



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 message • conference info and calls for papers • cace/accute survey highlights • sessional rep report • caut almanac excerpt • from the accute archives •**

## President's Message:

The move of ACCUTE from Mount Saint Vincent to the University of Toronto is now more-or-less complete, and of course this first column must begin by acknowledging the people who made it happen, starting with the Department of English's former chair Brian Corman. When asked almost a year ago whether the Department would be willing to host ACCUTE, Brian offered both hospitality and resources, and used the diplomatic skills for which he is well-known to broker arrangements with the

university. Pekka Sinervo, then-dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, was equally forthcoming. When he was sent a long list of the many things the university would need to provide – everything from course releases to office space and equipment and mailing privileges – this was faxed back almost immediately with his approving initials, and a note saying that the Faculty would be honoured to host an organization of such "prestige." In addition, ACCUTE requested – and received – a

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

“transition fund” provided jointly by the secretary-treasurer Craig Patterson to attend the Vancouver Congress, and to fly out to Halifax to see the ACCUTE office in action. We are now further fortunate in having Alan Bewell, a long-time ACCUTE member, as the new Department of English chair.

Special thanks must also go to Steven Bruhm, Karen Macfarlane, and Johanne Jell, whose work by no means ended with the 2008 Congress. After the party was over, they were left to clean up all the paperwork and mop the financial floors. The MSVU team generously hosted the new secretary-treasurer in Halifax; remained available to answer constant queries during the interregnum; and kept us on track with all of the tasks that needed to be done right away, given the planning cycles of the Congress and the Federation. It was immediately apparent that we were inheriting an association in very good running order. And, during her years as secretary-treasurer, Karen Macfarlane compiled a procedures manual – the key to all mythologies – a detailed calendar of the annual round of deadlines and procedures, as well as templates of letters and forms for every possible occasion, fed-exed to us on a magic memory stick. This makes our work much easier, and we will keep the key-to-all-mythologies up to date.

The transition from MSVU to Toronto went smoothly, although we took our lumps with the rest of the Department of English,

Department and by the Faculty, which allowed which is currently living in quasi-renovated space, some completed to schedule and some still a wasteland of old drywall and plaster dust, populated by workers who come and go at whimsically infrequent intervals. But ACCUTE is now housed in two spanking-new offices on the ninth floor of the Jackman Humanities Building. That we are *in situ*, with telephone, wireless connection, and even, finally, furniture, is due to the untiring efforts of the department’s business officer Donna Sabo. Thanks also go to Cristina Henrique, along with the rest of the office staff in the Department of English, for helping with the many tasks needed to get ACCUTE financially and administratively re-housed. The Jackman Humanities Building is at the corner of Bloor Street and St. George—for those of you who know Toronto, this is the landmark Medical Arts Building, now newly-named—and we hope that if you are in the vicinity, you will drop by.

The personnel for ACCUTE is now also in place, and while a number of you will know some of us, this is an opportune moment to provide an introduction. We are lucky to have attracted Craig Patterson as secretary-treasurer. A specialist in the eighteenth century as well as in “law and literature”—his PhD is from the University of Toronto so he knows the department well—Craig is a professor at Humber College. (This is the first time ACCUTE has had its two officers from two different institutions. We hope this will allow us to better span the

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

“universities” and “colleges” in our name.) Craig has already displayed considerable organizational sang-froid during the transition, and an ingenuity that has allowed him to navigate some choppy virtual waters as we adapt ACCUTE’s records to systems of our own. Pam Coles, the newly-hired office coordinator, successfully defended her dissertation in Comparative Literature during her first week on the job just as we were moving from our temporary office to the spiffy permanent ones. Pam adds a business background to her academic experience and—as the mother of teenage twins and a triathlete—has the enviable energy needed to oversee the busy round of the ACCUTE year. Heather Ladd, this year’s graduate research assistant, is working on a dissertation titled “Laurels Denied: Representations of Failed Authors and Authoresses in Eighteenth-Century Literature.” Bringing to ACCUTE a working experience at several conferences, Heather also will be a repository of invaluable local

knowledge, since she took her two first degrees at Carleton.

Organization for the 2009 Congress at Carleton is already underway (see elsewhere in this newsletter). This fall, we are also undertaking a campus-by-campus membership drive. In preparation, we have put in place a full slate of campus “reps” who, we hope, will be able to explain the benefits of joining ACCUTE to non-affiliated members of their departments, and especially to those new to the profession or indeed new to this country. The list of campus representatives is now posted on the website (at [www.accute.ca/campusreps.htm](http://www.accute.ca/campusreps.htm)). Thanks to all who have offered to perform this valuable service. Otherwise, the end of September is providing the staff at the ACCUTE office with a chance to catch our collective breath and think about the classes that, yes, we are supposed to be teaching.

– Heather Murray

## ACCUTE Conference

2009 - Ottawa

The 2009 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences will be held at Carleton University and ACCUTE’s dates are May 23 to 26 inclusive (please mark these; and note that they are earlier than usual). The

“Learneds,” as they then were called, were last held at Carleton in 1993, and this is a venue that works, logistically, very well. The annual over-arching theme for the Congress is **“Capital Connections: Nation/**

## ACCUTE Newsletter

---

**Terroir/Territoire** -- although ‘themes’ is perhaps the better term, given this interesting bicultural bifurcation (surely destined to be the topic of a number of Congress presentations). Indeed, the entire Congress theme is richly suggestive, if one plays on the denotative range of “capital.” In planning some of the special sessions, and professional concerns sessions for ACCUTE, we are taking “capital” in the doubled sense, seizing the opportunity to consider the connections between and among state funding, government policy pertaining to the arts and the humanities, intellectual property legislation, and the research and teaching that we do (note, for example, the CFP for the ACCUTE-organized session, proposed by executive member Michael Brisbois, on the topic of “Mandatory Retirement”). While members of ACCUTE are of course encouraged to submit papers to the general call on any range of topics, we also hope to attract submissions that keep in mind one, or both, of these overarching Congress motifs.

The general call for papers, as well as the CFPs for member-organized, joint-organized, and ACCUTE executive-organized sessions, are posted on the website at [www.accute.ca/2008CFP.html](http://www.accute.ca/2008CFP.html). This year we have 19 member-organized sessions, and 16 proposed by joint or allied associations. That we have received so

many provocative, timely, CFPs is surely a testimony to the great success of the 2008 conference.

Nuts-and-bolts planning for the ACCUTE conference has begun as well, and we are lucky to have a number of people in place at Carleton to assist us in making the 2009 event a success. Jennifer Henderson has kindly agreed to be our local arrangements contact, and she will be ably assisted in this by Jody Mason and Travis De Cook. Julia Wright, the Carleton campus representative, is helping with program planning and has already come up with some interesting ideas to “Ottawa-ize” our program. Paul Keen, the English departmental chair, has also welcomed ACCUTE and extended an offer of help. We have already begun to put in place some of the conference infrastructure, beginning, many of you will be happy to know, by booking a space for the ACCUTE disco night: indeed, it was almost the first task we undertook on return from Vancouver, and we are indebted to the work of our Ottawa location scouts. But, by popular demand, we are going to pair this with a more traditional “wine and cheese” and think (with some number crunching) that we can manage both, ACCUTE members being well-known for their abstemious habits.

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

If you are new to ACCUTE, or if you are a novice on the academic conference scene, you will find in the ACCUTE conference something a little different. While we do offer sessions on specialized topics, and try to cover the historical and national range as well, ACCUTE structures many of its sessions with the goal of encouraging intellectual interchange across the traditional boundaries of genre, historical period, cultural or national grouping. We also devote a number of sessions to pedagogic and professional concerns, and provide a forum for the discussion of humanities policy and funding in Canada. As a presenter to ACCUTE, the challenge you encounter is to present your best and most cutting-edge work in a way that is intelligible to an audience that is, potentially at least, broad in its interests. The reward is that you will serendipitously receive new forms of feedback and research leads, and gain a strong sense of the span and the strength of scholarship in “English,” across the country. The ACCUTE conference is sometimes described as “generalist.” But “synergistic” might be the better word.

The ACCUTE staff and the ACCUTE executive will do our best to arrange a 2009 conference that is both intellectually exciting and socially convivial, and that

brings together the wide-ranging interests of our equally multivariate members. We will try to keep a global perspective while cooking up a local or “terroir” cuisine, critically speaking; and to accommodate the general interests of our members while keeping an eye out for new and emergent trends. You’ll be able to dance the night away under the disco ball; or talk shop at our equally glittering *conversazione*. But the ultimate success of the 2009 conference depends on the members, and the quality of the submissions that you make. Please read, consider, and respond to, the calls for papers in this issue; bring them to the attention of the non-ACCUTE members in your department; and take note of the 2009 dates. And please free to contact the ACCUTE office (at [accute@accute.ca](mailto:accute@accute.ca)) with any questions you might have about the conference or the logistics of preparing the proposal.

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR 2009 CONFERENCE

In booking space at Carleton, ACCUTE will specify that all classrooms and lecture halls be “accessible.” (Our space for social events already fits the bill.) If you have special needs that must be met, for mobility or communicative reasons (signing, communicative or other assistive devices), we encourage you to contact ACCUTE with these details as soon as possible, so that we

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

can factor this into our room bookings, and audio-visual and on-campus services requests.

## A QUICK GUIDE TO PAPER AND PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

ACCUTE has four types of CFPs, located on the website under the “Conference” heading. (The CFP link takes you to postings for other conferences and publications.) There are member-organized sessions, sessions organized jointly with other organizations, and an ACCUTE organized professional concerns session. There is also a general call for papers: most of the submissions to ACCUTE fall under that category. While you may wish to address the over-arching Congress themes, this is not required: the general call is “open” as to topic.

The procedure and the mechanism for submission vary, depending on the type of session. Please read the requirements carefully, as posted on the website, and ensure that your paper or proposal satisfies the criteria for inclusion, and that you have provided the necessary information.

In general, submissions are made electronically, and consist of

- a **proposal** (700 words) or the paper itself (8-10 double-spaced pages, timed for twenty minutes or less)
- a **completed copy of the Proposal Submitter’s Information Sheet**
- a **file containing a 100 word abstract** and a 50 word bio-bibliographical note

For further instructions see the website

([www.accute.ca/Conference.htm#Procedures](http://www.accute.ca/Conference.htm#Procedures))

**The deadline for all submissions is uniform, at NOVEMBER 15.**

**All submitters must be members in good standing of ACCUTE.** Proposals and papers from non-members will not be forwarded for vetting. The exception is joint sessions, where submitters may be members in good standing of either organization. Papers are sent out for blind vetting to two assessors. If, due to space limitations, a paper is not accepted for a member-organized or ACCUTE-organized session, it will be considered as part of the “general call.”

**Note:** this is not the case for papers and proposals submitted to a joint-organized session CFP. **For a full description of the following sessions go to:**

[http://www.accute.ca/2008CFP.html#Member Organized](http://www.accute.ca/2008CFP.html#MemberOrganized)

---

Proposals for Member-Organized Sessions

The Canadian Poetic Avant-garde Today

Organizer: Clint Burnham, Simon Fraser

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

University Submissions to  
[clint\\_burnham@sfu.ca](mailto:clint_burnham@sfu.ca)

**Capital, Capitol, *Capital*:  
Collecting and Codifying  
Twenty-First Century Class  
and Power Discourses in  
North American Literatures**  
Organizers: J.M. Chen,  
Global College of Chinese  
Medicine and Culture, and  
Yuhua Ji, Xiamen University

Submissions to both  
[globalming@hotmail.com](mailto:globalming@hotmail.com)  
and [yuhuaaji@xmu.edu.cn](mailto:yuhuaaji@xmu.edu.cn)

**Capital Disconnections? The  
Co-operative University and  
Competitive Economies**

Organizer: Len Findlay,  
University of Saskatchewan

Submissions to  
[len.findlay@usask.ca](mailto:len.findlay@usask.ca)

**Cross-Cultural  
Comparison/Contrast: Asian  
North American  
Literatures/Criticisms  
Revisited**

Organizers: J.M. Chen,  
Global College of Chinese  
Medicine and Culture, and  
Yuhua Ji, Xiamen University

Submissions to both  
[globalming@hotmail.com](mailto:globalming@hotmail.com)  
and [yuhuaaji@xmu.edu.cn](mailto:yuhuaaji@xmu.edu.cn)

**Digital and Literary Publics**

Organizers: Sara Humphreys,  
Trent University, and

Veronica Austen, Wilfrid  
Laurier University

Submissions to both  
[sarahumphreys@trentu.ca](mailto:sarahumphreys@trentu.ca)  
and [vausten@wlu.ca](mailto:vausten@wlu.ca)

**Does Canadian Ethnic  
Literature Still Exist?**

Organizer: Lindy  
Ledohowski, University of  
Ottawa

Submissions to  
[lindy.ledohowski@gmail.com](mailto:lindy.ledohowski@gmail.com)

**Kristeva, the Abject, and  
*Powers of Horror***

Organizers: Richard J. Lane,  
Vancouver Island University,  
and Daniel Burgoyne,  
Vancouver Island University

Submissions to both  
[Richard.Lane@viu.ca](mailto:Richard.Lane@viu.ca) and  
[Daniel.Burgoyne@viu.ca](mailto:Daniel.Burgoyne@viu.ca)

**Lit Crit 2.0: Academic  
Blogging and Other New  
Forms of Scholarly  
Publishing**

Organizer Rohan Maitzen,  
Dalhousie University.

Submissions to  
[rohan.maitzen@dal.ca](mailto:rohan.maitzen@dal.ca) by  
Nov. 15, 2008

**Literary Journalism in  
Canada**

Organizer: Rob Alexander,  
Brock University

Submissions to  
[ralexander@brocku.ca](mailto:ralexander@brocku.ca)

**New Economic Approaches  
to Literature**

Organizer: Glenn Willmot,  
Queen's University

Submissions (please use rich  
text if possible) to  
[gw12@queensu.ca](mailto:gw12@queensu.ca)

**The Pleasures and Perils of  
Graduate English  
Supervision in Canada**

Organizer: Jennifer Andrews,  
University of New Brunswick

[jandrews@unb.ca](mailto:jandrews@unb.ca)

**Prestige**

Organizer: Mervyn Nicholson,  
Thompson Rivers University

Submissions to  
[mnicholson@tru.ca](mailto:mnicholson@tru.ca)

**Production of Literature**

Organizer: Julie Murray,  
Carleton University  
Sponsored by the  
Department of English,  
Carleton University

Submissions to  
[julie.murray@carleton.ca](mailto:julie.murray@carleton.ca)

**Psychoanalytic Criticism  
after 9/11**

Organizer: Clint Burnham,  
Simon Fraser University

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

Submissions to  
[clint\\_burnham@sfu.ca](mailto:clint_burnham@sfu.ca)

## Quantifying Canadian Reading

Organizer: Eli MacLaren,  
Queen's University

Submissions to  
[eli.maclaren@gmail.com](mailto:eli.maclaren@gmail.com)

## Queer Canadianisms, Queer Theories: Negotiating Our Post-Marriage Place in this Queer Country

Organizer: Rebecca Hardie,  
University of Manitoba

Submissions to  
[rebecca.hardie@umanitoba.ca](mailto:rebecca.hardie@umanitoba.ca)

## The Sitwells and British Modernism

Organizers: Allan Pero,  
University of Western Ontario, and Gyllian Phillips,  
Nipissing University

Submissions to both  
[apero@uwo.ca](mailto:apero@uwo.ca) and  
[gyllianp@nipissingu.ca](mailto:gyllianp@nipissingu.ca)

## Snap, Crackle, and Pop: Rethinking Early Canadian Popular Literature

Organizers: Thomas Hodd,  
Guelph-Humber, and Tobi Kozakewich,  
Queen's University

Submissions to both  
[thodd@cogeco.ca](mailto:thodd@cogeco.ca) and  
[kozakewich@cogeco.ca](mailto:kozakewich@cogeco.ca)

## Where Would We Be Without our Supporting Cast?: Cultural Workers in Early Canadian Literary Society

Organizers: Thomas Hodd,  
Guelph-Humber, and Tobi Kozakewich,  
Queen's University

Submissions to both  
[thodd@cogeco.ca](mailto:thodd@cogeco.ca) and  
[kozakewich@cogeco.ca](mailto:kozakewich@cogeco.ca)

## ACCUTE Organized Sessions

Professional Concerns Panel on Mandatory Retirement

Unlike other sessions, professional concerns papers can range in length from 10 to 20 minutes. Papers should be submitted to Michael J Brisbois,  
[mjbrisbo@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mjbrisbo@ucalgary.ca),

## Joint-Organized Sessions

Association for Research in Cultures of Young People/ACCUTE

Marketing to/for/with Young People

Organizer: Mavis Reimer,  
University of Winnipeg

Submissions (please use Microsoft Word or rtf) to  
[m.reimer@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:m.reimer@uwinnipeg.ca)

Association for Research in Cultures of Young People/ACCUTE

Youth, Sexuality, Technology

Organizer: Mavis Reimer,  
University of Winnipeg

Submissions (please use Microsoft Word or rtf) to  
[m.reimer@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:m.reimer@uwinnipeg.ca)

Canadian Association for American Studies/ACCUTE

Pain and Politics

Organizer: Dana Medero,  
University of Manitoba

Submissions to  
[dmedero@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:dmedero@cc.umanitoba.ca)

Canadian Association for American Studies/ACCUTE

American Landscapes

Organizer: Jason Haslam,  
Dalhousie University

Submissions to  
[jason.haslam@dal.ca](mailto:jason.haslam@dal.ca)

Canadian Literature Centre - Centre de littérature canadienne, University of Alberta/Association for



# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

Canadian and Quebec Literatures- L'Association des littératures canadiennes et québécoises/ACCUTE

Women's Writing in Canada

Organizers: Marie Carrière, University of Alberta, and Cecily Devereux, University of Alberta

Submissions to [carriere@ualberta.ca](mailto:carriere@ualberta.ca) and [cecily.devereux@ualberta.ca](mailto:cecily.devereux@ualberta.ca)

Christianity and Literature Study Group/ACCUTE

Topics: Various

Organizers: David Kent, Centennial College, and Margo Swiss, York University

Submissions to [dkent@centennialcollege.ca](mailto:dkent@centennialcollege.ca) and [mswiss@yorku.ca](mailto:mswiss@yorku.ca)

International Gothic Association/ACCUTE

Gothic "Closets"

Organizer: Carol Margaret Davison, University of Windsor

Submissions to [cdavison@uwindsor.ca](mailto:cdavison@uwindsor.ca)

Margaret Atwood Society/ACCUTE

Margaret Atwood and the Environment

Organizer: Tomoko Kuribayashi, University of Wisconsin (Stevens Point)

Submissions to [tkuribayashi@uwsp.edu](mailto:tkuribayashi@uwsp.edu)

Margaret Atwood Society/ACCUTE

Margaret Atwood's Poetry and Poetics

Organizer: Lynda Hall, University of Calgary

Submissions to [lhall@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lhall@ucalgary.ca)

North American Society for the Study of Romanticism/ACCUTE

Rogue Romanticism

Organizer: Paul Keen, Carleton University

Submissions to [paul\\_keen@carleton.ca](mailto:paul_keen@carleton.ca)

North American Victoria Studies Association/ACCUTE

Victorian Health

Organizer: Keith Wilson, University of Ottawa

Submissions to [kgwilson@uottawa.ca](mailto:kgwilson@uottawa.ca)

Ottawa Carleton Medieval and Renaissance Society/ACCUTE

Medieval and Early-Modern Fundamentalisms

Organizers: Robin Norris, Carleton University, and Andrew Taylor, University of Ottawa

Submissions to [robin\\_norris@carleton.ca](mailto:robin_norris@carleton.ca)

Ottawa/Carleton Medieval and Renaissance Society/ACCUTE

Intersections of Gender and Genre

Organizers: Robin Norris, Carleton University, and Andrew Taylor, University of Ottawa

Submissions to [robin\\_norris@carleton.ca](mailto:robin_norris@carleton.ca)

Society for Digital Humanities  
Digital Humanities:  
Expanding Textualities

Organizers: Richard Cunningham, Acadia University, and Ray Siemens, University of Victoria

Submissions to [richard.cunningham@acadiiau.ca](mailto:richard.cunningham@acadiiau.ca) and [siemens@uvic.ca](mailto:siemens@uvic.ca)

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

Victorian Studies  
Association of  
Ontario/ACCUTE

Submissions to  
[bolus@utsc.utoronto.ca](mailto:bolus@utsc.utoronto.ca)

Organizer: Kristen Guest,  
University of Northern British  
Columbia

Looking Backward:  
Victorian Futures

Victorian Studies  
Association of Western  
Canada/ACCUTE

Submissions to  
[kguest@unb.ca](mailto:kguest@unb.ca)

Organizer: Christine Bolus-  
Reichert, University of  
Toronto

Victorian Science and  
Technology

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CACE/ACCUTE HIRING SURVEY

Once again this year, CACE (the Canadian Association of Chairs of English) and ACCUTE are indebted to Dan O'Donnell (Lethbridge) for his work in organizing and compiling the annual survey of hiring and graduate enrolments in Canada. It is also through Dan's efforts that the survey is now on-line (rather than in a print format), more flexible, and easier to use.

While the space restrictions of this issue of the Newsletter preclude publication of the survey in its entirety (and some of the statistics, on enrolments for example, are primarily of interest to administrators, who will already have access to them), here is a digest of the findings of immediate concern to most ACCUTE members, extracted from the fuller report that Dan O'Donnell presented to CACE in May:

The **Average Pool** in competitive searches was 44.5 (largest 146; smallest 2).

The **Gender Distribution** for tenure-track hires was **46% female** and **54% male** (compare to 65:35 in 2005-06).

For CLTA positions the ratio was **71% female** and **29% male**.

The **Citizenship** of tenure-track hires was **80% Canadian** and **20% non-Canadian** (compare to 74:26 in 2006-07).

The **Origin of Highest Degree** of tenure-track hires was 46% Canadian and 54% non-Canadian (compare to 50: 50 for 2004-05 and 58:42 for 2005-06.) For entry-level positions, the ratio was 55% Canadian and 45% non-Canadian. For CLTA positions this year, the ratio was 75% Canadian degrees and 25% non-Canadian.

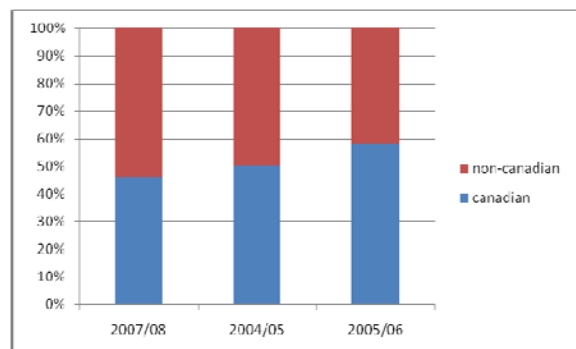


Fig. 1 Origin of Highest Degree of Tenure Track Hires

Members of ACCUTE are reminded that the survey is unable to gather information on **“Race”/Ethnicity or Aboriginal/First Nations Status** of hires because of university confidentiality provisions, and in some cases provincial legislation, affecting a number of institutions.

The ACCUTE annual survey began with a concern raised by graduate students and sessionals at the AGM, that hiring committees were favouring non-Canadian degrees. (“Looking for a Canadian with a Stanford PhD,” was the way it was worded then.) This year, Canadian degrees have slipped below parity, and while the overall picture may be somewhat brighter (the survey reflects only what was gathered from reporting departments), this is a disheartening trend. Much needs to be done to raise awareness of the general quality and specific, innovative

strengths of Canadian graduate programs, even amongst ourselves, or so it seems.

2009 marks the 10-year anniversary of the hiring survey, and since the first report was

## SESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Dear Fellow Sessional Labourers in the Academic Market,

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank Tobi Kozakewich for all her hard work over these last two years. In between all her many duties (we all know what the sessional life is like!), she organized a conference panel; drummed up papers; and supported colleagues who had been unfairly blocked from applying for SSHRC standard grants – thank you, Tobi.

As a contract employee, I have very strong feelings about the direction hiring has taken in English studies over the last decade. My concerns can be distilled into two main areas:

also retrospective, we now have twenty years of statistics available to members of the profession. This is an opportune moment for CACE and ACCUTE to continue discussions about the purpose and practicalities of the survey already underway. Should there be a continuing location or server? Can we adjust the survey to better gauge the impact of new retirement legislation; the result of changing timetables for hiring (as job ads for budgetary or other reasons now appear throughout the year); and to measure the degree of redistribution of academic labour from tenured to non-tenured positions?

If you have thoughts on these and other hiring issues, and on the survey itself, please get in touch with your comments.

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

1. Based on the 2006-2007 hiring survey by CACE/ACCUTE, contract faculty currently comprises almost half of all newly hired faculty members. There are hiring freezes in a number of universities across the country, yet the ads for sessional and limited term faculty are consistently circulated, indicating a need for faculty. Is the tenure system slowly eroding?
2. Contract faculty requires equal pay and opportunity for equal work. Per class and limited term appointment faculty produce research, go to conferences, and teach core courses. We are an integral, indispensable part of English departments, yet we are offered few (if any) opportunities for tenure track promotion, discouraged from seeking research funding, and, at worst, treated like second class citizens in our respective departments and universities. I am aware that most full time faculty and administrators sympathize with the plight of contract faculty. There is no one to blame directly, but the problem is pervasive and will have wide-ranging, negative effects on English departments.

What is the solution? A solution is not forthcoming in the near future, but I have a few suggestions for action that I will put forward on the ACCUTE sessional listserv. Once I get feedback from you, I will move forward from there. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sarahumphreys@trentu.ca](mailto:sarahumphreys@trentu.ca).

I look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

Sara Humphreys

Trent University LTA

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2008-09 CAUT ALMANAC**

The CAUT (Canadian Association of University Teachers) statistical survey of higher education in Canada has just

appeared in the most recent issue of the *CAUT Bulletin*. While many of the numbers are aggregated into larger categories (Humanities, for example), the report also contains some discipline-specific figures that will be of interest to ACCUTE members.

# ACCUTE Newsletter

---

(And that make graduate student representative Michael Brisbois's proposed session on "Mandatory Retirement," and the concerns raised by sessional representative Sara Humphrey in this issue of the newsletter, appear particularly timely.)

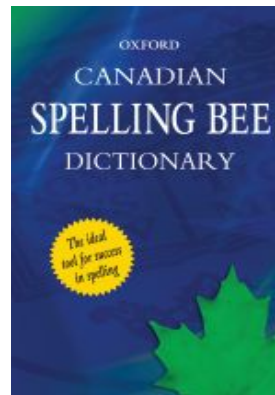
These figures are based for the most part on the 2006 Census, and on 2007 Statistics Canada data. Note that Stats Can collects data for "full-time appointments" and does not break down the full-time category into tenure track and non-tenure track employment. The full-time category includes lectureships, contractually-limited appointments, and other forms of non-tenured full-time teaching.

The report shows a marked **Age Distribution**: of full-time faculty members in English, more than one-third (33.6%) are aged 55 or over. This makes English the third most "senior" discipline, more-or-less tied for that place with History. (Classics has a higher percentage, and French marginally so.) By contrast, 0.7% of the full-time faculty complement is under 30 and 6.8% is between 30 and 34. **The Gender Distribution** of the 87 new **Full-time Appointments** in 2005-06 is 48.3% male and 51.7% percent female. (Compare this to the **Graduate Enrolment** figure of 36.7%

male and 63.3% female doctoral enrolment.)

**Faculty Gender Distribution** is 68.1% male to 31.8% male to female in the full professor group. The ratio is 28.1% male to 71.9% female at the assistant level.

The almanac also provides discipline-specific figures on faculty salaries in English; and on graduate enrolments. (It does not provide salary information, or other demographic information, for "part-time" and stipendiary instructors.) The survey is available on the CAUT website at [www.caut.ca](http://www.caut.ca), and print copies may also be obtained.



## FROM THE ACCUTE ARCHIVES

In a time when humanists must constantly remind government bodies to keep us in view, it is consoling to recall moments when policy bodies sought our opinions and

## ACCUTE Newsletter

---

expertise. But such was the case in 1960, when the Canadian Conference on Education – an educational ‘think tank’ established in 1956 by the Canadian Teachers’ Federation and other organizations -- approached both ACUTE (then lacking its second “C” ), and the Canadian Linguistic Association, to seek guidance on a topic that may seem curious in hindsight, but was topical at the time. The issue was “spelling reform,” and the Conference needed an informed and balanced view. “Spelling reform” is for most of us an obscurely Shavian demand, to be classed along with nut cutlets and healthful Liberty woollen underdrawers, although Canadians might think of it in terms of Noah Websterian simplification, involving interminable arguments as to whether “colour” should have a “u.” But the movement for spelling reform enjoyed a revival after the Second World War, with its claims to greater efficiency in achieving

Professor C. Dean (Queen’s University); Professor W.S. Avis (Royal Military College); Mr. D. Hamilton (Toronto); and Professor J.M. Stedmond (Queen’s University) were the four men who composed the committee, with Professor Dean in the chair; and their geographic clustering presumably reflects the need for face-to-face meetings in the pre-electronic

mass literacy, and its hopes that simplified English could ease communications in a newly-globalized world. By the mid-1960s more than a thousand elementary schools in the United Kingdom were using the phonetically-based Initial Teaching Alphabet (ITA) for reading instruction. At the same time, the estate of the late George Bernard Shaw was conducting a long-running international competition for the design of a radically new “Shavian” alphabet. In Canada, a Torontonion named Ernest B. Roberts was promoting his own “Spell-Rid-Ryt” [spell-read-write] system which purportedly achieved a more rational spelling without the introduction of new orthographic symbols. (This was “an urgent and vital after-war economy,” as he advertised on the cover of his pamphlets.) There were many other contenders, and the two learned societies were asked to weigh their merits, and to judge the worth of the initiative overall.

academic world. It took the committee two years to produce its twenty-two page report, and their research, and their adjudication were thorough. Some Arguments For and Against Reformed Spelling (Kingston Ont.: Canadian Conference on Education, 1962) is, as its title indicates, a balanced and somewhat colourless publication, with an emphasis on

phonemic technicalities. The committee found it necessary to restrict the focus of its examination, and after providing a brief history of English spelling, and presenting the general cases both for, and against, spelling reform in neatly numbered points, they examined the two most plausible available schemes: the “New Spelling” advocated by the Simplified Spelling Society in England; and the “Augmented Roman Alphabet,” another name by which the ITA was known. A progress report was provided on the Shavian competition, then at the semi-final stage.

The committee members intended to remain neutral, but the report has a certain slant. The case “against” occupies twice as much space as the affirmative view and is presented with greater detail and verve. (As literary scholars, they expressed a special concern that a reformed spelling could make older texts obsolete.) A concluding “note” on implementation foresees severe barriers to the imposition of society-wide linguistic reform; and wonders about the wisdom of Canada undertaking any sort of initiative if the rest of the English-speaking world does not. The report does, however, suggest that the ITA could be tried insofar as it could be used to teach children to read—the term “initial” was always stressed by ITA proponents – and if it did gain a gradual acceptance, a sort of spelling reform would be the result. Reading between the lines: it may be that the communications the committee received from Professor John Downing of the

University of London Institute of Education—Downing was the main architect of the teacher-training programs for ITA instruction—tipped the balance here. Whether or not that is the case, the combined committees’ report seems to have played some role in smoothing the way for the ITA in Canada. In 1964, Downing gave an influential address to Vancouver teachers and educational administrators, and forty elementary classes in Vancouver commenced this new system, with more to be added soon. An international conference of ITA educators was held at McGill in 1967; and Downing moved to Canada in 1970s to take up a position at the University of Victoria, and continued to promote the system. While respectful of the literary and linguistic status quo, the representatives of ACCUTE and the Canadian Linguistic Association did lend their authority, albeit subtly, to the cause of educational reform.

**Calls for Papers • Publications**

## Reconciling Canada:

### Historical Injustices and the Contemporary Culture of Redress

Contributions are invited to the first essay collection to critically analyze and put into dialogue the diverse cases of apology and reparations in Canada. Official gestures of contrition and commemoration have multiplied

and accelerated since the 1988 federal apology for the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II. Some fraught and faltering, some strategic, these gestures reveal the emergence of a complex culture of redress in Canada that is profoundly re-writing official history and re-shaping the contours of national memory. These acts of contrition raise questions about symbolic and performative politics, possibilities and impossibilities of coalitions, hegemonic and counter-hegemonic notions of history and responsibility, public cultures of pain and atonement, connections between identity and injury, and encounters between different cultural logics.

*Reconciling Canada* will make a number of important critical interventions. First, the collection will analyze reconciliation in the particular national context of Canada, as it is shaped by the relations between redress movements, by national myths and ideologies, and by intersections with global processes. Second, the focus will move beyond the actions of the state and its apparatuses to consider a heterogeneous field of actors: Aboriginal and diasporic constituencies, other advocacy groups for minority rights, churches and religious institutions, educational institutions, the media, and cultural producers, to name a few. Third, the collection will frame the culture of reconciliation as a multi-layered and shifting phenomenon that involves not only the machinery of political and legislative institutions but also the intimate, affective, embodied, and gendered dynamics of injury and 'healing,' injustice and reparation. Finally, *Reconciling Canada* will highlight interdisciplinary methodologies as well as approaches that attend to the work performed by various kinds of texts: official documents, fiction and film narratives, media reportage, representations in visual art, museum exhibits, commemorative installations, etc. The collection will also include appendices that reprint key legislation, archival resistance documents, and the text of official government apologies as well as responses from Aboriginal

and diasporic advocacy groups, never before published together.

We invite essays that contribute cutting-edge research into reconciliation in relation to (but not limited to) the following areas:

The State, Citizenship, and Multicultural Civility; Law and Social Justice; Institutions and Discourses of Religion, Spirituality, Health, and Healing; The Intimate Sphere: Bodies, Senses, Affect, Gender, Sexuality, the Family; Diasporic and Aboriginal Redress Movements: Intersections, Coalitions, Conflicts; Local-National-Global Intersections; Reconciliation as Heritage Industry

Please send 750 - 1,000 word proposals in electronic format to Jennifer Henderson ([jennifer\\_henderson@carleton.ca](mailto:jennifer_henderson@carleton.ca)) and Pauline Wakeham ([pwakeham@uwo.ca](mailto:pwakeham@uwo.ca)) by November 1st, 2008. Subsequent 5,000 - 8,000 word essays will be due on July 1, 2009.

Please send us your Membership News for the next issue. The deadline for submission is November 1st.



