President’s Message
Steven Bruhm

This issue of the ACCUTE Newsletter is one of the longest ever to reach you because it’s also one of the most important. Reporting on various developments at the Conference in Saskatoon, I want to bring you up to date on some major changes and to provide you with reasons for those changes. The good news, which I must emphasize from the outset, is that such changes are coming out of ACCUTE’s remarkable health and vitality. So, while change always produces collywobbles, especially for an association’s officers, it also signals that we are moving forward in exciting ways.

From all reports, Congress 2007 in Saskatoon was a success. We had extremely good papers put together in inventive sessions that were well attended. Delegates were willing to forego Saskatoon’s brilliant sunshine to listen to papers and to engage in spirited dialogue. Professor Chip Tucker of the University of Virginia delivered an exquisite plenary on Victorian paranoia and Robert Browning, while Linda Hutcheon, Gary Bortolotti (Biology, U Sask) and Gordon McOuat (Contemporary Studies, King’s College, Dal) packed the house with a multi-media plenary panel on adaptation as scientific/literary process. The social activities came off even better than we had planned: Bashkatoon, ESC’s fourth annual celebration, packed the house at Lydia’s; the dance party ran one and one half hours later than was scheduled because people wouldn’t get off the dance floor; and your humble servant totally disgraced himself in his role as Cheshire Cat at the Alice in Wonderland Croquet Match, while a rather frisky white rabbit (aka Noreen Golfman, President of the Federation) attempted to besiege his “vartue.” (Said vartue remained intact, I’m happy to report.)

Overall a fine energy marked our meetings this year, and for that I thank all those people, from ACCUTE Officers and Executive to our U of Saskatchewan people on the ground: Doug Thorpe, U Sask’s department chair, Paul Bidwell, Congress Co-Convenor and master-mind between the Croquet Match, and especially Lisa Vargo, our tireless Local Events...
Coordinator who took care of so many dreary administrative details. Thanks also to our plenary speakers and presenters, and all those others committed to making the most of the Congress experience.

Congress 2007 also saw an extensive changing of the guard in ACCUTE executive. Eric Savoy finished his three-year term as member at large and has been replaced by Stephen Guy-Bray of the University of British Columbia. Richard Cassidy stepped down as president of the Graduate Student Caucus and was replaced by Erin Wunker from the University of Calgary. Douglas Kneale finished his stint as president of CACE, making way for the new president, Susan Rudy of Calgary, to join us ex officio at the table. Jo-Ann Wallace has completed her term as editor of *English Studies in Canada*, and has handed the reins to Michael O’Driscoll, her erstwhile Associate Editor. Katherine Acheson remains on the executive as member at large, but turns over her duties as chair of the Professional Concerns Committee to Stephen Guy-Bray. And finally, we say good bye to Keith Wilson, past president of ACCUTE, who finished his term in absentia at the May meetings. My thanks to all these folks for their wisdom and dedication, as well as their ability not to fall asleep at executive meetings following parties.

The departure of the past president means the welcoming of the president-elect, and it is my great pleasure to announce her: the executive has secured Heather Murray of the University of Toronto to serve as president following the 2008 Congress.

Heather needs no introduction to members of ACCUTE: we know she will bring an elegance and careful leadership style to the job. Our thanks to Brian Corman, Chair of English at U of T, for helping to broker Heather’s course relief and other necessary resources, and our thanks to the lucky soul whom Heather will lure into acting...
President’s Message, continued

as Secretary-Treasurer. But mostly, thanks to Heather herself for agreeing to take on the position. The first task facing the president of ACCUTE is to start finding his or her successor, and I’m delighted that Heather made my job so easy.

This marks the end of the more celebratory part of my column for this newsletter. Now it’s time to move on to the more complex matters of business as they arose from Executive discussions and the Annual General Meeting. Specifically, these matters have to do with ACCUTE fees, both in the amount we all pay for membership and in the formula by which that amount is calculated. Long and careful deliberations at Congress have produced major changes in this area, changes that are premised on our relationship to English Studies in Canada. So, before I discuss those changes, I’m going to pause, get myself a coffee, and call on Jo-Ann Wallace and Michael O’Driscoll to present their report on ESC. If you’re of a mind, you can pick me up on the other side of that report—and please do, as important matters await.

ESC Report
Jo-Ann Wallace

This has been an extremely active year for ESC, and it has also been a year in which the very terrain of journal publishing continues to change and evolve at what feels like a constantly accelerating pace. In what follows, I will outline the nature of some of these changes—together with the ways that we are meeting the challenges and opportunities they pose—but I first want to review some of ESC’s accomplishments during the reporting year.

Our most important task was to begin catching up on our publication schedule. With the help of our new typesetter, Sylvia Vance, we published five issues since Congress 2006 (the last of these, 31.4, is on its way from the printer to the mailing service and should be in your mailbox shortly after you read this report), including our 30th anniversary issue and the special issue on “Interiors” guest-edited by Peter Schwenger.

We published our first inter(re)view and posted our first podcast, hosted by Clive C. Lively (check it out at http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~esc/). We worked with ProjectMuse to prepare the groundwork for ESC’s appearance on that database (all of volume 30 should be posted shortly), and we recently welcomed five new members to our Editorial Advisory Board: Julia Emberley (University of Western Ontario), Uzoma Esonwanne (University of Toronto), Jon Kertzer (University of Calgary), Nicola Nixon (Concordia University), and Imre Szeman (McMaster University).

And we continued to monitor developments in the Open Access (OA) movement. Many readers of this report will be familiar with the principles of OA. For those who aren’t, the most basic principle is that scholarship—and especially publicly funded research and scholarship—should be openly available to anyone with access to the web. The nature of the scholarship and its adjudication (e.g., blind peer-reviewing) doesn’t change under OA, but the means by which it is disseminated does. In order to be Open Access, a journal must publish electronically (though it can also produce a print version) and it must not charge for access to its articles. A brief article by Linda Hutcheon...
ESC Report, continued


It is difficult to disagree with the basic principle of Open Access to research. Open Access would make scholarship available not only to the general population (whose taxes support much of our research) and to smaller universities and colleges (whose smaller library budgets limit the number of books and periodicals they can buy), but to whole populations whose national economies cannot sustain the rising costs of print and of periodical subscriptions. Open Access models also serve the scholars who publish in such venues by bringing their work to a much wider readership. It is for these reasons that Open Access to research is supported in principle by the CFHSS and the SSHRC. But it is also clear that moving to an Open Access environment will profoundly change the business models by which journals operate.

This year SSHRC postponed its normal triennial Aid to Research and Transfer Journals competition in order to run a one-year trial Aid to Open-Access Research Journals competition and to develop new program guidelines for all journals. The funding formula for OA journals provides some indication of the kinds of changes that SSHRC might be considering as it develops its new guidelines for all journals. The new OA formula is more straightforward than the old guidelines for print journals and it uses the article as its base unit. Essentially, SSHRC will provide $850 per refereed article that the journal proposes to publish in the year. The $850 is understood to be the cost of producing “first copy”—these costs include referees’ fees (a practice in some social sciences), typesetting fees, staff salaries, software, etc. In this competition, OA journals may also apply for (up to) an additional $5000 to cover costs like hosting fees on servers.

To put this in some context, ESC has just received its current annual SSHRC subvention of $7840. We published a total of 20 refereed articles in volume 31. At $850 per article under the OA formula, we would be eligible to receive a subvention of $17,000. Let me hasten to add that ESC is not an OA journal and is therefore not eligible for this competition, but everything we have heard through the grapevine suggests that SSHRC is thinking about “first copy” as a possible funding model for the revamped triennial program. It is almost certain that SSHRC will limit funding to “first copy” costs and will expect associations and subscribers to pick up more of the costs of dissemination. In the case of print journals like ESC, these are the very heavy costs of printing and mailing and, as we indicate below, they comprise almost the total budget for ESC.

The editorial team at ESC has been trying to anticipate some of the changes that the OA movement will bring to the field of journal publishing and to lay the groundwork for the possibility that ESC may one day (by choice or by requirement) become an Open Access publication. We have established a greater electronic presence for the journal which also increases the range of dissemination. We currently have a presence on three major aggregators with a fourth pending: EBSCO, ProQuest, ProjectMuse, and Gale (pending). These will eventually generate income for the journal but, since the income is based on a combination of content and “hits,” it is not yet clear just how much money our presence on these aggregators will generate. We anticipate that it will offset the ongoing decline in individual library subscriptions for journals generally.
After consulting with our Editorial Advisory Board, we also recently signed an agreement with the University of Alberta Library, an agreement that takes ESC into the Open Journals System (OJS). Developed at Simon Fraser University from Open Source software, OJS is both an electronic journal management system and an OA publication system. Once our journal is up and running on OJS, subscribers and contributors will notice a couple of changes. The first is that every stage of ESC’s management of articles—from submission to refereeing to editing—will be handled electronically. The second is that ESC will be openly available with a two issue rolling wall; that is, the most current two issues will be available only in print and only to subscribers. We decided to move to OJS now because, on the initiative of two young librarians, the University of Alberta Library is willing to underwrite the costs of this system (even after the journal leaves our university).

Finally, ESC is also making increased use of its website, ESC Digital (url appears above), to achieve a greater electronic presence. As I indicated above, we have started to produce what we think is the first ever journal podcast, and we will be making greater use of the website to post material that supplements some of the articles or readers’ forums that appear in ESC.

The implications of Open Access embrace more than journal publishing, though that is our primary concern. For example, there will almost certainly be a greater requirement by publicly funded granting councils that researchers deposit the results of their research in openly accessible “institutional repositories.” Many researchers will also want to post their published articles on their own websites. In anticipation of this (we have had only a trickle of permission requests so far), our Editorial Advisory Board has just approved a “greener” contract which leaves more rights in the hands of our authors (we still retain rights with regard to reprinting for commercial purposes).

At this point, readers might be asking themselves why ESC doesn’t simply adopt an electronic only, completely Open Access format now. The answer is that we have too little information on the implications of turning a traditional print journal into an Open Access electronic journal. We don’t know, for example, what such a move would mean for ACCUTE, our sponsoring association. We also need a better sense of what revenues we can anticipate generating through aggregators like ProjectMuse and a better sense of what new guidelines SSHRC will institute in the 2008 funding competition. For these reasons, and others, we believe that ESC must continue to appear in print while we continue to monitor developments. However, maintaining print puts impossible pressures on our current budget.

ESC Report, continued

ESC Budgetary Matters
Mike O’Driscoll

At the 2007 ACCUTE Annual General Meeting, ESC: English Studies in Canada reported on its current financial situation, and brought to the attention of the membership the fact that the journal is currently facing dire circumstances. The journal’s projected budget, based on extrapolations from 2006-07 fiscal figures, demonstrates an anticipated shortfall of $25,000 in the coming year if the journal continues at its full production rate (see table below) and continues to offer a print-based publication to its membership.

While this seems quite dismal, in fact our financial woes are largely due to what we’re calling “the price of success.” Since 2004 (the year of our last financial negotiation with the Association), our mailouts to ACCUTE members have risen from 704 to 1063. Those 359 new mailings are each funded by the Association at a rate of $10.00 per volume, while the production cost of each volume is $46.56 per mailing, resulting in an annual shortfall of just over $13,000 dollars. Furthermore,
the cost of postage, printing, and paper have all risen in the past three years, presumably at least at the rate of inflation (and the cost of paper has certainly risen more quickly than that); because ACCUTE’s subvention to the journal is not indexed, inflation costs represent an annual increase of approximately $2,400 over our 2004 expenditures. Finally, ESC’s initial attempt to produce the journal entirely in-house has become untenable, given workload issues for all of our volunteer editorial team members. In order to maintain production schedules, we have (as noted above) hired a typesetter at a cost of $2,500 per issue, or $10,000 per volume, an initiative that has met with demonstrable success. The total cost of the changes named here is just over $26,000, or approximately the same figure as our anticipated shortfall for the coming year.

The question posed, then, to the AGM was how ESC might best address this shortfall. Given that printing and mailing costs represent more than eighty per cent of the journal’s expenditures (see table below), one option might be to move to digital, online production only. The other option is to increase ACCUTE’s subvention by an average of $25.00 per member, producing an annual influx of cash slightly in excess of the anticipated $25,000 shortfall. This would increase the average cost per member for a volume of the journal from $10.00 to $35.00, or approximately seventy-five per cent of our production costs. Note that the resulting figure is quite close to the cost of printing and mailing: effectively, this means that members would be paying for a reasonable share of the cost of receiving print copies of the journal—something that, to repeat, our other major funding body, SSHRC, is becoming increasingly reluctant to underwrite.

Recognizing that, in its current state, the journal is not financially viable and will not, without the increased support of ACCUTE’s membership, be able to continue producing print copy, a member from the floor proposed an increase in ACCUTE fees that would be equitably distributed amongst the membership according to income levels. The motion received widespread support, and ESC responded by agreeing to maintain print production until at least the end of the next SSHRC funding cycle in 2011. We anticipate that, in the meantime, pressure will increase from SSHRC to move towards full Open Access status, and that the journal’s commitment to print production will need to be reviewed at that time.
### ESC Projected Budget
2007 – 2008 (Volume 32.1-4)

#### Projected Income

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<td>Subscriptions (down 5 from previous year)</td>
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**Total Income** = $35,481.00

#### Projected Expenditures

A: Pre-production, or “first copy” costs (17.4 % of total expenditures)

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<td>Typesetting ($2,500.00 X 4 issues)</td>
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**Total “first copy” costs** = $10,540.00

B: Printing and mailing costs (82.6 % of total expenditures)

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<td>Mailing ($3,500 X 4 issues)</td>
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**Total printing and mailing costs** = $50,000.00

**Total Expenditures** = $60,540.00

**BUDGET DEFICIT** = $25,059.00
ESC Managing Editor’s Report
Cecily Devereux

In the 2006-07 academic year, ESC published five issues: 30.4 (the 30th anniversary issue) and the whole of volume 31 (2005): 31.1, the special issue on “Interiors,” guest-edited by Peter Schwenger; 31.2/3 mailed out to ACCUTE subscribers in April 2007; and 31.4 while should be in the mail by the time this newsletter is published. We are also well into our next volume year: 32.1, a special issue on “Guilt,” guest-edited by Joel Faflak, is assembled and will be forthcoming early in the fall term; 32.2/3 is complete and in the process of being typeset. Its publication later in 2007 will bring ESC very close to the alignment of the publication year and the volume year.

As has been the case for the past five years, submissions to ESC have been steady but not numerous. From May 2006 to May 2007, and not including the special issue (submissions for which are handled by the guest editor), ESC received 25 submissions. For a journal with a large subscription base and an increasingly broad readership through online access, this number is very low. Given the journal’s acceptance rate of approximately 25%, it is clear that more submissions are needed. All members of ACCUTE are encouraged to send their work to ESC. This journal is the major forum in Canada for scholars in the discipline; it looks great; it has superb writing in its readers’ forums, article, inter(re)views, book reviews, and review articles; more than 200 libraries hold subscriptions to ESC and it is available online through ProjectMuse, EBSCO, ProQuest, and soon Gale and OJS. Work published in ESC has an increasingly global readership.

The processing time for submissions remains steady at an average of six months (from submission to decision), with some papers moving more quickly and others more slowly, particularly in those cases where a third reader is required. This year, as in other years, the majority of our submissions have been in the area of Canadian literature, followed by Modernism, Victorian, Postcolonial, Early Modern, and Women’s/Gender/Sexuality Studies. All of the Early Modern submissions this year focused on drama. Half the Canadian submissions considered poetry.

Acknowledgements
Jo-Ann Wallace

This is the last Editor’s report that I will be presenting to the ACCUTE membership. Next year’s report will be presented wholly by ESC’s extremely capable and energetic new Editor, and a co-author of this report, Michael O’Driscoll.

I can’t let this occasion pass without expressing my gratitude to a number of people, not least the ACCUTE Presidents to whom I have reported—Neil Besner, Keith Wilson, and Steven Bruhm—all of whom have been passionately committed to the well-being of the journal. I also want to thank the editors and managers with whom I have worked over the last five years: Brad Bucknell, Kris Calhoun, Cecily Devereux, Christine Ferguson, Robert Merrett, Michael O’Driscoll, Harvey Quamen, Mark Simpson, Cheryl Suzack, Sylvia Vance and Robert Wilson. Their energy and creativity made the work fun.

PRIESTLEY PRIZE AWARD

The Priestley Prize is awarded by ACCUTE for the best essay (including review-essay) published in English Studies in Canada in a given year. The winner of this year’s prize (for volume 31) is Jennifer Blair’s essay “Surface Interiorities: Representing the Quebec Convent,” from the special issue on “Interiors” edited by Peter Schwenger. Deftly combining verbal and visual analysis, Jennifer Blair surveys architectural, discursive, and photographic representations of a space that might at first glance appear to be all interior: the space of the cloister. If the cloister is indeed all interior and inward-focussed, how might that interior be represented, and how might that interiority affect the representation of an exterior that is (on the face of things) all there is to see? This consideration expands to a contemplation of the interdependent and shifting relationship of “interior” and “exterior” things. Not only a wonderful paper in its own right, “Surface Interiorities” also represents the exciting new interdisciplinary work that is finding its own space in the pages of ESC.

- Stephen Guy-Bray, Heather Murray (chair), Stephen Slemon
President’s Message, continued

With ESC’s financial and publication information in hand, the Executive had a full and frank discussion on how best to handle our commitment to the journal in ways that will not threaten the financial stability of ACCUTE itself. Discussions among the Executive and at the AGM produced the following principles:

• the membership recognizes that ESC is an integral part of our identity as Canadian scholars of English, and we are committed to maintaining its health;
• the membership recognizes that while exclusively digital publishing is probably the way of the future, we value the hard-copy text as an object (books being why many of us are in the business we are in);
• the membership recognizes that increasing costs in publication and dissemination, along with increased membership numbers in ACCUTE, have resulted in an untenable financial position for our journal, one that needs direct and effective intervention in the form of increasing our subvention to the journal;
• that increase in subvention must be on the order of an average of $25 per member per volume;
• this financial intervention must occur sooner rather than later, as ESC is currently drawing on the reserve fund to finance the journal, and that reserve fund risks total depletion within a year;
• ACCUTE members are not willing for graduate students and low-income members to sustain financial hardship in order to belong to the association, and so must remain relatively unaffected by changes in fees; and
• consequently, it is time for ACCUTE to adopt a graduated fee structure along the lines of the MLA and other large associations, where fees are scaled to members’ incomes rather than to their rank or job status.

Clearly, it was beyond the abilities of the AGM to produce a fee structure on the spot, nor can we “workshop” this matter for a year and bring it back to the AGM in 2008. So, the AGM has mandated the ACCUTE Office to produce a number of options for membership fee structure, and then to work in consultation with the Executive to institute these new fees in a timely fashion. In so doing, we ask for your support and your trust that we are doing everything possible to integrate the immediate need for money with the recognition that no one wants massive hikes in their membership fees. What will be the case, we can say at this point, is that fees for low-income members will face minimal increase, while fees for the established professoriate will address the lion’s share of our needs.

To that end, Karen Macfarlane and I are busily preparing three possible fee tables based on current membership numbers, what the association needs to remain solvent, and what comparable academic associations charge their members. We intend to put these tables forward to the Executive, which will decide the most appropriate one to adopt, and to determine what is a reasonable timeline for instituting changes for all of you. Needless to say, we will keep you informed via email about our plan of action. Ultimately, my hope is that the association can help the journal to stabilize its financial situation in such a way that ESC can continue to push its boundaries and to increase its international reputation as a top-flight journal. In so doing, the journal will be well placed to enter completely the digital age (in whatever form that is going to take). As a consequence, the membership of ACCUTE itself is bound to grow.

A final note: Jo-Ann Wallace closed off her report above with her characteristic modesty and generous acknowledgement of her colleagues. On behalf of all members of ACCUTE, I want to thank her publicly and enthusiastically for her work on English Studies in Canada. Her vision and dedication have made a good journal even better, and we all owe her a debt of gratitude.
The issue of on-line membership renewal is still on our radar. In fact, I spent some time at the Congress talking with the executives of other organizations who use (or have used and cancelled) some of the services that we’ve looked into. These conversations have given us a clearer idea of the advantages and disadvantages, the glitches and the necessary alternations to our own administrative practice that we will encounter as we negotiate to set up online registration for ACCUTE. As always, we’ll keep you posted!

Finally, I think that Steven, Jo-Ann and Michael have covered the question of membership dues and the reasons for the mandated increase in their reports. We will be circulating some proposed models for fee changes to the executive shortly and should be able to provide the membership with the new fee structure as well as the timing on the changes very soon.

**ACCUTE Membership**

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## ACCUTE Financial Report

### REVENUE

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### EXPENDITURES

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<td>Other</td>
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### NET BALANCE

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<td><strong>NET BALANCE</strong></td>
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1. This figure includes both the 2005 SSHRC Travel grant for $13,493.00 and the 2004 SSHRC travel balance of $1,294.50 transferred from the University of Winnipeg.
2. This figure comprises a $3500.00 equip grant from the University of Ottawa Dean’s office, and $41.40 from the Canadian Copyright Agency.
3. Received from the Canadian Copyright Agency.
4. Includes CETA & CLSG and BMO interest.
5. Travel and lodging for executive, Congress 2005.
7. Travel and accommodation for 2005 Congress plenary speakers.
8. Includes $203.27 office supplies and $363.48 photocopying.
11. Invoice received from CFHSS for two cancelled 2004 registrations.
12. BMO service charges.
This is my last report as ACCUTE representative to CFHSS, the ACCUTE President, Steven Bruhm, having kindly agreed to take on this role in addition to the other work that he does on the Association’s behalf -- for which, many thanks to him!

Sabbatical commitments prevented my being at the March meetings of the CFHSS Board of Directors, so I have little to report beyond what many of you will already have seen at the CFHSS web-site (http://fedcan.ca/english/pdf/publications/BoardSummary_mar07_en.pdf).

The following is a brief summary of the major items.

Discussion of the implications of the move towards the principle of open access for scholarly journals continues apace, under the direction of Jean-Claude Guédon, Federation Vice-President for Research Dissemination. The CFHSS Open Access Committee (OAC) identified in its recent meetings three priority areas: response to a SSHRC proposal for a one-year program for Open Access journals, the importance of digitization, and the need to assist journals in making their individual transitions to what will have to be quite different business models for the future of scholarly journals to be assured. With these major changes will come challenges, economic and otherwise, and CFHSS is fully committed to assisting journals in any way that they can. The full report on the OAC’s meetings is available at the Federation website.

The Board of Directors ratified the changing of the name of the "Women's and Equity Issues" portfolio to simply "Equity Issues," thereby signalling the need to give equal emphasis to all issues of equity and diversity rather than seeming to privilege those that relate specifically to women.

The Sub-Committee on Research Ethics and Scholarly Integrity presented a draft document on student plagiarism to the Board, for subsequent distribution to association presidents.

The Board has ratified the awarding of the 2010 Congress to Concordia University, the 2011 Congress jointly to the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, and the 2012 Congress jointly to the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University.

Irene Sullivan, Director of Administration and Human Resources, retired in June after 18 years of service with the Federation. Much as she has earned her retirement, Irene will be sadly missed at the Federation. Always unfailingly helpful, cheerful, and efficient, she has been a limitless source of administrative and financial acumen, intelligence, and good humour from which all scholarly associations have benefited enormously. We all wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

During the last four years in which I have represented ACCUTE at CFHSS, I have not only been very impressed with the outstanding calibre of its staff but also increasingly aware of the centrality of the Federation to the health of the Humanities research community, and hence of the country at large. As I leave this role, I urge all ACCUTE members to make full use of CFHSS resources and to play as active a role as possible in the Federation’s activities.
The Canadian Association of Chairs of English (CACE) is a national organization representing university and college departments of English across Canada. With 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.

This year in Saskatoon, CACE had an excellent turnout, with thirty-two departments represented from coast to coast. Our program included four sessions: (i) graduate student enrolment expansion; (ii) internationalization and interdisciplinarity; (iii) processes of assessment for promotion and merit; and (iv) benchmarks and performance indicators. For the first session, Eleanor Ty (Wilfrid Laurier), Mark Fortier (Guelph), and Kevin McGuirk (Waterloo) presented the view from Ontario on the challenges facing departments and programs in recruiting increased numbers of MA and PhD students; it was clear that the graduate expansion initiative is by no means limited to Ontario, and it was helpful to compare notes across the country on solutions to recurrent issues, practical as well as ethical, in the recruitment, admission, and placement of graduate students. Next, the very current topics of internationalization and interdisciplinarity -- signifiers that in many institutions are driving curriculum, hiring, and research funding -- were explored by Cameron Louis (Regina), Gernot Wieland (UBC), and Paul Yachnin (McGill) in the context of the increasing demand for English as a second or an additional language; examples of successful international student and faculty exchanges; and effective approaches to interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and collaborative research. The session on on P&T, presented by Susan Rudy (Calgary), Judith Leggatt (Lakehead), and Patricia Rigg (Acadia), revealed a range of different mechanisms, practices, and expectations in promotion and tenure reviews. Despite the evolutionary shifting of the bar for P&T, what seems to remain constant, however, is the stress of the process (for both department chair and candidate). Our final session of the day began with presentations by Brian Corman (Toronto) and Julia Creet (York) on a topic that goes by various names -- benchmarks, performance indicators, public accountability, NSSE, rubrics, or metrics (and we’re not talking trochaic tetrameter) -- but that inevitably means the articulation of specific goals or outcomes (whether in research or in teaching) and the measurement of how well the scholar or instructor has succeeded in achieving those goals. Some institutions are farther along the benchmarks path than others, and have already formulated guidelines to measure learning outcomes, student engagement, or research success in certain programs, while other departments are still in denial or resistance mode. The meeting then moved into small group discussion to compare understandings of what the emphasis on performance indicators might mean for departments of English. It was a full day of profitable and collegial discussion. My thanks to all our presenters.

In other business, Douglas Kneale (Western) finished his term as CACE President and Susan Rudy (Calgary) assumed that office; Eleanor Ty (Wilfrid Laurier) was elected Vice-President, to succeed Susan Rudy in 2008. Cameron Louis (Regina) and Heather Jones (North Atlantic) continue as Secretary-Treasurer and Member-at-Large, respectively, while Steven Bruhm (Mount St. Vincent) carries on as ACCUTE President aboard the CACE executive, or just generally carries on.
CACE, continued

Hiring Survey

As part of its mandate, CACE conducts an annual survey of hiring in English departments across Canada. This year, CACE made the bold move to electronic collection of data for its hiring survey. As with some bold moves (and with most electronic initiatives), it takes longer than expected to get things right, and as a result we are, at this time of writing, still posting the data. Some departments didn’t report their hiring figures, some reported only partial numbers, and others experienced the inevitable computer glitch. We are following up to fill in the blanks.

When complete, the data will be posted in a public access area on our new website at http://www.chairsofenglish.ca/. We encourage ACCUTE members to visit that site to see the results of this year’s hiring survey and also information about graduate student placement and faculty complement by department. We expect in future that this web-based method of having departments report their hiring data will speed up the process and allow for easier periodic updates to the figures. We also plan to post academic vacancies in departments of English on this site.

Thanks to Dan O’Donnell (Lethbridge) for his work in getting us up and running at http://www.chairsofenglish.ca/.

It has been a pleasure serving as President of CACE this year. My thanks to the other members of the executive for their assistance and fellowship.

Professional Concerns Committee Report

Kathy Acheson

The professional concerns committee received no direct expression of professional concerns this year. Through Tobi, we were alerted to the issue of inconsistent and possibly unfair SSHRC-eligibility criteria, and informally participated in her polling with regard to that. We fielded a call for papers for three sessions at the annual conference, and received one submission and one expression of interest (from Linda Hutcheon). We have been able to put together one panel on graduate student professionalization which includes three graduate students and two senior faculty members and is co-sponsored by the Graduate Student Caucus.

One matter that was discussed this year with the members of the committee was the lack of response to professional concerns outreach, mainly the call for papers. There is no consensus on the reason for this, although there is a general sense that structural features of the profession at this point in time make it less pressing or perhaps less suitable for people to articulate problems.

My own sense is that there are many issues that the professional concerns committee could deal with that are new (e.g., increasing pressure for research-intensity, and an accompanying stratification within the established professoriate according to the levels of individual research productivity; the intensification of the crisis in scholarly publishing, and the advent of new forms of publication and intellectual ownership; digital media and copyright; increasing regional differences and the development of new and more numerous forms of educational institution; and so on) but the membership has not come to us as the place for airing views and concerns about them. It may be that the committee and even ACCUTE no longer needs to take a leadership role in this area, and that people are able to work on these questions elsewhere. It may be that the conditions of our work are changing so rapidly that we have no time to reflect before we deal with a new crisis or opportunity. It may be that the profession is more polarized than ever, between the abjected sessional and graduate student population, and the over-worked humanities research-professor. It may be something as simple as this: there’s more money for graduate studies now than there used to be, so some of the pressures that fuelled the PCC in the past are just not as powerful as they once were. Whatever the cause, my two years as chair of the PCC have been quiet ones.

The place of the sessional representative on the PCC committee was also a topic of some discussion. As I’ve said elsewhere, the sessional caucus needs to decide what the role of the sessional rep is, and whether or not it is advantageous for the sessional rep to continue as a member of the PC.
As those of you who were present can attest, Congress 2007 represented another invigorating and informative gathering of ACCUTE members. Of particular relevance to sessional members were the discussions that occurred during the sessional caucus meeting and the AGM.

While still a small gathering, the sessional caucus meeting saw a 400% increase (over last year) in the number of members present and provided me with some ideas on how best to capitalize on the remaining year of my tenure. In particular, my current mandate will include approaching the Salary Surveys Officer at the National Research Council and the CAUT to determine the range of salaries sessionals receive across the country in an attempt to shed light on the range of responsibilities and remuneration scales sessionals in Canada currently face. Rather than further dividing an already tenuous grouping, I will undertake this information-gathering in order to clarify the specific needs and concerns that we, as sessionals, share.

This process will only be facilitated by the feedback I receive from my constituents, so I am strongly reiterating my earlier invitation for you to contact me (by email, at kozakewich@rogers.com) if you have any comments you would like me to circulate on your behalf, or any questions or avenues you think I could profitably pursue (including possible topics that a sessional panel at Congress 2008 could address). Considering that, according to figures circulated at Congress, sessionals and underwaged academics now account for almost 20% of ACCUTE members, we are poised to command much more space and attention than we hitherto have done. With this prospect before us, and following on the model so successfully employed by the GSC, I am also strongly encouraging you to contact me about the possibility of becoming an ACCUTE sessional campus representative. The amount of work such a position would entail is minimal; the good it could do, immeasurable.

In terms of ACCUTE’s AGM, I am happy to report that discussions regarding an increase in membership fees to offset an increased subvention to ESC resulted in a renewed understanding of the economic hierarchy that obtains in academia, and of sessionals’ low station on that scale. Repeatedly, faculty members from the floor expressed concern about the way an increase in fees could effect underwaged academics, ultimately mandating the Executive to recalibrate membership fees on a graduated scale.

By way of conclusion, I simply want to say that, on leaving both the Executive meetings and the AGM in Saskatoon, my sense was that we have a sympathetic audience with the ACCUTE membership. Let’s capitalize on those sympathies, air our grievances, and work together to redress the ghettoization of contract academics.
GSC President’s Report
Richard Cassidy

Given the disparity between the number of students at Congress (40% of participants are students) and the relatively small number able to attend the GSC meeting, as well as the disparity between the importance of the annual GSC survey (which we failed to produce a final report of this year) and the relatively small number of students involved in its production, we are glad to announce that the size of the executive has doubled.

Having spent the year sitting in on ACCUTE executive conversations and meetings as VicePresident, Erin Wunker (Calgary) is now well prepared to take over as acting President of the GSC and as grad student rep both to the ACCUTE executive and the PCC. Email Erin at eewunker@ucalgary.ca with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Michael Brisebois (Calgary) has agreed to take up the position of VP in waiting. Judith Anderson (Alberta) remains as secretary and webmistress. Judith deserves thanks for all the work she did producing the new GSC webpages. Readers are invited to look through these new pages and to write Judith with any concerns or updates http://www.accute.ca/GSC.htm

I am moving over to the position of VP.Info in charge of the survey. An edited version of the survey questions for 2007-2008 will be published in the September newsletter, and then will be sent out to department reps in October, with a deadline of early February, that is, in time for Rebecca Hardie (Manitoba), renewed chair of the GSC funding committee, Ryan Stephenson (Ottawa) new chair of the hiring and professionalization committee, and our two co-chairs Rob Zacharias (Guelph) and KailinWright (Toronto), to produce a final vetted report on the GSC survey in time for Congress 2008. A hardcopy of this final report will be given to students at the registration table and sent to students in English departments across Canada.

Those reps are: Judith Anderson (Alberta), Tyson Stolte (British Columbia), Kent Foran (Brock), Erin Wunker (Calgary), Michele Rackham (Carleton), Sharon Creaser (Dalhousie), Rob Zacharias (Guelph), Becky Hardie (Manitoba), Amy Jean Britton (McGill), Phanuel Antwi (McMaster), Paul Chafe (Memorial), Amy Kebe (Montreal), Peter Kuling (New Brunswick), Josephene Kealey (Ottawa), Ryan Porter (Queen’s), Shawna Geissler (Regina), Jessica Antonio (Saskatchewan), Joanna Daxell (Sherbrooke), Dorritta Fong (Simon Fraser), Erin Ellerbeck (Toronto), Treava Ann Kellington (Victoria), Kristin Rahian (Waterloo), Dimitri Karkoulis (Western Ontario), Jason Phillips (Wilfred Laurier), Stephen Flemming (Windsor), Shannon Meek (York)

We are still missing reps from Acadia, Concordia, Lakehead, Northern BC.

Aside from the survey, the GSC this year intends to increase the number and regularity of its communications, a) by soliciting accounts of different professionalization practices for the GSC website; b) by co-sponsoring another professional concerns panel discussion at Congress 2008, possibly on the importance and various forms of"collaboration" (please see the November newsletter for the CFP, and send any thoughts suggestions to Erin before then); and c) by organizing a special grad student social/collaborative event at Congress 2008.

Job Ads
are updated on the ACCUTE website as they come into our offices. Check http://www.ACCUTE.ca/Job List.htm for the most up-to-date job postings!
The current academic job situation cannot be called a “crisis” for two very different reasons. The best reason is that things are looking up: there have been more job postings listed this year than we’ve seen for a long time. The worst reason is that no “crisis” can go on for 30 years; we’re talking about a chronic condition. But it is not a fatal condition.

What is striking to those of us who work in graduate student “placement” is the disparity between the grad “word on the street”—about both the job “market” and what it takes to land a job—and the actual situation. In 2000, the Modern Language Association set up a committee to investigate this disparity. As chair of the committee, I was able to talk to both students and hiring department colleagues across North America. What I learned was that graduate students considered it their departments’ responsibility not only to train them in the methods and content of their discipline, but also to make it possible for them to get information about (and thus compete for) employment after graduate school. But my title—“Enduring Angst vs. Taking Control”—looks to students to take responsibility for their own careers: the title articulates a real choice.

Although I don’t want to downplay the roles of both departments and universities in helping students take control, thirty years experience with placement has taught me that the more students know, the more they are prepared, the less anxious they will be, and therefore the more ready and able to succeed. Where to start to get this information? Try the ACCUTE website with its ample general and Canada-specific resources for job seekers: http://www3.sympatico.ca/skudsieh/ACCUTE/ACCUTEGrad.html

LISTINGS & LINKS
ACCUTE's Job List (Canadian) (Other) Canadian Lists American Lists UK and Commonwealth Lists Documents on Academic Employment

The MLA report I mentioned, called “Professionalization in Perspective,” is available on the MLA’s resource-rich website: http://www.mla.org/professionalization

Professionalization in Perspective

This report is clear that universities and departments have serious responsibilities for graduate students’ professionalization (through courses, mentoring, placement services). But so too do students, and so I address the remainder of my remarks to them. Acculturation to this profession (professionalization) begins on day 1 of graduate school. This is neither good nor bad; it just happens. You begin to absorb values, practices, behaviours as you learn more about English literature as it is taught (and learned) at this level. By the end of this time, you have personalized these generalities. When you then look for an academic position, only you know what you want to do, and what you can do (best). There is no substitute for self-reflection and self-knowledge. But even then, you need information.

The report advises students to start to think early on in your training about the many possible opportunities open to you: academic (in a wide variety of kinds of institutions—not just the research universities where you trained) and non-academic (mostly in what is known as the BGN sector—Business, Government and Not-for-Profit—where many English PhDs are hired). Research these possibilities as fully and thoroughly as you would an article or course paper: it’s even more important than a grade, after all. Get your information from any source you can—except the grapevine (where exaggeration dominates). Take charge of our own
professional training. If your department does not yet have professional skills training, ask for it, or organize for yourselves session on the job search (with new faculty who are fresh from the experience), on transforming a good course paper into a publishable article, on giving conference papers, and so on. Find a mentor—for general professional advice; it need not be your research supervisor. Go the MLA website and you’ll see an entire section on “Information and Guidelines for Job Seekers”. Study it carefully. 
http://www.mla.org/advice_grad

Advice to Graduate Students: From Application to Career
This document is addressed to graduate students, both prospective and current. It considers both those studying English and those studying foreign languages and covers issues relevant to candidates for master's degrees and candidates for doctorates. 
http://www.mla.org/prof_employment

Committee on Professional Employment: Final Report
http://www.mla.org/jil_jobseekers

Information and Guidelines for Job Seekers
General Advice for Candidates
http://www.mla.org/resources/jil/jil_jobseekers/jil_jobseekers_gen
CAFPRR: Advice to Search Committees and Job Seekers on Entry-Level Faculty Recruitment and Hiring
http://www.mla.org/resources/jil/jil_jobseekers/jil_jobseekers_caf
Checklist for Job Seekers
http://www.mla.org/resources/jil/jil_jobseekers/jil_jobseekers_che
Dos and Don'ts for MLA Convention Interviews
http://www.mla.org/resources/jil/jil_jobseekers/jil_jobseekers_dos
MLA Statements Relevant to the Hiring Process
http://www.mla.org/resources/jil/jil_jobseekers/jil_jobseekers_mla
Profession Article: What Search Committees Want
http://www.mla.org/resources/jil/jil_jobseekers/jil_jobseekers_pro

Professional Meetings
http://www.mla.org/resources/jil/jil_jobseekers/jil_jobseekers_mtg

Sources of Information for Job Candidates in English
http://www.mla.org/resources/jil/jil_jobseekers/jil_jobseekers_sou

MLA Survey of Hiring Departments
The most important thing to do is not to be spooked. You do not need a book to get a job; you don’t even need 3 published articles. What you do need is an excellent thesis (the best you can write) and a show of involvement in the peer-reviewed dimensions of the profession. The latter shows that you have tested the waters intellectually—and have survived. No matter what you may have heard, it is not the length of your cv or the (big) names of your referees that count most toward getting you that precious job interview. The single most important document, according to hiring committees, is the letter of application. Remember that a department is looking for many things, but among them is “fit”—intellectually, but also in the sense of shared educational values. They want to know if you have the potential for making a positive contribution to their institution. As the dean of a small liberal arts college put it: “Show us that you care about the same things we care about.” That can be difficult if your only experience is in a big research institution, but that’s why you have to research and do your homework. Knowing as much as possible about the institution is also crucial if you get an on-campus interview. There you need to know that the committee is looking for signs of well-rounded professional development—not only research, but teaching as well as organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.

If I could pass on one single message to help you reduce angst and take control of your future careers, it would be: get as much information as you can as early as you can. To be forewarned really is to be forearmed—and maybe even gainfully employed
The academic job market in English is better now than it has been for 30 years. The academic job market in English is better now than it has been for 30 years. Last summer’s ADE Bulletin, for instance, reported that in 2004 more candidates won tenure-track jobs than at any time since the early 1970s – 539 to be precise. Every year for the last three or four years, about 80 tenure-track jobs have been advertised in Canada and 600-700 in the United States. Not all these jobs are filled, of course, but a high proportion of them are. Most importantly, two-thirds of the jobs filled in Canada have hiring pools of 40 candidates or less, and one third of 20 candidates or less. And this despite the much-feared influx of non-Canadian candidates. Check the CACE Hiring Surveys for 2005 and 2006. Or consider the placement figures for a mid-size English department like that of the University of Calgary. Over the last five years, Calgary has graduated 21 PhDs – 11 (52%) of them already have tenure-track jobs and 5 (24%) non-academic jobs (in law, information technology, librarianship, and publishing). The remaining 5 (24%) who hold contract positions or sessional lectureships have graduated so recently that they may well win tenure-track jobs. Calgary’s record is good but my point is that in the present climate it’s not that unusual. This does not mean that winning a tenure-track job is easy but for those candidates willing to “take control,” in Linda Hutcheon’s phrase, to travel and take risks, very real opportunities do exist. In order to take advantage of these opportunities, especially in cross-border and overseas markets, our students have to professionalize, but professionalization, of course, doesn’t come without its downside. Let me deal with the need to professionalize first.

Taking control is a two-way street. It is, exactly as Linda in our recent ACCUTE session in Saskatoon said, something students have to do – they have “to take responsibility for their own careers.” But equally departments have to take responsibility for assisting doctoral students in securing gainful employment. Let’s be clear about this. Departmental doctoral programs are the constitutive components of a professional school, a school usually called in most Canadian universities “the School of Graduate Studies.” As a member of this professional school, the department’s responsibility to its PhD students doesn’t stop with the fulfillment of the degree but with placement. Indeed, one of the most telling measures of a department’s success is its placement record. The most obvious and effective way to acknowledge this responsibility is for departments with PhD programs to appoint a placement officer. This person should lead the department’s
Professionalization and Placement, continued

should lead the department’s communal effort to prepare its PhD students for the academic job market and that effort should fall into three parts – information, instruction, and motivation.

Information means demystifying the job market. It means dispelling urban legends and giving an informed and accurate account of the market, what determines its vagaries, where the opportunities are and how to go about fully understanding them. It means detailing the cycle of the hiring year, when to apply for jobs and how to do it. It means decoding job advertisements and offering as much insight as one can into the different qualities and emphases in expertise different hiring committees are looking for. It involves explaining how to compose letters of application, construct CVs, compile dossiers, prepare writing samples, conduct interviews, and deliver job talks. Instruction, on the other hand, means practicing students in all these job-related tasks. It means running workshops, counseling sessions, and mock-interviews. Not least it means initiating formal courses introducing students not only to the mysteries of the job market but to the complexities of university teaching. Most of our PhD students receive no formal training in pedagogy – they’re expected to pick it up as they go along and it shows. Instruction in designing courses, producing syllabuses, imagining challenging assignments, establishing effective marking strategies, and counseling students should complement formal practice in developing classroom skills. Practicums in which students teach classes to their peers for analysis and critique under the supervision of a professor seem to me likely to produce substantial results in developing our PhD students’ confidence both for teaching itself and for competing on the job market. Needless to say, not all this can be done by the placement officer alone, nor should it. But he or she working closely with the department’s graduate chair and individual dissertation supervisors can help provide coordination and leadership.

The single most important element the placement officer’s leadership should provide is motivation. Too often our students enter the job market already defeated or ready to wilt after the first round of rejections. It has to be made clear to students that they can win jobs but it may well take time. It also needs to be made clear that an academic job is not the be-all and end-all of life as we know it in the early 21st century. It is true that the primary practical purpose of a PhD program is permanent academic employment – that’s why governments fund them. But since there are always likely to be more candidates than jobs, students have to be alerted to non-academic possibilities. The critical point here is, as Nikki Sheppy suggested, that the skills acquired in pursuing the PhD degree – skills in communication, in writing, critical thinking, articulating arguments, teaching, and personnel
Professionalization and Placement, continued

management at an unusually high level – are transferable. One of the most effective ways to bring home the reality of alternative careers is to deploy the department’s alumni. After a presentation last year by three successful alumni morale among our students skyrocketed. Of these three alumni, one who had left the PhD program ABD had gone on to become a CBC executive, one who’d completed a dissertation on George Eliot had succeeded in creating a business organization-and-methods company of which she was now the CEO, and the third who’d written a dissertation on Milton had just become the director of communications for a large university. What distinguished all three was their energy, imagination, and ability to see how their doctoral education in the humanities might enable them in the non-academic world. Ironically, in pointing so forcefully to alternative careers they lowered stress levels and gave many of our students the psychological freedom to focus on their academic careers with much more flexibility and perspective.

Having said this, it needs to be acknowledged, however, that the dangers of professionalization are considerable. Its most obvious downside is a kind of soulless careerism. The single-minded focus on acquiring the professional skills necessary to win a tenure-track job can be deadening. All too frequently it encourages uniformity and/or egotism. Anyone who has interviewed candidates at the MLA will immediately know what I mean. Candidates often wear the same smart outfits, adopt the same knowing manner, and speak as though tied to a script. What intellectual passion they are willing to show can often sound rehearsed and even more worrisome the specific research they wish to pursue can often sound pre-packaged, commodified, or best calculated to sell. At the same time, candidates who’ve mastered this academic glass bead game can appear extraordinarily self-satisfied, giving the impression that they’re competing to be first-picks in a sports draft, insensitive not only to the ideals of literary study but to their own responsibility to the communities they claim they wish to join. In our ACCUTE session, Julia Creet characterized these careerist patterns as evidence of a lack of integrity and Donna Pennee as a failure to understand the need for accountability. I don’t think either of these responses overstate the problem, but I want to argue that there is no necessary relation between professionalization and careerism. The dangers can be avoided.

Let me conclude by suggesting two ways in which professionalization might proceed without producing self-promoting careerism. First, we ourselves need to reflect more rigorously on the ideals and very positive work literature and literary studies may do in the world. In our graduate courses, we need to be less defensive about the function of criticism in our culture and we need to encourage a sense of vocation in our students. We need to remind them that what we have to say as scholars takes unusual skill and is critically important not just for other academics, but for the societies in which we live, most powerfully through our teaching. Second, at the heart of those courses aimed specifically at professionalization, we need to establish community-mindedness as a guiding principle. The teaching practicums I mentioned above seem to do just that and in Saskatoon Diane Jakacki and Julia Mamolo gave us a wonderful example of a collaborative study group in which students and professors worked together as colleagues. “Collegiality” is a word that needs to be rescued from the opprobrium of “cronyism” and “clubability.” So much of the administrative work we do as professors depends on the ability to function as the member of a group not as a lonely genius or misunderstood star. PhD candidates need to be informed of the administrative work involved in being a member of a department and perhaps practiced in it. What has this got to do with placement? Everything. One of the unspoken criteria for hiring is the question at the back of everyone’s mind: “Can I live with this person?” Community-mindedness or collegiality in the sense of understanding one’s responsibilities and knowing how to perform them with generosity and civility is like money in the bank. The ideal and the instrumental are not always at odds.
In Memoriam

Douglas James Wurtele

News of Members


Kathryn Carter (Wilfrid Laurier) has been appointed associate dean of Laurier Brantford effective July 1, 2007. Her two most recent articles are "Discipline, Bodies, and Girls' Diaries in Post-Confederation Canada" in *Canadian Children's Literature*, Fall 2006, and "Death and the diary, or tragedies in the archive." in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Spring 2006.


Ann Martin (currently Dalhousie) will be joining the Department of English at the University of Saskatchewan. Her book, *Red Riding Hood and the Wolf in Bed: Modernism's Fairy Tales*, was published in the fall by the University of Toronto Press.
Juliet McMaster (U of A), a past President of ACCUTE, has followed her creation of the Juvenilia Press with a collection co-edited with Christine Alexander of the University New South Wales called *The Child Writer from Austen to Woolf* (Cambridge UP, 2005). It received a front-page review in the *TLS*, which hailed the editors' pioneering work in establishing childhood writings as a newly recognized genre of literature. Christine Alexander took over the General Editorship of the Juvenilia Press, which has now published some 40 volumes, in 2002. In her new career as an art historian, Juliet has published an edition with the University of Alberta Press, *Woman Behind the Painter: The Diaries of Rosalie, Mrs James Clarke Hook* (2006); and she has co-curated an exhibit at Tate Britain on "James Clarke Hook and Painters of the Sea." She is working on a biography of the Victorian painter; and she is also launched on a new edition of *The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen*, co-edited with Edward Copeland.

Lisa Surridge, (U of Victoria) Congratulations to Lisa Surridge who has received one of the Recognition Awards for UVic women (awarded bi-annually at the Women’s Conference to UVic). The award recognizes "outstanding performance as a faculty member; leadership in special projects and in creating a supportive environment; and contributions to UVic and its communities, especially in the interests of women."

Julia M. Wright (Dalhousie) has just published *Ireland, India and Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century Literature* in Cambridge University Press's series, Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture. She has also finished editing *Irish Literature, 1750-1900: An Anthology*, forthcoming from Blackwell later this year.

Monique Tschofen and Jennifer Burwell have been awarded an ASPP for their book *Image and territory: Essays on Atom Egoyan*.

The Department of English at the University of Victoria has made the following appointments for tenure track Assistant Professors starting 1 July 2007:

Richard van Oort
Nicholas Bradley

Attention Organizers of Joint Sessions and Member-Organized Sessions for ACCUTE’s 2008 conference at UBC!

The deadline for submitting calls for papers is approaching!

Be sure to have your calls in to the ACCUTE office (accute@msvu.ca) by August 15, 2007.
Green Romanticisms

This panel invites papers that address topics relevant to romanticism and ecocritical issues. A number of critics have considered the relation between romantic writings and the environment. If in this work it has become a commonplace to trace the origins of ecological thinking to European, British and North American romanticism, the character of this legacy is a deeply contested site. Topics might include:

Romantic Organicism
Landscape and the Picturesque
Romantic versions of Pastoral
Romantic Ecopoetics
Place and Displacement
Romantic Natural History
Romantic Geologies
Notions of the Primitive
Constructing Nature/Culture
Romantic Travel Writing and Tourism
Romantic Eco-utopias
Romantic Ecofeminisms

A range of approaches to the subject is encouraged. Please e-mail abstracts of 300-500 words by 15 November 2007 to Lisa Vargo
Department of English University of Saskatchewan at lisa.vargo@usask.ca

Green Victoria

The relationship between Victorians and their natural environment was entangled among many other issues involving such things as ethics, aesthetics, science, industrialization, imperialism, and religion. In recent years, scholars have begun cultivating hybrid theorizations and readings of Victorian literature and culture in order to gain more nuanced understandings of this era’s green views. The 2008 NAVSA/ACCUTE panel organizer invites proposals of 250 to 500 words by November 12, 2007 for 20-minute talks that address issues related to Victorian perspectives on nature. Of particular interest is scholarship that addresses elements of environmentalism explicitly or explores the green implications of related issues. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

Urban planning, sanitation, green space
Victorians and other animals
Exploration, exotic landscapes, and ethics
Organic/natural form and literary form
Women’s writing and the gendering of nature
Industrialization, meat, and machines
Socialism and nonhuman life forms
Paganism, the individual, and liberalism
Animals’ rights and roles
Post-Romantic politics of nature
Green visions of a sustainable future
Atavism, criminality, decadence, and notions of the natural
New aesthetics and poetics of nature

Please send proposals to Dennis Denisoff, Ryerson University, denisoff@arts.ryerson.ca
A Graduate Student Workgroup

The TransCanada / TransQuebec PhD Workgroup, a collaborative pilot project initiated and organized by Smaro Kamboureli (Guelph) and Heike Härting (Montréal), held its first meeting on May 18-20, 2007, at the TransCanada Institute (Guelph). The TC/TQ Workgroup is composed of 10 PhD students from The School of English and Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph, and the Département d'Études Anglaises at l'Université de Montréal, and will be meeting twice annually for the next three years, alternating between Guelph and Montreal.

The TC/TQ Workgroup's primary goal is to pursue the study of CanLit, specifically in the contexts of nation, diaspora, and racialization, in relation to methodological, pedagogical, and institutional concerns. A central objective is to both theorize and develop models of collaborative research and practice that take into account the particular locations (institutional, cultural, etc.) of the graduate students involved.

After an evening of informal introductions and literary readings (and songs), the group spent two full days workshopping thesis projects and SSHRC proposals, identifying common research interests and methodological and pedagogical concerns, and planning future collaborative projects. The next meeting will take place in Montreal, in January.

The TC / TQ PhD Workgroup includes Ben Authers, Andrea Beverley, Paul Danyluk, Richard Cassidy, Debra Henderson, Sarah Henzi, Ingrid Mundel, Amy Kebe, Louisa Sorflaten, and Rob Zacharias, and is supported by the TransCanada Institute (Guelph), The Département d'Études Anglaises and the Direction des Relations Internationales (Montreal), the School of English and Theatre Studies, and the Dean of the College of Arts (Guelph). For more information, please go to www.transcanadas.ca or write Richard Cassidy at richard.cassidy@umontreal.ca, or Rob Zacharias at rzachari@uoguelph.ca.

Conference Announcement

The Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS) invites you to "Literature For Our Times", our 14th Triennial International Conference, at the UBC Point Grey campus from August 17 to the 22, 2007. The opening session at the Chan Centre will feature Derek Walcott. Special speakers include Henry Giroux; Jeannette Armstrong; Stephen Slemon; Ngugi wa Thiong'o; Robert J.C. Young, P. Sivakami - and many well-known Canadian and international authors. **Early Bird Registration** is on now, till July 14, 2007. Late Registration is from July 15 to August 7, 2007.

Please see further information on our website at [http://ocs.sfu.ca/aclals/registration.php](http://ocs.sfu.ca/aclals/registration.php)
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ACCUTE 2007 Membership Form

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☐ Graduate Student  ☐ Post-doctoral Fellow  ☐ Instructor
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Main Area of Specialization: _______________________________________________

Additional Areas: __________________________________________________________

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

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

I enclose:

☐ The regular membership fee of $80
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☐ The household membership fee of $130 for regular members (two memberships, one subscription to ESC). Please also complete the form on the reverse.
☐ The household membership fee of $65 for reduced-fee members (two reduced-fee memberships, one subscription to ESC). Please also complete the form on the reverse.
☐ A three-year membership fee (2006-2009) of $205
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☐ A $5 donation to be directed to the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (CFHSS)

Return to:  Dr. Karen Macfarlane, ACCUTE Secretary-Treasurer, Department of English,
Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, NS  B3M 2J6
Additional Information
To Be Completed by Those Applying for Household Memberships

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☐ Retired Faculty ☐ Other (Please specify): _________________________________

Languages: ____________________________________________________________

Main Area of Specialization: _____________________________________________

Additional Areas: _______________________________________________________

Authors: __________________________________________________________________

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