



# Western Arts & Humanities

A monthly newsletter brought to you by the Department of English & Writing Studies

April 2016

## PHD CANDIDATE, DAVID HUEBERT, WINNER OF THE 2016 CBC SHORT STORY PRIZE

**David Huebert** is the winner of the 2016 CBC Short Story Prize for “Enigma”. With more than 1,800 other stories entered, David’s story “Enigma” won the grand prize of \$6,000 from the Canada Council for the Arts, a 10-day residency at The Banff Centre and “Enigma” will appear in Air Canada’s enRoute magazine. The jury composed of writers Greg Hollingshead, Padma Viswanathan and Richard Van Camp. Here's what they had to say about "Enigma":

“A woman must end the life of her beloved horse. A paean to intimacy and to things rarely seen, 'Enigma' is an eloquent meditation on the mystery of life and death, love and grief, both human and animal. This is a vivid personal narrative of remarkable spiritual and emotional grace.”

Open Book Toronto wrote a special feature interview talking with David about his winning story, the animal-human connection, experimenting with different perspectives and the "pulse" of a great short story. David shares on **CBC Books** how he wrote his gripping, mournful, award-winning story about whales, horses and human connection.

David is the author of the poetry collection *We Are No Longer The Smart Kids In Class*. In 2015 his fiction won The Dalhousie Review’s short story contest and *The Antigonish Review*’s Sheldon Currie Fiction Prize. Enigma is part of a collection-in-progress called *Peninsula Sinking*.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Books for Africa drive is back!
- ACCUTE Announcement
- *Squalls of Glass* performer presents donation cheque to Canadian Mental Health Association Middlesex
- Tom Cull interviewed by the London Free Press
- John Leonard latest recipient of the Hellmuth Prize for Achievement in Research

**CBC books.ca**

**Congratulations**

**ENIGMA**

**BY: DAVID HUEBERT**

*Winner*



## BOOKS FOR AFRICA RETURNS!

Books for Africa will be on campus Wednesday, May 4, to collect donations of new or gently used books/ textbooks for African schools.

If you have any books you would like to donate, a box will be available in **Leanne Trask's** office 2G02B. If you are unable to donate this time, Books for Africa will be returning to the Western campus in late November.

Books for Africa is committed to ending the book famine in Africa, believing everyone has the right to read and pursue a bright future. Our support helps make this reality for the next generation of African leaders. Books for Africa is a GuideStar gold-level nonprofit organization and was recently designated as the top-rated privately funded international NGO by Charity Navigator.

More information can be found on their website: [Books for Africa](#).



## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

The Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE) will be housed in the Department of English at Western from 2016-18.

ACCUTE is the national professional organization for college and university teachers of English, and, in addition to fostering scholarly dialogue by organizing and hosting the annual conference, ACCUTE is an essential voice for the discipline on research, teaching and other professional issues. Pending confirmation at the ACCUTE Annual General Meeting at Congress in Calgary in May, Professor **Manina Jones** will serve as President. Professor **Madeline Bassnett** will assume the position of Vice President, and **Stephanie Oliver** (PhD 2014) will take up the role of ACCUTE Coordinator.

## STUDENT PLAY DONATES TICKET SALES PROCEEDS TO CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION MIDDLESEX

Trish Gergich, Fund Development Specialist at the Canadian Mental Health Association Middlesex (left) receives a check amounting to over \$300 from playwright **Meg Cormack** (center), 3rd year Honors English Language and Literature, SASAH, and **George Ramos** (right), English 3666F American Drama course instructor and English PhD candidate.

The funds were raised by the hit production of a new, original one-act play, entitled *Squalls of Glass*, at the McManus Studio Theatre last February 26. Presented by the Theatre Studies Program and produced by a group of the English Department's American Drama students, the play was made possible through the generous support of the Department of English and Writing Studies, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and the Hume Cronyn Funds for dramatic performances. The donation will help support the Canadian Mental Health Association Middlesex's new Recovery Fund, which helps people suffering from mental health issues regain well-being and stability after crises. The company members are currently working on a full-length version of *Squalls of Glass*. Watch out for announcements on its production!



## FRIENDS OF THE THAMES: THAMES RIVER CLEAN UP



**Tom Cull** was interviewed by the [London Free Press](#) regarding the annual Thames River Clean Up on Saturday, April 23. As the City of London area coordinator, Tom believes “picking up garbage is one way we can come together” when speaking about the Springbank dam debate. For the past 16 years, between 1,500 and 2,000 people get together along sections of the watershed to remove garbage and junk that blows in and flows in the river.

More information about the Thames River Clean Up and how to become a volunteer or coordinator can be found at this [link](#).



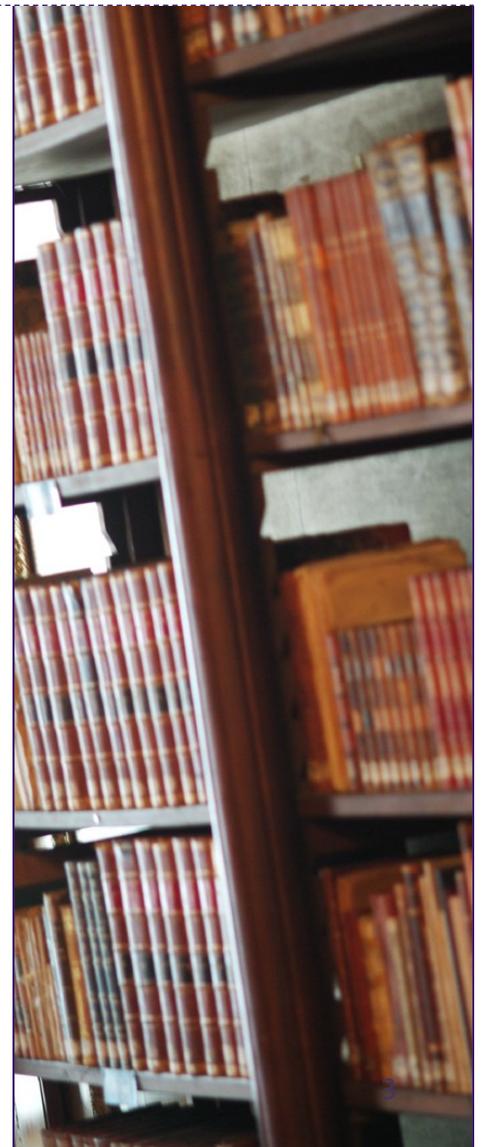
*“Picking up garbage is one way we can come together” - Tom Cull*

Join us in celebrating The Hellmuth Prize for Achievement in Research Public Lectures with honoree **John Leonard**: *Milton and the Succinct Sublime*.

Monday, May 2 at 1:30pm, with reception to follow at The Great Hall, Somerville House



Such an extraordinary record of scholarly achievement—four books, three editions, 61 essays, 83 conferences, four international prizes, a share in four more international prizes and Canada’s highest academic distinction for research makes Dr. Leonard a richly deserving candidate for the Hellmuth Prize— Arts & Humanities Dean Michael Milde-, Western News



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**Andrew Wenaus** gave a talk at the EMP Pop Conference 2016: From a Whisper to a Scream on Sunday, April 17 in Seattle. His talk was titled, “Breaking onto the Anthropocene: Dislocating the Human Voice in Space Exotica”.

“In the postwar period, popular exotica musicians turned their attention away from tropical islands and became fascinated with outer space. Space exotica came to represent an ambivalent sentiment: one of both familiar comfort and profound existential isolation. The genre may serve to quell Cold War anxieties of spy satellites and intercontinental ballistic missiles, yet it also reveals a less physical and more philosophical menace: that outer space, unlike exotic islands, is radically inhuman. Space exotica asks whether we can know something truly outside ourselves. It is a move away from the anthropocentric towards an acceptance of the limitations of the Anthropocene. From Les Baxter, Arthur Ferrante, and Louis Teiche to NASA’s Golden Voyager Record (1977) and the NASA Soundcloud page, this paper considers how space exotica is as much about what we are and what we share as it is about the inhuman reality and cosmic indifference that outer space signifies on its own terms: the most profound aseismic silence.” — [Abstract](#)

**Nandi Bhatia** presented a paper title, “Remembering the 1947 Partition in the Diaspora”. British Association of South Asian Studies Conference. University of Cambridge. Cambridge, UK. April 6-8, 2016.

“ How does the 1947 Partition play out in diasporic contexts? This paper examines theatre and film from Canada -- where the Partition is either referenced or constitutes the central theme -- in order to explore the function of remembering Partition in the diaspora. Recent examples include Rahul Varma’s play *No Man’s Land* (1995), Anusree Roy’s play *Letters to my Grandma* (2009), and Deepa Mehta’s *Earth* (1998), a film based on Bapsi Sidhwa’s novel *Cracking India* (1991). While Partition studies are primarily conceptualized within the framework of the subcontinent, connecting the subcontinent to Canada in the above- mentioned texts, I argue, responds to other kinds of urgencies beyond the subcontinent. Moving past the paradigms of “nostalgia” and “loss” that are often seen as characteristic features of diasporic cultures, these texts speak to local, regional and national politics and governance in Canada in a bid to examine their...” — [Abstract](#)

**Steven Bruhm** has published “The Global Village of the Damned: A Counter-Narrative for the Post-War Child,” *Narrative* 24.2 (2016): 156-173.

“John Wyndham’s *The Midwich Cuckoos* and the films it engendered (*Village of the Damned* and *Children of the Damned*) represent the Child as both the post-World War II promise of a new global community and the very threat that such a promise entailed. These Children are seemingly without race, class, or even gender, and possess preternatural intelligence with the ability for unfettered communication among the other children of their kind. While such racially and nationally transcendent self-possession was the basis for the dream of post-war global harmony, it also constitutes in the *Children of Midwich* the threat of global annihilation. As such, these counterfeit Children sustain an exploration of post-war childhood, its theoretical underpinnings, and the contesting narratives necessary to make “childhood” signify as a human category in the twentieth century: they produce a range of contesting narratives as to what the Child might mean, and what it might have meant within the new globalizing forces following the Second World War. These contesting narratives, I maintain, both depend upon the masterplot of the Child as our sentimental culture imagines it, and interrupt that masterplot to make of the Child a dangerous and fatal force. As our Children run askew, they become a counter-fit to the sentimental, political narrative, signifying instead the more primitive, psychoanalytic narrative of death’s inexorable drive.” — [Full Article](#)

**Bruhm** has also signed on with Dale Townshend of the University of Stirling to co-edit *The Gothic Studies Reader* for Routledge. This large volume of must-reads in gothic criticism and theory is scheduled to appear in 2018.