



Department of English and Creative Writing Newsletter

2016/2017



Produced by Ariel Little and Eric Stein
TAs for the Department of English and Creative Writing

Alumni

Corrie L. Shoemaker, M.A.



Lower mainland native Corrie L. Shoemaker is a two-time Trinity alumni, having completed both a double undergraduate degree—a B.Sc Biology major and a BA English honours with a concentration in Education—and a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Humanities at Trinity Western University. Shoemaker attended TWU from 2002 to 2009, and she is currently pursuing her doctorate in English at the University of Waterloo.

Ariel Little (MAIH Ongoing): What is the focus of your doctoral research?

Corrie Shoemaker: My dissertation focuses on Canadian identity on the Shakespearean stage at both Ontario's Stratford Festival of Canada and Vancouver's Bard on the Beach.

AL: Has your area of interest always been Shakespeare?

CS: I was exposed to theatre at an early age; I fell in love with Shakespeare when I saw a production of Hamlet in 1999 at the Stratford Festival of Canada. My mother had a great love for literature and classic theatre. She always brought elements of both into the home and took the family to events like The Nutcracker ballet. But I definitely got the Shakespeare bug on that first trip to Stratford. Afterwards, we always attended Bard on the Beach locally in BC. As a child I would memorize large chunks of dialogue from productions and rattle them off on the drive home, much to my parents' dismay.

AL: How do you feel your education at Trinity helped prepare you for your doctoral studies?

CS: Trinity Western not only provided me with the best in academic studies and literary mastery, but it encouraged elements beyond the regular scholarly demands. The professors encouraged me to theorize, to question, to think for myself, and to pursue all areas of investigation. They made TWU a welcome community of learners where the journey to knowledge was valued as much, if not more, than the end result. The current English professors I worked with (Dr. Nelson, Dr. Hilder, Dr. Pearson, and Dr. Dunning) cared about my spiritual and personal growth as much as my academic strides. That is a unique thing in the world of academia. My education was as much in

English literature as it was in problem solving and personal development.

AL: What were some key opportunities you had during your time at Trinity?

CS: I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Bard on the Beach on their 2006 production of *Measure for Measure* for my undergraduate honours research paper; I got to attend Bard rehearsals and interviewed cast members. I also had the chance to run a Jane Austen Regency ball for the English department. The following year I orchestrated a Jane Austen conference showcasing modern Austen authors, calligraphy and dance workshops, lectures on history and food management during Regency times, ending with another Regency ball.

AL: Are you where you expected to be when you began your post-secondary education?

CS: Certainly not! When I started at TWU a PhD wasn't even a possibility, in my mind. By the end of my undergraduate degree, it was a future goal. My doctoral studies at Waterloo took longer than I expected, but everything, even waiting times in life, is an opportunity to learn and grow. I've learned patience, compassion, and how to extend grace not only to my students, but also to myself.

AL: What is the biggest challenge you have had to overcome in completing your education?

CS: My biggest challenge was more emotional than academic. My mother passed away while I was doing my primary and secondary comprehensive exams at Waterloo and it was utterly devastating for

me. She was my rock; she kept me centred and balanced. It was very difficult to continue with my studies, let alone write my final exams. It took me a while to gravitate back to normal.

AL: Do you have any post-graduation plans?

CS: My first historical-mystery novel *The Frenchman's Daughter* will be published in 2018, so I'm doing my final work with the publishing company there. I would like to publish my dissertation research, and perhaps use it as the springboard for an academic collaboration on Canadian Shakespeare festivals and Canadian identity. I'm also currently looking into spearheading a game app that teaches children and youth about the Stratford festival through a mystery narrative around a stolen prop. So many things, so little time!

AL: Do you have any advice for current English students?

CL: Persevere and pursue what you love. If you have chosen to do an English degree you are among a select few who value and cherish the potency and beauty of the written word. Find those poets or authors who speak to you, to your very soul, and learn from them. Find authors who make you laugh and those who challenge your worldview. There is a reason classic texts have survived and have been read over and over for hundreds of years. There is power in the written word. Find those works that create a spark within you and apply their lessons and beauty to your life. Pursue what you love and you will attract others to you who want to partake in your *joie de vivre*. You only have one life and it should be spent waking up every day doing something that makes you joyous and proud.

Cordelia Shan, M.A. Ongoing



Interviewed by Ariel Little

This past year English graduate student Cordelia Shan worked with the Red Cross to provide relief for the evacuees affected by the Fort McMurray wildfires. Passionate about humanitarian work, Shan began volunteering with the Red Cross in February 2016: “I was originally hoping to go to the LLC [Laurentian Leadership Centre] to work with non-profits,” said Shan, “but was unable to go, so I applied at the local Red Cross as a volunteer.” After regularly volunteering for four months, Shan was hired as a full time “Disaster Responder” when the wildfires hit Fort McMurray.

Shan’s role consisted of processing requests for aid, and receiving and evaluating all the phone calls and emails from evacuees who had come to British Columbia. When asked about her motivation to take on this role, Shan replied that it was as simple as, “you help people if they need help.” With the extensive amount of aid required because of the wildfires and ensuing flood, Shan ended up working with the Red Cross from May to November.

In the course of her work, Shan visited Fort McMurray twice and was

shocked by the “desolation” that greeted her. “They still need help,” stated Shan, revealing that, despite the relatively small size of the town, it will take about ten to fifteen years for it to recover fully. The most difficult thing about her job, according to Shan, was having to tell people they were ineligible for aid: “It was very different from my studies. People would get really upset and I had to learn how to deal with that.” However, Shan says that this helped her become a more compassionate individual, as she learned to understand that people’s anger came from their suffering.

Shan’s experiences also led to spiritual growth; despite initially feeling “helpless” about the scene that greeted her upon arriving in Fort McMurray, Shan says that “feeling helpless makes you rely more on the Lord, and you feel your faith is the only thing you can rely on.” Shan reported receiving a lot of encouragement from her supervisor, who was also a Christian, with whom she would get together every day to pray for the people affected by the fires: “It made me feel like God would help them for sure.” Shan is deeply appreciative of her whole experience working for the Red Cross, professing, “I really learned so much.” Shan is very thankful for the guidance she has received over the years from the English Department faculty, which provided her with the necessary spiritual and emotional support to get “stronger” over the course of her schooling and help prepare her for this experience.

Since arriving from Beijing in 2013, Shan has completed her BA in English at Trinity and is currently enrolled in the MAIH program’s English stream.

Faculty

David Anonby, M.A.

The Three Lives of an English Professor



Interviewed by Eric Stein (MAIH Ongoing)

Professor David Anonby has not had your typical academic journey. He is a professor in the English department here at TWU, is pursuing his doctorate at UVIC—his dissertation is on Shakespeare and soteriology, for which he has received a doctoral SSHRC grant—and is a father of three. In effect, he told me, it's like having three full time jobs, but in spite of the busyness, he approaches each with a smile, with passion, and with gratitude. Professor Anonby is incredibly thankful for all the opportunities he has been given.

Returning to graduate school in mid-life (at age 42, to be precise) has been an incredibly rich experience for Professor Anonby. He brings to his studies and his research fifteen years of teaching experience, decades of life experience, and

the knowledge gained from the intimate complexities of parenthood. Two years into his program, Professor Anonby reports that his experience has been excellent so far, an incredible way to engage with ideas and questions that are both wide reaching and deeply personal. Though balance can be a challenge, and the pressures of academia are intense, Professor Anonby has learned that perfectionism is neither possible nor desirable; his scholarly work, in his research and his teaching, is about investment, not frenzied production.

This emphasis on investment demonstrates the interconnectedness of Professor Anonby's "three lives." The care and nurture of being a father impacts the way he approaches his students; his excitement for teaching and the material that he teaches influences the way he goes about his research; and his interest in soteriology—the doctrine of salvation—is not limited to his doctoral work, but flows into every aspect of his life. To practice one's faith and negotiate the complexities of our age is a great challenge, he told me, but in life and in work and in study, Professor Anonby strives to pursue the "twofold mission of love and truth," a commitment which shines through in his endeavours, and which was plain to see during our conversation.

As he progresses with his doctoral work, Professor Anonby continues to approach his teaching and his family life with characteristic energy and enthusiasm. We wish him all the best in his efforts in the months and years to come.

Dr. Monika B. Hilder

Surprised by Opportunities to Share Joy



Interviewed by Ariel Little

Unbeknownst to her, Trinity's own Dr. Monika Hilder was in for a whirlwind 2016-2017 academic year, receiving invitations for four different speaking engagements. "I was surprised and really excited," said Dr. Hilder. "It was all completely unexpected." The first invitation that Dr. Hilder received was the opportunity to present at Middlebury College, Vermont in October. "I was invited by my friend and colleague Dr. Matthew Dickerson to teach one of his first year classes and deliver a general lecture to the college entitled 'Fairytale "Happily Ever After?": What C.S. Lewis Thought about Sex, Love, and Human Identity.' It was wonderful to have the chance to teach in a different country and to get to speak into their cultural context." After her Vermont presentation, Dr. Hilder was invited by a chaplain at the University of Ottawa to deliver another presentation on Lewis' views on love and marriage in November, and has since had an article published on the same

subject in the 2016 volume of *Sehnsucht: The C.S. Lewis Journal*.

However, Dr. Hilder's biggest surprise was being invited to be one of the presenters at Ottawa's annual Dig and Delve Apologetics Conference. Because of her trio of books on C.S. Lewis and gender, one of the conference organizers called Dr. Hilder to ask if she would like to present at their conference. According to Dr. Hilder, "It was a *huge* surprise and a real joy." Dr. Hilder presented three talks at the conference: "Is the Bible a Myth?"; "Is the Bible-Anti-Women?: What I Learned from C.S. Lewis"; and "Why I Trust the Bible." When asked whether she felt nervous to speak at an apologetics conference, Dr. Hilder replied, "I did feel nervous, but it also felt natural, not because I am trained in theology, but because I have always had to think about how to explain the faith. With Lewis scholarship it just goes hand in hand. Literature is also one of the best ways to educate virtue and makes it easy to explain because you can picture the principle and work it out." Dr. Hilder was also very pleased to see the apologetics community taking an interest in the writings of the Inklings. "The questions the Inklings authors address are very important questions. These were highly intelligent and wise people who could really nail the answers; they knew why they were saying it and were able to translate it for their time in a way that still speaks to us."

Dr. Hilder's self-stated goals with the presentations were "to make it accessible to the general public" and to "engage people in conversation, no matter their background." In her talk on "Why I Trust the Bible," Dr. Hilder felt especially like she met these goals: "This talk was rooted in my

cultural and family narrative, and it was a very emotional experience connecting to the audience. It was like a lived experience for all of us; I had not anticipated how deep-going it would be.” Dr. Hilder was pleased by the positive feedback she received from audience members, such as a pastor who reported being deeply moved by her talk on the Bible and myth. Looking back at the whole experience, Dr. Hilder says, “It was hugely gratifying as well as a gift to be there, to hear the other speakers, and to talk with people.”

Most recently, Dr. Hilder was engaged in January to deliver a workshop on “Creating a Narnian Culture of Literature” to the teachers at Evergreen Christian School in Bellingham, Washington. Part of this experience was working with primary students, teaching them about the importance of virtue in fairytales, such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*. “I had the students acting out different maxims from the stories and they really enjoyed it. Education needs to be embodied, a kind of lived experience,” says Dr. Hilder.

All of her speaking engagements served to remind Dr. Hilder that God is in control: “We do our best, and give our offering, and He is going to do what He is going to do. You realize you are part of a much bigger plan.” The presentations also reminded her of the importance of different people’s reactions to stories. “The risk of academic studies is that we picture ourselves as being in control of our studies and people’s responses to the material, which is really dangerous because it cuts us off from deeper levels and other people’s perspectives.” All of Dr. Hilder’s experiences were personally “enriching,” and in particular she really enjoyed getting to connect with a variety of people about literature: “You realize it’s not just something that you are interested in, but something that has meaning for other people.”

Dr. Hilder’s talks from the Dig and Delve Conference can be found on the conference’s Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTzSjZc3Pg0bDG5KIidrgwHQ>.



Dr. Holly Faith Nelson

Dialogues and Diasporas



Interviewed by Eric Stein

Dr. Holly Nelson, in collaboration with Dr. Leith Davis of SFU (and several other professors from SFU, UBC, Whitman College, U of Washington, and U of Glasgow), is organizing and will be presenting at the Second World Congress of Scottish Literatures: Dialogues and Diasporas, at the Coast Plaza Hotel in Vancouver, BC, this June 21-25, 2017. The Congress is sponsored by TWU, SFU, and UBC, and has been awarded a SSHRC Connections Grant.

The Congress is concerned with the definition and teaching of Scottish literatures as multiple and globally dispersed, and the relationship of these literatures to concepts of indigeneity and colonization. To this end, the Congress intends to bring together

Scottish and Indigenous voices, including Métis peoples of Scottish backgrounds, so as to foster dialogue and relationships between these groups. Furthermore, the Transpacific/Scottish dimension will be emphasized, supported by Dr. Deanna Reder of the First Nations Studies program at SFU, and SFU's Institute for Transpacific Research. Through these conversations, Dr. Nelson and the other organizers hope that the Congress will make the presented research available to a "broader Canadian public in order to encourage the processes of reconciliation," and that the Congress will "draw attention to Canada's role as a bridge between Pacific and Atlantic cultures."

The Congress will consist of panels of academics and artists from a variety of backgrounds, with the intention that several journal and book projects will either be continued or initiated through the process of dialogue. An estimated 150 scholars will be attending the Congress, in addition to over 100 community members, hailing from countries as wide reaching as China, the Czech Republic, and New Zealand.

Dr. Nelson will be presenting on John Galt, whose distinctly Scottish perspective on Canada and whose mediation of the transnational, transatlantic relationship between Canada and Scotland has yet to be seriously explored. Dr. Nelson is currently a visiting scholar at the Centre for Scottish Studies at SFU, and is also editing a volume of the work of James Hogg, another Scottish writer, on whom she will be presenting in Scotland later this year.

Dr. Jens Zimmermann

Christian Flourishing in a Technological World



Interviewed by Eric Stein

Dr. Jens Zimmermann, Canada Research Chair in Interpretation, Religion, and Culture, has received a substantial grant for his collaborative three-year research project, *Christian Flourishing in a Technological World*. The project will bring together “scholars from Canada, the USA, Germany, and the UK . . . to provide a comprehensive theological assessment of recent technologies’ impact on human nature.” Along with Dr. Robert Doede of the TWU Philosophy Department, and academics from Oxford, Notre Dame, Heidelberg, and elsewhere, Dr. Zimmermann will be concentrating his efforts on three primary objectives:

first to establish a modern theological anthropology in continuity with

classic orthodox Christian theology as represented in all three major confessions (Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant). Second, to evaluate visions of human flourishing represented by technological enhancements, from social media to bio-genetic, transformative technologies, including transhumanist dreams of transcending the body. Third, to provide a theologically grounded, convincing Christian perspective on human flourishing in an age of technology.

Over the course of the project, Dr. Zimmermann and his fellow researchers intend to develop a thorough “intellectual road map” of their subject matter, the results of which will be published on the project’s website. The research group will participate in a conference at Oxford, with the intent of developing further materials to be published online and in a scholarly journal, all of which will contribute to the final goal of a “theological anthropology” that responds to the technological realities of our present time. Dr. Zimmermann intends for the work of the research group to be published in book form upon completion of the project.

The research of Dr. Zimmermann and his colleagues promises to shed much-needed light on the complex intersection of theology, humanism, and technology in the modern era, the results of which we await with great expectation.

Department Publications

Dr. Sara L. Pearson

Celebrating Charlotte Brontë: Transforming Life into Literature in Jane Eyre



*Vic Cavalli, Monika Hilder, Ken Pearson, and Sara Pearson
at a book-signing at TWU Bookstore*

Ariel Little: What is the topic of your new book, co-authored with Christine Alexander?

Sara Pearson: In order to celebrate 200 years since Charlotte Brontë's birth, our book brings together Charlotte's life, her historical context, and literary criticism (our own fresh interpretations as well as some classic critical approaches) in order to illustrate how Charlotte's imagination transformed the stuff of everyday life into her most famous work of fiction, *Jane Eyre*.

AL: What are you most excited about with having your book published?

SP: I'd say two things: first, this book is a treasure trove for anyone who loves *Jane Eyre*. We've poured our best research, scholarship, and writing into the book, but it's not aimed at an "academic" audience—it's intended for everyone. Second, it's a gorgeous book! The Brontë Parsonage Museum provided us with hundreds of images from their collection of Brontë objects, and the Brontë Society's designer, Denis Stubbs of Stubbs Design, did an outstanding job of creating the look and feel of the book. We can't take any credit for the design, but we're extremely pleased with it, and grateful to the Brontë Society and the

Brontë Parsonage Museum for helping us produce such an aesthetically pleasing book.

AL: Did working on this project bring anything new about Charlotte Brontë's writings to light for you?

SP: Yes! Again, I have two things that stand out: first, I was surprised at how often the artwork mentioned in *Jane Eyre* corresponds to Charlotte Brontë's own art. For example, Charlotte's quickly penciled self-portrait is a stark contrast to the many painstaking portraits of beautiful women she copied from the popular "annuals" of her day—just like *Jane Eyre*'s self-portrait of a "plain" governess is juxtaposed with her lavish colour portrait of the beautiful Blanche Ingram. Second, I discovered that although many people have identified where the novel's fictional locations are in real life, no one had written about where *Jane Eyre* was born and where her parents were buried. A bit of scholarly detective work narrowed the possibilities down to Manchester—the very place where Charlotte Brontë began to write *Jane Eyre*. I like to think it was a private joke—Charlotte made the place where the novel *Jane Eyre* was born also the birthplace of her fictional character *Jane Eyre*.

AL: Is there anything in particular about the book that you hope will resonate with readers?

SP: As a literary scholar, it always feels a bit dangerous to bring together biography and fiction. You don't want to fall into the trap of simply saying, "Look! See how real life equals fiction." I hope that readers are able to see how Charlotte Brontë's artistry in creating *Jane Eyre* is obviously rooted in real life, in the objects, people, and places she knew, but her imagination and literary

creativity transformed all of that into a fictional world that feels real and believable but is entirely her own skillful creation. I hope that seeing the images and reading the text help people to understand the novel better, but also to appreciate even more deeply Charlotte's incredible accomplishment as a literary artist.

AL: What was rewarding about working on this project for you?

SP: It was a labour of love, a chance to bring together research old and new in order to shed new light on a novel that this year (2017) is celebrating its 170th anniversary. It was incredibly satisfying to gather into one book the images and the facts that one would previously have found scattered throughout numerous books, and to bring together Christine Alexander's years of expertise on Charlotte Brontë's early writings and her art (among many other things) with my research on religion and gender. I also loved writing about food and clothing; actually, I thoroughly enjoyed researching all of the details that I did, from the manufacture of red Bohemian glass to the sailing schedules of the East Indiaman ships. I must admit this project was a good fit for my personality—as an undergraduate, I remember meeting regularly with my friend Frances Dearman "just for fun" in order to create a commentary on any references we didn't understand in Dorothy Sayers's Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries (and to translate all of the Greek and Latin bits). I've always delighted in researching and learning about what I don't understand, and then sharing that new knowledge with others. I hope that the readers of *Celebrating Charlotte Brontë* will be able to feel the same pleasure we experienced when we made the discoveries that we recount in its pages.

Vic Cavalli, M.A.

The Road to Vermilion Lake

“Vic Cavalli takes us on a wild ride along *The Road to Vermilion Lake*. Set against a grand landscape, the novel explores the intersection of emotion and geography, reality and metaphysics. Can love rock your world at the seismic level? Cavalli expels all doubts.”

—Loranne Brown, author of *The Handless Maiden*, TWU professor of Media and Communications



Interviewed by Eric Stein

Professor Vic Cavalli, who teaches both literature and creative writing in the English Department at TWU, is releasing his debut novel with Harvard Square Editions this summer. Entitled *The Road to Vermilion Lake*, Professor Cavalli’s book is the culmination of over a decade-long germination, flowing from his early work in poetry and short fiction. Work on the novel in earnest began a few years ago, and it was only this past September of 2016 that Professor Cavalli received word from Harvard Square that his book had been

accepted for publication. He was thrilled and incredibly grateful.

Indeed, the process has been a long one. Professor Cavalli reported that he found his narrator’s voice as early as 2005, and that through a few stories the first seeds of the book began to take root. Since completing the manuscript, the text has been through over sixty revisions, and sent out to over sixty publishers. It’s taken a great deal of commitment, but with the release imminent, Professor Cavalli’s efforts have paid off.

Deeply shaped by his passion for music, his childhood experiences with his father in nature, and his thirty-year relationship with his wife, *The Road to Vermilion Lake* truly is a work of love. The book is concerned with the relationships between humans, between humans and their environments, and with the natural, even primal, spirituality that has been lost from this modern world, which Professor Cavalli sees as a “kind of force behind everything,” a force that both directs and flows through love.

The Road to Vermilion Lake is not a simple or easy book. Professor Cavalli hopes that it will be treated as a work of literature, and that his readers will find themselves genuinely surprised. It’s a hybrid text—part romance, part thriller, part crime, to name a few—with environmental and theological

elements throughout. Centred on the relationship between Tom, an agnostic and industrial first aid attendant (like Professor Cavalli once was), and Johnny, a devout Catholic woman who is the brilliant mind behind the development project at Vermilion Lake, *The Road to Vermilion Lake* is both an exploration of faith and human relationships, and a remythologization of Christian sexuality. With this novel, Professor Cavalli depicts a new (or perhaps a very old) vision of what it means to love, to be entangled with another and with one's world, that he hopes will challenge the understanding of all his

readers, regardless of their beliefs and backgrounds. He hopes to resensitize his readers to the wonders of this world, the wonders of love, and the pyrotechnic interaction between them.

The Road to Vermilion Lake can be pre-ordered from Harvard Square Editions, and an excerpt can be read at Goodreads.com. From May-June of this year there will be a giveaway on Goodreads providing entrants with a chance to win a copy of the book. The book will be released on July 10, 2017.



Department Events

Verge Conference 2016: Arts + The Inklings

By Ariel Little

Trinity Western's annual Verge Conference, held on September 28-30, was co-hosted this year by the School of the Arts, Media + Culture (SAMC) and the Inklings Institute of Canada (IIC). The topic of the conference was "Arts + The Inklings," celebrating both the literary legacy

of the famous writing group and their lasting impact on arts and culture. Co-conference organizer and IIC co-director Dr. Monika Hilder referred to it as "The event of the year! What a fantastic conference! Over 30 presenters, over 300 attendees. Stellar academic and artistic presentations from seasoned and emerging scholars and artists!"



Dr. Kirsten Jeffrey Johnson

The conference did indeed feature numerous presentations on all aspects of the Inklings and their writings, with topics ranging from whether the Inklings stories can be appropriately adapted as video games to the nature of evil in *The Lord of the Rings*. Several of the presentations were delivered

by members of TWU's English Faculty: Dr. Hilder and Dr. Sara Pearson, and Professors Katharine Bubel and Laura Van Dyke. The event also featured presentations by some of Trinity Western's own students: Graham Boldt, Madison Evans, Leanne Witten, Aaron Frede, and Joshua Randhawa.



Joshua Randhawa, MAIH Ongoing

The undisputed highlight of the conference, in the words of Dr. Hilder, was the presence of “the 007, James Bond of C.S. Lewis studies himself—Dr. Michael Ward of Oxford! Students said: ‘It was like having Lewis on campus!’; ‘incredible.... Lewis

has earned a new place on my book shelf.’ Ward’s Chapel Talks, ‘Reason and Imagination’; Public Lecture, ‘Planet Narnia: C.S. Lewis and the Seven Heavens’; and keynote address, ‘C.S. Lewis and the Arts,’ all received terrific applause.”



Dr. Michael Ward

The conference also included several fine arts exhibitions displaying interpretations of the Inklings' work and their lives, such as a play reading from Pacific Theatre's Ron Reed and a musical performance of composer Donald Swan's arrangements of Tolkien's lyrics. Representing the visual arts, the President's Gallery had an exhibit from the Open Book Art Collective, a group including several Trinity alumni, displaying works of art inspired by the Inklings.

The conference was a memorable experience for graduate student and presenter Joshua Randhawa: "I particularly will remember Michael Ward praising my presentation and

Ron Reed bringing the Inklings to life." For Dr. Hilder, the conference provided a renewal of energy and enthusiasm for all: "We came away inspired to do what we do: pursue faith-based reason and imagination for human flourishing."

Links to Dr. Michael Ward's Chapel Talks:
<https://www8.twu.ca/life/ministries/chapel/listen/?sortby=date&year=2016-2017&org=all&theme=all&author=Michael%20Ward,%20Ph.D>

Link to Dr. Michael Ward's Public Lectures:
<https://vimeo.com/211011005>



Ben Linkewich Britton, Jessica Hilder, Dr. Monika Hilder, Dr. Michael Ward, Natalie Hilder, Judi Vankevich

George MacDonald Evening

An Evening of Literary Inspiration



Kate Nundal and Graham Boldt

By Ariel Little

On February 20th Trinity Western's Alumni Hall became the site of both a dorm room under spiritual siege and a mystical Louisiana bayou, as students creatively responded to the writings of renowned fantasy author George MacDonald. An event co-hosted by Drs. Hilder and Pearson, the evening featured readings of two dramatic pieces written by students who were inspired by MacDonald's works. The first piece was a scene written by Kate Nundal for Fantasy Literature, English 392, entitled "The Disenchanter," which was inspired by the idea of the Shadow found in George MacDonald's *Phantastes*. Nundal's scene featured a modern university student wrestling with her personal Shadow, representing her desire to appear mature by

adopting a disenchanted view of the universe. It was an eerily familiar scene in its echoing of a real internal battle and was a brilliant adaptation of MacDonald's concept. The second piece featured was Graham Boldt's play, *Mama Callie and the Crocodile Riders*, written for Children's Literature, English 391, in response to George MacDonald's *The Princess and the Goblin*. Largely inspired by MacDonald's famous "Grandmother" character, Boldt's play centered on the lessons taught by Mama Callie, the wise woman of the swamp, and dealt with the themes of identity, racism, and the nature of creation. Boldt's play was a beautiful and soul-refreshing tale that kept the audience captivated and alternating between laughter and wonder. Additionally, there was a stimulating talk-back session following the readings as the audience got to

ask the two writers about their pieces as well as the actors about their experiences. After the talkback session, Inklings Institute member Matthew Steem delivered some exciting news, the announcement of a potential publishing opportunity for Trinity students in the online segment of *Relief Journal*.

(For further information, contact Joy or Matthew Steem at joy@elicitinsight.com or Matthew@elicitinsight.com). The evening was capped off by some delicious Victorian period treats that MacDonald would have most certainly enjoyed, courtesy of the multi-talented Dr. Pearson!



Talkback Session



Tunji Taylor-Lewis



Esther Owobowale

Philosophers' Café: Evolution? Myth? Science? Its Appeal?

By Dr. Monika Hilder

On March 8th Fosmark Graduate Collegium hosted our first Philosophers' Café: "Mythology and Science: Intersections." The Inklings Institute along with the Department of English and Creative Writing partnered with SFU's Philosophers' Café to discuss C.S. Lewis's essay "The Funeral of a Great Myth." The topic drew a sizable crowd. Dr. Monika Hilder served as moderator as we discussed Lewis's observations that the imaginative story (myth) of evolution predated the biological theory, his ideas on the reasons for the appeal of the myth, and the nature of myth, narrative, meta-narrative, the philosophy of modern science, and various ways of knowing. Participants who weighed in on the conversation included TWU professors Arnold Sikkema, Christopher Morrissey, Holly Nelson, Paul Brown, Sara Pearson, Steve Nicholle, and Vic Cavalli; SFU coordinator, Professor Meguido Zola; TWU alumni Benjamin Linkewich Britton, Ph.D. candidate in chemistry at SFU and Richard Bergen, Ph.D. candidate in English at UBC; TWU students; and members of the larger community. In brief, Lewis's reasons for our attraction to the myth of evolution

ranged from the influence of The Machine Age to the Oedipal complex to modern economics and politics and the overall vested emotional interest in the progress myth. A lively conversation followed on whether we thought his reasons were valid and to what extent they rang true today. What do we think of transhumanism? How do we regard progress today? Do millennials think of these things differently? Some votes from participants on sample questions were:

"Do we typically get the science we want?"
Yes.

"Do scientists overstep their discipline to make metaphysical statements, such as 'God is dead'?" Yes, frequently.

"Do scientists think they need philosophy?"
No (Alas, too often not).

We closed the evening with a reading from C.S. Lewis's poem "Evolutionary Hymn." Our next Philosophers' Café will take place at False Creek Community Centre, June 12th, 4 – 5:30 p.m.: "What do you think about C.S. Lewis's views on love?"; Moderator: Dr. Jason Lepojarvi.



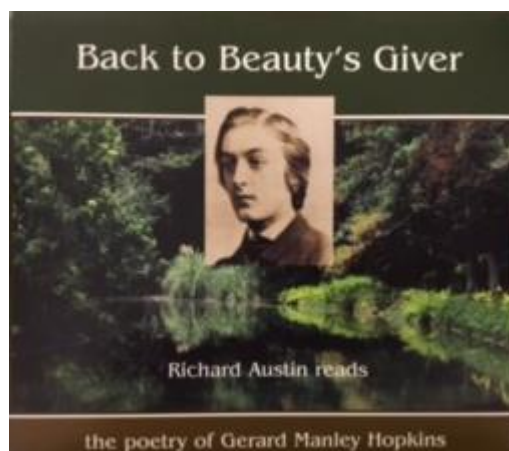
Attendants in the Fosmark Graduate Collegium

Back to Beauty's Giver: An Evening of the Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins

By Dr. Sara L. Pearson

On Friday, April 31, the Department of English and Creative Writing had the pleasure of hosting an evening with actor Richard Austin, who has committed to memory the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins. Austin has performed Hopkins's poetry to numerous international audiences, and has produced a CD, *Back to Beauty's Giver: The Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins*. The audience in Northwest Auditorium felt the power of Hopkins's poetry as Hopkins intended it to be experienced—through the sensitive medium of the human voice. In his embodiment of the poems, Austin helped us to understand at a deep level the incarnational nature of Hopkins's work. The performance was structured topically and roughly chronologically, including poems on topics such as "environment," "philosophy," "dark sonnets," and "comfort." Austin's performance of the poems themselves was

deeply inspiring and at times spine-tingling, but his fascinating and thoughtful introduction of the poems helped to bring alive Hopkins as a poet, priest, and thinker. Austin's own personal experiences and insights were also deeply moving, highlighting for us the fact that our experience of literature is always relational: our lives intersect with, grow from, and reflect the literature we read. One favourite moment was hearing Austin describe his own experience in Cornwall, walking down a path with the city in the distance, the sea on one side, and a skylark rising on the other. He had stepped into the landscape of Hopkins's "The Sea and the Skylark," which Austin then recited. The evening concluded with a time of questions, answers, and several encore recitations. At the end of the evening, I felt that through Hopkins's poetry, people "here may draw like breath / More Christ and baffle death."



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Aline Bouwman



Jessie Van Rooyen

Interviewed by Eric Stein

Aline Bouwman and Jessie Van Rooyen are co-Editors-in-Chief of the 2017 issue of *[spaces]*, TWU's own literary journal. It is the eleventh issue of the journal, entitled "Balance and Excess."

They are excited to see such a diverse body of work be published this year, including some new genres and unique formats which *[spaces]* has not published in the past. The issue features a mix of experimental and traditional works, across a variety of forms: short fiction, poetry, epic, translation, and more.

Both Aline and Jessie told me that the editorial process has been a challenging but fruitful experience. As upper division students, the task of being editors is not an easy one, but it also gives the opportunity to

engage with a whole team of other creative people, to be exposed to a huge variety of great works, and to participate in the production of something that, after over a decade of publication, is beginning to have quite a rich history of its own. *[spaces]* is about the people—the team and the contributors—and to interact with so much talent has been for Aline and Jessie very rewarding.

This year, they are excited to see both repeat writers and new authors be published, especially the first-year students and those outside of the English department, which is new for the journal, they told me. They hope to see *[spaces]* continue to expand in this direction in the years to come, and that we will see a twentieth anniversary for *[spaces]* in the future.



Ryan Sanford Wan, Mariah Schuurman, Matthew Schmidt, Aline Bouwman, Jessie Van Rooyen, Jemimah Fernando, Christine Miranda, Heather Twele, Graham Boldt



The [spaces] launch party at Murrayville Community Hall