

# Centre for Canadian Studies



## Word from the Director

I am delighted to report another outstanding year of activity in the Centre for Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University, thanks to the participation and contribution of students, colleagues, and visitors to the Centre, to the institutional commitment of the University through the offices of the President, the Provost, and the Dean of Arts, and to ongoing support from the Harold Crabtree Foundation. This report presents some of the highlights of the Centre's activities in 2013-2014.

The year was off to an exciting start with the highly successful international Canadian Studies conference, "Meeting Places," September 18-21, 2013. Co-hosted with St. Mary's University's Gorsebrook Research Institute, the conference got underway in Halifax and continued to Mount Allison in Sackville, with participants bussed between the two locations as part of the program. Just days after the conference, the Centre hosted the remarkable "Acadian Soprano," Suzie LeBlanc, in a performance accompanied by pianist Nhat Viet Phi, documentary artist Linda Rae Dornan, and poet Herménégilde

Chiasson, celebrating the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary. Cultural events continued in October, with readings by Canadian writers Julie Bruck, Susan Glickman, and Janice Kulyk Keefer, and in November by Miranda Hill. Fall term also featured the much-anticipated annual trip to Charlottetown, PEI, for the Symons Lecture on the State of Confederation. This year's lecturer was the Right Honorable Paul Martin, whom Mount Allison students had the opportunity to meet and speak with in person following the lecture. Closing Fall term activities, the Centre welcomed *The Walrus* magazine co-publishers, Shelley Ambrose and Douglas Knight, for a public panel discussion of "the business of culture."

Winter term 2014 continued lively and active, beginning with the annual Stanley lecture, which was delivered by Mount Allison professor of Economics Dr. Craig Brett on January 15. The following week, Curve Lake First Nations playwright Drew Hayden Taylor packed Mount Allison's Owens gallery as students and members of the public turned out in droves to hear the award-winning author talk about Aboriginal theatre production in Canada. February featured the first of what is hoped to be a yearly Canadian Studies student trip to Ottawa to attend the annual Vickers-Verduyn lecture in Canadian Studies at Carleton University and to visit the nation's capital. In March, the Centre for Canadian Studies collaborated with the Mount Allison student groups *Roots* and *Mosaic* to host Evelyn White, official biographer of the celebrated writer



**Dr. Christl Verduyn, Director**

Alice Walker. March also featured the Centre's collaboration with Mount Allison's graduating class of 2014 for a wonderful evening with Jowi Taylor, former CBC radio broadcaster and creator of the fabulous "Six String Nation" event. Winter term 2014 closed with the first annual Faculty of Arts Student Research Symposium, in which Canadian Studies was very well represented with presentations by five Canadian Studies students Kylie de Chastelain, Stephanie Davis, Miranda Gouchie, Piper Riley Thompson, and Ryan Vandenberg.

The 2013-2014 academic year drew to a celebratory end with the tremendous news that Canadian Studies major, Kylie de Chastelain had received a Rhodes scholarship. In other news and recognition of Canadian Studies as one of Mount Allison University's dynamic academic programs, I am proud to have had the honour of receiving this year's Herbert and Leota Tucker Teaching Award. This caps the honour I have enjoyed these past four years of serving as Director of Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies. I look forward to continue serving in 2014-2015.

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## Major Annual Events

*Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies offers two major annual public lectures, which have become highlights of the intellectual landscape at Mount Allison University.*

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### *The Edgar and Dorothy "Davidson Lecture" in Canadian Studies*

*Sally Armstrong "The Malala Lesson - A Canadian Connection"*  
29 October 2013

The annual "Davidson Lecture" brings a distinguished Canadianist to campus to speak on a topic of interest and importance to Canadians. Past Davidson lecturers have included Edward Goldenberg, formerly chief of staff to Prime Minister Jean Chretien; Kevin Lynch, former Chief Clerk of the Privy Council of Canada and Secretary to the Federal Cabinet; political scientist Professor Janice Gross Stein; past UN Ambassador Stephen Lewis; noted journalist Graham Fraser; political activist and academic Judy Rebick; Aboriginal novelist and short story writer, Thomas King; environmental activist and academic, Dr. David Schindler; and the Honorable Stéphane Dion.

The 2013-2014 Davidson Lecture in Canadian Studies was delivered by human rights activist and journalist Sally Armstrong on October 29, 2013. Once again this year, the Davidson Lecture was part

of the 2013-2014 President's Speakers Series for the year of global engagement, and Armstrong's lecture, "The Malala Lesson — a Canadian Connection", concerned Malala Yousafzai, the 15-year-old in Pakistan who defied the Taliban by going to school and was shot. Armstrong has covered stories in zones of conflict all over the world. From Bosnia and Somalia to Rwanda and Afghanistan her eyewitness reports have earned her the Amnesty International Media Award three times, as well as global acclaim. In addition to her journalism, Armstrong is the author of several books, including 2013's *Ascent of Women: Our turn, our way* – a remarkable story of world-wide change. Armstrong is a former member of the International Women's Commission at the UN and has received honorary degrees from several Canadian universities including Mount Allison in 2009.

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### *The George F. G. "Stanley Lecture" in Canadian Studies*

*Dr. Craig Brett "Will Globalization Kill the Canadian Welfare State?"*  
15 January 2014

The annual "Stanley Lecture" is given each year by a distinguished Mount Allison Canadianist. This lecture was established in honour of the first Director (from 1969-1975) of the Centre for Canadian Studies, Dr. George F.G. Stanley (1907-2002). Well known for his role in the design of the Canadian flag and for his distinction as lieutenant governor of New Brunswick from 1982-1987, Dr. Stanley was also an accomplished academic, a Rhodes scholar, a member of the Royal Society, and the author or editor of some 18 books.

The 2013-2014 Stanley Lecture in Canadian studies was presented by Dr. Craig Brett of Mount Allison's Department of Economics on January 15, 2014. His lecture "Will Globalization Kill the Canadian Welfare State?" explored the impact of globalization on the Canadian welfare state and concluded that the overall level of Canadian welfare state activity has changed very little over the past three decades despite sizable increases in the openness of the Canadian economy.

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## Events in 2013-2014

*In addition to its signature named public lectures — the annual Davidson and Stanley lectures — and as part of its commitment to outreach and research dissemination, the Centre for Canadian Studies regularly co-sponsors and co-hosts numerous speaker events and other special activities with different departments and organizations, both at the university and community level, as well as on the wider national level. Highlights of this community collaboration during 2013-2014 are included below.*

### September 2013

#### **Meeting Places: an international Canadian Studies conference - September 18-21, 2013**

Co-organized by the Centre for Canadian Studies at Mount Allison and the Gorsebrook Research Institute at St. Mary's University, this conference explored place-based communities and cultures. It brought together academic, cultural, and artistic constituencies from two "places," Halifax, Nova Scotia and Sackville, New Brunswick. Discussions began at St. Mary's University in Halifax, following which conference participants travelled together across the provincial borders and the Cobequid Pass to Mount Allison University in Sackville, with stops along the way at the Glooscap Heritage Centre and Mi'kmaw Museum in Millbrook, Nova Scotia, and Fort Beauséjour in Aulac, New Brunswick. Keynote speakers during the conference included Andrea Bear Nicholas, Maliseet from Tobique, New Brunswick and Chair in Native Studies at St. Thomas University; Cole Harris, award-winning author of *Making Native Space: Colonialism, Resistance, and Reserves in British Columbia* (2003) and *The Reluctant Land: Society, Space, and Environment in Canada before Confederation* (2009) and professor emeritus of the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia; Tania Martin, Canada Research Chair in Built Religious Heritage and assistant professor in the School of Architecture at Université Laval in Quebec City and an expert in the history of North-American vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes; and Graeme Wynn, historical geographer and pioneer in the interdisciplinary field of environmental history, author of *Timber Colony: a historical geography of early nineteenth century New Brunswick* (1981) to *Canada and Arctic North America* (2007), and professor of environmental and historical Geography at the University of British Columbia.

The conference included readings by Canadian authors Herménégilde Chiasson, Michael Crummey, Alexander MacLeod, and Aritha van Herk, and a special "Meeting Places" exhibition in Mount Allison's Owens Art Gallery. Supported by co-sponsoring universities and a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, "Meeting Places" was an unqualified success and a wonderful opportunity for students at both St. Mary's University and Mount Allison to experience an academic interdisciplinary conference.



**Acadian poet  
Herménégilde  
Chiasson reading**

**Keynote Speaker  
Andrea Bear  
Nicholas**



**Conference participants at  
the Glooscap Heritage  
Centre & Mi'kmaw  
Museum in Millbrook, NS.**



**Conference  
participants at  
Fort Beauséjour-  
Fort Cumberland,  
Aulac, NB.**



#### **"Poems in Song and Walks with Elizabeth Bishop"- September 24, 2013**

"Acadian Soprano" Suzie LeBlanc, pianist Nhat Viet Phi, documentary artist Linda Rae Dornan, and poet Herménégilde Chiasson collaborated on a unique performance of music, poetry, and film, part of a larger production involving a CD and a DVD in celebration of the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary. The performance took place in Mount Allison's Owens gallery and was co-sponsored with the Department of Music.



## October 2013

### ***Julie Bruck and Susan Glickman - October 3, 2013***

Award-winning poets Julie Bruck and Susan Glickman read from their recent collections – Bruck’s 2012 Governor General’s award-winning *Monkey Ranch* and Glickman’s 2012 collection *The Smooth Yarrow*. This reading was co-sponsored with the Canada Council for the Arts.

### ***The annual Symons Lecture on the State of Confederation, Charlottetown - October 10, 2013***



***Fireside chat with Symons lecturer  
the Honorable Paul Martin***

The 2013 Thomas H.B. Symons Lecture on the State of Confederation Series was presented by former Canadian Prime Minister, The Right Honorable Paul Martin, on the topic "Confederation Today and Aboriginal Canada." As in past years, Mount Allison’s Centre for Canadian Studies organized student travel to and participation in this important lecture event. The Centre’s commitment to the lecture has earned it the generous support of Charlottetown’s Confederation Centre, which provides bus transportation to and from Charlottetown, lunch upon arrival, and the opportunity for Mount Allison students to meet with the lecturer over a fireside chat following the public lecture. This is a unique experience which has allowed up to 45 Mount

Allison students each year to meet such notable Canadians as the Honorable Peter Lougheed (2006); Dr. Ian Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada (2007); the Right Honorable Beverley McLachlin, P.C. Chief Justice of Canada (2008); Mary Simon, President of the national Inuit organization Intuit Tapiriit Kanatami (2009); His Excellency David Johnston, Governor General of Canada (2010); the Chief Statistician of Canada from 1985-2008, Dr. Fellegi (2011); renowned environmental activist, Dr. David Suzuki (2012); and Dr. T.H.B. Symons himself, founding president of Trent University and author of the seminal 1975 Symons Report on Canadian Studies. The field trip to Charlottetown for the annual Symons lecture has become an event to which Mount Allison students look forward each year.



***Canadian Studies 2013-2014 teaching team  
- from left to right, Siobhan Kiely, Andrew  
Nurse, Meaghan Beaton, Andrea Beverley,  
and Christl Verduyn***

### ***“Hester Victoria’s Chinese Coat: from Pridham’s of Sackville to Liberty’s of London” - October 22, 2013***

University of Guelph professor and poet and novelist Janice Kulyk Keefer presented her current research project on the life and travels of Hester Wood, the youngest child of Senator Josiah Wood. After studies at Mount Allison, Hester left Sackville in 1903 to study sculpture at London's Royal College of Art, and eventually to marry and settle in England. In her presentation, Dr. Kulyk Keefer reflected on the relationship between identity and objects we produce or acquire—in Hester's case a work of sculpture that was recently donated to the university, and a fabulously beautiful coat imported from China in the 1920s. Accompanied by rich visuals, Dr. Kulyk Keefer’s presentation mesmerized the audience that gathered in Owens for the event.

### ***The annual Edgar and Dorothy Davidson Lecture in Canadian Studies - October 29, 2013***

Journalist and human rights activist Sally Armstrong chose “The Malala Lesson – A Canadian Connection” as the title and theme of her lecture in which she presented her research on Malala Yousafza and her fight for female education in Pakistan. In the reception that followed her lecture, Armstrong met and talked further with Mount Allison students and members of the wider Sackville community.

## November 2013

### ***“The Walrus and the Business of Culture” - November 4, 2013***

*The Walrus* magazine co-publishers Shelley Ambrose and Douglas Knight discussed the challenges and rewards of magazine publishing, in particular publishing a Canadian arts and culture magazine like *The Walrus* in today's competitive market. Co-sponsored with Mount Allison University departments of Commerce, Drama, English, and Modern Languages, this event featured unique involvement by students who were part of planning the event, preparing questions for Ms. Ambrose and Mr. Knight, and thanking them on behalf of the Centre and the co-sponsoring departments.



**THE WALRUS magazine  
co-publishers Shelley Ambrose  
and Douglas Knight**

### ***Miranda Hill - November 13, 2013***

Award-winning Canadian short story writer Miranda Hill read from her newly published book *Sleeping Funny*. Hill is the founder and director of Project Bookmark Canada, an initiative that installs text from stories and poems in the exact physical locations where literary scenes are set. Hill's reading was co-sponsored with the Canada Council for the Arts.

## January 2014

### ***The annual George F.G. Stanley Lecture in Canadian Studies - January 15, 2014***

In his lecture, “Will Globalization Kill the Canadian Welfare State?” Mount Allison Economics professor Dr. Craig Brett examined the ways in which increased globalization and economic integration can make it difficult to sustain a social safety net in Canada. He also highlighted how, viewed globally, the Canadian welfare state is relatively small and how some of the larger continental welfare states are not just bigger, but are also financed by a different kind of tax system than we have in Canada.

### ***Drew Hayden Taylor - January 21, 2014***

In his presentation to a packed audience in Mount Allison University's Owens art gallery, Curve Lake First Nations author Drew Hayden Taylor explored the nature and relations of aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians with his trademark note of humour. This event was co-sponsored with the Canada Council for the Arts.

## February 2014

### ***The annual Vickers-Verduyn Lecture in Canadian Studies - Carleton University, February 27***

Canadian Studies students Piper Riley Thompson and Joshua Carr represented Mount Allison at this annual lecture in Canadian Studies at Carleton University. This year's lecturer, Dr. Bonita Lawrence (Mi'kmaw), teaches Indigenous Studies at York University and is the author of *“Real” Indians and Others: Mixed-Blood Urban Native Peoples and Indigenous Nationhood* (UBC Press, 2004) and *Fractured Homeland: Federal Recognition and Algonquin Identity in Ontario* (UBC Press 2013). Her lecture was entitled “Authenticity and Indigeneity: Reclaiming Algonquin Identity.” With the support of the Bradbrooke Smith Fund, Piper and Joshua were able to fly to Ottawa to attend the lecture, to meet fellow students in Canadian Studies at Carleton, and to explore parts of Ottawa, including the National Art Gallery.

## March 2014

### ***“Alice Walker: a Life” - March 11, 2014***

Biographer Evelyn White spoke about the subject of her acclaimed book *Alice Walker: A Life*. In addition to this authorized biography of the renowned writer Walker, Evelyn White is the author of *Chain Chain Change: For Black Women in Abusive Relationships*, editor of *The Black Women's Health Book: Speaking for Ourselves* and co-author of the photography book, *The African Americans*. This event was co-sponsored with Mount Allison student groups Roots and Mosaic, the University's International Program, and the Department of English.

### ***Jowi Taylor. “The Voyageur” Guitar and “Six String Nation” - March 20, 2014***

Former CBC radio host Jowi Taylor captivated his audience with his interactive presentation of the “Voyageur guitar,” aptly named for its travels across Canada to festivals, conferences, concerts, schools, and universities. The “Voyageur” has been played by hundreds of different musicians and held by thousands of Canadians for a series of photos that have been made into the book *Six String Nation: 64 pieces, 6 strings, 1 Canada, 1 guitar* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2009). This fun-and-information-filled event was co-sponsored with Mount Allison's graduating class of 2014.



***Mount Allison President Robert Campbell and Jowi Taylor***



***Canadian Studies students Kylie de Chastelain, Ryan Vandenberg and Miranda Gouchie with The Voyageur guitar***



***First year Canadian Studies student Courtney McLaren with The Voyageur guitar***

## April 2014

### ***Faculty of Arts Student Research Symposium - April 11, 2014***

Canadian Studies students Kylie de Chastelain, Stephanie Davis, Miranda Gouchie, Piper Riley Thompson, and Ryan Vandenberg all participated in this first annual celebration of Faculty of Arts student research. Stephanie teamed up with Piper to speak about their “research praxis” work with Dr. Andrea Beverley. Kylie presented on “Food Security in Canada's North.” Miranda entitled her presentation “Sustaining Superficial Secularism: Cultural Tensions and Ethno-religious accommodation in Quebec,” and Ryan's title was “Rethinking the Puzzle of Gendered Dropout Rates.”



***Canadian Studies Student Ryan Vandenberg presents at the Symposium***



***Canadian Studies Students Stephanie Davis and Piper Thompson present at the Symposium***



***Canadian Studies student Kylie de Chastelain presents at the Symposium***

## *Outreach and Collaboration beyond Mount Allison*

*The Centre for Canadian Studies has a long history of organizing and hosting conferences at the regional, national, and international levels alike. The Centre's Director is committed to outreach and collaboration both at Mount Allison and beyond. To this end, initiatives and projects are being developed with departments and programs at Mount Allison and with organizations and groups across the province and country and abroad.*

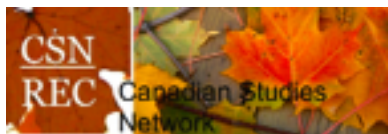
### *Coming up this Fall 2014 ...*

#### ***“Canadian women as public intellectuals” 16-19 October 2014***

Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies, in collaboration with the University of Calgary, will host this conference on the topic of Canadian women as public intellectuals. Planned in conjunction with the annual Persons Day on October 18, the conference will feature, among other notable speakers, author and activist Margaret Atwood, Québécois writer and theorist Nicole Brossard, Mi'kmaq social justice leader and lawyer Pam Palmater, and Canadian aerospace engineer Natalie Panek. For other speakers and conference details, see [www.discoursedynamics.ca](http://www.discoursedynamics.ca)

## *Canadian Studies Networks*

### ***The Canadian Studies Network/Réseau d'études canadiennes (CSN-REC)***



Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies is an institutional member of this new, national academic Canadian Studies organization, which was established in November 2010 at the “Two Days of Canada” conference at Brock University. The Centre's Director, Dr. Christl Verduyn, sits on the CSN-REC's Executive as Vice-President and the Network's membership includes many Mount Allison Canadian Studies students.

<http://www.csn-rec.ca/>

### ***International Council for Canadian Studies/ Conseil international d'études Canadiennes (ICCS)***



Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies maintains connection with this international organization for Canadian Studies through its institutional membership in the CSN-REC, which holds full member status in the ICCS. This connection helps foster links between Mount Allison's Centre for Canadian Studies and the many international Canadian Studies members of the ICCS.

<http://www.iccs-ciec.ca/>



## People and Places and Appreciation

### *Congratulations to ...*

**Kylie de Chastelain**, Mount Allison's 52<sup>nd</sup> Rhodes Scholar, Kylie will continue graduate studies at the University of Oxford in the area of politics and governance. During her time at Mount Allison, Kylie completed extensive research on Aboriginal cultures and communities in Canada, and travelled to the Northwest Territories where she participated in a field school, living with a community of Dene elders.

**Dr. Rosemary Polegato**, one of four recipients of Canada's national 3M Teaching Award. Dr. Polegato is a member of the Centre for Canadian Studies Advisory Committee and has helped organize such successful Canadian Studies-Commerce events as "The Walrus and the Business of Culture" in November 2013.

**Ryan Vandenberg**, recipient of a prestigious Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship.

**Dr. Christl Verduyn**, recipient of Mount Allison's 2014 Herbert and Leota Tucker Teaching Award.

### *Farewell and good fortune to ...*

*Graduating Canadian Studies majors*

**Pascale Bourque**, who will be pursuing her MA in Criminology at the University of Ottawa.

**Kylie de Chastelain**, whose Rhodes scholarship takes her to Oxford University.

**Miranda Gouchie**, who will be at the University of Saskatchewan in its Masters of Public Policy program.

**Cassandra Robichaud**, who will be working while considering graduate studies plans.

**Ryan Vandenberg**, who will be pursuing his MA in Educational Studies in the University of British Columbia's "Society, Culture, and Politics of Education" program.

### *Welcome to ...*

**Dr. Andrea Beverley**, as a Canadian Studies faculty member. Dr. Beverley came to the Centre for Canadian Studies in Fall 2013 as a FQRSC postdoctoral fellow. She now holds a cross-appointment with the Department of English. Dr. Beverley has a PhD in English from the Université de Montréal. Her area of research is Canadian women's writing and transnational feminism.

**Piper Riley Thompson** and **Stephanie Davis**, Centre for Canadian Studies student interns for 2014-2015.

### *Thank you ...*

**Members of the Centre's Advisory Committee:** colleagues **Andrew Nurse** (Head, Canadian Studies academic program), **Michael Fox** (Department of Geography & Environment), **Rosemary Polegato** (Department of Commerce), **Meaghan Beaton** (W.P. Bell Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Canadian Studies), **Andrea Beverley** (FQRSC Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Canadian Studies), and student representative, **Kylie de Chastelain**.

**Kylie de Chastelain** and **Ryan Vandenberg**, Centre for Canadian Studies Interns 2013-2014, for ongoing development the Centre's student internship.

**Brittany Jones**, secretary for Canadian Studies, History, and Women's and Gender Studies, and **Elaine Simpson**, Department of English secretary, who together provide Canadian Studies with much appreciated office support.

**To all** who come along to Centre for Canadian Studies events and activities. Your presence helps make these occasions a success!

The **Centre for Canadian Studies website** is accessed through the general website for the Canadian Studies program. Please consult the site for ongoing updates and information about the activities and projects of the Centre for Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University.

[http://www.mta.ca/faculty/arts-letters/canadian\\_studies/index.html](http://www.mta.ca/faculty/arts-letters/canadian_studies/index.html)