
The CAFAD Newsletter

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Message from the Chair

Many thanks to all those members who offered advice and editorial assistance with the letter to Dr. Chad Gaffield, President of SSHRC. We are attaching his letter of response for your information in this issue of the newsletter. A small team (**Catherine Wild**, Concordia University; **Louise Dandurand**, Vice-President Research, Concordia University and I) is planning to meet with Dr. Gaffield in early April to continue lobbying for the Research/Creation program. We will continue to update you and request your input.

The 2008-09 Federal Budget contained no surprises for those in the arts and culture sector. The government did not mention the \$30 million it had added to the base budget of the Canada Council for the Arts. Post-secondary education and advanced research received \$419 million; some of this may reach university-based artists and creators. We need to continue lobbying local, provincial and national governments for more funding for the arts. Strong lobbying across the country can make a difference!

On that note, the Conservative government's proposed censorship program for films receiving tax credits is worrisome to say the least. This tax manoeuvre could have a potentially serious impact on Canadian cinema in general, Canadian film festivals and film studies programs in post-secondary institutions across Canada. In today's *Globe and Mail*, (March 3, 2008) Paul McEwan writes, "Canadian cinema, particularly in English Canada, is almost exclusively an art cinema, and shares art cinema's fascination with the forbidden and the challenging. ... As for any concern that Canadian taxpayers are underwriting pornography, such films are already ineligible for tax credits." Groups are organizing in cities across the country to send their concerns to Ottawa, and I urge you to join those groups in your respective cities and communities.

In December 2007, **Ann Calvert** (U. Calgary), **Ron Burnett** (Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design) and I attended the 3rd European League of Institutes of the Arts Leadership Symposium in Hong Kong. The symposium is created specifically for the needs and interests of key decision makers in fine arts institutions. This past year's theme revolved around "*Building Cultural Software*," that is the development of creative and resourceful people. The symposium combined keynote presentations and facilitated group sessions with cultural events highlighting the best that Hong Kong has to offer. Of particular interest was Charles Handy's presentation entitled, "Life is Art, and Vice Versa." Handy is the author of *The New Philanthropists* and argued, in his presentation, that the new accepted route into management of any kind should be through the arts academies.

The ELIA symposia and conferences are well worth attending and provide a broad and very international perspective on issues in the fine arts. They also afford incredible opportunities for networking!

Thank you all for your informative and inspiring submissions. It is truly refreshing to see the contributions all our colleagues are making to the Canadian cultural and artistic fabric!

Best wishes from Regina!

Sheila Petty, CAFAD Chair
Dean of Fine Arts, University of Regina

Cafad Symposium and AGM

The dates for this year's CAFAD meetings are October 3 & 4, 2008, hosted jointly by NSCAD University and Dalhousie. As per discussions at the 2007 meetings, please consider bringing an associate with you this year.

Letter from Dr. Chad Gaffield

Dear Dr. Petty,

Thank you for your letter of January 14, 2008. I greatly appreciate your enthusiastic support – and that of the members of the Canadian Association of Fine Arts Deans (CAFAD) – for the Research/Creation in Fine Arts program. I particularly appreciate your observations on the structural impacts of the program on research activity, student training and interdisciplinary collaboration at the university/college level.

I should take the opportunity, in fact, to thank CAFAD and its membership for the guidance it has provided to the Research/Creation program as it has evolved over the past few years. It has been invaluable to have CAFAD as an effective sounding board and as a steady source of critical advice.

In terms of next steps, our plan is to consider the Research/Creation program alongside other programs for possible funding in FY 2008-09. As you note, an external consultant has completed an evaluation of the program, and we have developed a management response that will serve to guide follow-up on the evaluation's recommendations. The evaluation will be made available on SSHRC's Web site this spring.

Gisèle Yasmeen, Vice-President, Partnerships, would be delighted to meet with you and CAFAD members to discuss the approaches to ongoing investment in research/creation. Please contact her office at 613-947-6938 to see if we can arrange a time when you are next in Ottawa.

Than you again for input and commitment.

Dr. Chad Gaffield, President,

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

MAILING LIST UPDATE

Please let Mary Hughes know if you'd like to be removed from the mailing list, or if there is any other change to be made. Names may be added to the mailing list, either for an e-copy or a paper copy. Email: maryhughes@saltspring.com

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

Members of CAFAD who would like a copy of the current email list may contact maryhughes@saltspring.com

Wilfrid Laurier University Music

The Ontario government is providing \$3 million to help renovate and improve Laurier's Faculty of Music facilities in the university's John Aird Centre. The funding will help expand the music facilities, enlarge and enhance the rehearsal and teaching space, upgrade equipment and make improvements to the Aird building, which was built in 1988.

The announcement was made on February 20 by John Milloy, Ontario's minister for Training, Colleges and Universities and the MPP for Kitchener Centre at a news conference in the foyer of Laurier's Maureen Forrester Recital Hall.

"Minister Milloy and his colleagues in government clearly see the importance of investments in the post-secondary sector to enable us to renew our institutions and to meet the strong demand for spaces," said Laurier president Dr. Max Blouw. "This investment will complement funds that have been provided by our generous donors to enable Laurier to complete critical renovations for the Faculty of Music."

"We are absolutely thrilled that the government is offering this support," Dr. Charles Morrison, Dean of the Music Faculty, said of the investment. "Our 20-year-old building is in serious need of upgrading. Originally built to house the Faculty of Music on the first three floors, the building's upper two floors have no soundproofing at all. With the additional two floors we will be able to reconfigure space into more teaching studios and rehearsal halls, but the overall renovation will also allow for more offices, better clustering of programmatic elements, and some much-needed tweaking of the heating and air conditioning. In the end, I am hoping to have a facility whose quality is appropriate to the high quality students we attract, the programs we offer, and the graduates we turn out."

UBC Okanagan Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies

The College of Graduate Studies at the University of British Columbia Okanagan will confer its very first Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies, Master of Fine Arts degree on Ila Crawford this summer. Ms. Crawford, a member of the Visual Arts faculty at Thompson Rivers University, entered the Interdisciplinary MFA program with the goal of combining her interests in Studio Art (printmaking and installation) and Women's Studies. Her work is an exploration into imagery and art making that resists and subverts the patriarchal paradigms that have existed throughout history. Her objective is to address the issues of equality and gender without perpetuating the myth of women as victims. She successfully defended her written thesis, entitled "Feminisms in Visual Art," and gallery presentation on February 4 at the FINA Gallery on the UBCO campus.

The Faculty is awaiting final approval of a new degree, the BFA in Creative Studies: Performance which focuses on devised theatre. Devising is an interdisciplinary and intercultural approach to artistic creativity that draws from a wide variety of world performance traditions including theatre, dance, music, visual art, circus, story-telling, folklore and ritual. The BFA in Creative Studies: Performance will be a unique degree, combining historical, theoretical and studio practice in the areas of Performance Theatre, Creative Writing and Visual Art. Because the program promotes cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural connections it will provide students with the opportunity to explore performance-based practices and theoretical discourse across disciplinary categories and cultural boundaries.

The inaugural issue of *LAKE: A Journal of Arts and Environment* was published in January. The new arts and literary journal is housed in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies at UBC Okanagan and is co-edited by creative writing professors **Sharon Thesen** and **Nancy Holmes** with visual arts editing duties shared by professors **Gary Pearson** and **Briar Craig**. It is expected to become a significant forum for writers and artists working in the area of nature-related thought and creation.

University of Saskatchewan

Music News

The Department of Music now offers an 18 credit unit minor in Jazz Studies, open to students of any discipline in the College of Arts and Science. Related courses include Jazz Materials (jazz theory), Jazz Improvisation, Jazz History, Jazz Pedagogy, Jazz Arranging, African Drumming, and Jazz Ensemble.

Prof. Kathleen Solose gave a lecture-recital at the French Music Conference in Hawaii on Debussy's *Études* and their relationship with Symbolist poetry.

Dr. Glen Gillis will perform at the 2008 North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference in South Carolina, presenting an original composition 'Sonata' for saxophone and didgeridoo, with guest artist Dr. James Cunningham (Florida Atlantic University).

Department Head **Prof. Dean McNeill** performed a classical trumpet recital at the Western Canadian Music Awards with musical collaborator/pianist **Bonnie Nicholson**. McNeill recently completed a CD entitled 'Mélange', which showcases classical and jazz compositions by western Canadian composers. Musical collaborators include classical pianist Bonnie Nicholson, recent 2007 Juno-winning jazz pianist Jon Ballantyne, and western Canadian composers David Kaplan, David McIntyre, Elizabeth Raum, and Allan Gilliland.

In 2007 the Department hosted a conference honoring Dr. Murray Adaskin. Coordinated by faculty member **Dr. Walter Kreyszig**, the conference was a tribute to the late Murray Adaskin, professor emeritus, past department head, and composer-in-residence at the University of Saskatchewan for many years.

Dr. Garry Gable toured China, presenting recitals and master classes at the Tianjin and Wuhan Conservatories of Music.

Brian Unverricht's article "The Care and Feeding of Young Trombonists" has been selected for publication in *Canadian Winds*, the journal of the Canadian Band Association.

Fine Art Notes

Alison Norlen's *Notes and Sketches for "Edifice"* (2006, pen and blue ink and blue wash on white wove paper, 25.3 x 22.8 cm) has been purchased by The National Gallery of Canada.

Susan Shantz: canopy, an exhibition catalogue that documents an installation by Department Head (Art and Art History) **Susan Shantz** has been published by the Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon. It includes an essay on her work by art historian and author John K. Grande entitled "Nature in Parentheses: Between Creation & Manufacture."

Dr. Mary Longman, an art historian and professional artist, has joined the faculty of the Department of Art and Art History as an Associate Professor. Dr. Longman received an MFA from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and a PhD in art education from the University of Victoria. She has exhibited in many galleries, including the Museum of Civilization, The National Gallery of Canada, Vancouver Art Gallery and the Smithsonian Institute of American Indian Art in New York. Dr. Longman is also curator and writer for the 2009 *Nlaka'Pamux* exhibit at the Kamloops Art Gallery.

University of Alberta

Professor **Liz Ingram** has been awarded the 2008 University of Alberta Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research. Ingram's work is technically complex, emotionally nuanced, and intellectually engaging. Her layered images are visual texts, concerned with delicate transitions in human ecology, the body's physical and psychological fragility, and the human experience. She explores such themes as the delicate balance in nature that is upset by human activity. The most prestigious research award available at the University of Alberta, the Kaplan Award acknowledges Ingram's investigations into print-making and the expansion of that medium into digital terrain. A ceremony honoring her achievement will be held at the University of March 11.

Position Available

The University of Alberta invites applications for a position in Theatrical Direction. The Dept. of Drama is particularly interested in adding expertise in one or more of the following areas: interdisciplinary and cross-cultural performance, extended performance styles, contemporary approaches to performing classical theatre texts, image-based theatre, and original theatrical creation. Application deadline: April 10, 2008. For details on each position see: www.ualberta.ca/drama/jobs.cfm or telephone (780) 492-2274



New Graduate Programs in Fine Arts at York

Building on well-established programs at the Master's level, doctoral programs in Visual Arts and in Art History and Visual Culture will welcome their first students in September. The PhD in Visual Arts is premised on practice-based research, culminating in a significant solo exhibition, accompanied by a research paper. The PhD in Art History and Visual Culture offers four fields of specialization: Canadian and Aboriginal art, Curatorial and Museological Studies, Architectural Studies, and Modern and Contemporary Art.

Also opening in fall 2008 is a new MFA in Dance, complementing the department's MA program in dance history, ethnology and criticism. The MFA program will allow students to conduct studio-based research in contemporary choreography and dance dramaturgy, developing their directorial and dramaturgical roles in the creative process and production of theatrical choreography.

Pending OCGS approval, the Dept. of Dance will also launch a PhD in Dance Studies – the first such program in Canada – in two fields: Dance Ethnography and Cultural Research, and Dance History and Heritage Studies. The program will prepare dance scholars for academic careers in universities and colleges, as well as careers in areas such as archival and museum work, curatorial practice, arts administration, government, education, journalism, publishing and the media.

The Dept. of Film aims to expand its graduate-level offerings with a PhD in Cinema and Media Studies (likewise pending OCGS approval). The program is premised on the understanding that cinema includes a multitude of media forms, from film and photography to computers, cell phones and augmented reality. Three fields of study will be offered: Cinema and Cultural Theory, Cross-cultural Cinema and Globalization, and Cinema and Technologies of the Image.

Other innovative developments are a stand-alone Graduate Diploma in the Teaching of Movement for Theatre, and a Specialized Honours BA in Digital Media. Offered jointly by Fine Arts and Faculty of Science & Engineering, the new BA builds on York's interdisciplinary strengths, offering students the opportunity to engage with contemporary digital culture from both arts and science perspectives.

Simon Fraser University

Contemporary Arts on the Move

SFU Contemporary Arts is gearing up to move down from Burnaby Mountain and into the much-anticipated Woodward's redevelopment project in downtown Vancouver.

In late 2007, the BC government announced funding of \$49.5 million to establish SFU Contemporary Arts as the anchor tenant in the mixed-use complex currently under construction along the 100-block of West Hastings Street. The school is raising an additional \$30 million towards the project.

In its new downtown location, SFU Contemporary Arts will be at the centre of Vancouver's lively cultural scene and a magnet for visitors from around the world. The new location includes multiple theatres, screening rooms, galleries and studios and will welcome as many of 5,000 arts enthusiasts to various events throughout the year.

SFU Contemporary Arts has a 30-year track record as a national training school for interdisciplinary arts, and offers degree programs in art and culture studies, dance, film, music, theatre, and visual arts. For more information about SFU Contemporary Arts at Woodward's, visit www.sfu.ca/sca.

Communication & Design at Ryerson University

In February, the Faculty of Communication & Design welcomed filmmaker **Jason Reitman** as a distinguished speaker in the FCAD Dean's Lecture Series. Reitman, best known for his feature films *Thank You for Smoking* and *Juno* arrived fresh from the Oscars and the Independent Spirit Awards in California. Speaking candidly on filmmaking and the challenges of the filmmaking industry, Reitman made a lasting impression on the captivated audience of students and faculty.

On March 5th, **President Sheldon Levy** unveiled the design concept for the new Ryerson Photography Gallery and Research Centre. The 1,860 square metre Centre is part of an expansion and redesign

of the existing School of Image Arts and will house the world-renowned Black Star Historical Black & White Photography Collection as well as providing support to the graduate programs in Documentary Media and Photographic Preservation and Collections Management. An additional 1,200 square metres will also provide study and academic space. The building, to be re-clad in glass, will provide a glowing beacon both for the Ryerson campus and the downtown community. Construction is slated to begin in fall 2008. It will be the first building under construction since the launch of Ryerson's Master Plan.

Director and cinematographer **Michel Brault** visited Ryerson's School of Image Arts in February as a special artist-in-residence within the School's graduate program in Documentary Media. In addition to viewing a number of his classic films, students in graduate and undergraduate film programs had an opportunity to meet both in a classroom setting and individually with Brault.

As part of their final year practicum project, five students from the School of Radio and Television Arts worked with the Canadian Football League (CFL) to produce a series of twelve shorts highlighting behind the scenes footage at the Grey Cup. The series *Inside the Grey Cup* began airing at www.CFL.ca on March 1st, with a trailer also appearing on www.YouTube.com/cfl.

Two Radio and Television Arts alumni are the proud recipients of the Order of Canada for their lifetime achievement in the arts. **Carol Gay Bell** (RTA'57), artistic director / general manager for the youth theatre company Saskatchewan Express and teacher of performing arts to youth aged 5 - 19, was recognized for her work both as a youth leader and art director. **Richard B. Wright** (RTA'59), best known for his award-winning novel *Clara Callan*, was recognized for his contributions to Canadian literature.

CAFAD Data Project Updated

At the October meetings, members agreed to extend the deadline for receiving more contributions to the Data Project. The document has been revised, and I would be happy to send a copy of it, as a PDF file, to any institution who participated. MH

Grant MacEwan College

With the approval process for a Bachelor of Music completed, it will only be a matter of time before students can finish their four-year degrees entirely at the college. MacEwan's Bachelor of Music has gone through Alberta Quality Council review and has received approval from the Minister. Negotiations are now underway to obtain funding for the degree.

While the rationale for MacEwan's move to degree-granting status varies from program to program, in music it was due in large part to the overwhelming demand from the students themselves. **Denise Roy**, Dean of the Centre for the Arts and Communications, says MacEwan also pursued a Music degree because of the need for higher credentials, and the uniqueness of MacEwan's programming. "The majority of Canadian universities that offer Music degrees only have the option to major in classical music. MacEwan is one of the few schools in Canada that focuses on jazz and contemporary popular music," she said. "In the highly competitive world of music, further education is crucial for a successful career."

MacEwan's Music diploma currently offers students the opportunity to specialize in performance, composition, or recording. Because many students come back to the college to complete more than one stream in the program, news of the degree will indeed be music to their ears.

In response to the demand for higher credentials in the communications field, the Centre for the Arts and Communications has also commenced development of a Bachelor of Communication Studies degree. The degree would offer majors in writing and journalism. The college currently offers a Journalism diploma program and a Bachelor of Applied Communications in Professional Writing.

Message to Members

If you or your staff are not getting regular reminders about newsletter deadlines, please let me know at maryhughes@saltspring.com.

University of Windsor

School of Dramatic Art

The School of Dramatic Art welcomes **Ellen Lauren** and **J. Ed Araiza** of New York's Saratoga International Theater Institute (SITI) for a two-week intensive workshop in May on the Suzuki method and Viewpoints technique. Students will create their own original works by applying these methods.

Professor **Erica Stevens Abbitt** won the Women and Theatre Program Distinguished Service Award, for her outstanding work with the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE).

Professor **Bernie Warren** is the Editor of the recently released *Using the Creative Arts in Therapy and Healthcare*, Routledge, Third Edition.

Lionel Walsh, Director of the School of Dramatic, has taken on a six-month term as Acting Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Previous Director of the School, **Diana Mady Kelly**, returns as Acting Director.

School of Music

The Music Therapy Centre and the Hospice of Windsor & Essex County Inc. opened the new Music Therapy Satellite Site at Hospice in March. **Dr. Sandra L. Curtis**, Co-ordinator of the Music Therapy Programme, outlined the new children's and family programs offered and recognized the major donors Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada, and Transition to Betterness, who made it possible.

Amy Clements-Cortes presented at the American Music Therapy Conference on the role of music therapy and songwriting in end of life care in November and she also presented at Baycrest Centre in Toronto on Using Music to Cope with Stress.

Lucanne Magill, was awarded the 2007 Professional Practice Award from the American Music Therapy Association for her outstanding achievements. She was recognized for her more than three decades of clinical practice in music therapy in providing innovative care to cancer and palliative care patients and families, as well as her long-time work as a clinical educator and researcher.

School of Visual Arts

As the recipient of the 2007 York Wilson Endowment Award, The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia purchased works from Professor **Iain Baxter**

Along the Great Lakes and Landscape with Sea Boats from his series of Television Works.

Professor **David Blatherwick's** exhibition entitled *Cheese, Worms and Holes in Everything* (organized by the Art Gallery of Windsor) was at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa, until March 9.

Professor **Susan Gold/Smith's** Applied Science solo mixed media installation was on view at Artcite Inc. early in 2008. She will also participate in Windsor's *Media City* experimental film festival by distributing buttons and wearable art for festival goers.

Professors **Sigi Torinus** and **Julie Sando** collaborated with Professor **Brent Lee** of the School of Music for two separate performances. *Rose City Variations* - an Electric Improv Lab performance featured Prof. Torinus improvising video projections and *The New Music Workshop*, featured student artists from Sando's Contemporary Visual Culture class parading through the concert hall carrying artistic protest signs.

Concordia University

Concordia University Research Fellowships have been awarded to two members of the Fine Arts faculty: **Raymonde April** (Associate Professor, Studio Arts) and **Erin Manning** (Assistant Professor, Cinema and Studio Arts), in the established and emerging categories respectively. Raymonde recently returned from a residency in China for the production of new work and has been short-listed for the Art Gallery of Ontario's (AGO) Grange Prize. Erin has published three books since joining Concordia in 2004 and has just signed a contract with MIT press for a series of four books.

At Quebec's recent Opus Awards honouring the province's best musicians, Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal and its artistic director, **Christopher Jackson** (Associate Professor, Music) won the early-music award for a concert last June presented as part of the Montreal Baroque Festival.

Professor **Mario Falsetto** (Cinema) has published a *Dialogues with Independent Filmmakers*, published by Praeger Publishers. Using the interview format, he takes an in-depth look at the work and creative process of nine British and American contemporary filmmakers.

Cinema Chair **Peter Rist** served on the jury of the Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran in February. He was the only academic on the panel for Asian films, which included work from Vietnam, Korea, China, Iraq and Iran.

Maciek Szczerbowski, (BFA 94, Design for the Theatre) received an Oscar nomination for his animated short film *Madame Tutli-Putli*. Maciek joins an impressive list of Concordia alumni and faculty who have been nominated for or won an Academy Award.

Yung Chang (BFA 99, Film Production) made his U.S. debut with his film *Up the Yangtze* at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in January. The film won Best Canadian Documentary at the Vancouver International Film Festival and was voted one of the Toronto International Film Festival's "10 Best Canadian films." **Dan Cross** (Assistant Professor, Cinema) is the film's associate producer.

Studio Arts student **Ari Bayuaji** secured honours for Canada at an international student award competition, the Danfoss ArtAward, winning the Bronze prize valued at approximately \$3,000.

Concordia Fine Arts students took over every available exhibition and performance space on and around campus earlier this month for their annual signature event, **Art Matters**. The largest student-run arts festival in Canada, Art Matters 2008 featured the work of more than 200 student artists, curators and performers in over 30 exhibits and performances across Montreal.

Carleton Contributes

Jill Carrick and **Ruth Phillips** presented papers recently at the 2008 CIHA (International Committee of the History of Art) conference in Melbourne Australia.

Jill Carrick's was entitled "*Topographies of Chance: Tracing the 'Contemporary' in 1960's France*". Ruth Phillips was entitled "*The Travels of a Mi'kmaq Coat: A Nineteenth Century World Art History and a Twenty-first Century Role for CIHA*".

Don Wright Faculty of Music at the University of Western Ontario



Finnish choral sensation Rajaton will be artists-in-residence at the Don Wright Faculty of Music in April 2008. They will give workshops on vocal technique, style and Finnish music for UWO and local secondary school students, teachers and community choir directors. The three-day session culminates in a gala concert with all the Faculty's choirs and Rajaton.

The Finnish word Rajaton translates as "boundless" – and that's precisely the word to describe the way this vocal ensemble approaches music. The six-piece a cappella group has performed around the world at concert halls, churches, and jazz festivals. Singing everything from traditional choral music, to jazz, world, rock and pop, the group has an impressive list of awards (their latest recording *Maa* won a double platinum in November 2007) and massive fan base around the world.

Soprano **Essi Wuorela** visited the Faculty in January to work with vocal students. "With a background in television, a teaching certificate from the prestigious Sibelius Academy, an established solo and recording career, all the while maintaining her 10-year membership in Rajaton, Essi Wuorela is a shining example of diversity – and exciting possibility!", said vocal teacher and choral conductor **Jennifer Moir**.

Rajaton is also a great ambassador for commissioning and performing new music. The group will work with Western's composition and songwriting students and will perform two commissioned works by Western alumni, **Jeff Smallman** and **Sarah Quartel**. Smallman has written several pieces for Rajaton in the past. "It's insane what they can sing," said Smallman "Comfortably, they have at least four octaves, but each one sings beyond what is considered a normal range, so there is an overlap."

Moir said these workshops and performances "show the student-centred learning environment" at Western. By including local school students and teachers, community choirs and directors, it also shows the Faculty's strong commitment to community

Dalhousie Music

Jennifer Bain has a book review appearing soon in *Speculum*, the journal of the Medieval Academy of America, and in April is presenting a paper, "Domesticity and the Conception of Mary in the Salzinnes Antiphonal," at *Breaking Boundaries, Forging Connections: Feminist Interdisciplinary Theory and Practice*, sponsored by the Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies at Mount Saint Vincent University.

The Dalhousie University Opera Workshop presented *Die Fledermaus, Act II* and other Romantic Scenes this past January to ecstatic audiences. Dalhousie's annual Concerto Night featured concerti by Rachmaninoff, Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Dvorak as well as selected operatic arias.

Pianist **Lynn Stodola** performed with cellist Susan Salm in a concert titled "*Brahms – his genius and influence*" featuring Brahms' two cello sonatas and the two sets of *Fantasie Pieces* written by Brahms' student, Robert Fuchs. The concerts took place on the Cathedral Arts Series (Burlington, Vermont) and at the Austria Cultural Forum in New York City.

Report from Regina

On March 5th **Dr. Charity Marsh**, Canada Research Chair in Interactive Media and Performance, hosted *Pink Noises: Gender and Absence in Electronic Music and DJ Cultures*, the first event in The Flatland Scratch Seminar/Workshop Series II. Guest artist Tara Rodgers (aka Analog Tara) presented the seminar and workshop which addressed topics of inclusion/exclusion, accessibility, and strategies for countering the lack of and the kinds of representations of women in the discourses surrounding electronic music and DJ cultures. The workshop explored aspects of House and Techno production using drum machines, synthesizers and MPC sequencers as well as editing and mixing electro-acoustic music in Pro-Tools.

Canadian composer **Dr. Omar Daniel** presented the Faculty of Fine Arts 2008 Riddell Lecture in February. In his talk, "*Composing for voice: the challenges of text setting in 21st century concert music*," Daniel offered his view on the interrelationship between music and words in contemporary music, with examples from his compositions.

Dean Sheila Petty's new book, *Contact Zones: Memory, Origin and Discourses in Black Diasporic Cinema* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2008) was launched by the Humanities Research Institute on February 26th.

Canadian clarinetist **Dr. Jean-Guy Boisvert** visited the University on January 25th as the first Lois and Thomas Glenn Visiting Artist in Music. Dr. Boisvert presented a recital of recently composed works for clarinet and electronic sounds and held a clarinet master class on the standard clarinet repertoire. The Visiting Artist project was endowed by Mrs. Muriel Glenn who, with her late husband, Gale Glenn, was a long-time benefactor of young southern Saskatchewan musicians when she lived in Moose Jaw. Computerized and electronic sound technology for the recital was provided by Charles Fox (Media Production and Studies) and Dr. Alain Perron (Music).

Acadia University

The Department of English continued its Authors @ Acadia series with a reading by **JR Carpenter**, poet, fiction and hypertext web artist in February, followed in March by a lecture by **Ian Storey** on JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis. **Anne Simpson**, poet, read from her newest work earlier in the term.



Susann Hudson joined the Theatre Studies program this fall as Technical Director, replacing **William Zimmerman** who has gone on to new adventures. Susann has previously worked with the Acadia Theatre Company as lighting designer.

The Company had a successful run of Noel Coward's *Fallen Angels* in January. Audiences and company members agreed that a little Noel Coward was a perfect antidote to the January blahs. The play was directed by Theatre Studies professor **Anna Migliarisi** and featured a "best dressed" contest for the audience with tickets to the next show as prizes.

The March play is Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, a dark comedy directed by **Robert Seale**. In April, students of the Company will write, direct, stage and act in a selection of original one-act plays when they present the annual Minifest.

Emily Carr Institute

Western Economic Diversification has awarded funding to the Institute in the amount of \$490,000 to purchase state-of-the-art equipment linking research at the Institute with BC's new media, creative arts and design industries.

Professor **Sam Carter**, in collaboration with Arts Umbrella, Save the Children Canada, and the 2008 Cultural Olympiad curated an exhibition in the Concourse Gallery featuring the work of 75 young artists ranging in age from 6-16, selected and mentored by alumni of ECI as an official event of the 2008 Cultural Olympiad.

Glen Lowry has been awarded a research grant from SSHRC President's Fund Initiative to study the outcomes of the pilot project for the Research/Creation Grants in Fine Arts program.

Forage by **Rita Wong** has just been published by Harbour Publishing (Nightwood Editions). This collection of poems eloquently comments on the current international political landscape and the injustices it breeds.

Marian Penner Bancroft's solo exhibition *HUMAN NATURE (Alberta, Friesland, Suffolk)* opens on March 15 at Republic Gallery in Vancouver, and includes a series of colour photographs of regional lands and waterways historically central to commerce in the fur trade or in farming.

Deborah Koenker's *Missing/Las Desaparecidas* installation is the culmination of three years of work by the artist in collaboration with residents of the small town of Tapalpa, Jalisco, Mexico, and is a tribute to the hundreds of missing and murdered women and girls in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua City. The exhibition opens on April 26 at the Richmond Art Gallery.

A solo exhibition of recent works by painting faculty **Elizabeth McIntosh** opens May 3rd at The Balmoral Gallery in Los Angeles.

Interviews with Northrop Frye Volume 24 edited by Jean O'Grady and published by U of T Press will be available in April 2008 and features an interview and photograph by **Deborah Shackleton**.

Kelly Phillips' solo exhibition *Runes From a Northern Highway* opens in June 2008 at the Definitely Superior Gallery in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

University of Lethbridge

Farewell to Good Friends

After 10 years in the position, **Dr. Ches Skinner** concludes his final term as the Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts this spring. Ches led the Faculty through a phase of dramatic growth where the Faculty grew by more than 50%, while the University as a whole only expanded by 26% over the same time. He also supervised the addition of a new department and degree -- BFA in New Media and has been working on the addition of MFA degrees in all departments.

Ches was active in international recruitment and had a special relationship with Malaysia, where he helped to negotiate exchange agreement with several Universities. Although busy with the administration, Ches always considered the students his most important job and regularly directed theatre productions, the last being *To Kill a Mockingbird* in March. After some well deserved time off, Ches plans to accept a visiting scholar (theatre) position at University Technology Malaysia.

Music Faculty Retires

After more than 25 years in the Dept. of Music, **Dr. George Evelyn**, internationally recognized bass-baritone and choral conductor, is retiring this spring. An active promoter of choral music across Canada, Evelyn was recognized by the Alberta Choral Federation with a "Con Spirito Award" for promotion of choral music locally and the Richard S. Eaton Award for outstanding service to choral music in Alberta.

In 2003 he was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal for service to Country and Community. Evelyn's video series "*Gestures*," received a National Choral Award by the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors as the most outstanding choral publication in 1999. The U of L Singers, which Evelyn founded in 1982, has become a well-recognized choral ensemble, locally, and nationally and has three CDs to its credit.

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CAFAD Newsletter

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