



December 2004
Newsletter

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Canadian College and University
Teachers of English

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ACCUTE'S MANDATE

To promote the interests of those teaching and studying English language and literatures in Canadian colleges and universities by facilitating the dissemination and exchange of research and the exploration of professional issues, by organizing scholarly and professional meetings, by seeking to improve work conditions, by representing the interests of members before provincial and federal decision-making bodies, and by supporting the interests and aspirations of members entering the profession.

President's Column

Keith Wilson

The ACCUTE office has looked somewhat smaller over the last few weeks, following its inundation by submissions for the 2005 Congress. Unsure of how the move to an electronic *Newsletter* might have affected members' memories for the mundane details of deadlines, we were a little uneasy until the trickle became a stream and, in the final hours, the stream became a flood. Many of you are already hearing from us, others soon will be, about vetting duties, and we are most grateful to those among you who are so generous with your time and expertise. It is on such occasions that the remarkable collegiality that distinguishes this association comes most conspicuously to the fore.

Fortunately there is an increasing number of members amongst whom such duties can be distributed – nearly 970 at the last count. Since we have recently instituted a fairly rigorous e-mail reminder system, it is becoming apparent that most of those who let memberships lapse do so out of accident rather than design, so it has become our firm intention to keep accidents to a minimum. Review of the membership lists has also generated fuller appreciation of ACCUTE's international reach, which includes representation from universities in not only the US, the UK and France but



Arts Hall, University of Ottawa

also China, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Campus representatives have recently received a letter for distribution among non-members, explaining again all the excellent reasons for joining ACCUTE. I encourage you to add your voices to those of the campus reps.

The next stage in streamlining our membership procedures will come when we avail ourselves of the on-line membership renewal service that CFHSS is in the process of instituting. Many members have long wanted this convenience, and logic suggests that making the subscription process easier can only encourage more people to renew their commitment to the association. To take full advantage of the CFHSS service will require that ACCUTE has charitable status, and we hope not too far on in the new year to begin the somewhat laborious series of operations that should lead to our becoming a registered charity.

President's Column Continued...

All the signs are that there are substantial financial advantages and few pitfalls to proceeding along this path, one that many scholarly associations have already taken.

There is a wider context for thinking about the directions that ACCUTE should be taking to assure a secure future. At the meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of CFHSS that took place in Ottawa on November 26th-28th, the discussion paper of the CFHSS task force on "Renewing Scholarly Associations" was released to delegates. Its assertive subtitle – "Knowledge Networks for the Next Generation" (which sounds as if it may owe something to the SSHRC Transformation school of rhetoric) – reflects its forward-looking thrust: its concern is to put associations into the kind of shape that will allow them to anticipate and work with the changes – technological, demographic, disciplinary – that will inevitably occur in universities and colleges over the next decade. One of this document's most valuable features is the draft version of a "Best Practices Manual for Canadian Scholarly Associations." It would be nice to think that ACCUTE, and all the other scholarly associations, already operate with the degree of self-scrutiny and conscious design that this manual advocates. But scholars being scholars, scholarly associations have tended to function on somewhat piece-meal terms, dealing reactively with problems as they arise rather than proactively to prevent their arising in the first place. Once this manual is in final form and generally available, it will be of substantial assistance to associations, and provide an incentive to examine their own procedures in

order to provide a better service not only for their members but for the wider academic community.

With that in view, do let us know the kinds of things that are on your mind in relation to the activities of ACCUTE. What could we do that we are not doing? How well are we doing what we already do? The *Newsletter* is an ideal forum in which to air your ideas, and we would be delighted to receive opinion pieces, letters, articles on the state of the profession. We can't promise to publish everything we receive (although we would hope to publish much of it), but you can be sure that your ideas will receive very serious attention.

Many of you will have been saddened to hear of the recent death of Peter Buitenhuis of Simon Fraser University. Peter had been one of the most loyal ACCUTE members, a familiar and friendly face at the conference, a long-standing contributor to *ESC*. ACCUTE sends sincere condolences to his family. An appreciation of his life and work will appear in the next *Newsletter*.

Seasonal best wishes to you all, and the happiest of new years.



ACCUTE's international reach includes representation from universities in not only the US, the UK and France, but also China, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

Congress 2005

London 2005 – May 28-May 31
University of Western Ontario

Conference Registration Fees

The 2005 Congress Registration Fees are as follows:

\$40 students, retired and unwaged delegates **registering by 31 March**

\$60 students, retired and unwaged delegates **registering from 1 April AND** postdoctoral fellows

\$100 regular delegates **registering by 31 March**

\$150 regular delegates **registering from 1 April**

Registration for the ACCUTE Conference will be \$25 for students, retired and unwaged delegates and \$35 for regular delegates. ACCUTE strongly recommends that all members planning to attend the Conference register early.

Other Dates of Note:

If you have submitted a proposal to the ACCUTE General Call for Papers you should expect to hear from us about the status of your proposal in **mid-to-late February**. Please note that the ACCUTE office cannot advise you whether your submission has been selected to be in the conference program before that time (or by telephone).

A draft of the 2005 Conference

Program will appear in the **March ACCUTE Newsletter**.

24 March 2005 is the deadline for the ACCUTE office to have audio visual requests into Congress. Please advise the ACCUTE office before this date if your paper will require AV support.

More questions? Please contact Tobi, the ACCUTE Coordinator, at (613) 562-5800 x.1180 or via email at:

accute@uottawa.ca

Plenary Speakers 2005

We are pleased to announce that the ACCUTE plenary speakers for the 2005 Congress have now been finalized.

Our first speaker is Diana Brydon, Robert and Ruth Lumsden Professor of English at the University of Western Ontario. We have asked Diana to help us institute something new for ACCUTE keynote speakers – namely a plenary panel. Given Diana's current work as co-investigator and deputy director for "Globalization and Autonomy," a SSHRC-supported Major Collaborative Research Initiatives Grant project, it seemed particularly appropriate to invite her to organise this innovative session. Diana's extensive work in post-colonial literature and theory includes her edition *Postcolonialism: Critical Concepts in Literary and Cultural Studies* (Routledge 2000). She is co-author of *Decolonising Fictions*

Future Congress Locations

Congress 2006
York University

Congress 2007
University of Saskatchewan

Congress 2008
University of British Columbia

MOVING?

Don't forget to let us know!

Please contact the ACCUTE office at the University of Ottawa with your new information as soon as possible. We will pass your information along to ESC, so there is no need for you to contact multiple organizations.

Please email your updated information to:

accute@uottawa.ca

or reach us by mail at:

ACCUTE,
Department of English,
University of Ottawa,
70 Laurier Ave. East
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5

Plenary Speakers Continued...

(Dangaroo 1993) and the author of two books on Timothy Findley (ECW 1995, Twayne 1998) and a study of Christina Stead (Macmillan 1987). Her most recent collaborative edition is *Shakespeare in Canada: "A World Elsewhere"?* (Toronto 2002).

Our second plenary speaker will be Imre Szeman, Director of the Institute on Globalization and the

Human Condition at McMaster University. Dr. Szeman's main areas of research are in postcolonial studies, globalization, Marxism and cultural theory. He is author of *Zones of Instability: Literature, Postcolonialism and the Nation* (Johns Hopkins 2003), co-editor of *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* (2nd ed., Johns Hopkins 2004), co-author (with Susie O'Brien) of *Popular Culture: A User's Guide* (Nelson

2003), and co-editor of *Pierre Bourdieu: Fieldwork in Culture* (Rowman and Littlefield 2000).

While these two speakers work in fields that are in some degree complementary, the wide range of their research ensures provocative sessions that will engage the speculative interests of a broad constituency of ACCUTE members.

Report of the Representative to CFHSS

Keith Wilson

The meetings of the CFHSS Board of Directors and General Assembly took place in Ottawa on November 26th-28th. Among a very wide range of matters discussed, the following may be of particular interest to ACCUTE members.

An evaluation of the Aid to Scholarly Publications Program commissioned by SSHRC and conducted by Gilroy Management Consultants has come to conclusions that few ACCUTE members will find surprising, namely that "the ASPP remains essential as an incentive program assisting the publication of high-quality scholarly books by Canadian researchers in the social sciences and humanities" and that "if SSHRC and the CFHSS want to maintain the program's broad objectives, a significant level of additional resources will be necessary." In its preliminary response to the evaluation, CFHSS welcomes this confirmation of the importance of the ASPP, and recommends an increase in budget sufficient to allow the number of titles supported an-

nually by ASPP to move to 200, including 50 submissions by first-time authors and up to 15 translations from one of Canada's official languages to the other. CFHSS also recommends a relaxation in criteria to encourage more Canadian scholars who are publishing with foreign presses to apply for ASPP funding. Additional innovation funds should also be provided to support electronic publishing initiatives.

Representatives of SSHRC made an informative presentation to the CFHSS Board on the subject of open access to research. There is growing world-wide support for the notion that public funding should mean universal access to the knowledge that public money helps generate. The logical corollary to this is that publications emanating from such funding should be made available to all interested members of the public, by appearance either in open access electronic archives or non-subscription journals. As the demand for such open availability grows, there will be substantial implications for existing scholarly journals and associations, whose funding relies in considerable part on subscriptions. SSHRC, which

has endorsed the principle of open access, is suggesting that in consultation with the CFHSS it should conduct consultations to consider possible ways for scholarly associations and the journals they support to adapt to these inevitable developments.

The Federation Working Group on Copyright has drafted a letter, copies of which were made available for signing and transmission to their M. P.s by members of the General Assembly, expressing concern about reforms to the copyright law proposed by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. Among the reforms are proposals to levy fees for educational use of the internet: this would result in the need to pay for access to internet materials currently available free. The Executive Committee of CFHSS intends to submit to the Minister of Canadian Heritage a detailed analysis of the proposals to underscore the deleterious effects they could have on research and education.

As mentioned in the President's Column, one of the most significant ev-

Report of the Representative to CFHSS Continued...

ents at these meetings was the making public of the discussion paper ("Renewing Scholarly Associations: Knowledge Networks for the Next Generation") prepared by the CFHSS Scholarly Associations Task Force. The co-chairs of this Task Force were Don Fisher of the Faculty of Education at UBC (the in-coming President of CFHSS) and Noreen Golfman, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at Memorial, and a former President of AC-CUTE. The discussion paper is an impressively comprehensive (170-page+) document whose findings and recommendations will prove invaluable to all scholarly associations. Delegates were unanimous

in their praise for the work that created it.

One of the recurrent motifs emerging throughout the meetings was the need for those working in the humanities and social sciences to continue to make, at every available opportunity, both politicians and members of the public aware of the role that our disciplines play in the creation of a healthy and informed society. CFHSS is doing outstanding work on all our behalfs in raising public consciousness of the importance of the work we do. But as numbers of speakers at the meeting emphasized, this is a message that bears repe-

tion, on every possible occasion and in every possible venue. CFHSS urges us all to make our voices heard not just in our own scholarly circles but in the media, in community involvement, even in backyard chats with our next door neighbours. The next time *your* neighbour asks you in April whether you've stopped work for the summer yet, it might be fruitful to have readily available a succinct summary of your research plans, particularly if, yet again, they are preventing you taking *any* holiday, let alone the four-month one that your neighbour mistakenly thinks you are about to enjoy.

For the Love of Words: Aboriginal Writers of Canada Conference

Winnipeg, MB, September 30 – October 2, 2004

Renate Eigenbrod

This conference, envisioned by Emma LaRocque, co-organized by Renate Eigenbrod and sponsored by SSHRC, Canada Council and the University of Manitoba, brought together nineteen Aboriginal writers and an equal number of scholars both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. Although not planned with exactly those numbers, the organizers always saw the coming together of writers and scholars as one way of highlighting the conference theme about the aesthetics of Aboriginal writing. As many of the Aboriginal authors (poets, fiction writers and playwrights from all over Canada) were present throughout the conference and not only for their read-

ings, the discussions following the panels and keynote presentations had a reality and an immediacy to them that was inspiring and created connections between both groups.

However, the scholar/writer binary was challenged in many ways, among others in the personae of the keynote speakers. Jeannette Armstrong, Louise Halfe and Armand Garnet Ruffo are all engaged, in various degrees, as are many other Aboriginal authors, in creative writing *and* in theoretical analysis (not necessarily in this dualistic construction) but sometimes are only known as one or the other (Emma LaRocque, a scholar and a poet herself, should be added here as well).

Aboriginal literary studies needs to have a space of its own in order to let emerge the many facets of literatures that have been marginalized for far too long.

For the Love of Words Continued...

Also, the authors' readings from their works were captivating performances rather than mere readings and reminded us critics in the audience of the limitations of the printed word and thereby the limitations of our work. At the end of the conference there was a consensus among many participants that the authors' participation was so integral to the whole event, that the proceedings should contain their presentations as well. (We are working on it.)

When receiving the responses to the Call for Papers, the organizers

of the conference soon realized that their emphasis on "the love of words" went against conventional assumptions about Aboriginal literature. In the end, however, it became obvious that its aesthetics is not separate from the political, social or historical factors that influence the writing, that it is a question of focus rather than of an either/or. This particular focus generated thought provoking panel contributions by scholars from many regions of Canada, as well as from Germany and the USA, that analysed the aesthetic richness of Aboriginal literatures like intertextual layering, multi-

voiced narratives, innovative and playful uses of language(s) and diverse literary expressions of resistance writing. Although Aboriginal literary studies should always be included in a conference on Canadian or Postcolonial literature, the conference that just happened in Winnipeg demonstrated that this field also needs to have a space of its own in order to let emerge the many facets of literatures that have been marginalized for far too long.

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE NINTH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF CAPE BRETON STORYTELLING SYMPOSIUM

Scheduled for the second weekend in June (June 10 and 11, 2005) in the city of Sydney on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, this symposium combines an evening of storytelling with a day of papers about storytelling. We welcome offers to tell, and proposals for papers (or completed papers) on storytelling as an art, or as used in a variety of disciplines and texts. Papers dealing with the theory and criticism of the genre are also welcome. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2005. Proponents will be notified of the acceptance of their proposals by the end of February, 2005.

This year's focus is on stories and storytelling as bridges to *OTHER* worlds. We are looking for stories and papers that explore how storytelling has acted, and continues to act, as a conduit to

imagined, magical, and / or supernatural worlds, beings or states of being. Also of interest are stories and papers that examine the kinds of passageways constructed and their significance.

Send a 250- word or one- page proposal (or a completed paper) for a 20-minute presentation (to a mixed audience of academics, tellers and the general public) either electronically or by mail to:

Professor Afra Kavanagh,
Symposium coordinator
University College of Cape Breton,
P. O. Box 5300
Sydney, Nova Scotia
B1P 6L2

Email: afra_kavanagh@uccb.ca
Phone: 902-563-1431

Report from the President of the GSC

By Jennifer Drouin

Since my last report at the beginning of September, the GSC has been busy working to increase the number of campus reps, and by extension the overall membership of ACCUTE. Campus reps play an essential role in maintaining communication between the GSC and all the graduate English departments across the country and also in recruiting new members into the association. In order to find volunteers willing to act as campus reps for their departments, Gregory Betts and I have scoured the websites of all the English departments with graduate programmes and compiled a database of contact information. We sent a mass e-mail to every department asking for volunteers to be campus reps. We were pleasantly surprised by the many enthusiastic responses we received from across the country. At some universities, quite a few people stepped forward and volunteered for the same rep position. I am pleased to report that in the past two months we have nearly doubled the total number of reps from 13 to 24 of the 28 graduate departments.

The current list of campus reps is:

- Wendy Matthews (Alberta);
- Karen Selesky (UBC);
- Keven Hogg (Carleton);
- Katia Grubisic (Concordia);
- Sharon Creaser (Dalhousie);
- Raman Johal (Guelph);
- Carmela Coccimiglio (Lakehead);
- Becky Hardie (Manitoba);

- Jennifer Drouin (McGill);
- Kaley Joyes (McMaster);
- Paul Chafe (Memorial);
- Robin Sutherland (UNB);
- Michael Brisbois (UNBC);
- Lia Marie Talia (Ottawa);
- Sara Mueller (Queen's);
- Shawna Geissler (Regina);
- Nicole Berard (Saskatchewan);
- Juliet O'Keefe (SFU);
- Travis DeCook (Toronto);
- Chris Fox (UVic);
- Diana Lobb (Waterloo);
- Mark Dunn (Wilfred Laurier);
- J.E.D. Lacoste (Western);
- Gregory Betts (York).

We still need graduate reps from Acadia, Université de Montréal, Calgary, and Windsor.

Increasing the number of campus reps has been an important first step towards accomplishing our other goals. Not only has it allowed us to distribute a reminder about the call for proposals in the hope of increasing grad student participation at Congress 2005 and membership in ACCUTE, but it has also been essential in insuring the accuracy of our survey on graduate student life by gathering results from as many departments as possible.

The need for this survey was established at the last GSC AGM in Winnipeg, and a draft version of it was published in the last edition of this newsletter. The survey was sent to all

campus reps at the beginning of November, and it was also sent to the entire GSC listserv. Gregory Betts, our VP Information, is currently compiling a database for the results which we hope to publish on the GSC website as soon as we receive responses from all of our campus reps.

Increasing the number of campus reps has been an important first step towards accomplishing our other goals

Once we finish compiling the survey, our next projects will be the two fact-finding committees which we agreed to form at our last AGM, one on departmental hiring practices chaired by Susan McNeill (Alberta) and one on graduate funding chaired by Diana Lobb (Waterloo). Anyone interested in participating in these projects should send me an e-mail at:

jennifer.drouin@mail.mcgill.ca.

I look forward to hearing from you.

ERRATUM

Please note that the "Report from the President of the GSC" in the September Newsletter (page 7) incorrectly identifies the grad representative for McMaster University. The rep there is, as reflected in this column, Kaley Joyes, not Karley Jones.

GRADUATE STUDENT INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

Entanglements: Collisions and Tensions

**Institute for Comparative Studies in
Literature, Art and Culture**

**Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
May 9, 2005**

Call for Papers

The Cultural Mediations Programme at Carleton University announces a call for papers for the graduate conference *Entanglements: Collisions and Tensions* to be held in Ottawa on May 9, 2005. The conference website is available on-line at:

<http://www.carleton.ca/interface>.

The *Entanglements* conference is an interdisciplinary congress for graduate researchers and scholars. With the rise of interdisciplinary practices, we would like to explore the interactions and tensions between the current cultural, artistic and theoretical realms. We are interested in what changes and what remains through the dynamics located at points of friction. Presentations dealing with any aspect of the conference theme, "Entanglements," are welcome in the streams of Literary Studies, Visual Culture, Musical Culture, New Technologies, Cultural and Communication Studies or any other related discipline or discourse. The conference encourages proposals on a wide range of cultural / critical theory topics including:

- Representations of home (Dis/Location)
- Adaptations across media
- Translations and appropriations
- Body-technology interactions
- Hybridity and authenticity
- Cultural cross-dressing

Proposals

The adjudication committee invites proposals for individual presentations relating to any facet of the conference theme. The format for each presentation is a twenty minute paper followed by discussion. Alternatively, twenty minute media performance pieces are also invited for submission; a dialogue with the artist will follow such presentations.

Proposals should include:

- 1) An abstract (approximately 250 words) for the 20 minute paper, including the title, but no other identifying features (as to ensure an unbiased selection).
- 2) An autobiographical note (maximum 50 words) to be included in the conference programme.
- 3) A brief summary of the abstract (100 words maximum), also to be included in the programme.
- 4) If applicable, what type of audio-visual equipment will be required for the presentation.

Please include contact information (name, e-mail, telephone number) as a separate file, along with the autobiographical note, abstract summary and required equipment (items 2-4). The abstract and programme information files are preferably to be written in Word or Word-Perfect and sent as electronic attachments to: studybreak6@hotmail.com.

The deadline for submission is February 1, 2005.

Christianity and Literature Study Group – Call for Papers

The Christianity and Literature Study Group (one of the Allied Associations) invites proposals or papers on any aspect of religion and literature (including pedagogy and critical theory) for its annual Conference at the 2005 Congress at the University of Western Ontario, Saturday 28 May to Tuesday 31 May 2005.

We welcome submissions from doctoral students and suggestions for member-organized sessions. Please send submissions with a brief abstract

and bio-bibliographical note (electronic submissions preferred) by 15 January 2005 to:

*Dr. Barbara Pell,
Department of English
Trinity Western University
Langley, B.C. V2Y 1Y1
Tel. 604-513-25121 x3331
Fax. 604-513-2010
Email: pell@twu.ca*

Review copies for *English Studies in Canada*

One of the ways in which *ESC* has for many years served a specifically Canadian academic community is through a review policy that attempts to take note of as many books as possible published – both in Canada and abroad – by Canadian scholars. In recent years, as the costs of book publication have risen, publishers have become markedly more reluctant to provide review copies. Many are unresponsive to requests that come directly from journals, but are more willing to provide copies if requests are made by the authors themselves.

To help facilitate *ESC's* receipt of as many books relevant to its fields as possible, it would be much appreciated if members of ACCUTE would be sure to include *ESC* in the lists of journals to which they ask their publishers to send review copies of new books. They should also encourage their colleagues – whether they are ACCUTE members or not – to do the same. By this means, *ESC* should be able to continue to ensure that Canadian-authored books in all areas of English studies do indeed get reviewed.

The address to which review copies should be sent is:

Book Reviews Editor
English Studies in Canada
Department of English
3-5 Humanities Centre
University of Alberta
Edmonton
Alberta T6G 2E5

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ACCUTE 2004-2005 Membership Form

Renewing Member New Member

Member's Name: _____

Institution: _____

Delivery Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone (work): _____ (home): _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Professional Designation: Professor Associate Professor
 Assistant Professor College Professor Sessional Graduate Student
 Retired Faculty Instructor Post-doctoral Fellow
 Other (Please specify): _____

Languages: _____

Main Area of Specialization: _____

Additional Areas: _____

Authors: _____

If you are not already a discussion group member...

Do you wish to become a member of the ACCUTE discussion group? YES

Do you wish to become a member of the ACCUTE sessionals' discussion group? YES

Do you wish to become a member of the ACCUTE graduate students' discussion group? YES

I enclose:

The regular membership fee of \$80

The reduced membership fee of \$40 (sessionals, part-time faculty, graduate students, retired faculty, underwaged)

The household membership fee of \$130 (two memberships, one subscription to ESC).

Please also complete the form on the reverse.

A three-year membership fee (2004-2007) of \$205

A three-year household membership fee (2004-2007) of \$335

A \$5 donation to be directed to the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS)

Please complete reverse and mail to:
Jennifer Panek, ACCUTE Secretary-Treasurer
Department of English
University of Ottawa
70 Laurier Ave E.
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5

Additional Information
To Be Completed by Those Applying for Household Memberships

Renewing Member New Member

Second Householder's Name: _____

Institution: _____

Delivery Address: _____
_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone (work): _____ (home): _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Professional Designation: Professor Associate Professor
 Assistant Professor College Professor Sessional Graduate Student
 Retired Faculty Instructor Post-doctoral Fellow
 Other (Please specify): _____

Languages: _____

Main Area of Specialization: _____

Additional Areas: _____

Authors: _____

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Do you wish to become a member of the ACCUTE sessionals' discussion group? YES

Do you wish to become a member of the ACCUTE graduate students' discussion group? YES

Please complete reverse and mail to:

Jennifer Panek, ACCUTE Secretary-Treasurer
Department of English
University of Ottawa
70 Laurier Ave E.
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5