



College of Arts

Research that provokes, disturbs, informs, surprises, reveals and creates

From global ethics to soundscape recording, from enquiry-based learning to the Asterion labyrinth, from Romania to Shanghai, and from Bremen to Guelph, College of Arts investigators enact essential creativity, making Guelph a Canadian leader in humanities research.

Don Bruce

Arts and sciences programs will benefit from new relationships with top-rated German schools. Over the past two years, Prof. Don Bruce, Dean of the College of Arts, has been working closely with the Universität Bremen in Germany to create an exchange program. Now he is creating a similar relationship between the Universität Konstanz and U of G using the Ontario/Baden-Württemberg Program. Students in many areas, including marine biology and European Studies, will be able to go on exchange to Universität Konstanz to earn U of G credits.

Catherine Bush

Zombie haikus, poetry and The Adventures of Tarzan at ESL School — they're all part of a new program in Toronto's Parkdale Public School to help ethnically diverse students with creative writing. Master of Fine Arts students and Prof. Catherine Bush, School of English and Theatre Studies, initiated this win-win program, which assists the elementary school students with English writing while the university students gain valuable teaching experience.

ANDREW SHERWOOD

Coins depicting Roman emperors — such as the one Prof. Andrew Sherwood holds (above) of Constantine the Great (AD 306–337) or of Nero (inset) (AD 54–68) — are prized finds. They're similar to those Sherwood and his research team unearthed during his archaeological dig in Romania last summer, some dating back to 700 BC. The team also found a perfectly preserved hammerhead from the Roman period and fortification walls from the original Greek colony. Currently, Sherwood is researching the fragments collected at the dig site. He's travelling to Turkey this year to a site founded by Pompey the Great in 60 BC.



↻ SUSAN DOBSON

Photography has changed through the technological advancements of digital images. Prof. Susan Dobson, School of Fine Art and Music, collaborated with Alison Nordstrom, a cultural historian, to produce *Pictured Past: Future Perfect*, a photographic study that seeks to understand how digital photography has changed the perception of how time passes. The researchers will hold discussions and lectures at George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film in 2014.

Julie Cairnie

Studying literature written about black and white childhoods in Zimbabwe provides insight into a number of important social issues, such as education, health care and AIDS. Prof. Julie Cairnie's research has identified connections between Zimbabwean and Canadian cultures, particularly between black Zimbabweans and First Nations people of Canada. Cairnie's work seeks to promote a greater cultural awareness worldwide.

Monique Deveaux

Higher standards of justice and equality have motivated Canada Research Chair Monique Deveaux to coordinate two international workshops involving philosophy experts from places as far away as Australia, Germany, Italy and Switzerland. The workshops aim to give researchers a way to participate in a worldwide effort to improve economic, cultural and gender equality by sharing their experiences and perspectives.

Elizabeth Ewan

When men are jobless, how do they express their masculinity? To many men, a job, as much or more than anything else, defines who they are. But high unemployment rates can challenge self-perception. University Research Chair Prof. Elizabeth Ewan is examining masculinity in Medieval Scotland as a way of gaining insight into contemporary problems. Her research results are being eyed by governments in the UK as well as in Canada, particularly as Canada has communities with strong Scottish roots.

FASTWÜRMS

Cutting-edge technologies and artwork are combined by FASTWÜRMS, the artistic duo made up of Kim Kozzi and Dai Skuse. Their most recent work, *Cannibal Nympho Witch*, was featured at Paul Petro Contemporary Art in Toronto. Sculptures and digital art were used to create a physical representation of the FASTWÜRMS science fiction novel. The technology used to create the digital art presentation has helped Guelph to become a leader in the digital media world.

James Harley

In day-to-day life, we're surrounded by sound. When recording and performance spaces can recreate that immersive encounter and manipulate it, amazing things happen. The University of Guelph's Advanced Production and Performance



Studio can manipulate hundreds of audio tracks through eight speakers spread throughout live studio and performance settings. The lab allows music researchers to incorporate diverse sounds, from chirping birds to traffic to tree frogs, providing an innovative and unique sound experience.

Matthew Hayday

The relationship between English-speaking and French-speaking Canada has often been challenged. But how fraught is the relationship? A University of Guelph researcher has examined the ways that bilingualism has been accepted or rejected by Canadians by reviewing its historical impacts from the 1960s to the 2000s. This research prompted Hayday's recent book, *Contemporary Quebec: Selected Readings and Commentaries in 2011*, which promotes a greater awareness of bilingualism in Canada and around the world.

CHRISTIAN GIROUX

Arts and engineering come together at the Digital Haptic Lab, a facility featuring a 3-D printer and a water jet cutter, to bring designs created by both departments to life. Led by Fine Arts professor Christian Giroux in conjunction with engineering research associate John Phillips, the lab allows researchers to visualize, design and implement functional components using state-of-the-art haptic computing equipment and then to create them using their advanced three-dimensional printer.

Ajay Heble

Music is a powerful teaching tool — it invites you to listen. That's especially true if you are an improvisational artist who needs to listen intently to all that's happening around you, and participate or collaborate at the most appropriate time. An international team of Guelph-based researchers including Prof. Ajay Heble has developed a program that brings improvisational music to children in the Guelph community. By listening and collaborating, the children learn how to be more sensitive and aware of others ... and they have fun at the same time.

Kris Inwood

Led by Prof. Kris Inwood, history researchers are developing a groundbreaking database, called People In Motion, that will examine the migrations and lives of thousands of people living in Canada, America and Scotland between 1871 and 1911. The goal is to create a tool researchers across North America and the world can use to better understand the links between family origins, emigration, social mobility, life experiences and adult health. Ultimately, People In Motion will provide a unique historical perspective on present-day issues, as well as inform public policy.

Stuart McCook

Certain plant diseases may separate you from your morning cup of coffee. An estimated 25 per cent of the annual coffee harvest falls victim to a disease called coffee leaf rust — a disease that causes yellow speckling on the leaves and kills the plant. Now, history professor Stuart McCook is assessing the ecological and economic costs of this disease worldwide. The goal is to find a way to incorporate modern technologies without drastically increasing the input cost, or altering the flavor of the delicious Arabica bean.



SUSAN BROWN

Literature students have long expressed a need for a broad literary history of women writers and their works. In response, Prof. Susan Brown and others began the Orlando Project, an online database full of literature that reflects women's writing and cultural history. It houses one of the largest collections of works by British women writers and serves as a stellar model for similar databases. Brown is also heading the Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory, a project that builds upon Orlando by digitizing women's writing in Canada.

Jacqueline Murray

An important development in enquiry-based learning that has positively impacted many students at the University of Guelph is Prof. Jacqueline Murray's Politics, Science and Culture of Hunger course. It involves innovative enquiry-based learning methods where students research, explore and analyze topics independent of a professor. As a major part of the course, students collaborate in online discussions to examine complex case studies dealing with social justice.



↻ DOROTHY ODARTEY-WELLINGTON

The International Virtual Conference on Afro-Hispanic Studies in Africa/Africa in Afro-Hispanic Studies was chaired by Prof. Dorothy Odartey-Wellington in March. The goal of the conference was to break down traditional national barriers about historical interactions and relationships. A wide range of topics was discussed, from the reception of popular activities to constructions and revisions of African identity. The conference was related to Odarty-Wellington's research on the literature of Equatorial Guinea.

Jerrard Smith

Jerrard Smith designed and created a massive outdoor labyrinth called Asterion, which is part of Canadian composer R. Murray Shafter's *Patria Cycle*. The labyrinth is a live theatre lab where audience members can influence the story by active participation as they travel through the labyrinth, interacting with the environment and natural spaces through image, sound, taste, texture and touch. Audience members become the players as they add to the story and participate in a unique, immersive theatre experience.

Norman Smith

Exploration can provide some of the most enriching and inspiring educational experiences for students. University of Guelph history professor Norman Smith co-implemented a program that sends students of Chinese history abroad to study at a Shanghai university for a semester. The program allows students to learn surrounded by China's culture, language and history.

Renée Worringer

Collaboration is a growing element of modern research. To that end, Prof. Renée Worringer has developed an online forum called the Middle East Scholar Society (MESS) where scholars in Middle East studies discuss and post works-in-progress and collaborate with experts in the field. The website presence has facilitated research and has made information about the Middle East more accessible to Canadians, cultivating a much-needed awareness of Middle East studies Canada-wide.



↻ STEFAN LINQUIST

Since Aristotle, people have assumed that humans possess an inner nature. In modern times, we say that human nature is "coded in the DNA." But in fact, these ideas do not square neatly with modern biology. Developmental biology teaches us that traits arise out of interactions among genes and the environment. Modern biology does not vindicate the idea that human nature is somehow programmed by the genes. Why, then, does this idea of an essential human nature persist in both scientific and popular thinking? Prof. Stefan Linquist's research explores the persistence of the folk concept of human nature. He shows that this concept enjoys a sort of free-floating existence, unconstrained by science, while at the same time posturing as a scientifically informed concept.

MARTIN SCHWALBE



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