FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Year of Promise and Renewal

The Department celebrates a year of new faces and generous alumni

By Shelley King
Department Head

Greetings! I can’t quite believe I have completed my second year as head of the Department. It has gone by in a flash and was filled with many highlights.

The biggest news is that we were able to hire a new colleague in Victorian literature and culture, Professor Brooke Cameron, who has been teaching with us to great acclaim for the past two years as a term adjunct. She is now an assistant professor, and we are delighted to welcome her to our ranks. In other hiring news, we are pleased to welcome Cynthia Collins, who was appointed as our undergraduate administrative assistant following the retirement of Sherril Barr. Sherril had been a mainstay of the office for more than forty years and knew its history and its personalities better than anyone.

The Department also hosted a well-attended conference in July to mark the centenary of the birth of George Whalley, our celebrated Department head in the formative years of the 1960s and 1970s. An international program of scholars of Romanticism and aesthetics—Whalley’s chief areas of expertise—as well as former
students, writers, and members of the Whalley family gathered for three days of stimulating exchange.

This was also a year of extraordinary giving by alumni, for which we are profoundly grateful. It began in late August with a gift from Diane King, whose annual contribution pledged over the next five years will enable us to continue our Giller event, providing copies of the Prize-winning work to each member of the graduating class and inviting the author to campus to address the Queen’s community. It concluded in June with a gift from Dr Harley Smythe and Carolyn McIntire Smythe, who generously funded the refurbishment of our departmental lounge and its rededication as the George Whalley Lounge. The Department will enjoy daily the benefit of these much-needed improvements to our social space.

Finally, we participated in Homecoming again this year. For the first time, we included an “Ask the Alumni” panel, which was a wonderful opportunity for our graduates to share their successes with us. N

Shelley King can be reached at kings@queensu.ca.

NEW FACES

Brooke Cameron
The Department welcomes our newest faculty member, Brooke Cameron

By Shelley King
Department Head

The Department is delighted to welcome Dr Brooke Cameron as our most recent tenure-track appointment in Victorian literature and culture. Dr Cameron began her studies at the University of Victoria, where she obtained her BA in Sociology with a Minor in English in 2000. She completed her MA in Methodologies at Trent University in 2003, writing her thesis, “Inverts and Butches: Literary Representations of Female Fashioning in the Masculine Mode,” under the direction of Richard Dellamora. Dr Cameron graduated with her Doctorate in English from Notre Dame in 2008, where she defended her dissertation, Bonds Between Women: Gender and Economics in Late-Victorian Literature. This study has expanded considerably in scope, and is currently under revision as Radical Alliances: Economics and Feminism in English Women’s Writing 1880-1938.

Dr Cameron’s research explores the intersections between gender and economics in late-Victorian and Modernist women’s writing, looking especially at “meaningful questions of ethical representation and cultural belonging.” She has been widely published: most recently, her article “On Feminine Feeling and Wilkie Collins’ Debt to Amatory Fiction” came out in Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies, but her work has also appeared in Victorian Poetry, Victorian Literature and Culture, and Studies in the Novel.

Brooke was already a valued member of our community: she had joined the Department as a term adjunct in September 2013, and since that time has become an instructor of exceptional popularity among our students, winning the 2014-2015 Fourth Years’ Choice teaching award. Her energy, enthusiasm for her students, and her positive outlook have made her a welcome addition to our ranks.

Professor Brooke Cameron specializes in gender and economics in late-Victorian and Modernist women’s writing.
FROM THE GRADUATE CHAIR

Fostering Intellectual Communities

The hard work of our graduate students continues to do the Department proud

By Sam McKegney
Graduate Chair

As an alumnus of the Queen’s English MA (2000) and PhD (2005) programs, I’ve delighted in taking on the role of graduate chair this past year; it feels like a homecoming of sorts. I’m grateful to have inherited the position from former Chair Leslie Ritchie and Acting Chair Glenn Willmott, whose dedication to our graduate students’ development, success, and well-being is nothing short of inspiring, and who have both proven most gracious in their willingness to assist me as I learn the position’s administrative ropes.

Regular faculty members have the opportunity to forge close scholarly relationships with the few students they supervise, to know a fair bit about the small handful of students who attend their annual graduate class, and to capture small glimpses into the work of other graduate students through presentations, hallway conversations, and, of course, the department’s annual “Snowflake Gala.”

The graduate chair, on the other hand, has sustained contact with our entire graduate student body. From this vantage point, I’ve been able to witness not only the incredible range of scholarly work being conducted in our MA and PhD programs, but also what remarkable people make up our graduate community. Our students are pursuing compelling projects in a staggering array of historical periods, geographic locations, and literary genres, producing work that mobilizes myriad methodologies to engender substantive intellectual, philosophical, and political interventions. Our students are pushing boundaries not only in their research and writing, but also in their teaching, creative art, organizing, activism, and public dissemination of knowledge, as well as in their efforts towards institutional reform at Queen’s and elsewhere.

Reflecting on all this amazing labour and vision, I’m struck by the crucial role of our graduate students, and their relentless curiosity, in continually revitalizing the rich intellectual community of the Department, a community of which I consider myself lucky to be a member.

Graduate students have organized and implemented numerous events within our Department and beyond this year that have showcased the richness of contemporary critical thought. Doctoral student Michael Rizzo organized the highly successful Works in Progress event this year, which featured papers by his colleagues Drew MacDonald, Jeremy McFarlane, and Matt Scribner. Several graduate students and faculty members participated in our annual symposium, “Behind the Scenes: Examining the Theoretical Grounds of Literary Study,” which examined the various theoretical grounds of literary studies to bring to light the sets of assumptions that literary scholars use daily and to enter into thoughtful conversation about the benefits and limitations of various approaches to the study of literature. Graduate participants offered the engaged audience illuminating reflections on theories of adaptation, comics studies, affect, and queerness. Our graduate students were also instrumental in organizing the highly successful “Gender and Decolonization” event at Queen’s in March 2015, which brought together leading Indigenous writers, artists, activists, and gender theorists. Several students are currently hard at work preparing for conferences that will be hosted at Queen’s in the year ahead on such themes as Romanticism and aesthetics, the digital humanities, and literature and the environment. This work will prove invaluable to their development as scholars, while
enriching the Department’s national and international profile. Next year is guaranteed to be an exciting one!

Beyond Queen’s, our students presented their work this year in academic venues all across Canada and internationally, with many students organizing and chairing conference panels as well as reading publicly from their work. Our students won a number of national and internal awards this year, including nine OGS awards and several SSHRC awards, while compiling an impressive publishing record in top-end journals and edited collections. No fewer than ten of our PhD students were able to secure teaching fellowships this past year, teaching in such areas as the “EcoGothic,” Jacobean Shakespeare, theories of adaptation, and detective fiction. The teaching fellowship provides crucial pedagogical experience that distinguishes our students on the job market.

On the career front, alumna Heather Fate was recently hired in a tenure-track position at the University of South Dakota. On the heels of her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Manitoba, 2013 graduate Cara Fabre will take up an adjunct professorship in Gender Studies at the University of Windsor in the Fall. Carla Manfredi, who just defended her dissertation last year, has been awarded a SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship to pursue a project on the nineteenth-century Pacific at the University of Hawaii. Jen Hardwick, who defends her dissertation this June, is staying a little closer to her alma mater, taking up a Bader Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Literatures, Languages, and Cultures at Queen’s (while teaching, I should add, for both LLCU and the Royal Military College’s Alloy program). Jason Boulet, a 2013 alumnus, has recently taken on a teaching position with Brain Power Enrichment Programs in Toronto.

Recognizing the spectrum of career paths pursued by graduates of our MA and PhD programs, Queen’s English has over the past few years developed two new innovative courses concerned with professionalization: the Literary Internship at the MA level, and the Publishing Practicum at the PhD level. These courses have proven extraordinarily successful, as attested by the students themselves. Elizabeth Heinricks, whose internship was conducted with McGill-Queen’s University Press, writes, “Seeing how the work I did is actually serving the Press in the next stage of developing one of its series is perhaps the most rewarding part of an all-around wonderful experience.” Tara Hilman, whose internship was conducted with Kingston Literacy and Skills, writes, “I am passionate about creative interaction with literary works and about increasing accessibility to classic texts, so I could not have come up with a placement that would better suit my interests.”

The Publishing Practicum demystifies one of the most crucial, and daunting, processes in which graduate students need to be involved in to achieve their academic goals: the publishing of scholarly articles. And it does so while the students revise and prepare an article for actual submission to an appropriate academic venue. Doctoral student Lindsay Young describes the course as “completely invaluable to [her] development as a scholar, not only academically, but ... socially as well.” She explains: “By the end of my first year of doctoral studies, I not only came away with a paper all but ready for publication, but I was able to benefit from reading and commenting on the work of my peers. The course works to make the process of seeking publication less nebulous by teaching us how to approach journals, how to deal with the revision process, and what ‘academic writing’ itself actually means.” We in the Department are proud of these innovative courses and look forward to running them for years to come.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to announce those PhD students who have completed their degrees in the past year, as well as those who have submitted their dissertations and are awaiting defense dates.

Congratulations go out to these dedicated young scholars and to their resourceful supervisors:

**Agatha Hanson.** “The Prosthetic Hinge: Saints, Kings, and Knights in Late Medieval England.” (Margaret Pappano)

**Matthew Scribner.** “‘Ne canstu me noght knowe?’: Disguise, Exile, and Medieval Romance.” (Margaret Pappano)

**Christine Hamada.** “My Nostalgia: The Cozy, the Cute, and the Happy in Diaspora.” (Asha Varadharajan)

**Holly McIndoe.** “Imagining What’s Lacking: Conceptions of the Common Good in Contemporary Postcolonial Fiction.” (Asha Varadharajan)

**Jennifer Hardwick.** “Emerging Voices: Reading Canadian Youth Online.” (Sam McKegney)

**Alana Fletcher.** “Re/mediation: The Story of Port Radium.” (Sam McKegney)

In this my first of three years as graduate chair, I’ve become enormously proud of the work being accomplished by our graduate students, and I’m excited by the work yet to come. Please feel free to contact me; I’m always delighted to know the recent news of other alumni.

*Sam McKegney can be reached at sam.mckegney@queensu.ca.*
Emphasizing Visual and Cultural Studies

Among the Department’s new undergraduate offerings for next year are courses that focus on the exciting fields of visual and cultural studies.

By Chris Bongie
Undergraduate Chair

The past year has been relaxingly low-key, occupied almost solely with the micro-acts of advising, enrolling, timetabling, and such that constitute the daily pleasures of this administrative position.

However, some events do stand in need of commemoration here, none more so in terms of institutional history than the retirement last summer of our long-serving undergraduate assistant, Sherril Barr. For over forty years, undergraduate chairs in the Department relied heavily on her for aid and advice, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her one last time for everything she did over those many years for students and faculty alike.

Finding an adequate replacement for Sherril was never going to be easy, but the Department has been extremely fortunate in its choice of successor, Cynthia Collins, who has done a wonderful job at replacing the irreplaceable and nudging our Department into the digital age.

Another event worthy of note is the fact that this summer we are, for the first time, participating in the registrar’s advanced course selection process, which allows incoming fourth-year students to list their top five 400-level seminar choices for next year. Our students will thus be able to avoid at least some of the arbitrariness built into the enrolment process, where the difference between being assigned an early and a late enrolment appointment date often makes the difference between getting and not getting one’s top seminar choices.

To judge from the data, we will be able to preregister virtually all Majors in three of their top four choices, a decided improvement over last year’s registration process.

One of my last tasks as undergraduate chair before handing over the reins to the incoming chair, Robert G. May, at the end of this month, will be to oversee next year’s timetable. As I look over our course offerings for next year, what strikes me is the emergence of a new emphasis on visual and cultural studies that nicely supplements our traditional strengths in literary history.

Our 200-level offerings for 2015-2016 include “Comics and Graphic Novels” (ENGL 238), “Literature on Screen and Stage” (ENGL 291), and my own “Introductory Approaches to Cultural Studies” (ENGL 293). Upper-level offerings include a course on “Nineteenth-Century British Literature and Visual Culture” (ENGL 357) that was created in 2011 but is only now being taught for the first time, and new 400-level seminars on “Romanticism and the Visual” (ENGL 442) and “The Literary Screenplay” (ENGL 489).

New courses such as these further consolidate the Department’s longstanding commitment, as articulated in its mission statement, “to develop cross-cultural and historical literacies by encouraging students to engage with literatures from diverse histories and traditions through a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches.”

On the Web

Check out the Department’s Web site for information about our programs:
http://www.queensu.ca/english

Chris Bongie can be reached at bongiec@queensu.ca.
DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

Giller Winner
Sean Michaels

Each year, the Department welcomes the winner of the Giller Prize to address the graduating class

By Shelley King
Department Head

In March 2015, the Department welcomed Sean Michaels, winner of the 2014 Scotiabank Giller Prize for his first novel, *Us Conductors*.

Since winning the prize, Sean has become a recognized face of contemporary Canadian fiction, but his earlier claim to fame is as the founder of *Said the Gramophone*, one of the first .mp3 Blogs, which was recognized by *Time* magazine in 2009 as one of the world’s 25 best Blogs. He has also published his music criticism in such print venues as the *Guardian*, the *Globe and Mail*, *Maisonneuve*, the *Observer*, and the *National Post*.

It thus should come as no surprise that music, technology, and electronic media are at the heart of *Us Conductors*, a tour-de-force reimagining of the life of Léon Theremin, Soviet-born inventor of, among other things, that otherworldly musical instrument known as the theremin. In the atrium of the Agnes Etherington Art Gallery, Sean gave a warm and inspiring talk—as well as a rather eerie rendition of “Happy Birthday” on his theremin—to the graduating class and guests from the wider community.

The Giller event, now in its eighth year, is a capstone experience for the graduating class, each of whom receives a copy of the Prize-winning work of fiction, and the opportunity to meet with the winner and ask about the writer’s journey.

*Us Conductors* is inspired by the life of Léon Theremin, the inventor of the theremin. Michaels demonstrated the musical instrument to the audience.
Engaging, Collaborating, and Socializing

The Graduate English Society is involved in the Department in numerous ways, both collaboratively and socially.

By Nicole Slipp and Jeffrey Dzogola
Co-Presidents, Graduate English Society

Greetings from the Graduate English Society! The GES has a strong tradition of providing academic and social support to its constituents. In November 2014, we undertook the first major revisions to the GES constitution. The changes made to the constitution bring the document in line with current practices, clarify responsibilities for representatives, and streamline some processes and positions.

The GES continues to solicit member feedback to guide changes to the structure of the program, and our student members on Department committees negotiate with faculty to ensure our interests as graduate students are represented in Department policy.

Graduate students are an integral part of the recruitment of new graduate students, and this year our members also had the opportunity to weigh in on the hiring of a new faculty member by attending candidate luncheons and job talks. Our efforts on behalf of English graduate students extend beyond the Department to work with our union, PSAC 901, and the Society for Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS).

Works in Progress, an event allowing students and faculty the chance to benefit from feedback on early drafts of work, had a very successful year, running one session each term. The six participants in Works in Progress this academic year presented on topics from a variety of historical and theoretical perspectives.

In addition to the institutional and academic initiatives of the past year, the GES continues to organize social and fundraising events throughout the year for our membership. Our social conveners welcomed new and returning students in September with two weeks of activities, including campus tours, pub nights, and a trip to Wolfe Island’s corn maze. This year’s social events have included weekly coffee hours in the lounge, end-of-the-week Grad Club visits, and the ever-popular Snowflake Gala, a chance for students and faculty to celebrate the end of Fall term with food and drink. As a result of GES social events, English graduate students have an opportunity to create stronger collegial relationships.

Our fundraising efforts over the year included a Hallowe’en candy sale, St Valentine’s Day candygrams, and the annual book and bake sale. For the second year, the book and bake sale partnered with a local organization to provide books to vulnerable populations; donations this year went to the Kingston Women’s Shelter.

The GES strives to foster a positive, respectful, and creative community for English graduate students here at Queen’s. With the support of our membership, we will continue to contribute to a strong, informed, and involved community of graduate students.

The George Whalley Fund

In this centenary year, please consider contributing to the George Whalley Visiting Professorship.

This fund supports our annual Whalley Lecture, and every three to five years enables the Department to invite a visiting professor to enrich our graduate offerings.

https://www.givetoqueens.ca/give/index.php/project/action/view/project/218
Unveiling the George Whalley Lounge

The Department refurbished the George Whalley Lounge thanks to the generosity of Dr Harley Smythe and Carolyn McIntire Smythe

By Shelley King
Department Head

It has been many years since our departmental lounge has looked so fine!

The Department is grateful to Dr Harley Smythe, who studied with George Whalley as an undergraduate, and to Carolyn McIntire Smythe for their generous donation targeted to refurbish this social space used by students and faculty alike. With a fresh coat of paint, furniture reupholstered in a nautical blue as a gesture to Whalley’s naval career, and the addition of an antique pine table to give character to the room, this renovation has brought a sense of style to the fourth floor of John Watson Hall.

Of special interest are the documents framed and hung around the room, including Whalley’s jocular letter of “resignation” citing the inadequacy of his junior professor pay to support his growing family.

English Alumni Fund

Inspired by Harley and Carolyn, the Department would like to extend the refurbishment to other areas of our space in John Watson Hall, so that we can meet with students in our offices in a clean, professional environment. If you would like to help us restore the Department, you will find a link at:

https://www.givetoqueens.ca/give/index.php/project/action/view/project/217

The new George Whalley Lounge features restored furnishings and an antique pine table, as well as memorabilia from the Whalley Archive, better blinds and lighting, and other amenities for the enjoyment of everyone in the Department.
FROM THE ENGLISH DSC

A Fun and Exciting Year for Our Undergrads

The English Departmental Student Council keeps our undergraduate students in the loop with a series of fun social events each year

By Jasmine Lauritzen and Sam Ali
Co-Presidents, English Departmental Student Council

This has been a very exciting and rewarding academic year. As the English Department Student Council co-presidents, we have had the opportunity to work with professors and our peers to hold meetings, events, and socials. The success of the school year speaks to the dedication and commitment of our Department.

Our first general meeting for all the DSC representatives was held in early October, when all the DSC representatives were chosen from their respective classes. At the general meeting, we introduced the team, which included ourselves, Sarah Massia and Lauren Coles as the event coordinators, and Stuart Borenovich and Cristina Valeri as the English Buddy Program coordinators. Our goal for the year was to bring our Department closer together, and our many events helped to establish this community.

Our first departmental event of the year was the October book swap, held in the Athletics and Recreation Centre just in time for Hallowe’er! Our objective was for students and professors to exchange an old book of theirs for a new one. Along with the book swap, we had a raffle going on at the same time, which included a prize of a $10 Common Ground gift card, and some awesome candy. This event was something different for our Department, and it was very successful.

In November, we hosted the annual Tea with Profs in John Watson Hall in the George Whalley Lounge. Lots of students came out to the event, along with professors, for an afternoon of tea, coffee, and baked goods.

We also continued the tradition of departmental clothing sales during Fall term. This year’s slogan was “We get our Wordsworth,” which was a crowd favourite. With lots of organizing from the DSC team, and countless hours of selling in the ARC, we managed to get the clothing in right before December exams.

The English DSC team started off the Winter term with the classic Robbie Burns night on 25 January. It was held in the Red Room in Kingston Hall, with some “haggis” (which we substituted for pizza, of course!) and drinks. We recited poetry right before the meal, and enjoyed a night of all things literature with fellow English students.

At the end of February, we hosted the annual Beer with Profs event at the Grizzly Grill. It was a great way for students to socialize and communicate with their professors.

The most anticipated event by fourth year English majors was the English banquet that was held on 27 March at the Renaissance. It was a classy evening, consisting of a reception, a three-course meal, and great conversation. Awards were given to professors in attendance, and we were so pleased to present the Fourth Years’ Choice Award to Professor Brooke Cameron.

It was an incredible year for the English DSC. We had a wonderful team to work with, along with amazing peers who were always supportive and excited for our events. We feel that the English DSC is in very good hands with the incoming president for next year, Stuart Borenovich.

Congratulations, and thank you to everyone for an excellent year!
CONVOCATION 2015

Happy Graduation!
The Department is proud of our students who graduated this past year

One of the highlights of our calendar is Convocation, when we have the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our graduates and to thank their families for sharing them with us for the past four years. This summer, for the first time, our reception preceded the graduation ceremony, since English drew an evening Convocation slot.

Clockwise from top-right: Congratulatory cake; Professor Chris Bongie with English Medal winner Hayley Toivanen; Michael Green with Professor Ruth Wehlau; graduates in front of Grant Hall; Professor Brooke Cameron with Tiffany Chan.
CREATIVE WRITING

A Vibrant Writing Year

This past year saw a series of excellent readings and performances in the Department

By Carolyn Smart
Department of English

September 2014 saw the start of a vibrant year for Creative Writing at Queen’s, beginning with a powerful and highly original performance by Jordan Abel from his recent collections of poetry. The audience was mesmerized, and the question-and-answer session that followed was both revealing and provocative. It set the bar high for what followed during the year, but we were not disappointed.

Next up was Souvankham Thammavongsa, recent winner of the Trillium Award for her third collection of poetry. Her crystalline reading was a strong comparison piece, as was the humorous and affective poetry by Billeh Nickerson in late October. Governor-General’s Award winner Diane Schoemperlen read from and talked about her experimental short fiction collection *By The Book* (Windsor: Biblioasis, 2014) in the stunning surrounds of the Agnes Etherington Art Gallery, a very fitting spot to engage with Diane’s book, illustrated with her own collages.

The year 2015 began with Shyam Selvadurai’s superb fiction and a particularly thought-provoking question-and-answer session, followed in March by poet, fiction writer, and editor Stuart Ross (also held at the Agnes Etherington Art Gallery), and poet and editor Paul Vermeersch’s highly original poetry reading marked the final reading in a very strong series, funded by grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Writers’ Union of Canada.

But the academic year was not complete until the CWRI 296 class launched *Lake Effect 7* (Kingston: Upstart, 2015) at the Renaissance Event Centre at the end of March. A standing-room-only crowd had a very warm response for these fifteen fine and hard-working writers.

Carolyn Smart can be reached at smartc@queensu.ca.
CREATIVE WRITING

Writers in Residence
The Department’s Writer-in-Residence program gives students a rare opportunity to learn from published writers

By Carolyn Smart
Department of English

Each year, we are fortunate to be able to welcome a published writer to the University as Writer in Residence.

Steven Heighton

Poet, novelist, and non-fiction writer Steven Heighton was the Queen’s Writer in Residence during the Fall term this past year. He met with more than thirty students individually to discuss their work in detail and to offer editing and revision suggestions.

Emily Pohl-Weary

Emily Pohl-Weary will be Writer in Residence this Fall, meeting students on Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the term.

She will be organizing four public events aimed at engaging young writers that will bring together creative writing and English students, as well as many on-campus groups, such as the student newspaper and literary magazines: two readings that will combine local authors and student writers-performers in an evening cabaret-style format at the Grad Club on campus; and two open public workshops that will focus on subjects that students have identified as being of particular interest:

• **True Lies:** the fine line between fiction and non-fiction, and the ethics of writing about real people, which can be directly related to issues of online privacy and the phenomenon of crafting semi-fictionalized personas on social media, and

• **Writing Monsters into Our Neighbourhoods:** urban fantasy that integrates magical beings and occurrences into otherwise realistic fiction.

It promises to be another exciting year for our Writer-in-Residence program!

*Carolyn Smart can be reached at smartc@queensu.ca.*
CONFERENCE

Celebrating a Departmental Legend

The Centenary Conference in Honour of George Whalley celebrated the former Department head’s life and accomplishments

Clockwise from top-right: Special guest Michael Ondaatje at the Conference banquet; Professor Emeritus Fred Colwell reflects on Whalley’s life; dedication of the newly refurbished George Whalley Lounge in John Watson Hall; Associate Vice-President (Research) Cynthia Fekken; Owen Pratt and Henrik Brandt (a.k.a. Croc E. Moses) with the portrait of their grandfather, George Whalley, in John Watson Hall.
The Whalley Lecture
The Annual George Whalley Lecture welcomed Stephen Behrendt, the distinguished Romanticist

By Shelley King
Department Head

Almost all special events in the Department take place in Room 517, John Watson Hall, where the portrait of George Whalley keeps a stern eye on all proceedings. I like to fancy that his favourite event is the annual lecture given in his name. Made possible by the George Whalley Fund, this annual event brings a scholar of note to the Department to present a public lecture on a topic pertaining to Romanticism or critical theory.

This year, the Whalley Lecture marked a return to tradition with the campus visit of Stephen Behrendt, George Holmes Distinguished Professor in the Department of English at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He joins a long line of distinguished Romanticists—Mary Jacobus, Marjorie Levinson, and Cynthia Chase, to name a few—who have delivered the Whalley Lecture.

Professor Behrendt is an especially apt choice: like Whalley, he is both distinguished scholar and creative poet. A prolific scholar—he has authored or edited a full dozen volumes on Romantic subjects—and author of a multitude of articles, his work has contributed to changing our understanding of Romanticism.

I was personally pleased to welcome him as a scholar whose work has been very much part of my own academic life: first as the name on the spine of a book on Blake’s Milton on the carrel shelves of a fellow graduate student at the University of Toronto, and subsequently at a Blake conference at Strawberry Hill as the real person who owned that name and who had recently published Reading William Blake.

But it wasn’t until a few years later that my own growing interest in the Romantic woman writer Amelia Opie was given impetus by the new direction in Stephen’s scholarship that was helping to transform the idea of Romanticism, especially the essay collection Romanticism and Women Poets: Opening the Doors of Reception, which he co-edited with Harriet Kramer Linkin in 1999.

As one reviewer of his most recent volume, British Women Poets and the Romantic Writing Community, bluntly put it, “British Romanticism was once thought of as a cultural movement defined by a small group of male poets. This book grants women poets their proper place in the literary tradition of the time.”

In his paper “Of Cabbages and Kings,” Professor Behrendt gave a wide-ranging account of the changes he had seen in the profession over his long career while paying tribute to the enduring power of teaching and students as an inspiration to scholars.

Holmes Distinguished Professor in the Department of English at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He joins a long line of distinguished Romanticists—Mary Jacobus, Marjorie Levinson, and Cynthia Chase, to name a few—who have delivered the Whalley Lecture.

Professor Stephen Behrendt delivered a paper entitled “Of Cabbages and Kings” for this past year’s George Whalley Lecture.
MILESTONES

A Sad Farewell:
Joanne Page

We say goodbye to Joanne Page, respected writer and poet, and a great friend of the Department

In February 2015, we were saddened to hear of the death of Kingston writer and poet Joanne Page.

Joanne was the inspiration for the newest event in our annual calendar, The Page Lectures. Inaugurated by then Writer in Residence Phil Hall in 2012, the Lecture brings to campus a leading creative writer to address the Department and the wider Kingston community on the broad subject of “the page.”

In October 2014, respected writer and literary critic Stan Dragland spoke on the topic of Joanne’s poetry, and we were fortunate to have her in the audience.

The Joanne Page Lecture Fund

In May, the Department honoured Joanne’s passing by earmarking $25,000 from our Writers Fund as seed money for the establishment of a new endowed fund to help make the Page Lectures self-sustaining. We are delighted to announce that, thanks to the generosity of Steve Page (Joanne’s husband) and Patricia Bowles (Joanne’s sister), we have been able to establish the Joanne Page Lecture Fund.

Our goal is to reach $75,000 by 2020. We are currently about three-quarters of the way there in donations received and pledges made. Your generosity can help us make it the rest of the way by supporting this Lecture that enriches the experience of our students and the Kingston community.

https://www.givetoqueens.ca/give/index.php/donate/donate/action/mediate/

Kingston writer and poet Joanne Page passed away this past February.

Writer and critic Stan Dragland delivered the 2014 Joanne Page Lecture on the topic of Page’s poetry.
NEW FACES

Emma Peacocke
The Department welcomes Emma Peacocke as the Bader Postdoctoral Fellow in English

This year, Dr Alfred Bader, the Queen’s benefactor who was instrumental in establishing the Bader International Study Centre at Herstmonceux Castle in Britain and the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in Kingston, has made a one-time gift enabling the Faculty of Arts and Science to establish eleven postdoctoral fellowships in the Humanities.

The Department is very pleased to welcome Dr Emma Peacocke as the Bader Postdoctoral Fellow in English. Emma is a young scholar of extraordinary promise whose work on the role of institutions in the Romantic public sphere has already garnered international recognition. Her 2013 dissertation, Romanticism and the Museum, was immediately accepted for publication in the ground-breaking series Palgrave Studies in The Enlightenment, Romanticism, and the Cultures of Print.

Emma’s current project on Romanticism and the University promises to establish her as a leading voice in reshaping our understanding of the importance of public institutions to Romantic thought and the shaping of the modern world.

AWARDS

Brooke Cameron
Brooke Cameron wins the Department’s Fourth-Years’ Choice Teaching Award

Each year, our graduating class chooses the professor they feel best meets the criteria established for the DSC Fourth-Years’ Choice Teaching Award.

This year, Dr Brooke Cameron was selected as the professor demonstrating “Admirable and inspiring enthusiasm for and knowledge of the course material, and for the study of English literature as a whole” and offering “Consistent and meaningful support to students: genuine interest in his or her students on a personal and an academic level, and a commitment to student learning and well-being within and beyond the classroom. This includes encouragement of class participation and availability for one-on-one discussion.”

Congratulations, Brooke!

BOOKSHELF

Armand Garnett Ruffo
Queen’s National Scholar Armand Garnett Ruffo announces new publications

This was a banner year for our new Queen’s National Scholar, Armand Garnett Ruffo, with the publication of Norval Morrisseau: Man Changing into Thunderbird (Douglas and McIntyre, 2014), his biography of the Ojibway artist who brought Aboriginal art to public notice in the 1960s and 1970s. Morrisseau (1932-2007) was a charismatic figure, and Armand’s creative biography captures the energy and mysticism of his life.

The biography was followed by The Thunderbird Poems (Harbour, 2015), in which Armand offers a sequence of poems inspired by the artist’s works.

In other publishing news, Shelley King and John B. Pierce edited The Princess and the Goblin and Other Fairy Tales by George MacDonald (Broadview, 2014). This volume, designed for courses in fantasy and children’s literature, brings together the Victorian author’s best known extended mystic fairy tale along with his essays on the imagination and its role in culture.

Emma Peacocke is the Bader Postdoctoral Fellow in English.

Brooke Cameron is the recipient of the DSC Fourth-Years’ Choice Award for outstanding teaching in the Department.

Armand Garnett Ruffo published two books this past year.