed and moved by this original and interdisciplinary work. Committee members described the paper as “… very beautifully and creatively written with an interwoven argument associating a certain kind of ephemeral music with queerness, in part through links to a banned, early 20th century novel,” and “… one of the most creative arguments I have heard in a long time. I loved the parallels between music and text, and between queer and the normative.”

The Sexuality Studies Student Paper Prize is sponsored by between the lines books. Jeremy will receive $300 worth of between the lines titles of his choosing. The prize committee would like to thank everyone who sent their work for consideration. The caliber and breadth of the submitted scholarship was inspiring!

The Guelph Public Library and the Friends of the Guelph Public Library are pleased to announce the Robert Munsch Award.

Robert Munsch is an enormously successful children’s writer and Canada’s best-selling author. He has published more than 50 individual titles, and his books have sold many millions of copies in more than a dozen languages.

Robert Munsch makes his home in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. He is arguably Guelph’s most famous living citizen and much loved. In his honour, the Guelph Public Library has launched The Robert Munsch Discovery Portal and in partnership with the Friends of the Guelph Public Library will offer The Robert Munsch Award, a $1000 Cdn award for the best short essay or position paper discussing the place or the impact of the writings of Robert Munsch in English Language Children’s Literature.

See attached for details.

WHAT’S NEW

Introduction to a New Pilot Program: Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant
Leif Schenstead-Harris, PhD Year Four
“This program seeks to develop Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant (LGTA) positions in eight departments across the university with the intent of providing an enriched culture of pedagogical instruction. We in the Department of English and Writing have been selected to host one of these pilot positions.” More information attached.
O-Week Stratford Trip!

As part of Orientation Week activities, the Department gave out free tickets to Stratford. 120 incoming Arts and Humanities students and sophs enjoyed a special performance of *Romeo and Juliet* that roused audiences to a standing ovation. For many of these students, this first experience of live theatre was made all the more memorable by a personal welcome by Anita Gaffney, Executive Director of the Stratford Festival and an alumnus of the English program. The performance was followed by a meet and greet by actors Sara Topham ("Juliet") and Jonathan Goad ("Mercutio")--who drew laughs when they compared the task of juggling multiple roles with frosh week--and by an inspiring guest lecture by our very own Professor Devereux.

Web Site Launch

Professor Frank Davey recently launched his new web site [http://www.akabpnichol.net/](http://www.akabpnichol.net/). The site is intended to facilitate research on Nichol, and welcomes submissions for possible publication on the site. It has a comprehensive bibliography of Nichol, a Nichol timeline, photos of some of his early books, and an article by David Rosenberg on the newly available 9-hour audio recordings of Nichol reading *The Martyrology*.

Also, check out Professor Davey’s new weekly blog on contemporary poetry, [http://www.londonpoetryopenmic.com/frank-davey-blog.html](http://www.londonpoetryopenmic.com/frank-davey-blog.html)

SUMMER 2013

Western Summer Shakespeare presented *King Lear*

This year’s Western Summer Shakespeare presented *King Lear* for the first time in its 33-year history. The cast and crew included Western students, alumni, faculty, and community members; and the show ran in the UC Courtyard from July 9th to 13th. As always, we had great audiences, many of whom are stalwarts from London and area who return each summer to see the production. Thanks to the Department of English and the Faculty of Arts & Humanities for their continuing support of this long-running and delightful tradition at Western.

PhD GRADUATES

Congratulations to Dr. Michelle Coupal, Dr. Tina Northrup, Dr. Tim DeJong, Dr. Andrew Wenaus and Dr. Rasmus Simonsen who all successfully completed their doctoral programs in the Summer 2013 term! See attached.
The Department of English and Writing Studies is proud to announce the 2013-14 Writer-in-Residence, M. NourbeSe Philip

Guggenheim fellow, winner of a Toronto Arts Award, poet, fiction writer, essayist, dramatist and lawyer, M. NourbeSe Philip was born in Tobago and moved to Canada to attend Western University, where she graduated with a law degree in 1973. After seven years in practice, first at Parkdale Community Services and then in the partnership Jemmott and Philip, Philip left law in 1983 to devote her time to writing.

Philip’s most recent book, Zong! (2008) is a book-length poem based on an eighteenth-century court case, Gregson vs. Gilbert, the only public document related to the lives and deaths of 150 Africans murdered for insurance money aboard the slave ship Zong. Fugal, fragmented, and deeply moving, Zong! has been adapted through multimedia performance, including a dramatized reading at Toronto Harbourfront as part of "rock.paper.sistahz" in April 2006. In 2012, Philip held a seven-hour interactive reading of the complete poem at b current studio space in Toronto while simultaneously, in Blomfontaine, South Africa, another audience held a collective reading.

Philip’s other major works include the young adult novel Harriet’s Daughter (1988), her second novel Looking for Livingstone: An Odyssey of Silence (1991) and the groundbreaking and award-winning poetry collection She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks (1989), winner of the Casa de las Americas Prize in poetry. Author of four collections of essays, three additional collections of poetry, and two plays, Philip’s work spans and interweaves genres, attending to language in particular—her work is often noted for its deconstruction of grammar, while her newest poem engages legal language. Philip takes up themes of colonialism, race, memory, identity, and place, modeling the intersections of politics and poetics with her innovations on form. In her non-fiction work, Philip is a committed social critic, bringing her years of study in economics, political science and law to bear on Canadian social policy. Her poetry is included in the new collection, The Great Black North: Contemporary African-Canadian Poetry (Frontenac House, 2013)

Former Writer-in-Residence at University of the West Indies, McMaster University, University of Windsor, Urban Ink, b current, and the Toronto Women’s Book Store, M. NourbeSe Philip will join us at Western University as the 2013-14 Writer-in-Residence in the Fall term. (Biography by Nina Budabin McQuown)

NourbeSe Philip will hold weekly office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, to offer feedback to, and consultation with, both experienced and novice creative writers from the university and the London community. She will accept works of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction and drama. Please note: Ms. Philip will begin her office hours on Wednesday, September 4th and Thursday, September 5 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, in UC 184. To schedule an appointment please contact Vivian Foglon (Secretary, Department of English), at 519-661-3403, or email her at vivian.foglton@uwo.ca.

NourbeSe Philip’s residency is co-sponsored by the James A. and Marjorie Spenceley Fund, the Faculty of Law, the Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research, Western’s Women’s Caucus, and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
The Student Writer-in-Residence Program

This innovative program – unique in North America – was developed in 2013 by the University Students’ Council and the Department of English and Writing Studies. The mandate of the program is to provide support for an accomplished undergraduate writer while allowing other students to benefit from the writer’s creativity, expertise, and organizational skills. The SWIR fosters exchange among aspiring student writers and contributes to the culture of creativity across campus, within the London area, and across literary genres, media, and technologies.

Western's 2013-14 Student Writer-in-Residence is Scott Beckett

The beginning of Scott Beckett’s writing history is full of stories with vivid beginnings. They expanded so large that they became unwieldy and were abandoned, usually in fear. Music and the visual arts became safer sources of expression, and it was not until high school that Scott returned to writing. Though poetry always seemed to come most easily, he has attempted to become more well rounded, taking screenwriting and prose-based courses over the last three years at Western. In second year he took a position at The Rusty Toque, the online literary journal, which greatly increased his interest in not only creative writing in general but also looking for what is literary.

Scott hopes that over his term the writing community at Western might become more connected, both with each other and with the wider London community. He believes writing is best improved by reading, hearing, and working through the writing of others. Through on campus workshops and readings, the Western writing community will be able to interact with each other and develop their own skills. Through organized groups going to events like Poetry London and the London Open Mic Poetry Night, students will experience work beyond the scope of the campus, and have the opportunity to hear the strong writers brought to London by these groups.

Scott will hold regular office hours on Mondays, 3:30 - 5:30, and Thursdays, 10:30-11:30, in UC 184, beginning Monday, September 9. Please drop by or make an appointment directly with Scott.

A weekly writing hour and/or workshop opportunity will be coming in September.

Scott can be contacted by email at sbecket5@uwo.ca.

Follow him on Twitter at 🐦 @WesternSWIR.
Mahesh Dattani

The Department of English and Writing Studies presents a public reading from the Creative Writers Series

September 18 | 2:30-4 | UC 224A

Free Admission | All Welcome!

Mahesh Dattani is a playwright, stage director, screen writer, and filmmaker. His published works include Final Solutions and Other Plays, Tara, and Brief Candle and Other Plays.

“A playwright of world stature.”
-Mario Relich, Wasafiri
The Department of English and Writing Studies presents
an inaugural reading by this year’s Writer-in-Residence

M. NourbeSe Philip
September 27th | 2:30-4 p.m. | UC 224A

Free Admission | All Welcome!

Western’s Writer-in-Residence program is generously funded this year by the James A. and Marjorie Spenceley Lectureship in Literature, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research, Western’s Women’s Caucus, the Faculty of Law, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and the Department of English and Writing Studies.
# Cover Art

Cover Art by Jennifer Boswell

## Issue 3

**Summer 2013**

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## Contributors

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<th>CATEGORY</th>
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<td>FICTION:</td>
<td>Nicole Blain, Caryn Cathcart, Elorah Fangrad, Leah Hervoly, Mica Lemiski</td>
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<td>CREATIVE NON-FICTION:</td>
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<td>Alex Carey, Hailey McCullough, Kerrie McNair, Tom Prime</td>
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<td>SCREENPLAY:</td>
<td>Andrew Shaw</td>
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## Special Features:

- Alfred R. Poynt Award in Poetry: Award Winning Poems
- Western's First Student Writer-in-Residence: Alexandra Carrillo-Hayley

You can view the Summer 2013 issue of *Occasus* here: [http://occasusliteraryjournal.weebly.com](http://occasusliteraryjournal.weebly.com)
Announcing the call for submissions for the 2014 issue of Occasus.

Students currently enrolled in Department of English and Writing Studies courses are invited to submit their writing to Occasus, the Program in Writing’s online student journal. And all Western Students are invited to submit artwork for the journal.

The BEST submissions in the following categories will be published in the 2014 issue:

- Poetry: Text and Visual (Department of English and Writing Studies students only)
- Poetry: Audio and Video (Department of English and Writing Studies students only)
- Fiction (Department of English and Writing Studies students only)
- Experimental Writing, Film, And Sound (Department of English and Writing Studies students only)
- Creative Nonfiction (Department of English and Writing Studies students only)
- Literary Journalism (Department of English and Writing Studies students only)
- Screenplays (Department of English and Writing Studies students only)
- Artwork (this category is open to all Western students)

Deadline for submissions is May 1, 2014
(Note: Although the deadline for submissions is May 1, 2014, students in Fall term courses are encouraged to submit earlier.)
You can view the 2013 issue of *Occasus* here:
http://occasusliteraryjournal.weebly.com

You can submit your work here:
http://occasus.submishmash.com/submit

- For all submissions except for Artwork, please include the following in your cover letter: the Department of English and Writing Studies course in which you are enrolled (the course number and course title), the name of your instructor, and a short bio.
The Robert Munsch Award

Robert Munsch is an enormously successful children's writer and Canada's best-selling author. He has published more than 50 individual titles, and his books have sold many millions of copies in more than a dozen languages.

Robert Munsch makes his home in Guelph, Ontario. He is arguably Guelph’s most famous living citizen and much loved. In his honour, the Guelph Public Library has launched the Robert Munsch Discovery Portal which includes:

- Curriculum support materials for teachers, librarians, homeschoolers, and daycare workers including lessons plans and program ideas
- Dynamic media gallery featuring stories and interviews with Robert Munsch
- Entertaining games and activities for children of all ages
- Interactive map highlighting Munsch’s impact across Canada

As part of this celebration of all things Munsch, the Guelph Public Library, in partnership with the Friends of the Guelph Public Library, will offer The Robert Munsch Award, a $1000 award for the best short essay or position paper discussing the place or the impact of the writings of Robert Munsch in English Language Children’s Literature.

Eligibility:
Submissions are invited from undergraduate and graduate level university students in Library and Information Science, Children’s Literature, Early Childhood Education and related areas of study.

Eligible submissions should be between 1000 and 2500 words in length, must include a short letter of support from a university faculty member in an appropriate subject area and must not have been published previously.

Eligible submissions must be received no later than April 15, 2014.
Applicants will retain copyright of their submissions but must agree to give the Guelph Public Library permission to exhibit selected papers in the Library and on its website. All submissions will become part of the GPL Archives.

To submit:
Papers, together with a short note of faculty support, should be submitted to: munschaward@library.guelph.on.ca. Please include “Munsch Award” and the name and location of the applicant in the subject line.

For further information, please contact: munschaward@library.guelph.on.ca.

Evaluation:
Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of academics and librarians.

www.library.guelph.on.ca
www.friendsguelphlibrary.ca
New Pilot Program – Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant

Dear faculty and graduate students,

I’m writing to let you know about a new pilot program starting this year at the behest of the Graduate Teaching Assistant’s Union, the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, and the Teaching Support Centre. The program seeks to develop Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant (LGTA) positions in eight departments across the university with the intent of providing an enriched culture of pedagogical instruction. We in the Department of English and Writing have been selected to host one of these pilot positions. I will be serving as the department’s Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant this year. Here’s how the TSC describes the role:

The Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant (Lead GTA) role is a professional development opportunity for graduate students to apply their interest, teaching experience and training beyond traditional TA duties. Lead GTAs are outstanding TAs who serve as mentors, coaches and liaisons for TAs in their home department. Lead GTAs design and facilitate discipline-specific teaching development workshops for new TAs, develop templates and web resources to facilitate marking; develop or promote curriculum innovation, host monthly discussion groups and may provide peer consultation and feedback to TAs throughout the year. Lead GTAs are selected competitively, and receive training and resources to prepare for their role from the Teaching Support Centre.

During the last three years, I have served as a teaching assistant twice for English 1020 with Dr Ross Bullen and Dr Mark McDayter and, most recently, for English 1022 with Dr David Bentley. I’ve also acted as union steward for PSAC 610 (2011-2012) and Graduate English Society Academic Coordinator (2011-2012). Last year I was part of Dr Mary Helen McMurran’s ad hoc committee focused on graduate student training. All of which is to say that I'm familiar with many of the issues graduate students in our department face in our roles as teaching assistants and, further, that I have been (and would like to continue being) an active part of our graduate student community.

As LGTA, my goal for the year is to complement the robust current pedagogical culture in the department through educational workshops, active mentorship, and the creation of a repository of helpful pedagogical aids. To accomplish these goals I will work with faculty and graduate students alike. The first two workshops will be co-run by Dr Pauline Wakeham, incoming GDPC, and me, and will focus on training graduate students in the areas of grading and leading tutorials. Future events are currently in the planning stage, and will run alternate to GDPC events, taking the same Friday time slot. Some ideas in the loading deck are workshops on advanced- and discipline specific- tutorial strategies, marking with an eye to efficiency and rubrics, syllabus construction (with Dr Wakeham), and incorporating the Digital Humanities in small classroom teaching (with Dr McDayter). Attendance at future workshops is strongly recommended for graduate students interested in pedagogy and professionalization. If you have an idea for a workshop, suggest it to me! I'd love to hear about it.
I'll also be working with the GES to hold monthly coffeeshops where TAs can informally meet and discuss teaching practices, helpful strategies, and success stories. I can be reached throughout the year at my office in University College 125 and via lschenst@uwo.ca. Since the LGTA program is in its first year there are many initiatives that remain unthought-of but eminently possible. While I will be doing my best to be a helpful resource for graduate students and faculty alike, I will also appreciate any feedback, criticism, or offers of support.

The question of graduate student training in teaching is of great importance for graduate students, undergraduates, and faculty alike. As Christine Penhale (PhD Year 2) wrote in a recent paper given at Dr Donna Pennee's April colloquium "The Cultures of University Governance", TA training “equips graduate students with skills that will benefit themselves and undergraduate education”. Christine also cited Jennifer Boman's 2008 dissertation here at Western. Boman concluded that “competence in teaching is a key component of the preparation of graduate students for their teaching responsibilities both as graduate student teaching assistants and as potential future faculty members.” I'm confident that this applicability also extends toward alternative academic careers.

I hope that the LGTA position will be one step toward facilitating teaching competence in our department's already strong and vibrant pedagogical culture.

Thanks for reading, and please don't hesitate to get in touch,

Leif Schenstead-Harris
PhD Year Four
UC 125
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THEIR PhD THESES IN THE SUMMER 2013 TERM!

Dr. Michelle Coupal

*Storied Truths: Contemporary Canadian and Indigenous Childhood Trauma Narratives*

  Supervisor: Dr. Manina Jones  
  Supervisory Committee Member (2nd Reader): Dr. Joel Faflak  
  External Examiner: Dr. Jo-Ann Episkenew (University of Regina)  
  Date of Defence: 8 May 2013

Dr. Kostantina (Tina) Northrup

*“Radiant Imperfection”: The Interconnected Writing Lives of Robert Bringhurst, Dennis Lee, Tim Lilburn, Don McKay, and Jan Zwicky*

  Supervisor: Dr. David Bentley  
  Supervisory Committee Member (2nd Reader): Dr. Manina Jones  
  External Examiner: Dr. Ross Leckie (University of New Brunswick)  
  Date of Defence: 10 May 2013

Dr. Timothy DeJong

*Feeling With Imagination: Sympathy and Postwar American Poetry*

  Supervisor: Dr. Stephen Adams  
  Supervisory Committee Members: Dr. Joshua Schuster and Dr. Thomas Carmichael  
  External Examiner: Dr. Thomas Travisano (Hartwick College)  
  Date of Defence: 13 August 2013

Dr. Andrew Wenaus

*Metaphor and Metanoia: Linguistic Transfer and Cognitive Transformation in British and Irish Modernism*

  Supervisor: Dr. Jonathan Boulter  
  Supervisory Committee Member (2nd Reader): Dr. Michael Groden  
  External Examiner: Dr. Sean Kennedy (Saint Mary’s University)  
  Date of Defence: 20 August 2013

Dr. Rasmus Simonsen

*Preposterous America: The Language of Inversion in Thoreau, Melville, and Hawthorne*

  Joint Supervisors: Dr. Bryce Traister and Dr. Steven Bruhm  
  External Examiner: Dr. Peter Coviello (Bowdoin College)  
  Date of Defence: 23 August 2013