

ACCUTE Newsletter December 2008



ACCUTE's new home in the historic Jackman Building at 170 St. George



**Published by the Association of
Canadian College and University
Teachers of English**

President: Heather Murray

Secretary-Treasurer: Craig Patterson

Coordinator: Pam Coles

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.

In this Issue: the president's column • conference information • the cace report by Eleanor Ty • the esc report by Michael O'Driscoll • Paul Stevens on placement in a time of economic crisis • a report from Steven Bruhm on the federation • from the accute archives • Candida Rifkind on the Barbara Godard symposium • member news and forthcoming events

■ In Memoriam ■

In the last few months ACCUTE has lost three supporters of very long-standing: Professor Hugh MacCallum (Toronto); Professor Rupert Schieder (Trinity College, Toronto); and Professor Rowland Smith (Calgary). Memorial tributes to these three distinguished scholars, and friends of the association, will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

President's Column: Who Are We Anyway?

If you stood around in the mailroom of any English department in Canada and asked passersby their impressions of ACCUTE, you'd likely get a multiplicity of answers and assessments. ACCUTE is a scholarly organization, some might say, whose main purpose is to convene an annual conference under the umbrella of the Federation. Or – ACCUTE is a professional organization, whose prime role is to keep an eye on the “professional concerns” affecting its members, and to engage in lobbying efforts on their behalf (again, working with the Federation). Its strength is that it networks academics and students in English, across the country – or, its weakness is that its members are so dispersed that communication is difficult except when we convene on an annual basis. Departmental members at the larger institutions are under-represented, some might worry – but from another perspective, the association offers a “level playing field” where the big departments do not dominate the conversation. Some people view ACCUTE as an organization populated by graduate students, and believe that the conference is primarily devoted to graduate student papers; that is, except for those who believe that the

organization is run by a cadre of senior academics. Decades ago, one person might hint darkly, the association was high-jacked by members of the “theory group,” who have directed its scholarly course ever since; but you could also encounter the opinion that ACCUTE is dominated by academics whose focus is relentlessly “literary,” and who think that a hypertext is a book you read really-really-fast. The conference is resolutely generalist in its purpose; or, is increasingly designed to accommodate the more specialized interests of its members (and both the generalist and specialist agendas can be argued pro and con). It has very stringent vetting standards, sending all conference papers and proposals to at least two external vetters, in a double-blind vetting system. But its members are perhaps insufficiently high-minded, since ACCUTE is probably the only learned society in Canada that makes an annual space requisition for a dance floor with a disco ball.

And – what's with the “college” in the title?

Who are we, anyway? A snapshot of the membership at the beginning of this month is suggestive although the results should be

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taken with more than a grain of salt, for two reasons. First, we have not yet had the opportunity to digest the impact of the revised fee structure on membership, since the full year cycle since the introduction of the new system has not completely come around. (November 15 is by far the biggest date for renewals, and we will not hear from many of these people until they have cleared away the detritus of the term.) Second, and again relating to membership renewal dates, graduate students may be over-represented in this sample, as the current statistics will include a number of people who joined the organization in order to submit a paper for the 2008 conference, but who do not intend to renew. The figures are interesting nonetheless.

ACCUTE currently has (to round things off) 635 members on its books, which includes those fully paid up or who were currently paid up until a few weeks ago. (There is also a pool of members who lapsed prior to November 15, and who continue to renew when sent a second notice, but they will be omitted here.) Of that number, 63% are in the professorial/teaching stream, and 31% self-identify as graduate students (who may, of course, also be doing some teaching), with postdoctoral researchers and members of miscellaneous categories comprising the rest.

To break this down a little more: members at the rank of Professor compose 16% of the current membership; Associate Professor rank 15%; Assistant Professor

rank 18%; and those in the Lecturer/Sessional/Instructor category are 10%. (On the membership form, those latter categories are separated, but for comparative purposes they have been amalgamated here.) College Professors represent 4% of the total (although most college teaching staff place themselves in the Lecturer/Sessional/Instructor category). Graduate Students, as mentioned, form 31% of the total membership, and Postdoctoral Fellows 3.4%. Retirees are 1.6% but this figure may under-represent our most senior members: a number of “retirees” still teach, and some continue to class themselves according to the rank they occupy rather than as “retired.” We also have a smattering of undergraduate students, independent scholars (not as many as one might wish), publishers, and editors, among the members.

A few preliminary observations can be offered on these figures. It is my own very decided view, that as an association we should be proud of the large percentage of graduate students among our ranks, as evidence of the association’s efforts to make junior scholars welcome. I can still easily recall the first ACCUTE (then, of course, ACUTE) that I attended – this was, of course, quite a long time ago! – as part of a small cadre of graduate students sitting up in the rafters of a large lecture hall, as observers of the mysterious AGM. While people at the conference were very cordial, none of us would have had the temerity to submit a paper. Times have changed, and

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for the better. Our graduate student members bring vitality to the organization as well as fresh new work; and more senior members can offer, in return, the expanded horizons of scholarship and scholarly networks outside of the boundaries of graduate students' own departments, as well as early training in the ways and means of the institutions that these students will someday run.

At the same time, however, it is important to boost our membership numbers overall and, in particular, among the teaching and professorial ranks. Now more than ever, we need to build strong and fully-representative humanities organizations. As a member of ACCUTE, you are not only a member of your disciplinary association but also a participant in the work of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, an organization which

(as Steven Bruhm explains elsewhere in this newsletter) is the central forum for confronting the developments that will challenge, change –and possibly threaten – our work as scholars and teachers in the humanities. (Steven Bruhm sits on the Board of the Federation, and I am a member of its Council. ACCUTE past-president Noreen Golfman has just finished her term as president of the Federation.) I am aware, in presenting the merits of ACCUTE and of the Federation in this Newsletter, that I am preaching to the collegial choir. But in the New Year, working through our active network of “campus reps,” we will be launching a membership drive, and I would encourage each of you to do what you can, by talking to members of your department and your academic cohort, to support this effort to build a stronger organization.

– Heather Murray

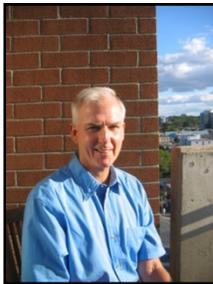


2009 CONGRESS INFORMATION

SPEAKERS: ACCUTE members will already know (from the last Newsletter) that Professor Wai Chee Dimock (Yale) and Professor David Jarraway (Ottawa) will be our keynote speakers for the 2009 conference at Carleton, but will be interested to now learn the titles of their talks.



Wai Chee Dimock's talk is titled "In the Shadow of War: Translation Across Genres." We are grateful to the Federation for granting funds from their International Keynote Speaker program to support the visit of Professor Dimock.



David Jarraway's talk is titled "'O, Canada!': Or, 'No Place Like Home': North American Literary Studies in an Age of Globalization."

Both talks will be of strong interest to ACCUTE members, and will also address in interesting ways the overarching Congress themes. Both plenary addresses will be featured in the Congress program.



It is also a pleasure to announce that Steven Heighton will be the visiting writer for the ACCUTE conference. A prose writer and poet whose work has been translated into nine languages, Steven Heighton is the author of Afterlands (which was a New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice), The Shadow Boxer, the story collections Flight Paths of the Emperor and On earth as it is, and the poetry collections The Ecstasy of Skeptics and The Address Book. He is currently finishing a novel that will be published by Knopf Canada in 2009 or 2010, and a book of poetry forthcoming from Anansi in 2010.

Many thanks to Julie Murray (Carleton) who invited Steven Heighton and made the arrangements for his visit to ACCUTE.

LOGISTICAL HINTS:

Hotels: The Ottawa Marathon is scheduled for the same weekend as ACCUTE, taking place on the Sunday, and we know already that some of our more energetic members will be running (literally) between the conference and the race. The race route goes through the downtown core, and then alongside the Carleton campus, creating a number of logistical challenges for the Congress organizers. They are commissioning special shuttle buses and making arrangements for altered routes with OC Transpo, to keep disruption to delegates to a minimum. Last year's marathon attracted some 30 000 participants, so it is expected that there will be intense pressure on hotel space. All residence rooms at Carleton are reserved for Congress delegates, and there are many rooms "blocked booked" in area hotels at special Congress rates. The on-line registration materials for the 2009 Congress have just been posted to the Federation website (follow the link on the ACCUTE website), and ACCUTE participants are advised to make their accommodation arrangements as early as they can. ACCUTE's local arrangements representative Jennifer Henderson –working with Travis DeCook, Jody Mason, and Julie Murray– have also compiled a list of hotels with convenient proximity to the Carleton campus, which you may wish to consult in making your arrangements.

OTTAWA HOTELS

All of these hotels can be reached by bus from Carleton, on the #7 and #4 routes. Unless otherwise indicated, they are in downtown Ottawa.

Suites:

Albert at Bay Suite Hotel, 435 Albert St., 1.800.267.6644

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Best Western Victoria Park Suites, 377 O'Connor St., 1.800.465.7275

Bostonian Executive Suites (www.thebostonian.ca) 341 MacLaren, 613.574. 5757

Minto Suite Hotel, 185 Lyon St., 613.232.2200

Standard:

Crowne Plaza, 101 Lyon St., 1.800.2CROWNE

Delta, 361 Queen St., 1.888.890.3222

Lord Elgin (www.lordelginhotel.ca) 100 Elgin, 1.866.627.2609

Marriott, 100 Kent St., 613.238.1122

Sheraton, 150 Albert St., 613.238.1500

Westin, 11 Colonel By Dr., 1.866.716.8102

Boutique:

Arc, 140 Slater St. (www.arcthehotel.com), 1.800.699.2516

Hotel Indigo, 123 Metcalfe St. (www.ottawadowntownhotel.com), 613.231.6555

B & Bs:

Echo Bank Heritage House, 700 Echo Dr., 613.730.0254 (walking distance from campus)

The Rose on Colonel By, 9 Rosedale Ave. 613.291.7831 (walking distance from campus)

Benner's B & B, 541 Besserer St. 1.877.891.5485

Ottawa Centre B & B, 62 Stewart St. 1.866.240.4659

Audiovisual equipment: Since Congress space is not allotted until the spring, we do not yet know the precise AV capabilities of the rooms ACCUTE will be using. We do know, however, that laptops will not be available in the rooms (presenters must bring their own), and that most spaces will not have wireless although they will be "wired." Further information will be sent to presenters in the spring. In the meantime, when planning your presentation, remember that you will need to factor into your twenty-minute window the time it will take to set up your laptop (assuming multiple speakers using laptops in your session).

Report from the CACE President

The Canadian Association of Chairs of English (CACE) is a national organization representing university and college departments of English across Canada. With over seventy-five current Heads and Chairs as members, CACE provides a broad forum for promoting dialogue, exchange of academic and administrative information, and professional interaction. CACE holds an annual general meeting each Spring just before Congress, where significant issues facing Heads and Chairs of English are discussed with the aim of sharing responses to current administrative challenges and providing fresh perspectives on effective leadership in departments of English.

In May 2008, CACE met on the beautiful campus of the University of British Columbia. There were about 30 chairs and heads in attendance, as well as the incoming and current ACCUTE presidents. Last year's CACE president, Susan Rudy (Calgary) organized an ambitious agenda for us with four sessions plus a business meeting: i) Aboriginal faculty, students, and content in departments of English; ii) Configuring course loads; iii) English departments and senior administration; and iv) Collegiality and competitiveness among departments.

For the first session, our Secretary-Treasurer, Cameron Louis (University of Regina) introduced our invited guests, Jo-Ann Episkenew (First Nations University of Canada) and Deanna Reder (Simon Fraser University), who spoke passionately and eloquently about the challenges facing

native faculty and students. Some of these include the lack of institutional support for native ways of thinking and learning; the scarcity of aboriginal mentors and role models for students; the lack of aboriginal literature courses in Canadian universities up until very recently; and a competitive system rather than a more community-based and nature-oriented one. While circumstances have improved somewhat in the last few years, Episkenew and Reder urged CACE members to keep thinking of hiring more aboriginal instructors and to keep putting on courses with aboriginal content. Their presentation is now available as an essay/ narrative in the November 7, 2008 issue of *Academic Matters* which is accessible on-line:

<http://www.academicmatters.ca/>

The next session, on "Configuring Course Loads," presented by Lee Easton (Mount Royal College), Lorraine Janzen Kooistra (Ryerson University), and Robert Miles (University of Victoria), revealed the range of course loads taught by faculty and instructors across Canada in English. One difficulty in making comparisons about workloads for instructors is that there are different factors to be taken into consideration when counting courses and student numbers. These include counting by full and half year courses, by semesters or by hours (3 or 4 hour courses), by credit weight, and by level – graduate or undergraduate. In addition, some courses, such as composition courses, require more intensive marking than a literature course.

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Institutions provide different kinds of help in the form of tutorial leaders or marking assistants (undergrad or grad). The current ratio of full-time faculty to students ranges from 1:130 to 1:300 per year. Some faculty who have large lecture classes may have even higher ratios, but the marking would be done by TAs. The number of courses taught also range widely: 2/2, 3/2, and 4/4 loads. In recent years, English departments in Ontario have reported the greatest increase in faculty to student ratios and in class sizes because of the double cohort.

Garrett Epp (University of Alberta), Marcie Frank (Concordia University), and Karl Jirgens (University of Windsor) presented their experiences of dealing with senior administration in the third session. Some of the issues raised include the need to be involved in academic planning exercises vs. the time it takes to participate in these; the wish for more transparency in university decision-making, scrutinizing the university budget, and maintaining a sense of humour. In the fourth session of the day, Doug Thorpe (University of Saskatchewan), Marta Straznicky (Queen's University), Russell Poole (University of Western Ontario) talked about the balance between competitiveness and collegiality amongst departments. Some suggestions about collaboration between departments and interdisciplinary programs, and the advantages of forming allies with other departments were given. It was a

productive and very full day of lively presentations.

At our business meeting, Dan O'Donnell (University of Lethbridge) presented the results of the on-line hiring survey which are available in the September Newsletter. The following members were elected to the executive: Mary O'Connor (McMaster University) as Vice-President; Patricia Rigg (Acadia University) as Secretary-Treasurer; Lee Easton (Mount Royal College) as College representative. I thank all these individuals for their willingness to serve, our out-going president, Susan Rudy, for her organization of the meeting, and extend a very special note of gratitude to Cameron Louis, who has served CACE faithfully and efficiently as Secretary-Treasurer for the last five years. Cameron has been a wonderful cornerstone of CACE and we will miss him. I look forward to more fruitful conversation at next year's Congress in Ottawa.

--Eleanor Ty

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Announcing upcoming special issues of

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO QUARTERLY

Milton in America

UTQ 77:3, *Milton in America*, offers a series of fresh new perspectives on the presence of Milton in American literature and culture. It seeks to investigate and complicate the received wisdom implicit in the old claim that 'Milton is more emphatically American than any author who has lived in the United States.' This important collection of seven new essays by leading international scholars from Britain, Canada, and the United States offers insight into both the ways Milton was re-shaped by his reception into American culture and, conversely, the ways the great poet's writings often stimulated opposition to conventional American norms.

Milton in America: Introduction

Paul Stevens

Cold War Milton

Sharon Achinstein

Milton among the Pragmatists

David Hawkes

Un-American Milton

Christopher Kendrick

Milton and the Pursuit of Happiness

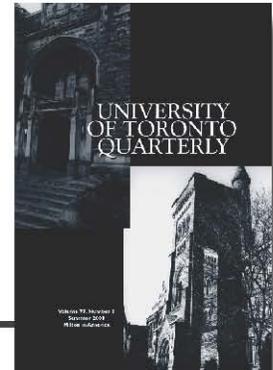
Catherine Gimelli Martin

**Liberty Before and After Liberalism:
Milton's Shifting Politics and the
Current Crisis in Liberal Theory**

Feisal G. Mohamed

**Contemporary Ancestors of de Bry,
Hobbes, and Milton**

Mary Nyquist



Rabindranath Tagore: Refracting a Cultural Icon

Rabindranath Tagore, the first Asian Nobel Laureate, can well be deemed a 'cultural icon' in the sense that he embodied and articulated an integrated conception of human culture through his charismatic personality and manifold creative works. Tagore's vision of human life is one that stems from the cultural soil of his native Bengal but opens onto and embraces humanity as a whole, each portion of it remaining rooted in its own native cultural soil. Those who find in Tagore and his work a dynamic view of how human life actually is and of how it might be yet more authentically human have reason to hope that he and his work may become more widely known and more accurately appreciated worldwide.

UTQ 77:4 presents eleven essays by authorities in several aspects of Tagore's immense oeuvre and impact. They provide guidance to discover and reclaim Tagore in as authentic and faithful a way as possible, neither confining him in a stultifying orthodoxy of interpretation, nor allowing substandard or tendentious misrepresentations of him and his work to go unchallenged.

Introduction: Rabindranath Tagore as 'Cultural Icon'

Joseph T. O'Connell and Kathleen M. O'Connell

Tagore's Letters: A Beacon for Biographers

Krishna Dutta

**Freedom, Creativity, and Leisure in Education:
Tagore in Canada, 1929**

Kathleen O'Connell

**Tagore's Ideas of Social Action and the Sriniketan
Experiment of Rural Reconstruction, 1922-41**

Uma Das Gupta

**W.B. Yeats's (Mis)Reading of Tagore: Interpreting
an Alien Culture**

Ana Jelnikar

Tagore and Italy: Facing History and Politics

Giuseppe Flora

**Claiming and Disclaiming a Cultural Icon:
Tagore in East Pakistan and Bangladesh**

Anisuzzaman

**Tagore's Conception of Cosmopolitanism:
A Reconstruction**

Saranindranath Tagore

Indian Modernity and Tagore's Dance

Mandakranta Bose

**Keys to the Kingdom: The Search for How Best
to Understand and Perform the Songs of Tagore**

William Radice

**The Art Song and Tagore: Settings by Western
Composers**

Suddhaseel Sen

Literary Assessments of Tagore by Bengali Muslims

Mahmud Shah Qureshi

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Report from the Editor of *ESC: English Studies in Canada*

I'll begin with some cheering news from the office of *ESC: English Studies in Canada*. The journal has met with some real success in SSHRC's Aid to Scholarly Journals competition, scoring 88/100 in the adjudication process, and earning an award of more than \$25,000 per year over the next three years. That figure triples our previous SSHRC allotment, and at a time when revised SSHRC policies created a larger pool of tough competitors. Thanks go to the members of *ESC*'s editorial team, who worked very hard to put together the application, and special thanks to former Editor Jo-Ann Wallace, whose efforts on behalf of the journal put us in such a competitive position. In addition to ACCUTE's increased subvention to the journal (for which we are extremely grateful to the membership), we're also seeing a rise in revenue from our online aggregators. All of this financial success should go a long way to getting the journal back on a sound footing, and we're looking forward to making a full report on that at the next AGM.

Of course, we conducted an extensive self-assessment for our SSHRC adjudicators, and so I thought I might pass along some of this now handy information in order to encourage more submissions and continued support. *ESC*'s print

readership currently includes almost 800 subscribers, 10 per cent of whom are outside Canada. Members of roughly 80 departments of English in Canada, from teaching colleges to research universities, receive the journal, while almost all of the country's major libraries (74 of them, to be precise) still receive print copies of *ESC*. Another 115 foreign libraries, or 61 per cent of our institutional subscriptions, also house *ESC* in print. Soaring statistics from Project Muse, EBSCO, Proquest, and Gale (our online aggregators), show that *ESC* articles are downloaded, on average, 774 times per month—that's more than 9000 article downloads per year! Those same statistics show that U.S. and International readers outnumber Canadian readers online by a ratio of 3:1. The point of all these figures: when research is published in *ESC* it is read by members of the discipline right across Canada and around the world; indeed, *ESC*, and the scholarly research it makes available, is everywhere. If you want your work read, send it to us, and we'll get it out there.

By the time you read this newsletter, issue 33.1-2 of *ESC* should be in your hands. That double issue includes a Readers' Forum on "Why do I have to read like that?" edited by Cecily Devereux, and eight impressive articles clustered under

the headings of “Instituting Canadian Literature,” “Genre and Gender,” and “Ethical Beings/Being Ethical.” You’ll also find two review articles and fifteen book reviews that should make for some great holiday reading. Forthcoming issues will include a special cluster on Margaret Atwood, and a Readers’ Forum on culture and the arts in public discourse, guest edited by Imre Szeman. Watch for two special issues on the way. Volume 33 will include a special issue guest edited by Louis Cabri, Aaron Levy, and Peter Quartermain. That cutting-edge collection is titled “Discreteness: Event and Sound in Poetry” and will include a compact disc of audio

tracks related to each of the articles. As far as we know, *ESC* is the first journal to make such an inclusion. The special issue that will kick off Volume 34 takes up the thematic of “Skin”: Julia Emberley is hard at work on that one, and that collection will include not only a series of provocative articles, but the work of two poets and a photo-essay as well.

So, the word from *ESC* is that all is well. The journal is thriving, and thanks for that goes to our contributors, our readers, and the ACCUTE membership.

-Michael O’Driscoll



Paul Stevens: Placement in a Time of Economic Crisis

OVERVIEW

By the end of October this year the *MLA Job Information List* had reported 602 new jobs in English in the United States; at the same time *University Affairs* had reported 48 new tenure-track positions in English and related studies in Canada. These figures tended to confirm my sense reported in “Placement and Professionalization” (*ACCUTE Newsletter*, June 2007) that the North American job market was in a very healthy state. The most telling figure was that in 2004 more people were able to secure tenure-track positions in Canada and the United States than at any time since 1971 – 539 to be precise. Since the gravity of the present economic crisis has hit home, however, things have changed – but, it needs to be emphasized, not in any simple pattern.

In the United States 28 positions have definitely been frozen or cancelled and there may be as many as another 50 or so in various institutions that have also been suspended or are likely to be. The situation is extraordinarily

volatile with many institutions not knowing quite what to do, some waiting on events, and some, like Ohio Wesleyan defiantly coming out with new job ads. In Canada the situation seems to be more stable. Of the 48 new jobs

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advertised only one, the open position at the University of Waterloo, has been frozen, but that position may well be opened up again as early as the spring and at the same time the Canadian Literature position at St Jerome's College, University of Waterloo, is going ahead. Even more interesting, 8 new jobs have appeared since the crisis hit – at Brock, Université de Québec (Trois-Rivières), Mount St Vincent, Cape Breton, Dalhousie, Lethbridge, Nippissing, Simon Fraser, and Trent.

Ironically, as universities in Canada come to terms with their financial losses and formulate new budgets, next year may be tougher than this. The University of Toronto, for instance, is dealing with a loss of \$62 million to its endowment fund. It's not freezing any positions this year but may well do so next. Much will depend for all institutions on the provisions of provincial budgets in the spring.

It seems critical not to overreact but to monitor the situation carefully. The *ACCUTE Newsletter* and career link will pass on information as it becomes available. The crisis also seems an added reason to revamp the CACE hiring survey. Under the leadership of Eleanor Ty and Heather Murray this is now in hand. It is clearly understood that the full range of hiring be covered and that details of hiring pools be made available, so that the placement operations in our PhD granting institutions can plan and advise candidates effectively.

JOBS STILL ACTIVE IN CANADA

As of this writing (mid-December 2008), there are 55 positions in Canada either in process or still accepting applications. They are as follows:

Athabasca (1)

Postcolonial Theory and World Drama
(Shakespeare & Canadian)

Alberta (3)

Aboriginal Studies; New Englishes; Intercultural
Theatre

Alberta College of Art & Design (1)

Canadian / First Nations / World Literatures

Booth College, Manitoba (1)

16th-18th Century / 19th-20th-Century Literature

UBC (4)

Women's / Indigenous Studies; 19th-Century
Literature (1789-1914); Literature since 1945;
English Language Studies

UBC, Okanagan (2)

North American Indigenous Lit; Composition &
Communication

Brock (2)

Rhetoric and Writing; American Literature

Cape Breton (1)

Dramatic Literature

Carleton (2)

Contemporary British /Pacific Literatures
(Australia, NZ and Pacific Rim) / Modernist

Dalhousie (2)

Film studies / Theatre

Creative Writing

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U of Fraser Valley (1)

North American Indigenous Literature

Grant MacEwan College, Alberta (1)

Rhetoric & Composition

King's College, UWO (2)

Canadian; Romantic & Victorian

Lethbridge (1)

18th-Century Literature

Manitoba (1)

Women and Gender Studies

McGill (1)

Cultural Studies

McMaster (2)

18th-Century Literature; Modernist Literature

Mount Royal College, Calgary (2)

19th-Century American Literature; 19th-Century Canadian Literature

Mount St Vincent (1)

Modern / Contemporary Literature

UNB, Fredericton (1)

Nippissing (1)

Drama (Literature)

U of Ottawa (1)

18th-Century Literature

U of Ottawa (Theatre Dept) (1)

English Canadian Theatre

Queen's (1)

Queen's National Scholar: Shakespeare / 19th-Century / Contemporary / Transnational Literatures

Queen's (Women's Studies) (1)

Anti-racism: expertise in Feminist theory / Postcolonial / Aboriginal studies

Regina (1)

Fantasy Literature

St Francis Xavier (2)

British Literature 1603-1860

St Mary's, Halifax (2)

Modern and Contemporary Drama; Media and Film Studies

St Mary's UC, Alberta (1)

Generalist (esp. Medieval / Early Modern)

Saskatchewan (1)

American Literature

Saskatchewan (Gender Studies Program) (1)

Women's & Gender Studies

Simon Fraser (1)

World Literature (Assoc. or Full)

U of Toronto, UTSC (2)

Canadian Literature; Creative Writing

U of Toronto, UTM (2)

Victorian Literature; Postcolonial Literature

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U of Toronto, New College (1)

Postcolonial Lit (esp. Africa)

Trent (1)

Canadian Literature

Victoria (1)

Indigenous Literatures (esp. West Coast)

U of Waterloo (1)

Open field / Open rank [SUSPENDED]

St Jerome's College, U of Waterloo (1)

Canadian Literature

JOB CLOSURES IN THE US

University of Toronto candidates report the following 28 closures in the US:

Bridgewater State (Massachusetts)

British and Irish Modernism

Colorado State University

Anglophone and World Literature

East Tennessee State University

Modern British

Johns Hopkins

African American Lit.

Comparative Lit.

Lehman College, CUNY

19th Century

Long Island University

Modern and Contemporary Poetry

Miami University

American Modernism 1900-1950

Romantic Poetry

Northern Arizona University

African American Lit.

Rider University

Literary Theory

Scripps College

Gender Studies

SUNY Stony Brook

African American Lit.

Medieval and

Comparative Lit.

U of Alabama-Huntsville

Medieval Lit.

U of Miami

Late Medieval / Early Modern

University of Puget Sound

Rhetoric

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University of Richmond

African Literature

University of Vermont

19th Century

University of Virginia

Postcolonial

Xavier University, Ohio

Early Modern

Florida State

Modernist

U of Maryland, Baltimore County

18th Century

Villanova U

18th Century

Harvard U

Renaissance Literature

U of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana)

Postcolonial Literature

Fordham U

Early Modern Literature

Various websites have reported job closures at the following institutions, but these should be checked carefully:

Boston U, Brown U, Cornell U, Denver U, Ohio U, Cal State , Temple U, College of William and Mary, U of California, U of Oklahoma, U of Kentucky, U of Arizona, U of Colorado, U of Nevada, U of Louisiana, U of Idaho, U of Tennessee , U of New Hampshire , U of Connecticut, Med U of South, California, Eastern Washington University, Western Washington University, Washington State University, Minnesota State University, University of South Florida.

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

Report of the Representative to the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences

This report is one part information and one part propaganda—or should I say, ammunition that we all need to encourage our colleagues to become members of ACCUTE if they aren't already. Often when we think about our membership in ACCUTE, and when we try to sell it to others, we emphasize the annual Congress and *English Studies in Canada*. Less often are we equipped to talk in detail about political lobbying, government representation or allegiances with other academic associations in the country. Here, then, is that primer of what belonging to the Federation means to members of ACCUTE, and why a strong national body of Teachers of English matters to our institutional and intellectual futures.

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ACCUTE is a “large organization” within the Canadian Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences and as such, we automatically have one member who attends the Delegate Assembly (currently Heather Murray) as well as the chance to have one member on the Board of Directors (currently me). A certain percentage of your ACCUTE membership fee goes directly to the Federation to support work that, regardless of your participation in ACCUTE-sponsored activities or publications, comes back to you ten-fold. As you can read from visiting their website (<http://www.fedcan.ca/>), the Federation “is made up of 66 scholarly associations, 73 universities and colleges and 7 affiliates, comprising more than 50,000 scholars, students and practitioners across Canada. Through its activities, the Federation strives to support and advance Canada's research in the humanities and social science, fields which are intrinsically important to the development of social, cultural and economic understanding, thus giving our society necessary tools to address the most complex of questions.” This is not just lip-service or governmentspeak. At the board meeting in Ottawa on November 1-2, 2008, we dealt with the following issues:

1. **Advocacy:** The Federation has for many years lobbied the Minister of Industry, the Opposition, various offices of arts and culture, and the Executive Director of SSHRC to ensure that Humanities and Social Sciences are fairly represented in funding initiatives and research agendas. It's no secret to any of us that, at least since the days of Paul Martin in the Ministry of Finance, the Federal Government has favored science and technology, business, medicine, and economic development. It has often been difficult to imagine the role of the English teacher in this agenda. The Federation (under past president Noreen Golfman, new president Nathalie Des Rosiers, and Executive Director Jody Cuifo) continues to request meetings with members on the Hill, and with Chad Gaffield at SSHRC, to ensure that Humanities and Social Sciences are actively represented on government committees dealing with research, are included in advertising materials relating to research in Canada, and are understood to be a crucial voice in the articulation of public life in the twenty-first century. To that end, the Board heard an interesting (if controversial) presentation by Ron Freedman of the Impact Group on the influence of Humanities and Social Sciences on the Canadian Economy. Like it or not, when we talk to government we have to speak a language it understands, and combining the language of economic viability with intellectual curiosity and cultural literacy is the way to do it. Noreen, Nathalie, and Jody are invaluable in this kind of representation, and they deserve all our support.
2. **Copyright Legislation, Old and New:** With the dissolution of the Harper government earlier this fall (its return, and its possible *second* dissolution), a proposed new copyright legislation died on the table. And like Frankenstein's monster, it is being resurrected to terrorize us once more. This bill—ostensibly aimed at protecting artists and their creations but really more of a friend to publishing industries—will only increase the difficulty many of us have in getting access to information for teaching and research and in bringing certain materials into the classroom. The Federation office is currently working with a Copyright Committee and it continues to seek legal advice on ways to lobby for a fair and productive copyright legislation, one that protects and supports artists while allowing teachers and researchers to use their work.
3. **Equity and Ethics:** The Federation said good-bye and thanks to Donna Pennee for many years of hard work on questions of equity in employment and representation in Federation activities, and it welcomes Malinda Smith into the role of VP Equity. Many of you will have seen a large

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spate of panels at Congress dealing with the on-going question of equity, and it is heartening to know that the Federation will continue to ask questions about practices that reflect new research in the field of fair employment conditions. At the same time, Pat O'Neill continues to work with a Panel of Research Ethics to address the Tri-Council Policy on Ethical Research Involving Humans. Many of us in the Humanities and Social Sciences know that our research practices with other humans often differ greatly from what goes on in natural sciences and medicine, and Pat's committee seeks to make that clearer to the Tri-Council in its current thinking.

4. Publishing Electronically, Openly, and Otherwise: If you've attended recent ACCUTE AGMs at Congress, you know that we continue to grapple with the question of academic publishing electronically and/or in hard copy, openly on line, and in ways that meet the needs of ACCUTE members. Electronic and open-access publishing continues to be an area of hard work for the Federation, with Jean-Claude Guédon (outgoing) and Christian Vandendorpe (incoming) as VP Research Dissemination tracking international developments in publishing practice. Recent changes to the SSHRC funding formula have serious implications for *English Studies in Canada* and for publishing generally in this country, so it's crucial that we have the Federation working on our behalf to ensure that the horse leads the cart in this field. At the same time, Deborah Poff, VP Development, is directing a fundraising initiative that will help to increase the annual prizes awarded by the Aid to Scholarly Publishing Program (did you know that that program was administered by the Federation as well?), and program and award system that has done very well by ACCUTE members in the past.

In other news, preparations are in full swing for the 2009 Congress at Carleton University in Ottawa (visit the website at <http://fedcan.virtuo.ca/index.php?action=artikel&lang=en&id=132>) and the board heard the plans for Concordia University's 2010 congress, with its theme, "Connected Understanding – Le savoir branché". Congress continues to grow in numbers and in the range of disciplines represented. ACCUTE has always been a significant presence there, and we continue to intersect with other disciplines and societies. This can only mean good things for us professional and intellectually, so if you haven't been planning to go to Congress, give it a second thought.

In closing, I want to note again that at the Board Meeting, we witnessed Noreen Golfman pass the baton to the new president as she steps down after a two-year term. Noreen's presidency has coincided with my participation on the Board, so I haven't been able to see any other presidents in action, but I have been extremely grateful to her for what she has done for the Federation generally and for ACCUTE in particular. In Ottawa, at Congress, and at international gatherings Noreen has blown our trumpet loudly and in tune. She has worked tirelessly (and humorously) to make clear to politicians at all levels why it is that our work is important. We owe her a great debt of gratitude, and more than one drink at the next Congress.

- Steven Bruhm

FROM THE ACCUTE ARCHIVES: FIFTY YEARS AGO

As hundreds of conference submissions – and a doubled number of vector reports – flood the ACCUTE email inbox, and as ACCUTE members begin to make their own plans for the 2009 conference at Carleton, it is interesting to take a glimpse back in time to fifty years ago.

Meeting under the umbrella of the Conference of Learned Societies – as the Congress was known until recently – at the University of Saskatchewan from 8-10 June 1959, ACUTE members participated in two days of specialized sessions, and a series of joint sessions on the third. Northrop Frye (Victoria) chaired the opening session on “The Scope and Purpose of Criticism,” whose two speakers were James Reaney (then at Manitoba) and John Peter (also at Manitoba). Their titles were “The Scope and Purpose of Criticism” and “The Responsibilities of Criticism.” The afternoon session, scheduled to run for nearly three hours, was on the “Phases of Criticism,” chaired by Hugo McPherson (University College, Toronto). Jay Macpherson (Victoria College, Toronto) spoke on “Criticism and the Poet,” John Stedmond (Queen’s) took the topic of “Prose Fiction and the Analytical Mind,” while Michael Hornyansky (then at Carleton) discussed “The Critic as Explorer.” Then as now, after a long day, audience and speakers headed off to the university reception.

The morning of the second day was also devoted to a critical topic, this time “Criticism in Action,” with Father Laurence Shook (St. Michael’s College, Toronto) in the chair. Archibald Malloch (McGill) analysed “The Habit of Forbearance in Jane Austen’s Emma,” J.K. Johnstone (UNB) focussed on “An Aspect of the Structure of Ulysses,” and Munro Beattie (Carleton) spoke on “The Novelist as Critic.” Participants attended a luncheon hosted by the university, before directing their attention to professional concerns, with A.S.P. Woodhouse (University College, Toronto) chairing a session on “Aims and Purpose in an English Department.” Clarence Tracy (UNB) spoke on “The Products of an English Department,” and E.R. Seary (Memorial) presented “University English: A Pastiche.” On the third day, ACUTE joined with the Canadian Philosophical Association and the Humanities Association of Canada for a day (and evening)-long “Joint Symposium on Existentialism.”

The focus on critical and philosophical topics is interesting to note, lest we be inclined to think of this period as somehow “pre-theoretical” or even “pre-critical.” While surely we would not want to return to the days when there was only one woman among a host of male speakers – and when scholarship was so centred on Toronto faculty and alumni—or to exchange the energy and diversity of our current conference configuration, it is easy to feel nostalgia for a time when speakers could take a leisurely hour for presentations, when there was no need to

scramble between parallel sessions, and when ACUTE was so small that scholars could continue their shared conversation by all eating lunch together.



A Symposium in Honour of Barbara Godard

On December 5th and 6th, a symposium was held at the Pia Bouman School in Toronto to celebrate the extensive and vital career of Barbara Godard (York), teacher, theorist, translator, editor, mentor, organizer, and activist. “Inspiring Collaborations: A Symposium in Honour of Barbara Godard” reflected Godard’s many contributions to the study and translation of Canadian writing, literary, cultural, and political theory, and feminist aesthetics and politics. The title of the symposium highlights Godard’s ongoing interest in collaborative practices of translation, criticism, and pedagogy, which was also reflected in the shared keynote address, poetry readings, roundtables, musical performance, and works by twelve visual artists on display throughout the Symposium. A celebration that was long overdue, this event was organized by a group of her current students and York colleagues to bring together writers, activists, artists, musicians, filmmakers, editors, colleagues, friends, admirers, current students, and a remarkable three generations of the current professoriate

who completed PhDs under Godard’s guidance. That over 200 people attended the Friday evening keynote address by Nicole Brossard and Daphne Marlatt and 150 came back for a full Saturday of events illustrates how central Godard continues to be in building networks, sustaining communities, and catalyzing intellectual, political, and creative collaborations.

An undergraduate at the University of Toronto in the early 1960s, Godard then completed an MA in 1967 at the Université de Montréal with a thesis on the city of Montreal in the English and French Canadian Novel between 1945-1965. From Montreal, Godard went to France and in 1971 completed her doctorate at the Université de Bourdeaux with a dissertation titled “God’s Country: L’homme et la terre dans le roman des deux Canada.” While in Paris she attended seminars taught by Lucien Goldmann and Roland Barthes and taught with Hélène Cixous at Université de Paris VIII (Vincennes). Godard brought these encounters with exciting new ideas in Marxism, poststructuralism, deconstruction, semiotics, narratology, and

French feminism back to Canada when she was appointed to a contract position at York University in 1971, which turned into a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in 1976. Godard earned tenure in 1978, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1981, and to Professor in 2004.

As a number of her former students attested, there is hardly a topic of intellectual interest, and barely a writer, artist, or theorist, towards which Godard has not already turned her formidable intellect and endless curiosity. However, it is the field of feminist translation that exemplifies her passion for radical poetics and linguistic play. A theme that emerged over the two days is Godard's expanded idea of translation as a collaborative practice in which reading becomes writing and writing becomes reading. The keynote address on Friday evening was shared by two of Godard's long-standing collaborators, poets Nicole Brossard and Daphne Marlatt. In her talk, "La petite musique de Barbara Godard," Brossard described literary translation as the privilege given to the writer of existing in another language, a gift she received through Godard's English translations of her works that have become central to Canadian feminist poetics and theory: *These Our Mothers* (Coach House, 1983); *Lovhers* (Guernica, 1986); *Picture Theory* (Guernica, 1991. Rpt. rev. 2005); and *An Intimate Journal* (Mercury Press, 2004). Daphne Marlatt took the title of her talk from Godard's self-assessment in her recent

interview with Smaro Kamboureli -- editor of the book of Godard's essays launched at the Symposium, *Canadian Literature at the Crossroads of Language and Culture* -- that the site of her work has always been in the "breaks and becomings." Marlatt, with whom Godard co-founded the feminist journal *Tessera*, revisited earlier moments of collaboration and feminist convening, such as the Women Writers in Dialogue conference in Toronto in 1981 and the Women and Words conference in Vancouver in 1983, out of which *Tessera* was born and in which Godard played a central role. These keynote speakers were followed by the celebrated sound poet Penn Kemp, who used the entire audience to perform a poem in Godard's honour.

Perhaps the most unexpected pleasure of the Symposium was the Saturday morning screening of the 1965 National Film Board of Canada's short documentary, *Mademoiselle Barbara*, in which Godard re-enacts her literal and imaginative journey from the Anglo enclave of Toronto to the student ferment of the Montreal student sovereignty movement. Former Godard student and film scholar Zoë Druick (Simon Fraser) introduced the film by describing her surprise upon learning, during her dissertation research, that her own supervisor had been the subject of a 1960s NFB film; this revelation reaffirms the extent of Godard's involvement in almost every Canadian cultural formation. The remainder of Saturday was divided between poetry

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readings by those who have either collaborated with Godard, been translated by her, or about whom she has written, and two roundtables to discuss her role as feminist instigator and academic mentor.

The first reading, by Mary di Michele (Concordia), Trish Salah (Concordia/Sherbrooke), and Di Brandt (Brandon) brought together poets concerned with the body, sexuality, and gender as well as place, space, and memory. The second reading, by Louise Cotnoir, Nathalie Stephens (Art Institute of Chicago), and Lola Tostevin, performed the bilingualism and translation concerns Godard has both practised and pioneered. The final reading, by Margaret Christakos and NourbeSe Philip (Gail Scott had been scheduled but was unable to attend), closed the event with two poets whose experiments with language and silence, voice and representation engage directly with the experiences of bodies marked by gender, race, sexuality, and class in everyday life and in histories of violence. The first roundtable, “*Tessera* between languages and generations,” brought into conversation two generations of members of the *Tessera* editorial collective, including writers, artists, and academics, to discuss the founding of the journal, the challenges of feminist collaboration, and the conditions for experimental feminist aesthetics since the journal’s final issue in 2005. The second roundtable, “Academic

Generations,” allowed seven of Godard’s former students from the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s to remember their experiences of her supervision and reflect on the transmission of knowledge through generations of socially and politically committed scholars.

The Symposium marked Godard’s recent retirement as the Historica Chair in Canadian Literature and Professor of English, French, Social and Political Thought, and Women’s Studies at York University. It also launched a new volume from NeWest Press, *Canadian Literature at the Crossroads of Language and Culture: Selected Essays by Barbara Godard* (Ed. Smaro Kamboureli). This volume contains nine of Godard’s most influential essays on Canadian literature, culture, and theory as well as an introductory interview of Godard conducted by Kamboureli. An edited film version of the Symposium, including a full interview with Godard, will be produced by the award-winning feminist filmmaker (and former Godard student), Brenda Longfellow. Contributions are also invited to a festschrift in honour of Godard to be edited by Ray Ellenwood (see call for contributions). Those who were unable to attend the Symposium may post comments to the guestbook at the Symposium website: www.yorku.ca/godard. ■

- Candida Rifkind.

MEMBER NEWS

Candida Rifkind (Winnipeg) has a book forthcoming in January 2009. Titled Comrades and Critics: Women, Literature, and the Left in 1930s Canada, it will be published by University of Toronto Press.

Sue Sorensen (Canadian Mennonite University) has just published an edited collection with CMU Press, titled West of Eden: Essays on Canadian Prairie Literature. The eighteen contributors to this collection aim to rethink the definition of “prairie regionalist” literary and cultural production, considering everything from Margaret Laurence to NFB films to the iconic gopher, and include strategies for teaching prairie literature.

Kathleen Venema (Winnipeg) has a forthcoming article titled “‘a trading shop so crooked a man could jump through the cracks’: Counting the Cost of Fred Stenson’s Trade in the Hudson’s Bay Company Archive.” It will appear in National Plots: Interrogation, Revision, and Re-Inscription in Canadian Historical Fiction, 1832- 2005, edited by Andrea Cabajsky and Brett Grubisic, published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

News from Departments and Programs

The Department of English and the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto have recently established a combined degree program that allows students to complete an MA in English and a JD in three years, the time it would normally take to complete the JD. Students may apply to both programs simultaneously, or may apply during their first year in law school to do the combined degree.

The program builds on the interests of faculty members in both fields, including Ed Morgan and Simon Stern from Law, and Alan Ackerman, Michael Cobb, Jeannine DeLombard, Greig Henderson, Mary Nyquist, and Holger Schott Syme from English. For more information visit

<http://www.law.utoronto.ca/programs/lawandlit.html>

The Sexual Diversity Studies Program at the University of Toronto now offers collaborative graduate degrees at both the MA and PhD levels – the first such programs in Canada. As with

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other collaborative programs at the University of Toronto, students must be admitted both to the SDS degree program and to a “home” unit (such as English, History, Criminology, or Law). More than twenty units have formally partnered with the new SGS graduate program

For information, contact Dr. Scott Rayter, Acting Director of the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies (scott.rayter@utoronto.ca), or visit the website at

www.utoronto.ca/sexualdiversity/

The University of Winnipeg is accepting applications for a new MA in English with a focus on Cultural Studies, starting in fall 2009. This is a twelve-month course-based MA organized into five areas: Cultural Theory; Cultures of Childhood; Gender, Sexualities, and Culture; Local, Global, and National Cultures; and Manuscript, Print, and Digital Cultures. The deadline for Canadian applicants is 1 February 2009. For details visit:

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/grad-studies-index>

The University of Winnipeg’s Carol Shields Writer-in-Residence for 2009 is one of Canada’s most distinguished Aboriginal writers, Maria Campbell, who will meet with students and members of the public in this capacity, and who has also expressed a desire to build links with First Nations elders, and with Aboriginal and local arts and community organizations in Winnipeg and rural locations. She will give the Shields Distinguished Lecture on Thursday March 12 at 7:00 pm in Convocation Hall, titled “Road Allowance as Muse: Identity and Place.” The University of Winnipeg now offers a four-year BA in Creative Writing. For details of the writer-in-residence program and the BA Creative Writing, visit

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/as/english/creativewriting.shtm>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Canadian Literature Centre/Le Centre de littérature canadienne at the University of Alberta will be holding its inaugural colloquium 6 -7 March 2009 in Edmonton. The topic is “Transplanting Canada/Transplanter le Canada” and further information can be found on the CLC website at http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/clc/index.php?page_id=4&lang_id=0

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The Department of English at the University of Ottawa is hosting two conferences this spring and summer:

The annual Canadian Literature Symposium will take place at the University of Ottawa from 1-3 May 2009. It is entitled "Double-Takes: Intersections Between Canadian Literature and Film." The featured keynote speaker will be novelist and screen writer Paul Quarrington. Other keynote speakers include Peter Dickinson, Katherine Monk, and Jim Lynch. For information please contact the conference chair, Dr. David Jarraway (jarraway@uottawa.ca) or visit the conference website at:

www.canlit-symposium.ca

The third annual Generative Anthropology Summer Conference will be held at the University of Ottawa from 19-21 June 2009. An interdisciplinary event attracting a range of international participants, the conference will feature addresses by Eric Gans (UCLA), Mark Vessey (UBC), and Andrew J. McKenna (Loyola, Chicago) speaking to the theme of "The Question of Transcendence: The Sacred, the Human, and Modern Culture." The conference chair is Dr. Ian Dennis (idennis@uottawa.ca)

Visit the website at

www.gasc2009.uottawa.ca

The eleventh annual conference of the Modernist Studies Association will be held in Montréal on 5-8 November 2009. The interdisciplinary conference draws approximately 650 people. The theme for 2009 is "Languages of Modernism," broadly construed in musical, architectural, literary, photographic, historical, and art historical terms. The conference is being co-organized by Andrew Miller (Université de Montréal), Omri Moses (Concordia), and Miranda Hickman and Allan Hepburn (both, McGill).

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND NEWS OF MEMBERS, DEPARTMENTS, AND EVENTS FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER