



# Western Arts & Humanities

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

## Around Town & Campus

Experience Shakespeare's Hamlet as You've Never Seen it Before



Western Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Department of English proudly present **Q1 Hamlet**, the First Quarto of the *Tragicall Historie of Hamlet, Prince of Denmarke* 1603—the earliest printed version of the Bard's most famous tragedy.

Less than half the length of more familiar editions of the play, Q1 Hamlet features live original music and includes a bonus short Tudor Interlude, John Rastells's "Four Elements."

The play runs from November 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2016; doors open at 7:30 PM and performances begin promptly at 8:00 PM—late arrivals will not be admitted so please try to be punctual. \*Click the photo above for ticket and cast information

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Around Campus & Town.....	1-2
Department Achievements.....	3
Changes in the Department .....	4
Keeping Up With Alumni.....	5

## Write Now! Speaker Series Continues

As many of you may already be aware, *Write Now!* is a creative writing speaker series presented by the Department of English and Writing Studies at Western University, running from September to December 2016. Each week, the department invites a new guest speakers (a writer, poet, filmmaker, or playwright) to read their work and discuss their writing process.

Click the poster below for more information

Presenters this month are as follows:

- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> Kate Taylor
- Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> Armand Garnet Ruffo
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Evan Munday
- Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Ian Williams

\*Author readings and discussions are held each

Wednesday at 4pm in UCC56

**WRITE NOW! SPEAKER SERIES** Western Arts & Humanities

Presented by Writing 2504A & the Dept. of English & Writing Studies & the Creative Writers Speaker Series at Western. Day: Wednesdays (see schedule for dates) Time: 4:00pm Location: Western University, UCC 56

ALL EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!


**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

September 21, 2016	Cecily Nicholson
September 28, 2016	Margaret Christakos & Victoria Wiebe
October 5, 2016	Monica Kidd
October 12, 2016	Renuka Jayapalan
October 19, 2016	Fred Walsh
October 26, 2016	Don McKay
November 2, 2016	Daniel MacIvor
November 9, 2016	Kate Taylor: IFOA London (location TBA)
November 16, 2016	Armand Garnet Ruffo
November 23, 2016	Evan Munday
November 30, 2016	Ian Williams

Logos for IRDA, SA, IIT, Ontario, Poetry, and other partners.

## WORDS: The Literary & Creative Festival

Every year, during the first week of November, the 'WORDS' festival brings the Southwestern Ontario region together for a celebration of creative ideas, artistic expression, and cultural diversity.

The annual literary and creative festival aims to feature emerging and established writers from London, Canada, and beyond, showcasing new works and provocative ideas to spark debate and ignite the imagination of attendees.

This year participants from the Department included: John Leonard, Penn Kemp, Madeline Bassnett, Emma Donoghue (former Western Write-in Residence), Jennifer Robson, Margaret Christakos—Writer-in-Residence, Laurie D. Graham, and David Huebert.

*Click the poster for more details concerning the WORDS Literary & Creative Festival*



## Forest City Film Festival

The Forest City Film Festival raises its curtains for the first time this November 11th-12th at the Wolf Performance Hall in Downtown London. Highlighting films that have at least one member of the critical artistic team— a director, writer, producer, or leading actor—from or currently residing in the area, projects filmed in the area, or films about the area.

By focusing on local films and filmmakers, the festival hopes not only to celebrate and showcase established & upcoming industry members but also to help nurture film industry growth within the region; creating and enabling conversation between filmmakers and audiences, and facilitating access to local and Canadian films.

Scheduled throughout the weekend are industry sessions, films, forums, and events. To learn more about the festival, check out the schedule, or purchase tickets online by visiting the Forest City Film Festival [Website](#), or [Facebook Page](#).



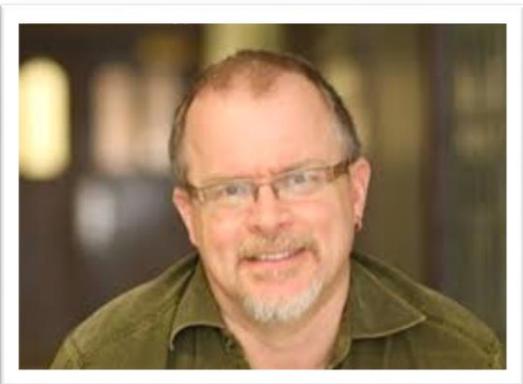
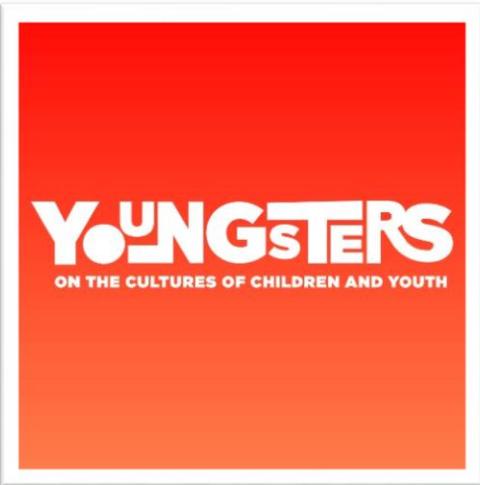
**FOREST CITY**  
FILM FESTIVAL

# Department Achievements

## Bruhm Investigating the 'Imaginary Child'

Professor Steven Bruhm recently gave a keynote address at "Youngsters," the first biennial conference of the Association for Research on the Cultures of Young People (ARCYP), in Vancouver, October 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

The talk, titled "Things to Do with Your Imaginary Child," considered texts in which invent "children" for multiple purposes, ranging from reparative to the sinister. Take a look at the abstract [here](#).



## ESC Moves to Western

As stated in the ACCUTE publication released in mid-August, *ESC: English Studies in Canada* will be relocating from its long-time home at the University of Alberta to its new residence; next year the highly regarded and refereed journal, will be transferred to Western, under the editorship of Prof. Allan Pero and a Western team.

For those unaware, *ESC: English Studies in Canada* is a leading international journal in the fields of literary and cultural studies. ESC was founded in 1975 as an official publication of the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE). The journal publishes articles that make a clear and original contribution to scholarly and theoretical debates of current interests and ongoing significance to members of the discipline of English Studies and the humanities more generally. Having such a highly regarded organization and its journal housed at Western gives us an important opportunity to take a leadership role in our discipline and raise our Department's profile on the national stage.

To mark this joyous occasion, and as a parting editorial gesture, the Co-Editors will be publishing a special issue of the journal with the theme of "transitions." The theme avails itself of multiple disciplinary, theoretical, methodological, cultural, political, historical, and other contextual investments. In recognizing that broad applicability, our capacious understanding of the term is designed to invite a widespread and diverse interest.

With this turning point in the history of ESC, the journal is inviting full length papers (6000-9000 words in length) for submission no later than February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Please direct your correspondences to Mark Simpson, Co-Editor at: [dms7@ualberta.ca](mailto:dms7@ualberta.ca) and Dr. Michael J. Driscoll at: [mo@ualberta.ca](mailto:mo@ualberta.ca)

*Operating as an Open Access journal, institutional libraries carry the journal worldwide, and is distributed through four digital aggregators, including preeminent Project Muse. Click the ESC Image above the article to be directed to their website.*

## Changes in the Department

**Huron**  
AT WESTERN



### Farewell to Melanie Mills

Melanie Mills, Research & Instructional Services Librarian at Weldon Library, will be leaving her current post upon accepting an appointment as Director of Library and Learning Services at Huron University College.

During her time at Western, Melanie has worked with and supported countless researchers, faculty, and staff members as well as students in the Arts & Humanities; in the Department of English and Writing Studies in particular, Melanie has been an exceptional asset in helping introduce students to the principles of university-level research in the humanities. In short, Melanie has been an immensely valuable team member at Weldon Libraries for the past 12 years, and although she will be sorely missed, the English and Writing Studies Department wishes her nothing but success at her new post at Huron College.

Before her departure in the first week of November, Melanie will be following up on existing commitments with faculty, staff, and students in the Department of English; moving forward, until further arrangements can be made, Bruce Fyfe will be the primary contact for the department of English and Writing Studies at Weldon Library. He can be contacted by email at [bfyfe@uwo.ca](mailto:bfyfe@uwo.ca), or by phone at 519-661-2111 Ext.84823

### **A reminder that the English and Writing Studies Department is still accepting nominations for next year's Writer-in Residence Program**

Please email your applications/suggestions to the Vice-Chair ([sbruhm2@uwo.ca](mailto:sbruhm2@uwo.ca)) by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Please include, as part of your nomination/application: a brief statement indicating why you think your nominee would be appropriate for the role and how you envision this nominee contributing to creative writing on campus and in the community, a representative list of his/her publications, as well as a writing sample.



Western  
Alumni

## Keeping Up With Alumni

### ‘Media Maven’ & ‘First Lady of Geek,’ Sam Maggs

Sam Maggs, an English Department alumna, has been boasted about in the [current issue](#) of Western’s Alumni Gazette, being referred to as a ‘Multimedia Maven’ and ‘First Lady of Geek.’ But that isn’t the only title Maggs has to celebrate to date.

Maggs has been a contestant winner of Cineplex Entertainment’s Casting Call contest in 2014, is a best-selling author, has been named the ‘Feminist Geek of the Year’ by Women Write About Comics, and most freshly Maggs moved to Edmonton earlier this year, being awarded her dream role as Assistant Writer for the best-selling role playing game developing company [BioWare](#).

For those unfamiliar or out of touch with the ‘geek world,’ BioWare, is a Canadian game developing company focused on creating rich stories, unforgettable characters, and vast worlds for their users to discover—sounds like a geeky fiction

writers dreams come true, right? But it doesn’t hurt that they are one of the most progressive companies in the gaming field as well. In her interview with the Alumni Gazette, Maggs remarked that it was the broad-minded nature of the company that drew her to work at BioWare in the first place. “It’s just really cool to come to work every day to a place where you sit down in a writer’s room and talk about things like diversity and representation,” Maggs explains to the Gazette.

Although her current post keeps her pretty busy, video game writing is not the only writing keeping this lady geek going. Her latest personal project, titled [Wonder Women](#), was released late last month.

In *Wonder Women*, Maggs profiles inventors and trailblazers who changed history without history taking notice—from Allied spy Noor Inayat Khan, a Muslim woman whom the Nazis considered ‘highly dangerous’ to German painter and entomologist Maria Sibylla Merian, who planned and embarked on the world’s first science expedition.

From show hosting, to novel writing, to game developing, this Western grad is on the rise to stardom. Keep an eye out for her!

