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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 Message

Steven Bruhm

Like Santa's list, this column separates the naughty from the nice. To find out where you appear, read on...

Topping the "naughty" list is an issue that I will only gesture to, as it comprises the heart of Tobi Kozakewich's Sessionals Column below. The issue is the increasing trend of university administrations to restrict who may apply for SSHRC funding, a policy that sometimes excludes sessional instructors from applying. While I refer you to Tobi's column for a more complete description of the problem (and for a "nice" outcome in one specific case), I note with concern how this issue is part of a larger trend: the role of academic and governmental administrations in determining what should count as viable research and who should count as viable researchers. Chairs of English noted this problem last May in a CACE discussion on the ways in which universities are now hiring non-academic professional "managers" to head up Offices of Research. These questions also underlie a recent Report of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (a summary is available at the ACCUTE members' website where you downloaded the Newsletter). In this report President Donald Fisher speaks of the Federation's need to "respond pragmatically to the focus of federal funding and attention on technology and the natural sciences". New SSHRC President Chad Gaffield frames this challenge as one of specifying our research contributions to the larger society, and of being able to state clearly how our work as academics benefits society as a whole.



Mount Saint Vincent University

Now of course, we know that our survival depends upon accountability for what we do in our professional lives, and in many ways it should; the metaphor of the Ivory Tower is too stale to bear considering. However, I do worry about the ways terms like "accountability" and "the social good" might come to favour certain kinds of research projects while writing off others. On the face of it, it may be very difficult to convince government funding agencies or Ottawa bureaucrats that considerations of, say, Restoration aesthetics or schisms in early American literary phenomenologies will benefit most constituencies in Canadian society, but this must not mean that such research areas should no longer count for anything. As we continue to stake our claims for funding *against* the technological and the scientific, we must also continue to think about our claims *within* what we, as scholars of literature, culture, and history, valorize as being worthy. Incoming Federation President Noreen Golfman's workshop on the role of the Humanities in Large-Scale Re-search Projects is a crucial beginning—noting, as it does, that multi-million dollar grants with their release time stipends are much more amenable to a social-science model of inquiry than to a humanities one. This is a voice we need to make heard so that we can continue to do the kind of work we see as urgent from within our own disciplinary models.

President's Message, continued

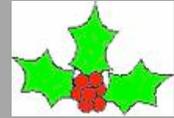
So much for the naughty, now on to the nice....

There is a lot of exciting news in regard to the 2007 Congress, being held in Saskatoon at the end of May. We've had a very good response to the general call for papers, with over 150 papers coming in from all historical fields, genres, and theoretical bents. Of course, this means that many of you will soon receive vetting requests from us, and we sincerely hope that you will agree (lest you end up on Santa's "naughty" list next year). We have tried to keep the number of proposals that any one vettor will receive to two, and we've bypassed any of you who have organized joint- or member-organized sessions. Thanks in advance to those of you who will vet for us, and thanks in retrospect to those who organized special sessions. All three areas are crucial to the democratic mandate of ACCUTE and to ensuring that our conference appeals to as many interests as possible. Check the next newsletter for the Congress program.

In addition to receiving proposals and papers from members, we have also finalized the plenaries. I am happy to report that our individual plenary speaker for the 2007 ACCUTE Conference will be Professor Herbert "Chip" Tucker from the University of Virginia. Chip Tucker is the John C. Coleman Professor of English and Director of Graduate Studies at the U of Virginia, and author of *Tennyson and the Doom of Romanticism* (Harvard, 1988) and *Browning's Beginnings: The Art of Disclosure* (Minnesota, 1980). He has edited four volumes of work on Victorian Literature and Culture, and his most recent articles appear in *Raritan*, *Romanticism on the Net*, *Victorian Poetry*, and *Representations*. Add to this that he has a wonderful style of delivery—I've heard him described as a "maestro." I believe ACCUTE members will certainly get their money's worth from his presence in Saskatoon.

Once again this year we are balancing the single-speaker plenary with a plenary panel, and once again we are drawing on the riches of the ACCUTE membership. Linda Hutcheon of the University of Toronto is leading the charge here with a plenary panel (as yet untitled) on Adaptation and its functions not only in literature but in the natural, biological world as well. (Please check ACCUTE Confidential, p. 8 of this Newsletter, for more on Linda's recent work here.) She will be joined by Gary Bortolotti, Professor of Avian Biology at the U of Saskatchewan, whose work examines the dialogue between species development and the individual organism's physical health. He has co-written two books to accompany a long list of articles, and the best indication I have that he will be an animated presenter is that he is Linda's brother. We all know how personable Linda is, and I'm sure it's genetic. They will be joined by Gordon McOuat, Associate Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of King's College, Dalhousie, where he is Director of the History of Science and Technology Program. His work concerns the social and cultural place of science and technology, logics of classification, and Darwinism; he has published articles in *Archives of Natural History*, *The Canadian Journal of History*, and *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*. A tremendously charismatic speaker in his own right, McOuat is teaming up with Hutcheon and Bortolotti to talk about creative ways of presenting their ideas. This plenary will not only be smart, it will be fun.

In closing, I want to convey to all members my best wishes for a productive/enjoyable/restful/catatonic holiday sea-son, whatever type you are looking for. And special holiday wishes



**Happy Holidays
from the
ACCUTE office
team**



Prancer



Dancer



and Vixen!

and warm thanks to my colleagues here at the ACCUTE office: Karen Macfarlane, Johanne Jell, and Allison Moore, our recently hired student assistant. These folks work incredibly long hours, showing thorough commitment and good humour. I am very very grateful.

Steven

Sessionals and SSHRC

Tobi Kozakewich, Sessional Representative

This fall, a contract employee at a major Ontario university was distraught to discover that her institution was unwilling to sign off on her SSHRC standard research grant application simply because she was a sessional instructor. Although the university did eventually sign off on her application – as a one-time exceptional gesture without prejudice to its official position – this incident raises questions regarding both the professional status of sessional instructors in Canadian universities and the connection between the teaching and research responsibilities associated with academic careers.

In response to this incident, under the auspices of ACCUTE's Professional Concerns Committee and the ACCUTE Executive, I sought to determine whether this particular university's position on sessionals' eligibility for SSHRC standard research grants was an anomaly or was representative of the positions held by institutions across the country. Rather than leading me to a clear understanding of the issue, however, my preliminary findings suggest that this matter is very much a grey area in Canadian academia.

No SSHRC policy precludes sessionals from applying for standard research grants. What

SSHRC does stipulate in terms of grant eligibility is that, "In most cases, applicants for SSHRC's research, strategic and communications grants must be affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution" and that "Applicants who are neither citizens nor permanent residents of Canada must be employed in teaching or research by the sponsoring institution for the entire duration of the award" (see http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/background/definitions_e.asp). The latter stipulation suggests – and SSHRC's Francois Simard has confirmed – that the problem of being affiliated with the host university for the duration of the award arises only when the applicant is not a Canadian citizen. Barring this citizenship requirement, SSHRC's policy in no way justifies a university's refusal to support an application from a sessional.

From an administrative point of view, the fact remains that whether or not a sessional is required by SSHRC to be in the university's employ for the duration of the award, the sponsoring university is required to administer the award throughout its tenure. Understandably, as one department administrator observed, a university may be reluctant to accept responsibility to administer a grant for people who could go AWOL during the period covered by the grant. However, this reluctance also points to inconsistencies in the way that SSHRC grants and awards are administered: graduate students may apply for SSHRC doctoral fellowships at one institution and then take their award with them to the school where they will be pursuing doctoral work. Similarly, universities regularly sign off on post-doctoral fellowship applications even when the doctoral candidate intends to take up the fellowship at a different institution.

Sessionals and SSHRC, continued...

Inconsistencies aside, such institutional concern regarding the administration of grants seems to point to larger issues related to the widespread over-extension of university administrators, who, as we can all appreciate, are reluctant to add more work to their task load. At the same time, it is unfair that sessional instructors, who are also often over-extended, be forced to suffer uniquely from the difficulties administrators face. In this context, it might be worth considering whether, rather than refusing to sign off on a sessional's standard research grant altogether, the host university might ask the applicant to consider applying for a SSHRC grant covering an abbreviated term (say, one or two years) instead of the maximum allowable three-year period. I would not want to see universities holding sessional applicants hostage – refusing to sign off on a SSHRC standard research grant application unless the applicant were willing to apply for less than the maximum tenure available – but some compromise might be possible if applicants and institutions both keep in mind the flexibility of grant tenure.

In the meantime, it would seem that sessionals face diverse institutional practices regarding their ability to apply for and secure research funding. While one major Ontario university officially precludes contract faculty from applying for SSHRC standard research grants, another not only signs off on SSHRC grant applications submitted by contract faculty, but also provides targeted support for candidates who have a good chance of success (as evidenced, for example, by placement on SSHRC's reversion list). Still others provide incentives such as additional seniority points for sessionals whose applications are successful.

A preliminary survey of research universities across the country has suggested that the discrepancies that arise amongst Ontario universities regarding this subject are representative of the variety of practice and policy across the country, from the Maritimes, over the Prairies, to the West Coast. In part the result of SSHRC's official disinterest regarding the right of host institutions to refuse to sign off on a sessional's standard research grant application, and in part the result of logistical concerns and problematic policy language within host institutions themselves, such discrepancies in institutional practice regarding sessionals and SSHRC merit serious attention on the part of ACCUTE members, and not least because ACCUTE is the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English – contracted and tenured teachers alike.

What role should ACCUTE play in the face of this pressing professional concern? At the very least, we can continue the present dialogue with intelligence and good faith. On an individual level, we can seek to determine what our institution's practices and policies are and whence they came about. Following the lead of the CAUT, we could advocate for the inclusion of blanket clauses in collective agreements acknowledging that "all academics should have the right to pursue the three parts of academic work: teaching, service, and research." (Part of the problem in the Ontario case cited above stems from a reference in the sessionals' collective agreement to their research as being "privately undertaken" whereas SSHRC's mandate is to fund public research.) We could even go so far as to lobby for a direct policy statement or intervention from SSHRC on this matter.

What we cannot do, I would venture to say, is assume an official position of neutrality, lest in our endeavor to avoid taking sides, we fail to fulfill our constitutional mandate.

Positive Post-script

I am happy to report that, since I first drafted this column, the specific incident at the Ontario University in question (which I will now disclose as having been the University of Toronto) has been resolved satisfactorily.

On November 30, 2006, a representative of CUPE Local 3902 reported that “The Union and the University have reached a settlement that restores the right of sessional lecturers to apply for external research grants in accordance with UofT policy.” This report proceeds to credit wide-spread external pressure for the positive result, which the Union says “is due to the enormous public support we received, in the form of over 800 signatures on our online petition and many letters on our behalf from individuals and organisations across the country and internationally.”

On a national level, however, the problem of sessionals being barred from applying for external grants remains. The good news is that the case at the University of Toronto indicates just how much influence societies like ACCUTE can wield. The better news is that we are now uniquely poised to accept our responsibility and work toward more equitable treatment of contract faculty members.



What we cannot do, I ...say, is assume an official position of neutrality

A Communiqué from CFHSS

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to notify our membership that after much consideration the Executive Committee of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences has decided it will be necessary to raise registration fees for Congress 2007. The decision took place in September during the Executive's annual retreat. Congress fees were last raised in 2000. The increases go some way towards matching inflation rates over the past six years.

Registration fees go directly towards the costs associated with the planning and organizing of the Congress. The total revenue collected through these fees allows the Federation and the host

university to put in place Congress services, such as the coordination of A/V and catering, the negotiation of accommodation and transportation, the production of the Registration and Delegate's Guide, as well as the overall management of all aspects of registration for each of the 70-plus participating associations.

The 2007 Congress Registration Fees will be split into three groups -- early bird, regular and on-site. The pricing will be as follows:

Congress Registration Fees		
Type	2006	2007
Students, retried and unwaged registering by March 31 st	\$40	\$45
Students, retried and unwaged registering starting April 1st	\$60	\$65
Students, retried and unwaged registering on site	N/A	\$70
Postdoctoral students registering by March 31st	\$60	\$65
Postdoctoral students registering starting April 1st	\$80	\$80
Postdoctoral students registering on site	N/A	\$85
Regular delegates registering by March 31st	\$100	\$120
Regular delegates registering starting April 1 st	\$150	\$160
Regular delegates registering on site	N/A	\$175

I hope that you will understand our need to increase fees and will help us get the information out to delegates by updating your websites and any other information vehicles you may use to promote Congress.

Please contact our Director of Congress, Marianne Fizet, if you have any questions at 613-238-6112 Ext 302 or by email mfizet@fedcan.ca.

Best regards,

Donald Fisher
President
Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Job Ads

are updated on the ACCUTE website as they come into our offices.

Check

<http://www.ACCUTE.ca/JobList.htm>

for the most up-to-date job postings!

ACCUTE Confidential

(formerly “News of Members”)

Linda Hutcheon (University of Toronto) has published *A Theory of Adaptation*. New York: Routledge, 2006

Former ACCUTE President, **Noreen Golfman** (Memorial University) has recently been inaugurated as the new president of the Canadian Federation of Humanities and Social Sciences. See what glories await you if you agree to become the next ACCUTE President?

Former ACCUTE Co-ordinator, **Tobi Kozakewich** has successfully defended her dissertation and now holds a position as a sessional instructor at the University of Ottawa.

Irena R. Makaryk (University of Ottawa) and Joseph G. Price have edited *Shakespeare in the Worlds of Communism and Socialism* University of Toronto Press, 2006.

Peter Schwenger (Mount St. Vincent University) has published *The Tears of Things: Melancholy and Physical Objects*. University of Minnesota Press, 2006. He is the guest editor of the most recent issue of *ESC*, a special issue on "Interiors."

The Modern Language Association is pleased to announce that **Goldie Morgentaler** (University of Lethbridge) has won the MLA's Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies for her translation of Chava Rosenfarb's *Survivors: Seven Short Stories*, published by Cormorant Books.



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 2007 Congress at the University of Saskatchewan.

We also 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) no later than **15 January 2007** to either of the following:

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dkent@centennialcollege.ca

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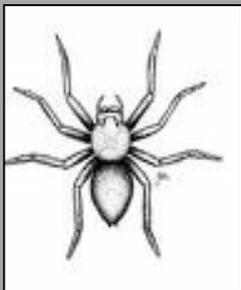
International Gothic Association Call for Papers

Gothic N.E.W.S.

The International Gothic Association invites papers that explore the theme of Gothic "News" in relation to new critical perspectives and the geographical polarities of North, East, West, and South. The conference will be held June 25-29, 2007, at the University of Provence, Aix-en-Provence, France. Keynote speakers will be Jerrold E. Hogle, Alberto Manguel, Denis Mellier, Andrew Smith, and Victor Sage, with a Masterclass on the Neogothic led by Patrick McGrath.

Abstracts of up to 300 words should be sent by email attachment to Penny Tribe, "Gothic News" Abstracts Administrator, Kingston University, Kingston, UK, p.tribe@kingston.ac.uk, by **31 January 2007**.

For more information, visit the conference website,
<http://www.up.univ-mrs.fr/cellan/gothic.htm>



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(416) 946-3685

ACCUTE 2007 Membership Form

Renewing Member New Member

Please print clearly

Member's Name:

Institution:

Delivery Address (including department and campus, if applicable):

Postal Code:

Phone (work): _____ (home): _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Professional Designation:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Professor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Sessional | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Post-doctoral Fellow | <input type="checkbox"/> Instructor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired Faculty | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): _____ | |

Languages:

Main Area of Specialization:

Additional Areas:

Authors:

Do you want to join any of ACCUTE's discussion groups?

- YES, I want to become a member of the ACCUTE discussion group!
- YES, I want to become a member of the ACCUTE sessionals' discussion group!
- YES, I want to become a member of the ACCUTE graduate students' discussion group!

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 for regular members (two memberships, one subscription to *ESC*). **Please also complete the form on the reverse.**

- The household membership fee of \$65 for reduced-fee members (two reduced-fee memberships, one subscription to *ESC*). ***Please also complete the form on the reverse.***
- A three-year membership fee (2006-2009) of \$205
- A three-year household membership fee (2006-2009) of \$335
- A \$5 donation to be directed to the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS)

Return to: Dr. Karen Macfarlane, ACCUTE Secretary-Treasurer, Department of English, Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, NS B3M 2J6

Additional Information
To Be Completed by Those Applying for Household Memberships

- Renewing Member New Member

Please print clearly

Second Member's Name:

Institution:

Delivery Address (including department and campus, if applicable):

_____ Postal

Code: _____

Phone (work): _____

(home): _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Professional Designation:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> College Professor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sessional | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Student | <input type="checkbox"/> Post-doctoral Fellow | <input type="checkbox"/> Instructor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retired Faculty | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify): _____ | | |

Languages: _____ -

Main Area of Specialization:

Additional Areas:

Authors:

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