



Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences NEWSLETTER

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"SCITPC's Vision, all the Fuss about IT, and WebCT"

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I represent the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences on the Senate Computer and Information Technology Planning Committee (SCITPC) and would like to communicate a number of matters to my colleagues. First, SCITPC has now released its "Discussion Paper": "A Vision for Academic Use of Information Technology at Dalhousie," and I'd be happy to arrange for anybody to receive a copy if they would like one. The paper calls for the University to direct more resources into supporting Information Technology (IT) as part of its academic function. Reference is made to "technology competence," which is understood as a basic standard of IT knowledge comparable to those in literacy or numeracy. In addition, the paper calls for the University to make a substantial commitment to IT in the near future. This would include faculty training and support as well as mechanisms to improve the physical infrastructure (e.g., is it reasonable for faculty to pay for their Ethernet connections out of their own pockets?). Those of you who have spoken to me about IT know that I am ambivalent: on one hand, I share the cynicism of Neil Postman about the future of "technopoly" especially with respect to pedagogy; on the other, IT is already beginning to shake the traditional structures of our profession and I want to at least know what's going on. This leads me to the second item.

The teaching unit of Dalhousie's UCIS (University Computing and Information Services) has participated in two beta-tests of software packages that are designed to facilitate the use of WWW-based resources for teaching. These are WEST (now TOPCLASS) and WebCT. A third ("Learning Space" for LotusNotes) will probably not materialize due to pricing problems. In any case, I have participated in both TOPCLASS and WebCT and wish to share what I know with anybody who is interested. As you might expect, the learning curve is steep at first, but there are also opportunities for us and our students. Basically, these software packages are supposed to make it easy for you to use WWW materials to enhance traditional methods of delivering a class. WebCT, for instance, allows you to do all kinds of internal things with e-mail, real-time chats, collaborative writing projects, and group presentations. It can even upload a class-list from the Registrar and calculate grades (this function alone should interest people). No, it doesn't mark your essays or make coffee. SUNY at Buffalo has announced that it has officially adopted TOPCLASS; UCLA adopted WebCT in the fall. Other institutions, including Dalhousie, will probably make similar arrangements.

There are all kinds of criticisms one can make about these packages, and one shudders to hear university administrators talking about their 'whole-hog' use in a global environment of distance education. (The implications of this for our profession are potentially immense.) However, some there maybe distance education opportunities here that would be useful to explore--e.g., faculty members may be able to offer, via the WWW, a very specialized graduate or honours class on a subject closely related to their research. I am currently using WebCT as an additional tool in my honours class on *Poetry and Prose: 1660-1800* (English 4255). There are all kinds of WWW research sites including archives of digitized texts, graphics and music relevant to the period 1660-1800. Students quickly come to realize that much of this material is superficial when compared to the resources of a good research library, but it is steadily improving and sometimes it just much more convenient (especially if you're a single parent living in Ecum Secum!).

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You're welcome to visit my class at http://tuweb.ucis.dal.ca:8900/SCRIPT/Eng14255/scripts/serve_home. Just log in as User Name: *Test* Password: *Dummie*.

Better still check out the Teaching Unit's site on WebCt at <http://tuweb.ucis.dal.ca:8900/>. It's easy to gain a time-limited access to the software to see if you might like to use it, but I strongly advise you to get help at first. I'd be happy to do a demonstration for any curious persons, or you can contact Graham Eisenhauer (494-1691) of the Teaching Unit.

The best argument for using a WWW tool like WebCT is that it can help prepare ourselves and our students for a future in which distance education will--*potentially*--play a much more significant part than it has up to now. So far my successes with WebCT have to do with improving communication (especially student-to-student via the "Bulletin Board") and making student presentations accessible electronically (see "Notes and Resources"). Some take to it much more than others, but I feel satisfied if an IT-resistant student learns nothing more than not to be intimidated by all this "fuss" about WWW, html code, Java script, blah, blah, blah. And no, I certainly don't think that the WWW will ever replace the classroom. However, as a tool, it may become as common in teaching as word processing, CD-ROM databases, and library reserve. If you're interested in a demonstration of WebCT or in getting the SCITPC Vision Paper, just let me know.

FACULTY NOTES

Peter Perina continues his work as Chair of the Baroque Theatre foundation at the Castle of Cesky Krumlov and is one of three leaders of a \$400,000 four-year research project from the Czech Ministry of Culture to produce three CDs which reflect the research and inventory of the Castle's Baroque Theatre. On the occasion of their visit to the Baroque Theatre, Peter gave a lecture to the International Board of Directors of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and organized their visit to the Castle. Peter designed the scenography for two productions in Europe this year: Janacek's opera *Jenufa* for the Czech National Theatre in Prague and *The Egyptologists* by Kingley Amis for the south Bohemian Theatre.

Marian Binkley was elected President of the Atlantic Association of Sociologists & Anthropologists. Marian also participated in the second ISLE All Partner Workshop, which was sponsored by CIDA in Halifax recently.

Norman G. Pereira has been designated a Visiting Scholar at the recommendation of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University. Norman received confirmation of this choice by the Provost of the University. He will hold the title for the two months (May 1- June 30).

John Kirk accompanied a delegation of politicians, led by Deputy-Mayor Reg Rankin, representing the Halifax Regional Municipality, to the cities of Campeche and Merida in Mexico. Halifax is now a twin city with Campeche. John also provided commentaries during Pope John Paul II's trip to Cuba. These commentaries were broadcast in a number of national media programs.

David Black and his wife Heather Scott gave birth to their first child on January 10, 98. Elizabeth Iris weighed 8 pounds. Congratulations to David and his new expanded family.



Communiqué from the Humanities and Social Sciences Federation, February 25, 1998

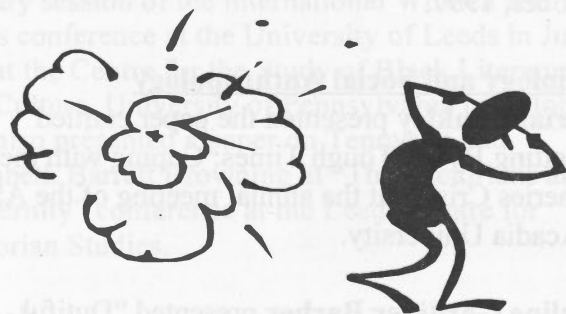
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Needs a Better and Stronger Articulation in Canada

The Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada welcomed the federal government's support for higher education, announced in its 1998 budget yesterday. The government of Canada has responded to the need to support researchers from all disciplines by increasing the budgets of the granting councils to the level of 1995 in the first year. The Federation applauds this.

"We are glad to see that the government has put research and research support on its agenda again," said Chad Gaffield, President of the Federation and Professor of History. "And providing support for researcher and graduate students through the granting councils is certainly a sign that the government has received the message from the research community and acted on it."

But while the federation recognizes the government's action, it still feels that social sciences and humanities researchers have not fully explained the important contribution their research makes to the quality of life in Canada. Humanities and social sciences research addresses social, economic biomedical and natural sciences disciplines.

Specifically, humanists and social scientists need to continue de-bunking three myths: that education in our discipline leads to under-or unemployment; that our research is disconnected from the larger society; and that our disciplines do not need an infrastructure to support our research activities.



"Even if, at the end of the day, the budget of the three granting councils is restored and increased, it is clear that the community represented by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council has not effectively convinced politicians of the key value of their research to Canada's future," added Professor Gaffield. "Research on Child poverty, globalization, violence, cultural decline or disappearing languages is fundamental to understanding our society, its identity, its goals and its objectives. Such research requires the same level of support as other disciplines."

Indeed, quality of life is not only a function of economic well-being. Quality of life is defined by public policies and related to the overall well-being of Canadians. Social sciences and humanities research contributes directly to public policy development and social discourse as demonstrated through the Federation's "Breakfast on the Hill" seminars series.

Moreover, the Federation knows that getting an education in social sciences and humanities is not a ticket to under-or unemployment. Education in the social sciences and humanities constitutes a springboard to a variety of employment opportunities as demonstrated by "Career Vision," a program managed by the Federation. Social sciences and humanities students have found interesting and fulfilling employment in environment and health related sectors. Consequently, the Federation also applauds the government's Canada Millennium Scholarships programs for full-time and part-time students.

"Students are the future and Canada is giving them the tools to prepare themselves for a knowledge-based society," added Chad Gaffield.

Social sciences and humanities research will only thrive and come to its full potential if it has adequate infrastructure such as the Community Research and Information Crossroads (CRICs). Strongly supported by universities, faculty and students, CRICs would allow for the transfer of knowledge related to social, economic and cultural issues between universities and communities.

The federation acknowledges the increase to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council as a positive step in the right direction.

"Social scientists and humanists have an important job to do in coming years that is better to articulate to the government and to all Canadians the relevance of social sciences and humanities research for the overall well-being of this great country," added Chad Gaffield.

The Federation will continue working towards obtaining better and additional support for social sciences and humanities research in Canada in the coming years and emphasizing the importance of altering perceptions and changing traditional allocation formulas.



**ON THE MOVE ACROSS
CANADA**

Classics

Dr. J. Patrick Atherton has been invited to give a Lecture in the Philosophy Department at St. Francis Xavier University on March 21, 1998. The title of this lecture is: "The Eagle of Zeus: Greek Mythology and the Birth of Reason".

English

Majorie Stone presented "Open Atlantics: Transcontextual Approaches to Women Writers" in a plenary session at the Women and Literary History conference at the University of Alberta.

French

Ed Gesner presented "Etiemble bis, ou parle-t-on toujours français dans l'Hexagonie?" to the Atlantic Provinces Linguistics Association meeting held at Mount Saint Vincent University in November 1997 and, the same month, "D-Day-The Ten Pedagogical Commandments" at the Atlantic Universities Teaching Showcase held at St. Francis Xavier University.

Terrence Gordon presented "Peircean Text and Subject in C.K. Odgen & I.A. Richards' *The Meaning of Meaning*," at the 21st Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Linguistic Association, MSVU, Halifax. Gordon also presented "Marshall McLuhan: Escape into Understanding," at the Harbourfront International Festival of Authors, Toronto, and while there gave several television and radio interviews on his recent biography of McLuhan.

Irene Oore presented "Masques et déguisements dans l'oeuvre de Sergio Kokis" at the annual meeting of l'Association des professeurs des littératures acadienne et québécoise de l'Atlantique in St. John, NB. She was also convenor and moderator of a discussion with the author Marie-Claire Blais on the topic of "l'altérité" at the conference.

History

Peter Waite presented a paper entitled "The Perils of Dalhousie History and Analogous Ventures" to the Royal NS Historical Society in November 1997.

Philosophy

Carolyn McLeod presented "Addiction Treatment Policy Informed by a Feminist Theory of Trust" at the Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy annual conference. She also presented the same paper at the Canadian Bioethic Society annual conference. Both were held in Halifax. She also discussed "The Ethics of Harm Reduction in Adolescent Drug Education," for the Canadian Society for Addiction Medicine Conference. At the Health Law Institute Lecture Series, Carolyn presented "The Ethics of the Pregnancy Relationship: the Case of 'D.F.G.'".

Richard Campbell presented "Is Sexism Irrational? A Paradox for Feminist Contractarianism" at a conference on Irrationality at the Université de Montréal, October 12, 1997.

Sue Sherwin presented a plenary address, "Changing the Way 'We' Do Bioethics" to the annual meeting of the Canadian Bioethics Society in October, 1997.

Sociology and Social Anthropology

Marian Binkley presented the paper entitled "'Getting By' in Tough Times: Coping with the Fisheries Crisis" at the annual meeting of the ASAA at Acadia University.

Pauline Gardiner Barber presented "Dutiful Daughters/Migrant Mothers: Domestic Service and the Philippine State." at the conference on Mothers and Daughters: Moving into the Next Millennium, held at York University, September 1997. Pauline also presented "Negotiating Gender in Philippine Transnational Spaces," at the conference of the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Biennial Meeting at Acadia University in October 1997.

Tania Li delivered "Transforming the Southeast Asian Uplands" at the conference of the Canadian Society for Southeast Asian Studies annual meeting in Wolfville in October 1997.

Spanish

John Kirk presented "The Chrétien Government's Approach to Cuba: An Overview," at the Canadian Association of Canadian and Latin American Studies, Simon Fraser University, March 1998.

ON THE MOVE INTERNATIONALLY

Comparative Religion

Tom Faulkner and Betty Bednarski (French) have been invited to deliver a paper on Jacques Ferron at the University of Cork during the annual meeting of the Irish Association of Canadian Studies.

English

Marjorie Stone presented papers on literary representations of abortions and infanticide at a plenary session of the international Women and Texts conference at the University of Leeds in July, and at the Centre for the Study of Black Literature and Culture, University of Pennsylvania in October. She also presented a paper on Tennyson and Elizabeth Barrett Browning at "The Victorians and Modernity" conference at the Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies.

French

Irene Oore presented "Sergio Kokis: quelques remarques sur un itinéraire créateur exceptionnel" as a keynote speaker at the conferences "I Simposio Internacional de Estudios canadienses" at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, and at "I Congrés de Literatura Francòfona (Bèlgica, Canada, Magrib)" at the Universitat de Barcelona. She also presented "Mothers and daughters in Marie-Claire Blais' work" as a keynote speaker at the "V Jornadas

internacionales de estudios de la mujer" at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

German

Friedrich Gaede gave the following lectures in Europe: "Leibniz' "Unmerkliche Perzeptionen" als Quelle poetischer Antizipation", Rosenroth-Gesellschaft, Sulzbach (Germany), 1997, and "Bismarck oder die Macht des Moeglichen," at the Museumsgesellschaft in Freiburg (Germany), also in July 1997.

Hand-Guenther Schwarz presented the following lectures: "West-oestliche Inspiration: Der Orientteppich und die westliche Moderne," at Adam-Mickiewicz University, Poznan (Poland) in May 1997, and "Schillers *Maria Stuart*: Drama und Geschichte," at the University of Heidelberg, in June.



Sociology and Social Antropolgy

Tania Li presented "Constituting Tribal Space: Indigenous Identity and Resource Politics in Indonesia," in the Environmental Politics Series held at the Institute for International Studies, University of California at Berkeley. This paper was also presented at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting held in Washington DC in November 1997.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

French

Betty Bednarski and Irène Oore, eds, *Nouveaux regards sur le théâtre québécois* (Montreal: XYZ Editeur and Dalhousie French Studies, 1997).

Terrence Gordon, 'Saussure as Terminologist', in **Lise Lapierrre, Irène Oore and Hans R. Runte**, eds, *Mélanges de linguistique offerts à Rostislav Kocourek* (Halifax: Les Presses d'ALFA, 1997); 'C.K. Ogden and I.A. Richards' *The Meaning of Meaning: from early reception to projected revisions*, in P. Bhatt, ed., *Significations: Essays in Honor of Henry Schogt* (Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 1997).

Hans Runte, *Writing Acadia: The Emergence of Acadian Literature 1970-1990* (Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 1997).

Irene Oore, 'Les couples de voix dans le théâtre radiophonique de Marie-Claire Blais', in Bednarski and Oore, eds, *Nouveaux regards sur le théâtre québécois*; 'Le silence dans L'Enfant chargé de songes d'Anne Hébert', in *Anne Hébert, parcours d'une oeuvre. Actes du Colloque de la Sorbonne* (Montreal: Editions de l'Hexagone, 1997).

German

Jane Curran, 'Wieland's Revival of Horace', *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 3 (1996).

Friedrich Gaede, co-editor and co-author, *Antizipation in Kunst und Wissenschaft – Ein interdisziplinäres Erkenntnisproblem und seine Begründung bei Leibniz* (Francke Verlag: Tuebingen, 1997).



History

Jack Crowley, "'In Happier Mansions, Warm, and Dry': The Invention of the Cottage as the Comfortable Anglo-American House', *Winterthur Portfolio* 32 (1997).

Peter Waite, *The Lives of Dalhousie University, Volume 2, 1925-1980: The Old College Transformed*. (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997); 'Donald Creighton: Casting the Net of his Macdonald', *The Beaver*, Feb/March 1998, reprinted from the Introduction to a new edition of Donald Creighton, *John A. Macdonald: The Young Politician* and *John A. Macdonald: The Old Chieftain* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998).

Philosophy

Richard Campbell, 'Critical Notice of David Copp, Morality, Normativity, and Society,' *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 27. (1997).

Sue Campbell, *Interpreting the Personal: Expression and the Formation of Feelings*, (New York: Cornell University Press, 1997).

Sociology and Social Anthropology

Marian Binkley, 'Fishing Families Coping with the Fisheries Crisis', special issue on Women and the Fisheries, *Anthropologica* 38 (1997).

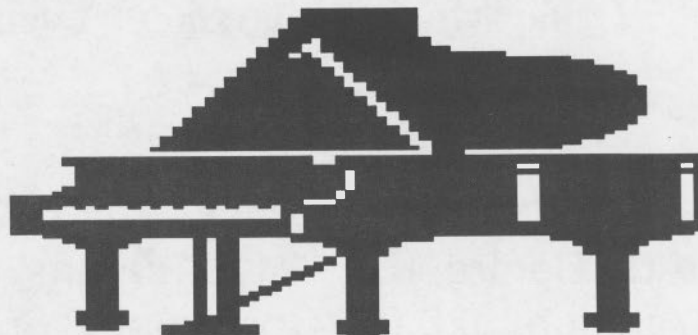
Tania Li, 'Constituting Capitalist Culture: The Singapore Malay Problem and Entrepreneurship Reconsidered', in R.W. Hefner, ed. *Market Cultures: Society and Morality in the New Asian Capitalisms*, (Westview Press, 1998).

Spanish

John Kirk and Peter McKenna, *Canada-Cuba Relations: The Other Good Neighbor Policy*, (Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1997).

John Kirk, 'Trade-Offs in Pope John Paul II's Visit to Cuba', *Oxford Analytica*, January 1998; 'Cuba: Setting a Context', *Peace Magazine*, 13 (1997).

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC EVENTS



NOON HOUR RECITAL SCHEDULE

March

Fri. 20, **Jazz Ensemble**, Art Gallery, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of D. Palmer 12:30 -1:30 pm

Mon. 23, **Flute Recital**, Sculpture Court, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of A. Rapson and P. Djokic, 12:30 -1:30pm

Wed. 25, **Voice Recital**, Sculpture Court, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of K. Servant, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Fri. 27, **Piano Recital**, Art Gallery, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of Profs T. Zonneveld, L. Stodola, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Mon. 30, **String Recital**, Sculpture Court, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of A. Rapson, P. Djokic, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

April

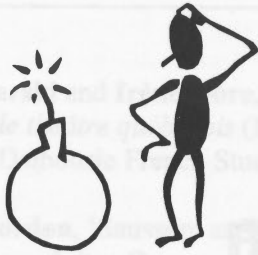
Wed. 1, **Jazz Ensemble**, Sculpture Court, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of D. Palmer, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Fri. 3, **Guitar Recital**, Art Gallery, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of K. Servant, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Mon. 6, **Percussion Ensemble**, Sculpture Court, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of J. Faraday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Wed. 8, **Voice Recital**, Sculpture Court, Dalhousie Arts Centre, Students of Dr. G. Servant, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC EVENTS



Other Music Department Events

March

March 25... **Dal/SNS Master Class, Anton Kuetri**
Arts Centre, Rm 121, 11:00am
Auditors \$20.00 (Community) \$5.00 (Students)

March 29... **Compositions by Dennis Farrell,**
St. Andrews United Church, 8:00pm
\$10.00

April



April 3... **Town and Gown Concert II.**
Dalhousie Chamber Orchestra,
Caroyln Davies, guest conductor
St. Andrews United Church, 8:00pm
\$8.00

April 10... **Bach: St. John Passion. Dalhousie Chorale,**
Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, 3:00pm
\$15.00/\$10.00

April 30... **UNSPRUNG '98**
Sir James Dunn Theatre, 8:00pm
Free Admission