



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS

Message from the Chair –

John Leonard has been selected as the Honored Scholar of 2015 by the Milton Society of America! A full list of all the MSA's Honored Scholars, starting from 1948, can be found at http://miltonsociety.org/?page_id=106.

John is, in fact, the third member of our department to receive this international recognition. The MSA honored Arthur Barker in 1973, and Balachandra Rajan in 1979. Please join me in congratulating our own "Faithful Labourer," Professor John Leonard, on this outstanding achievement.

Thy Phu was awarded a \$25,000 SSHRC Connection Grant for the "Cold War Camera," an international, interdisciplinary conference, which will be held in Antigua, Guatemala on February 20-23, 2014.

COMING EVENTS

Careers Mobilizing Academia
Friday January 31st, 2014 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. UC 289
All are welcome to a panel on mobilizing graduate degrees for a range of career trajectories. Featuring three of the English Department's recent graduates:

	Elan Paulson (PhD 2010), Director of Professional Programs at Western's Faculty of Education
	David Drysdale (PhD 2011), Consulting Analyst at Info-Tech Research Group
	Lindsey Hritzuk (MA 2010), Associate Editor at Academica Group

Western Arts & Humanities

Graduate Development and Placement: "**Careers Mobilizing Academia**," Friday January 31st, 2014 in UC 289 from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Our featured speakers are Dr. Elan Paulson (PhD 2010), Dr. David Drysdale (PhD 2011), and Lindsey Hritzuk (MA 2010). These three speakers are preparing great talks about how they have mobilized the skills and credentials they acquired through their graduate degrees to develop their careers.

The Department of English and Writing Studies, in partnership with Emergence Queer Arts Festival 2014 presents
Against Marriage? Notes on Queering Family
A symposium on Thursday, February 6th from 5-7 p.m.
Conron Hall (University College 226, Main Campus, Western)

Featuring:
Elspeth Brown
Tara Adamson
J. Jack Halberstam
Tunji Osinubi

is a spoken word performance by Elspeth Brown, Tara Adamson, J. Jack Halberstam, and Tunji Osinubi.

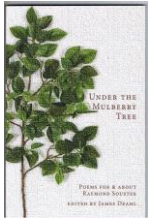
The 2013-14 Speakers Series presents "**Against Marriage? Notes on Queering Family**," a **symposium featuring J. Jack Halberstam, Elspeth Brown, and Tunji Osinubi**, Thursday 6 February, 5-7 pm in UC 224, Conron Hall. This event is co-sponsored by The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, WSFR, The Queer Caucus, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and The Americanist Research Group, and is held in conjunction with the Emergence Queer Arts Festival (Feb. 6-8, 2014). Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant Workshops (information attached) –

Friday 7 February, 3:30 – 5:30, University College 186 (computer lab)
Digital Teaching & the New Learning with Dr. Mark McDayter

Monday 10 March, 1:30 – 3:30, University College 377
Communication Breakdown: Training for Student Consultation with Dr. Steven Bruhm

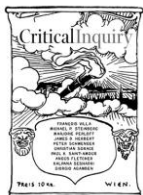
PUBLICATIONS



Ryan Gibbs' (PhD 1) poem "Daylight My Darkesses" was included in *Under the Mulberry Tree: Poems for & about Raymond Souster*, Quattro Books, April 2014.

Miranda Green-Barteet has co-edited a collection of essays "Female Rebellion in Young Adult Dystopian Fiction," Ashgate Publishing, July 2014.

<http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472431516>



Peter Schwenger has published "Phenomenology of the Scream" in *Critical Inquiry* 40.2 (Winter 2014), 382-395.

Mark Stephenson has published "Poets in the House of Pride: Of 'Noble Personage[s],' the Sonnet to Ormond, and *The Faerie Queene's* 'many Bards'" in *Spenser Studies*, Volume 28, for 2013.

PRESENTATIONS

Thy Phu presented a paper, titled "Vietnamese Photography and the Reframing of Family," at the Canadian Association of Cultural Studies (CACS) conference at Wilfrid Laurier University on January 18, 2014.

Professor Sonia Halpern, Department of English and Writing Studies; Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research, will be delivering a lecture entitled *The Darkroom and Dark Side of New York Photographer Diane Arbus, 1960s-70s* on February 6 2014, 3:30pm, Social Sciences Centre, room 4255. The talk is sponsored by the Centre for American Studies. To view the poster, visit

http://cas.uwo.ca/documents/speakers_series/DianeArbusPoster.pdf

Rebekah Lamb will present a paper "Excursus on Guilt: Law and Atonement in Edith Stein's *An Investigation Concerning the State* and *The Science of the Cross*." At the International Conference, "Edith Stein: Between Judaism and Catholicism," St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto. March 13-14, 2014.

Kara Barfett (PhD 2) will present a paper, "O Brave New World: A Transatlantic Reading of Shakespeare." *Shakespeare and His Contemporaries*, at the British Institute of Florence, Florence Italy, on April 10, 2014.

RECENT EVENTS

The **Post-Colonial Studies** group organized a half-day symposium on Tuesday, January 21st, on the topic of New Directions in Testimonial Discourse, which featured plenary speaker Dian Million (University of Washington), and presentations by Julia Emberley and Nandi Bhatia.

Author **Craig Davidson** visited the Department on Friday, January 24th, as part of the Creative Writers Series. Davidson's debut collection of short stories, *Rust and Bone*, was a finalist for the 2006 Danuta Gleed Literary Award, and his latest novel, *Cataract City*, was short-listed for the 2013 Giller Prize. Davidson graciously participated in a meet and greet hosted by the Creative Writing Club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Essay Collection – Rasmus Simonsen is looking for academic and activist essays for a collection titled *Vegan Studies*, which has garnered the interest of a renowned international publisher. The volume will be divided into the following sections: Veganism and Ethics in the Twenty-first Century; Veganism and Identity; Veganism and Embodied Experience; New Practices of Meat (non)Consumption. Please let him know if you are interested in submitting an abstract for consideration. Rasmus can be reached at rsimonse@uwo.ca.

Students wishing to take **English 3998E, Creative Writing**, in the 2014-15 academic year can leave a sample of their writing in the Department of English Main Office (UC 173) until February 14, 2014. Please see the attached poster for details.

Submissions are also being accepted for the **Lillian Kroll Prize in Creative Writing**, established in honour of the late Mrs. Lillian Kroll, and awarded by the Department of English and Writing Studies. The deadline is February 28, 2014. Please see the attached poster for more information.

Careers Mobilizing Academia

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**Western
Arts&Humanities**

The Department of English and Writing Studies, in partnership
with Emergence: Queer Arts Festival 2014 presents

Against Marriage? Notes on Queering Family

A symposium on Thursday, February 6th from 5-7 p.m.
Conron Hall (University College 224), Main Campus, Western

Free
Public Event!
~
Complimentary reception
to follow in
University College 225

Jack
Halberstam



University of Southern California
"The End of Marriage, Family and the Norm"

Elspeth
Brown



University of Toronto
"Queering the Trans
Family Album: Euphoria
in Rubert Raj's Archive"

Taiwo Adetunji
Osinubi



Western University
"Queer Expenditure and
Marriage Plot
Rationalities"

Featuring

a spoken word
performance by
Two-Spirit artist,
writer, and
freedom fighter.

Sâkihitowin
Awâsis



We gratefully acknowledge the support of our co-sponsors: The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, Women's Studies and Feminist Research, The Queer Caucus, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and The Americanist Research Group.

WINTER SEMESTER LEAD GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT WORKSHOPS (2014)

17 January, Friday, 3:30 – 5:30, University College 282

“The TA & the Syllabus”: Teaching and Course Design, with Dr Donna Pennee

7 February, Friday 3:30 – 5:30, University College 186 (computer lab)

Digital Teaching & the New Learning with Dr Mark McDayter

10 March, Monday 1:30 – 3:30, University College 377

Communication Breakdown: Training for Student Consultation with Dr Steven Bruhm

Winter Semester, Ongoing (by appointment)

Peer Consultation: LGTA Observation & Feedback Opportunity

SUMMARY

It's no news that a teaching assistant's work is complex and difficult in ways beyond the traditional tasks of marking essays and leading discussions, nor is it surprising that some of the most interesting challenges in TA work emerge from the intersections of TA responsibilities with the world of faculty members, undergraduate students, or new pedagogies. This semester's Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant workshops take up these lesser discussed challenges for a semester of new approaches in thinking about and working as a TAship here at Western. The training each of these workshops will provide supplements the fundamentals established by first semester workshops but, further, these workshops stand in their own right as innovative opportunities for training in transferable skills. Department Teaching Assistants are strongly encouraged to consider making the LGTA workshops a part of their semester's activities, whether in pursuit of a [Teaching Support Centre Certificate in University Teaching and Learning](#) or to train and develop their own skill set as a TA at Western and as a teacher in higher education.

“THE TA & THE SYLLABUS”: TEACHING AND COURSE DESIGN

WITH DR DONNA PENNEE, 17 JANUARY

Two documents guide a TA's work in the classroom. One is their duties specification letter: a pragmatic document describing times and tasks. The other, and the focus of this workshop, is the course syllabus. A syllabus is both the contract between the instructor and their students as well as the living guide for TAs in their ongoing pedagogical relationship with their students; thus, on a practical level, the syllabus is the reference document for a course and a stable source of content delivery information, scheduled benchmarks, and learning objectives. But there's more: a syllabus is for the TA a fantasy of course construction and an exercise in uniting the three portions of a graduate student's life: their teaching prowess, research interests, and professional duties.

To elaborate on the influence of syllabi over a TA's teaching duties Dr Donna Pennee and myself will be giving presentations on syllabi from the TA's and the instructor's perspectives. Attendees are asked to consider bringing an example syllabi from a current or past class they have TA'd for, or one they consider interesting and exemplary in some way (note: nothing in this workshop should supplant an instructor's course-specific instructions or perspective on syllabi). The learning objective for this workshop is to familiarize TAs with the formal and innovative aspects of syllabi and course design in university level teaching.

DIGITAL TEACHING & THE NEW LEARNING
WITH DR MARK MCDAYTER, 7 FEBRUARY

Whether we're tracking changes on Word, using Prezi and Youtube in "smart rooms" or thinking about using forums, blogs, and all the apparatuses of an online classroom, many elements of the digital world influence our work as teaching assistants. However these tools are often presented as optional or additional features of the pedagogical enterprise. As such they have enjoyed few opportunities for formal instruction and discussion despite, in some cases, our daily reliance on such increasingly common tools and platforms.

This workshop marks one such opportunity. Dr McDayter and I will provide a hands-on workshop exploring the potential and the tools of the digital humanities for the English classroom (and which complements Dr McDayter's current graduate seminar, [English 9101B: The Materiality of the Digital Text](#)). The learning outcome of this workshop is broad but simple: an awareness of the digital tools that have already begun to transform university education and, further, an opportunity to learn about using these tools in your own teaching assignments.

COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN: TRAINING FOR STUDENT CONSULTATION
WITH DR STEVEN BRUHM, 10 MARCH

Here's a question: a student comes to see you in your office seeking help. How do you give advice without giving away the assignment? Should you critique a thesis, a paragraph, a page, or (as you might be asked) an entire paper? What are the formalities of student emails? When it is acceptable to be informal and when should we employ crisp and impersonal language? Most trenchantly: what should you do in the all too common instance of communication breakdown?

In the face to face of student consultation in TA offices many questions arise and their answers are not always clear or intuitive. Dr Bruhm and I will provide a workshop addressing these common TA concerns just in time for that end of term rush of students asking for aid with final essays, exams, and the other responsibilities of departmental teaching assistants. The learning objective here is to arrive at a level of comfortable familiarity with the potential questions and answers of undergraduate / graduate student consultation.

PEER CONSULTATION: LGTA OBSERVATION AND FEEDBACK
WINTER SEMESTER, ONGOING

Ten slots this semester are open for department TAs to enjoy LGTA classroom, tutorial, or workshop observation and follow-up feedback, a process that should take about two hours. This opportunity is confidential and additionally focuses on the collection of best practices and teaching advice for future department TAs. Want to show off? Want to talk about your teaching? Please contact Leif at lschenst@uwo to arrange this consultation session.

Department of English and Writing Studies

Creative Writing Workshop

English 3998E

Students wishing to take English 3998E (formerly English 2998E) in the 2014-2015 academic year, should leave a sample of their work (approximately five pages of fiction, drama, poetry, or a combination of genres) in the Department of English, UC 173. Please include your name, student number, email address and telephone number.

The deadline for submissions is February 14, 2014.

There will be 3 sections this year with 15 students in each section; adjudication date is on or about March 7, 2014. Results will be posted on the door of UC 173 and on the bulletin board outside the English office. Manuscripts can be picked up in the English office after the adjudication date.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES
Western University

LILLIAN KROLL PRIZE
IN
CREATIVE WRITING
2014

Established in honour of the late Mrs. Lillian Kroll, and awarded by the Department of English and Writing Studies.

This prize of \$250.00 is awarded competitively to an undergraduate student (any faculty or program) who exhibits a developing talent for creative writing.

Contest Rules

DEADLINE:

Friday, February 28, 2014

SUBMISSIONS TO: (hard copies only)

Department of English and Writing Studies, University College Room 173

Inquiries to Vivian Foglton, English Departmental Secretary

Email: vivian.foglton@uwo.ca

WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Entries will be adjudicated on the basis of the quality of the writing submitted, not its quantity. You should submit work that has not hitherto been published or won an award in any other competition. Your best recent writing is what we wish to judge in the competition for the Lillian Kroll Prize in Creative Writing. One of the following would be a suitable submission:

- a poem, or a brief series of linked poems
- a one-act play, or scenes from a longer work
- a short story or novella, or selections from a longer work of fiction

Please include your name, student number, email address and telephone number.

ANNOUNCEMENT of the winning entry will be made in April of 2014, with the results being posted on The Department of English web site, www.uwo.ca/english.

THE WINNER will be notified by telephone or email.