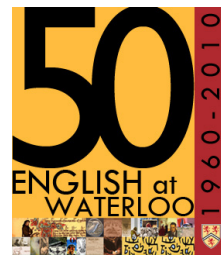


# English at Waterloo



## Newsletter



2009

## Message from the Chair

Greetings,

2009 has been another busy year for the Department of English Language and Literature. Ken Hirschkop is the recipient of a SSHRC Standard Research Grant and Marcel O’Gorman of a CFI Grant. Danila Sokolov is one of two PhD candidates in English in Canada to win the prestigious Vanier Scholarship this year. And this January Professor Winfried Siemerling will be joining us from the University of Sherbrooke; Win is an established expert with many publications in the field of North American literatures and cultures. This has also been a year of goodbyes: goodbye to Catherine Schryer, who has both retired from UW and taken up a new position at Ryerson University (and is continuing as an adjunct Professor at UW), and goodbye to Jennifer Lehman, our Graduate Assistant, who is now the Administrative Assistant in Economics; our congratulations to both! You will find more about these and many other exciting developments in the Department throughout this Newsletter.

But perhaps the most important milestone to note this year is that 2010-11 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Department. A committee led by Shelley Hulan is planning many wonderful events to mark this occasion, and there is a website just for this milestone. On looking back, what stands out to me is how much the study of English at Waterloo has evolved over the last 50 years. As we look to next year’s celebrations, it is worth considering what this evolution means for

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### Message from the Chair, cont.

the future of this Department, and for English studies in Canada more generally. It was in September 1960 that Keith Thomas joined the fledgling University of Waterloo and the history of the Department began. English developed an honours degree centred on a canon of traditional male authors and focused on practical criticism and the history of British Literature, studied period by period. In the 1980s Waterloo extended its emphasis on literary history to encompass the historical study of language as well. These innovations in the literature curriculum eventually led to a fresh curricular initiative: the adoption in 1986 of what was at first called a “Rhetoric and Technical Writing” option and then a “Rhetoric and Professional Writing” degree.

The innovation has been even more remarkable with Waterloo’s graduate degrees. In 1990, with the introduction of a PhD, unique in Canada, that bridged rhetoric and literature, and the addition of an MA degree in Language and Professional Writing (now Rhetoric and Communication Design) a few years before that, English consolidated its profile and began building a legacy of outstanding excellence in graduate research. Meanwhile, we continue to probe the frontiers of our discipline--no less than three new programs were developed this year. There are two new undergraduate specializations, one in English Literature in a Global Context, and the other in Digital Media Studies, that will roll out next September. And there is a new MA program in Experimental Digital Media (pending government approval). If adopted, this MA will place the study of new media within the larger literary and rhetorical enterprise and allow students to explore the persuasive dimensions of digital communication. The new Critical Media Lab in Kitchener, under the leadership of Marcel O’Gorman, is one key to this new enterprise. It’s an exciting time for Waterloo English--a Department that at least one person has called “the English department of the future.” Here’s to its next 50 years!

Fraser Easton



**Professor Fraser Easton**

For more pictures of faculty and students, past and present, visit the 50th anniversary website.

## Across the Creek at St. Jerome's

This year the English department at St. Jerome's continues an intensive period of renewal through hirings and sabbatical projects. We are pleased to welcome Lindy Ledohowski as our new Canadianist. A seasoned teacher, Lindy specializes in contemporary literature and has a particular interest in ethnicity. Over the next few years, the department will welcome an entirely new cohort of faculty teaching contemporary literatures. In the current year we anticipate another invigorating search, this time for someone who works in the area of contemporary British literature, with an interest in diasporic or world literature.

At present Carol Acton is enjoying a full-year sabbatical leave to study the experience of trauma suffered by medical personnel working in war zones as evidenced by letters, memoirs, and related materials. After Christmas, Stan Fogel will enjoy a brief sabbatical of his own, delivering lectures in Venezuela on postmodernism and politics. Tristanne Connolly and Ted McGee anticipate upcoming well-deserved sabbaticals of their own. Tristanne will be continuing, as part of a CIHR-funded interdisciplinary research group, her work on maternity in poetry and medical writing in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, while Ted's tasks will include the ongoing work of gathering the records of dramatic performance in Wiltshire and completing his part of the *New Variorum Othello*.

We once again look forward to hosting individuals who are actively contributing to Canadian literary arts. This year the Reading Series at St. Jerome's will welcome, among others, Gerry Shikatani and Shani Mootoo in November and Fred Wah in February. For the full line-up and times, [click here](#). All readings are free of charge and everyone is very welcome.

Norm Klassen



**Professor Tristanne Connolly's** research interests include the representation of the human body in poetry and medicine.

*The New Quarterly*, an award-winning literary magazine with which St. Jerome's English is happily involved, recently moved its office to the former art gallery space on the north side of SJU. Feel free to drop by for a visit. *TNQ* welcomes submissions of new poetry and fiction. For submission guidelines, visit the website.

## Faculty News

**Katherine Acheson** had three major articles accepted for publication in 2009. "Military Illustrations, Garden Design, and Marvell's *Upon Appleton House*" is forthcoming in *English Literary Renaissance*, "Pictures and Purposes in Early Modern Natural Histories" is forthcoming in a collection called *Printed Images in Early Modern Britain: Essays in Interpretation*, and "The Picture of Nature in Seventeenth-Century English *Aesop's Fables*" appeared in the fall 2009 issue of *The Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*. She gave conference papers in Oxford, UK, and at the Cognitive Allegory Workshop in Waterloo. She received a UW-SSHRC research grant in 2009, and spent a month working in Oxford on her book manuscript, *Visual Rhetoric and Early Modern English Literary Culture*.

**Tristanne Connolly** published a collection of essays, *Liberating Medicine 1720-1835* (Pickering & Chatto, 2009) co-edited with Steve Clark (University of Tokyo). She visited the University of Tokyo in the Spring where she and Clark led two graduate seminar sessions on literature and medicine. In July, she attended the British Association of Romanticism Studies conference, *Romantic Circulations*, at Roehampton University in London for which she had organized two panels on the topic of "Medical Circulations." One of these panels featured a paper by UW English PhD student Morgan Tunzelmann: she spoke on "Retrograde Circulations in Erasmus Darwin's *Zoonomia*." Tristanne and Morgan are both involved in the CIHR-funded interdisciplinary research project, *The Grey Zone of Health and Illness: City Life and Well-Being*, based here at Waterloo. At the same conference, Tristanne shared some of her current work on William Blake in a paper on sexuality and violence in *The Book of Urizen*, and also presented at the English Literary Society of Japan annual conference. While in Japan she gave lectures on Canadian literature and film as well, including one on "Body Horror in *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*" at Everything is Collage: A Michael Ondaatje Symposium held at the Canadian Embassy.

**Veronica Austen** has two pieces of work that will appear in print in the near future. Her article, "Inhabitable Spaces in Claire Harris's *She*" is



**Professor Katherine Acheson** also does some of the graphics for the department. This year she designed posters for seven of the department's programs, the logo for the 50th Anniversary, the new website banner, and this newsletter. This image is part of the illustration for the undergraduate degree in Rhetoric and Professional Writing.

forthcoming in *Studies in Canadian Literature*, and her review of *Caribbean Literature After Independence: The Case of Earl Lovelace* is forthcoming in *ARIEL*.

**Ken Graham's** co-edited collection of essays, *Shakespeare and Religious Change*, was published in August by Palgrave Macmillan. The newest in his series of essays on George Herbert, "Herbert's Holy Practice," will appear in *George Herbert's Pastoral* (University of Delaware Press).

**Randy Harris** spent most of his energy in 2009 beating the bushes to fund, and otherwise organizing, the Cognitive Allegory Workshop, with Sarah Tolmie, Tristanne Connolly, Bob Clapperton, and Kate Dawson. It ran, with good reviews all round, in June. Sarah and he are now developing a special issue of *Metaphor and Symbol* which draws on papers from the workshop. He also wrote a chapter, called "Chomsky's Other Revolution," for a book on Chomskyan linguistics (Douglas Kibbee, ed; John Benjamins, 2010), and gave a smattering of papers at various conferences: "Rhetoric, Argumentation, and Fallacies," to the Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators (Toronto), "Figural Logic in Mendel's Experiments in Plant Hybridization," to the joint meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of the History of Rhetoric and the International Society for the History of Rhetoric (Montreal), "Commitment Valence in Group Negotiations" (with Amer Obeidi, Management Sciences) to the Canadian Operational Research Society (Toronto), and "Constructing a Rhetorical Figuration Ontology" (with Chrysanne DiMarco, Computer Science), to the Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour Conference (Aberdeen). He also gave a public lecture at the Waterloo Public Library, entitled "Mr. Plow Meets the Beatles." In November, he will give a paper, "Cognition and the Rhetoric of Science," to the Association for Rhetoric of Science and Technology (Chicago). Oxford University Press has also invited him to revise his *Linguistic Wars* (1994) for a second edition. Finally, Randy received an invitation to give an hour-long paper at the three-day international workshop (18 March - 20 March, 2010), "Sciences of Communication in the 20th Century," at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.



**Professor Ken Graham** is a regular at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival.

For more information on faculty activities, please visit the English department website.

**Ken Hirschkop** has two different research projects on the go. One is a history of the ways in which the city of Toronto has narrated its past, in stories and in “dream-images.” The project, called “HistoriCity: Self-Narration and Dream-Image in Toronto, 1899-Present,” recently received a three-year award of \$66,799 from SSHRC. Ken gave a paper based on research for this project at the British Association of Canadian Studies conference in Oxford at the end of March 2009. His other project explores why so many European intellectuals took a “linguistic turn” in the first half of the twentieth century. Ken discussed some of his work on this project at a conference in London, England, entitled *Russia in Britain, 1880-1940* and he’s organised a panel on the topic for the Modernist Studies Association annual conference in Montreal this November.

**Norm Klassen** published “Surprised by Joy: Chaucer’s Tonal Achievement in *Parliament of Fowls*, 92-294,” in *Tradition and Formation: Claiming an Inheritance: Essays in Honour of Peter C. Erb*, ed. Michel Desjardins and Harold Remus, Pandora Press (2009). He has also prepared three entries for a new *Dictionary of Christian Spirituality* (Zondervan) (forthcoming in 2010), entitled “Literature and Spirituality,” “Poetry and Poetics,” and “Julian of Norwich.”

**Victoria Lamont** is off to Berkeley, California for four months starting in January. She will be working on a book on science fiction author Judith Merrill, researching in the Western Americana archives at the Bancroft Library, and conducting a materialist analysis of northern California enoculture.

**Kate Lawson** and Lynn Shakinovsky (WLU) co-delivered a paper entitled “‘Quite a stranger at home’: Hospitality, Migration, History, and the English Home in Three Mid-Victorian Novels” at the 2009 ACCUTE conference at Carleton University.

**Michael MacDonald** has received a contract to edit *The Oxford Handbook of Rhetorical Studies*. Featuring sixty newly commissioned essays by scholars from more than a dozen countries, the



Is **Professor Andrew McMurry’s** “Futile Culture” hopeful or pessimistic? Art or criticism? Judge for yourself: the lecture/film can be viewed by clicking here.



**Professor Kate Lawson** is the department’s Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies. For advice and information, you can email her by clicking here.

*Handbook* will trace the evolution of rhetorical theory and practice across the disciplines from Greek antiquity to the present day. He also presented an essay, "Operation Athena: Power, Persuasion and Information Warfare," at the biennial conference of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric at McGill. Finally, with the support of a UW-SSHRC Seed Grant, Michael conducted research on Harold Innis and Marshall McLuhan at the University of Toronto and the National Archives of Canada.

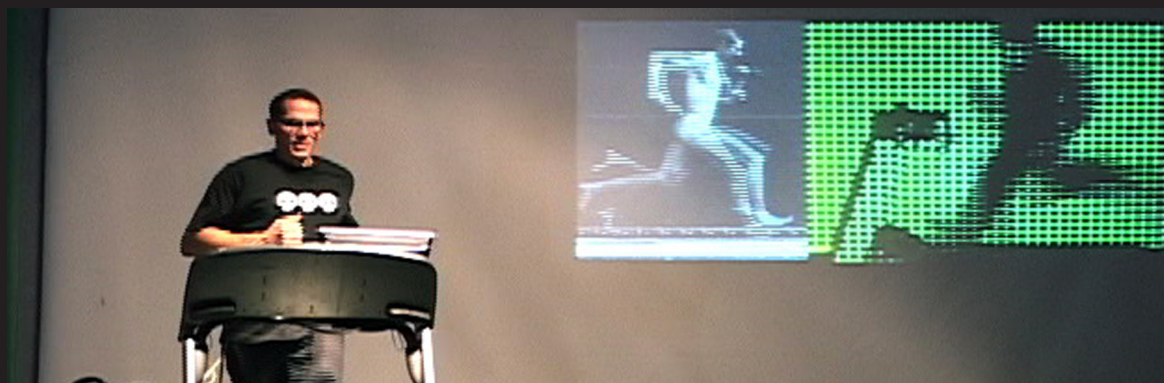
In June 2008, **Murray McArthur** gave a paper, "Replication and Narration: 'Counterparts' as Replicon of Joycean Narration," at the XXth International James Joyce Symposium in Tours, France. His article, "'The Index Nothing Affirmeth': The Semiotic Formation of a Literary Mandate in James Joyce's 'The Sisters'," was published in the *James Joyce Quarterly* in March 2009. Another article, "Symptom and Sign: Pierre Janet, Sigmund Freud, T. S. Eliot and the Literary Mandate of Laughter," was accepted by *Twentieth Century Literature* in May 2009.

**Andrew McMurry** gave a lecture called "Futile Culture" at an ecocriticism conference in Victoria this last summer. This jeremiad was warmly received by the assembled cynics and

doomsayers, prompting McMurry to turn the lecture into a short documentary film, which was subsequently screened for a somewhat less enthusiastic audience at the Critical Media Lab during Oktoberfest.

**Aimée Morrison's** article on nostalgia and utopianism in *You've Got Mail* is coming out in the Spring issue of the *Canadian Journal of Film Studies*. She gave a TV interview about the *Twilight* phenomenon, was on a panel at the University of Guelph on "Is Twitter Killing the English Language," and gave a talk to University staff on how and why they might take up personal blogging. Aimée also taught at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute in Victoria in June.

**Marcel O'Gorman** has been busy establishing the Critical Media Lab in downtown Kitchener. The lab, which O'Gorman funded through a \$450,000 grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, has played host to several research/creation projects since the summer, including O'Gorman's "Cycle of Dread" and "Dairy Diary," for which he collaborated with Ron Broglio from Atlanta, Georgia. These are



**Professor Marcel O'Gorman's** inventions include the Dreadmill, which uses human power to run a video projector. For more information about Marcel's work, visit his website.

both digital media projects that investigate the impact of technology on society and the human condition. O’Gorman describes this approach as “applied media theory,” although it could be mistaken for “digital art.” He has discussed this work, as well as his ongoing research on death and technology (“necromedia”) at several conferences in the past year, including the conference of the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts and the Hypertexte ’09 conference in Paris, France.

**Heather Smyth** saw two articles come into print this year (in *Journal of the History of Sexuality* and *ARIEL*) and submitted three new articles on the Caribbean feminist bildungsroman and the connections between oral testimony and coalition-building.

**Rebecca Tierney-Hynes** has an essay coming out on Eliza Haywood in *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* next winter (2010).

**Linda Warley** co-edited, with Marlene Kadar (York University) and Jeanne Perreault (University of Calgary), a collection of essays titled *Photographs, Histories, and Meanings* published by Palgrave Macmillan in Fall 2009. Her own chapter in the volume examines the use of photographs in Isabelle Knockwood’s memoir about her experiences at the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School.

Aimee Morrison

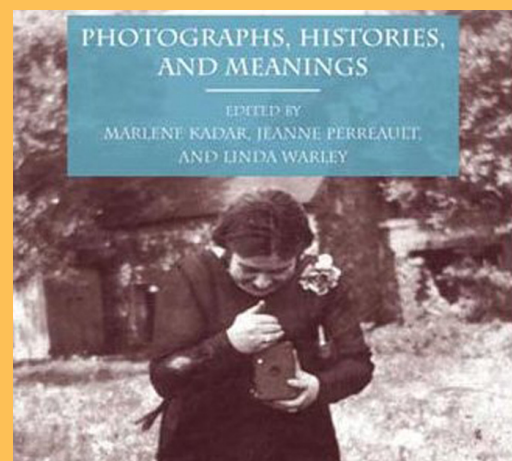
Blogging yourself, among others:  
Online diaries and new communities

February 10, 2009

Live and Learn

UNIVERSITY OF Waterloo

**Professor Aimée Morrison’s** research on blogging has attracted lots of attention on campus and off. She and **Professor Linda Warley** received a grant this year to study autobiography in digital media.



**Professor Linda Warley** co-edited a book of essays called *Photographs, Histories, and Meanings*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.



## New Faculty

The Department welcomes **Winfried Siemerling** to the faculty in January of 2010. Professor Siemerling comes to us from the Departments of English and Comparative Literature at the Université de Sherbrooke, and is also affiliated with the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University. His books include *The New North American Studies: Culture, Writing, and the Politics of Re/Cognition* (Routledge 2005), the *Bibliography of Comparative Studies in Canadian, Québec, and Foreign Literatures, 1930-1995* (2001, co-author), *Cultural Difference and the Literary Text: Pluralism and the Limits of Authenticity in North American Literatures* (1996/97, co-ed.), *Writing Ethnicity: Cross-Cultural Consciousness in Canadian and Québécois Literature* (1996, ed.), and *Discoveries of the Other: Alterity in the Work of Leonard Cohen, Hubert Aquin, Michael Ondaatje, and Nicole Brossard* (1994).

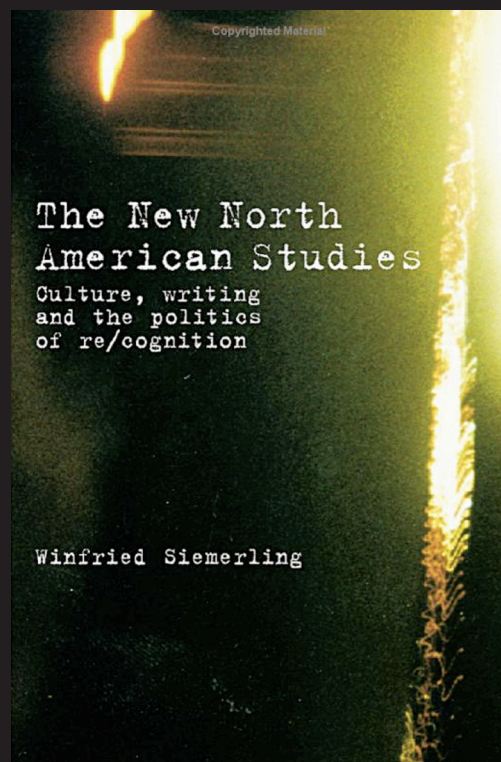
## Guest Speakers

Rebecca Tierney-Hynes

In the fall of 2008, the Department brought two speakers to campus. The first speaker, Eric Friesen, is one of our distinguished alumni. An English grad, he was at Waterloo to receive an award for his achievement as a gifted and popular CBC 2 radio announcer. His talk, "Life Lessons from an English Degree," reminded us all of how the Department might have a far-reaching impact beyond our discipline.

Our second speaker, Audrey Jaffe, Professor of English at the University of Toronto, came to talk to the department about the graphological representation of Victorian emotion and identity. Her talk was called "Market Character(s): from the 1801 Stock Exchange to (almost) the Current Crisis."

In the spring, the department sponsored an extra talk to kick off the Cognitive Allegory Workshop. Professor Mary Crane came from Boston College to talk to participants in the workshop and other members of the university community about "Analogy, Metaphor, and the New Science: Cognitive Science and Early Modern



**Professor Winfried Siemerling** joins us in January of 2010. The author of several books, Professor Siemerling is an expert in cross-border cultures.

Epistemology." Professor Crane's talk was also a lead-in to the new 2009-2010 speaker series on "Emotion and Text."

In the fall of 2009, the English Department and the Waterloo Early Modern Studies Group welcomed four speakers on early modern literature. In September, Sarah Beckwith came from Duke to talk to us about "Confession and Acknowledgment in Shakespeare's Cymbeline." In October, Paul Stevens and Lynne Magnusson visited from the University of Toronto. Paul spoke about "Milton, Geoffrey of Monmouth, and the Temptations of Archipelagic Criticism," and Lynne directed a master-class called "What to do with Discourse Analysis in Early Modern Studies." In November, the "Emotion and Text" speaker series continued with Michael Schoenfeldt's talk. Mike came from the University of Michigan to speak about "Eloquent Blood and Deliberative Bodies: The Physiology of Metaphysical Poetry." Our last speaker of 2009, Rei Terada, came from the University of California at Irvine. Rei's talk, called "Living against Life: Life as Expropriation (Arendt and Others)," continued the "Emotion and Text" series.

Three more speakers in the series will visit in the winter: Daniel Gross, in the Rhetoric Department at UC Irvine; Sarah McNamer, a medievalist from Georgetown University; and Lauren Berlant, an Americanist from Chicago.



**Professor Andrew McMurry** took this photo to illustrate the poster he made for Rei Terada's talk, "Living Against Life." Professor Terada's talk was part of a series that continues into 2010, called "Emotion and Text."



For more information on upcoming and past events in the English Department, go to our website.

## English @ 50: Share your Memories With Us!

Shelley Hulan

English Language and Literature will soon mark its fiftieth year at the University of Waterloo. In September 1960 we opened our doors for the first time; since then, the Department has maintained its focus on providing students with a solid education in literature past and present, while at the same time multiplying its programs to include Literature and Rhetoric, Rhetoric and Professional Writing, Language and Professional Writing (now known as Rhetoric and Communication Design), a unique Doctor of Philosophy, Co-op options, and, coming soon, a new graduate program in Experimental Digital Media.

September 2010 will begin a year of festive events to mark the Department's first half-century, including a kick-off party, guest speakers appearing through the fall and winter, and a conference on Literature, Rhetoric, and Values set for spring 2011. Updates on these events will appear on the Department's homepage throughout the coming year. In the

meantime, the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee has put together a website to celebrate alumni, faculty, and students by telling their stories. At present we are interviewing alumni and retired faculty about their experiences during and after their time at Waterloo in order to write short profiles on them that will be included on the site. If you'd like to be interviewed, e-mail the committee chair, Shelley Hulan, and the co-op student helping to coordinate the Fiftieth, Amberly West. We would also be particularly grateful for any photographs you are willing to share with us.

No time for an interview but stories to tell? Check out the Fiftieth's Facebook page!



Students and faculty enjoy a poetry reading in the English Department, 1977

## Cognitive Allegory Workshop

Bob Clapperton

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a team of UW cognitive rhetoricians and medievalists led by Randy Harris and Sarah Tolmie hosted The Cognitive Allegory Workshop, a one-day experiment in ideas. The workshop brought together an eclectic and international group of scholars representing a wide range of disciplines that included medieval studies, rhetoric, literary theory and narratology, psychology, philosophy, and cognitive science. The goal of the workshop was to explore the cognitive nature of allegory from this diverse range of scholarly perspectives.

The Cognitive Allegory Workshop was not a conference in the traditional sense as much as it was an experiment in scholarly interaction and cooperation. Rather than reading prepared papers, scholars participated in panel discussions that allowed for a brief 5-7 minute overview of their work followed by an open response session where other panelists and audience members queried, extended, and challenged their positions. The format was very successful. As Randy Harris observes, "The response has been very positive. Everybody especially liked the structure of the panels, with the lengthy discussion time." In fact, adds Sarah Tolmie, "the 7-minute time limit ... worked astonishingly well and really moved up the pace of the workshop, allowing for real discussion."

The opening address by UW's Paul Thagard, "Cognition, Emotion, and Allegory," and the closing address by Raymond Gibbs (of the University of California, Santa Cruz), entitled "The Allegorical Impulse", provided an excellent frame to the diverse discussions. Audio from both talks are available on the workshop website, along with audio from a related talk by Mary Crane of Boston College, "Analogy, Metaphor, & the New Science: Cognitive Science and Early Modern Epistemology."



PhD student **Bob Clapperton** participated in a panel about cognitive mapping at the Cognitive Allegory Workshop.



MA student **Nike Abbott** helped organize the Cognitive Allegory Workshop, and displayed a poster representing her analysis of "The Mask of Irony."

At the Workshop, four panels were formed under the broad categories of narrative, personification, metonymy, and cognitive maps. I had the good fortune to be on the cognitive map panel with Peter Crisp, Craig Hamilton, Curtis Gruenler, and Todd Oakley, and found the panel discussions fascinating. I enjoyed listening to the individual research projects, but what I found most intriguing was the meeting of perspectives. On the narrative panel, a developmental psychologist (Daniela O'Neal of the University of Waterloo) and a medievalist scholar of Augustine (Ronald J. Ganze of the University of South Dakota) were exchanging ideas pertaining to the cognitive underpinnings of narrative and allegory. To listen to the ideas of an empirical discipline interact with those of a theoretical-historical discipline was a unique academic experience.

The idea for the workshop emerged during Professor Harris and Professor Tolmie's development of a graduate course in cognitive rhetoric and medieval allegory offered this past spring term. Students in the course produced scholarly work for a poster session that provided feedback and ideas from the panel and audience members.

Raymond Gibbs, editor of the journal *Metaphor and Symbol* has devoted a future issue to the ideas and research that was brought out in the workshop to be edited by Professors Harris and Tolmie.

The Cognitive Allegory Workshop stimulated research projects through an interdisciplinary approach and experimental format, as well as provide UW graduate English students with a professional academic experience in addition to ideas and feedback that grounded course material.



The **Cognitive Allegory Workshop** was held in June at Waterloo. It was organized by faculty and students in the English department. For more information, go to the [Cognitive Allegory Workshop website](#).

## Graduate Student News

With the assistance of the departmental PhD Travel Grant, **Susie DeCoste** travelled to Charlottetown, PEI in April 2009 to present a paper at the Atlantic Canada Studies Conference, "Unpacking Atlantic Canada: Identities, Boundaries, Economies"-- entitled "Reconsidering the Regional Maritime Poet". In the 2008-9 academic year, her poetry was published in *The Antigonish Review*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, and *Grain*, and more poems were accepted by *Contemporary Verse 2* and *The Toronto Quarterly*. In February, her review of Jeanette Lynes's recent book of poetry *It's Hard Being Queen: The Dusty Springfield Poems* appeared in *The Danforth Review*. Susie was awarded the 2008-2009 Graduate Creative Writing Award by the department.

**Cara DeHaan** has published "'Exorcising a lot of shame': Transformation and Affective Experience in Marilyn Dumont's /green girl dreams Mountains/" in *Studies in Canadian Literature* 34.1 (2009): 227-47. She has also received acceptance for an essay ("Re-siting the Storyteller in Textualized Orature: Photography in *The Days of Augusta*") has been accepted for inclusion in a collection entitled *Interfaces of the Oral, the Written, and Other Verbal Media*, eds. Susan Gingell and Wendy Roy. The essay is based on a presentation she gave at a conference in June 2008.

In May, **Ashna Bagwanani** attended the American Literature Association's annual conference in Boston. She was a member of a panel run by the Society for the Study of American Women Writers. Her paper was entitled "*Salem*: Spiritualism and the Feminist Movement of Victorian America" and came out of a larger project she completed for Professor Victoria Lamont's class during the fall semester.

**Judy Hemming** presented a paper called "Ethos Under Construction: Building Academic Ethos on Wikipedia" at the 2009 meeting of the Canadian Association of the Study of Discourse and Writing (CASDW) in Ottawa this past May.

**Alexis McQuigge** presented papers at the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies) in October, 2008 and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century



In a course called "Spatial Theory and Practice," **Professor O'Gorman's** students created a scavenger hunt using geo-caching and handheld mobile computing devices.



**Kate Dawson, Greg Campbell,** and **Matthew Pankhurst** helped organize the Cognitive Allegory Workshop. For profiles of our graduate students, go to this page on our website.

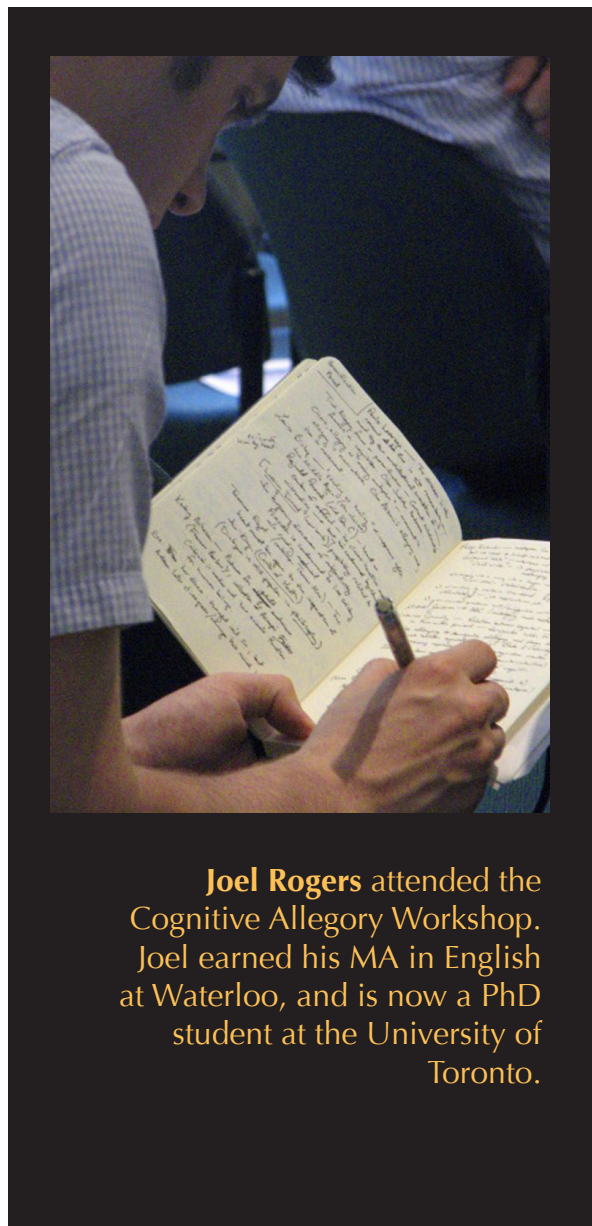
Studies in March 2009). Alexis was also awarded an OGS this year.

**Pia Marks** presented the results of her research study on course evaluations, "Silent partners: Student course evaluation and the construction of pedagogical worlds," at the Canadian Association for the Study of Discourse and Writing conference at the Humanities Congress in May 2009.

**Ricardo Olenewa** was awarded an ACCELERATE grant to design a conversational speech interface for email on the Blackberry. He is working with Professor Randy Harris and Waterloo-based IMS Inc. ACCELERATE is a graduate student research internship program managed by MITACS that helps graduate students apply their research outside of the university. The grant is financed by NSERC and the corporate partner for the project.

**Stefani Stiles** co-published an article in *College English* with Randy Harris entitled "Keeping Curious Company: Wayne C. Booth's Friendship Model and the Work of Hunter S. Thompson." She also presented two conference papers this spring. The first was "'The Priests of Twentieth-Century America': Hollywood, Hearst and Human Suffering in the Changing World of Nathanael West," which she presented at the Carleton Graduate Conference, hosted by the School of Journalism and Communication, in March. The second was "Human Suffering in a Technological World: The Prescient Literature of Nathanael West" for the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion at the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences in May.

In September 2009 **Morgan Tunzelman** will be traveling to Boston for 3 weeks to conduct archival research at the Francis A. Countway Library, an alliance of the Boston Medical Library and Harvard Medical School. This trip is funded by a small fellowship from the Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine. The Countway has a number of resources in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century obstetrical texts, as well as papier-mache and wax models, thus enabling her to add a material dimension to her dissertation research.



**Joel Rogers** attended the Cognitive Allegory Workshop. Joel earned his MA in English at Waterloo, and is now a PhD student at the University of Toronto.

For graduate course and program descriptions, go to the department's website. Clicking here will take you directly to our graduate studies pages.

**Karen Ward** attended ACCUTE's annual conference at the Congress of the Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences at Carleton University. She presented a paper entitled "Writing the Nation, Writing the Self: The Discursive Formation of National and Individual Identity in Canadian Expatriate Blogs" which emerged out of a paper she wrote for Dr. Morrison and Dr. Warley's class on "Writing the Self Online." In July, she will be attending the International Medieval Congress hosted by the Institute for Medieval Studies at the University of Leeds, where she will be presenting a paper entitled "Walter as God and Chaucer as Heretic?: The Problems of Exegetical Allusion in *The Clerk's Tale*."

**Kevin Ziegler** was busy this year studying for his comprehensive exams but he still found time to present an essay about autobiographical comics at a conference in Toronto. He was grateful to receive the department's Beltz Prize for an essay he wrote about African-Canadian historical fiction. Despite these accomplishments, his most memorable experience this year might have been coaching the department's Slo Pitch team, The Literary Canons.

The "Best Graduate Student" submission to the 27th Association for Computing Machinery Special Interest Group on Design of Communication award went to three Masters students in our department: **Ashley Kelly**, **Allan McDougall** and **Nike Abbott**. Their award-winning paper, entitled "Rhetorical Models for Computational Systems: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Reusable Tailorable Medical Information," was based on their work with the Inkpot Natural Language Processing group in the David R. Cheriton School of Computer Science. Their paper will be published in the conference proceedings of the 27th ACM International Conference on Design of Communication.

## New Graduate Students, 2009

### MA-RCD

Marco Baldasaro  
Thea Carter  
Luigi Di Gennaro  
Christopher Egan  
Colette Hosten  
Kaitlan Huckabone  
Marsilda Kapurani  
Nicole Kennedy  
Dylan McConnell  
Ian Pappel  
Robyn Roopchan  
Robert Williams

### MA-Literature

Monica Cuginotti  
Tyler Emoff  
Danyelle Erwin  
Zachary Junkin  
Timothy Lawless  
Morgan Little  
Laura Paprocki  
Leeanne Romane  
Meghan Stuart  
Ishaben Thaker

### PhD

Lamees Al Ethari  
Clare Bermingham  
Galen Bourget-Fogarty  
Kimberly Garwood  
Devon McDonald  
Corrie Shoemaker



## The Critical Media Lab

The Critical Media Lab (CML) is a new project-based initiative founded by Marcel O’Gorman in the Department of English. The CML’s mission is to foster the development of research/creation projects that utilize new media in the investigation of technology’s impact on society and the human condition. The lab has been funded by a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and it currently supports projects that range from an investigation of the human/animal/machine interface in robotic milking practices to the design of a “disruptive computer game” for handheld devices that will counter the sedentary media usage habits of adolescents. The CML has developed several key partners since its inception, including the City of Kitchener, Communitech, and the Contemporary Art Forum Kitchener + Area (CAFKA). Future projects include a Critical Media Conference and the support of several courses in the department’s new program in Experimental Digital Media (XDM).



**Ron Broglio and Marcel O’Gorman** collaborated to produce “Dairy Diary:” cows using a robotic milking barn send “tweets” reflecting their experiences.

Check out the latest at the Crimelab [here](#).



“We can affirm the unavoidable use of these devices and at the same time deny them the right to dominate us and lay waste our very own Being.”  
– Martin Heidegger

**Marcel O’Gorman’s** “Bridge of Infernal Desire” channels biofeedback from penny-farthing peddlers to a projector that casts an image by William Blake on the wall of a downtown Kitchner building.

## Collaborating Across the Disciplines (CAD)

As its name suggests, the Department of English Language and Literature is comprised of two distinct research streams: language and literature. While literary studies is well established in every Canadian university, the University of Waterloo's department of English offers a unique research stream that focuses on rhetoric, the study and design of symbolic systems that people use to understand human experience and persuade others.

The University of Waterloo's graduate students will soon benefit from a student group committed to building interdisciplinary connections between humanities, science, math and engineering students. Called Collaborating Across the Disciplines (CAD), it was founded by Masters students Nike Abbott, Ashley Kelly, and Allan McDougall.

CAD meetings will take place monthly, allowing graduate students to present their research and network with peers and faculty in different disciplines. These meetings will foster interdisciplinary publications and, perhaps even eventually an interdisciplinary journal or conference. The group's focus is to bridge the gap that exists between scholars from the humanities and scholars from the sciences and engineering, and all graduate students are welcome to participate.

For more information, please contact Nike Abbott.



**Professor Neil Randall** (pictured here at an Awards ceremony in 1989) was one of the founders of the Rhetoric and Professional Writing Program, and the Rhetoric and Communication Design Program. English at the University of Waterloo has been inter- and multi-disciplinary for a long time.

The media's interest in interdisciplinary work is evident from a recent front page article in *The KW Record* featuring some English graduate students' technologically-oriented class projects. [Click here to read the article.](#)

## English Department Awards, 2008-2009

### Undergraduate Awards

English Society Creative Writing Award for Poetry:  
Carolyn Sullivan

English Society Creative Writing Award for Prose:  
Nicholas Herring

The Albert Shaw Poetry Prize: Amanda Baker

Second-Year Grade Average Award: James Damaskinos

Third-Year Grade Average Award: Derk Shank

Fourth-Year Grade Average Award: Tamar Patricia Zehr

Co-op Work Report Award: Colleen Reinhart

English 251A Exam Award: Ralph Neill

Quarry Integrated Co-op English Award: Laura Hamrak

The Hibbard Prize for Shakespeare Studies: Angela  
Hostetler

The Canadian Literature Prize: Deborah Wagler

The History and Theory of Rhetoric Award: Brian Jansen

The Rhetoric and Professional Writing Awards: Brian  
Jansen, Adam Rayner, Mark Carter, Juliana Jolly, Rachel  
Klein, David Feil, and Kate Salmon.

### Graduate Awards

Graduate Creative Writing Award: Susie Bowers  
DeCoste

Master of Arts Grade Average Award: Devon McDonald

Doctor of Philosophy Grade Average Award: Bob  
Clapperton

Beltz Essay Prize, Master of Arts: Clare Bermingham

Beltz Essay Prize, Doctor of Philosophy: Kevin Ziegler



**Deborah Wagler**, winner of the 2009 Canadian Literature Award, at the English department reception for graduates.



## Alumnus Interview: Lara Varpio

Allan McDougall

Assistant Professor in a Faculty of Medicine is not the first place one would expect to find an English PhD graduate, but that is just where University of Waterloo Department of English Language and Literature PhD alumnus Dr. Lara Varpio finds herself at the University of Ottawa. Lara is a recent PhD graduate with a job, and that should be an inspiration for current and potential PhD students. I hope this interview with Lara provides as many valuable insights for my peers as it did for me.

*A: How did you end up in the English PhD program at UW?*

L: I should start by saying that the work I do now is fairly removed from standard department of English training. I am originally from Sudbury. I did my BA in English at MacMaster. I soon realized that I wouldn't get too far with a Bachelor of Arts. The Master of Arts professional writing stream at UW interested me. But my work was not related to medicine at all.

*A: Could you discuss your experiences as a grad student?*

L: After completing my MA, I moved to Sweden for 3 years. I was a professor and I taught Business Communication. After one year, I was bored intellectually. So I contacted Catherine Schryer to find out about doing my PHD from abroad. I talked to the graduate chair at the time, Neil Randall, and, despite the fact that nobody had ever done a PhD from abroad, the Department let me in. So I started my PhD while living in Sweden.

I remember for a course with Michael MacDonald, I submitted my class presentation on a CD-ROM. I found a video camera and one of my students in Sweden videotaped my presentation. I completed two terms of coursework abroad. For the third term I came back to Canada for the residency requirement and then I realized how homesick I was. I completed my work in Canada.



**Professor Lara Varpio** graduated from the University of Waterloo with a PhD in 2007, and now works as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. She was interviewed by current MA student Allan McDougall.

I didn't want to waste time on a dissertation that didn't engage me. I approached Catherine Schryer and told her that I probably would not complete a PhD if I didn't find something intellectually engaging. She introduced me to Lorelei Lingard, who introduced me to the medical education community at the Wilson Centre [for Research in Education] at the University of Toronto. We joke that I went there for a 3 day visit and stayed for 3 years. I brought my experience with Actor Network Theory and Rhetoric to the table, and I was the first PhD student that the Wilson Centre co-sponsored.

*A: What advice do you have for current graduate students?*

L: It's so important to find a project that engages you. Aside from that, think outside the box when it comes to funding. So often English graduate students think about OGS and SSHRC. I was the first Arts student at Waterloo to get CIHR funding. So I got medicine to fund me and OGS as well. But I couldn't get my SSHRC application past the department.

Also, your supervisors are key. The importance of your supervisor to your later success cannot be underestimated. I am also a big believer in mentorship. You need people to offer guidance. I was lucky to find mentors in Catherine Schryer, Lorelei Lingard, and at the Wilson Centre. Academia is changing and you need mentors and you need people to help you walk down the new academic corridors. Also, complete your PhD studies with the end in mind. Decide on your dream job. It doesn't have to be tenure-track in a department of English. There are different kinds of PhDs, some are theoretical, some are practical. You can make your PhD the tool you want it to be for where you want to go. You can teach or you can be a researcher.

There will be a dark night of the soul. If you're doing graduate work, there will be a night

where you feel like you can't do it anymore. It's important to take those experiences seriously, but it's also important to look at those moments in the overall picture. Think of those moments in context. Sometimes you will want to give up, and maybe you should; but don't be too hasty.

*A: Do you have any career advice for current PhD candidates?*

L: I have found my dream job. I can take all the theories and skills from my graduate work and apply them in a different context. Medical Education is my sandbox and my training in the Humanities is my shovel and pail. Every day I am excited to go to work. I have total control over what I do and how I do it.

When it comes to finding a job, I can't stress the importance of networking enough. A lot of jobs will never get posted, and you will never find them if you're waiting for postings to appear online. I recommend PhD students go to conferences, especially if there is someone giving a talk who they admire. Prepare for the talk by thinking of one good question. One *intelligent* question—and you can underline intelligent. If you can ask that question, you can start a conversation. If you do it right, you should end up with their business card in your hand. I always did that and I still do. I find the people by attending their presentation, I ask an intelligent question, I ask about a recent article. Build connections with people you want to work with.

I can't emphasize enough the importance of networking and the importance of being a *good* networker. You don't want to be sucking up; you have to look like someone who is interesting and who is doing exciting work.

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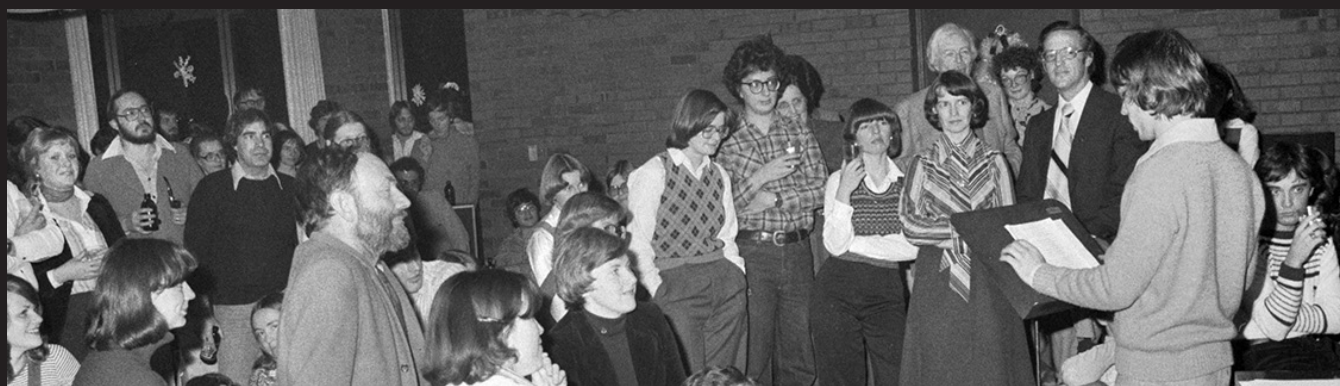
Faculty, Staff and Students of the  
Department of English at the University of  
Waterloo, Contributors

## Supporting English at Waterloo

The Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Waterloo is at the forefront of innovation in teaching and research in digital media, rhetoric and literature.

We would be very grateful for your support of faculty research, department initiatives, and student scholarships. There are many exciting projects and endowments on the go in English, and we would be happy to discuss these donation opportunities with you.

Please contact Nancy Mattes, Acting Director Arts Advancement, (519) 888-4567 x38213 or Fraser Easton, Chair of English, (519) 888-4567 x33359.



Students and faculty at a poetry reading at the English Department, University of Waterloo, 1977.