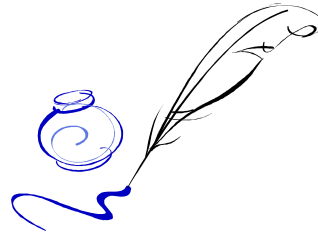


The Quill



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A newsletter for Students & Faculty of English

Memory of Dr. Kuldip Gill



Kuldip Gill, recipient of a UFV honorary doctor of letters degree, UFV instructor, anthropologist, academic, community supporter, and poet recently passed away after a short illness. Kuldip taught in the English department and was the 2006 writer-in-residence. She also participated in the 2006 Cross-Culture Roundabout on Security. Kuldip was also a published author. Her first book, *Dharma Rasa*, was published in 1999 by Harbour Publishing. Kuldip was also published in *Red Silk: An Anthology of South Asian Canadian Woman Poets*, the *Literary Review of Canada* (Oct. 2007), and *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia, and Beyond* (W.W. Norton, April. 2008). Kuldip had strong roots in the community and she was a

staunch supporter of UFV. She will be missed.

Jaspreet Singh

Writer-in-residence Jaspreet Singh was kind enough to take time out of his busy schedule to speak to me about writing and his experiences as an author. Singh started writing nine years ago, but before that he worked as a research scientist. When asked about his writing experiences, Singh responded by explaining that when he writes, the story becomes the most important thing in the world. He said that a writer deludes themselves in his writing; in order to be successful a writer has to really believe that the story must be told.

Singh then went on to tell me about one of his stories from his short story collection titled *17 Tomatoes: Tales from Kashmir*. Singh told me that the story titled "Captain Fez" is one of his favourites. Set in 1999 during wartime, it tells the tale of two men, one from India and the other from Pakistan. Although initially they don't get along, they are ultimately able to find a

connection through poetry. Singh says there are many layers to the story that aren't always clear to North Americans; however, he feels that these layers create a sense of mystery.

Singh is also the author of the novel *Chef* (2008). He has contributed an essay to *The AIDS Sutra: Untold Stories from India*. He was asked last year to write for the *AIDS Sutra* an essay based on a series of conversations with orphans suffering from AIDS. Singh says that although it was a painful experience, it was also an experience that helped him grow as a writer. Singh took the essay as a writing assignment and a challenge.



Singh is currently working on a new novel and a book of creative non-fiction. Singh said that he was intimidated by non-

fiction because he knows the importance of accuracy in that area. Non-fiction has a responsibility but it challenges you as a writer, he says.

Singh's favorite authors are Thomas Beauhard and W.G. Sebald, he feels that who we read influences our writing as well as the way we see the world. Hopefully his writing will influence students at UFV.

Singh did a Gala reading on March 3rd; he read selections from his fictional work. He also hosted a successful writing workshop in March.

Singh joined the UFV Ehsaas Book Club on April 20th, where he read from *17 Tomatoes: Tales from Kashmir*, and *Light Pain: Stories from Kashmir*, his recent release. Singh read in both English and Punjabi. He was the second author to join the club, made up of 15 staff and faculty members that meet up once a month and read mostly South Asian authors.

Joseph Boyden at UFV

UFV is pleased to host an event with Canadian author Joseph Boyden, who will be reading on October 4th, 2009. Boyden is the author of *Three Day Road* (Penguin Group Canada, 2005), and *Through Black Spruce* (Penguin Group Canada, 2008). Tickets will be sold for the event and volunteers for publicity are needed. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Hilary Turner in the English department at hilary.turner@ufv.ca



Faculty Research



Trevor Carolan, a member of UFV's English Dept. specializes in World Literature. With his newly published anthology *Another Kind of Paradise: Short Stories from New Asia-Pacific* (Chen & Tsui, Boston), he has made a significant addition to his research into this area of interest.

Carolan is focusing on the value of world literature and how it helps us to know each other better. He believes that world literature allows people to understand cultures other than their own and helps to bridge the gap between different societies.

In his research, Carolan also explores how the arts and environmental issues are influenced by East Asian philosophies. The research he continues to do is aimed at helping people live a more connected life and to see the connections between each other.

Why Consider Directed Studies?

Although UFV offers a wide range of English courses, there are some topics that students might want to dig

more deeply into. When that is the case ENGL 490 Directed Studies might be the course for you. Once you have chosen the area you would like to study and have checked to make sure there is no course offered that explores the same content, you can begin the registration process. To take a Directed Studies course you will need to contract the department head and find an instructor who will agree to supervise; as well you need at least 45 English credits.

A Directed Studies is an excellent experience, especially for students who wish to continue on to graduate studies. Directed Studies allows you to establish your own project according to your area of interest and can give you a taste of what life would be like while working on your Master's Degree. If you are not a student interested in graduate studies, still keep a directed studies course in mind, as it will offer you opportunity to grow as an English student.

Graduate Studies

For those of you thinking of applying to Graduate Studies, now is the time to speak to professors about reference letters. Be sure to think about whom you'd like a letter from, and keep your eye on the submission dates at the Universities you are considering. Good luck!

Alumni Stories:

Jes Battis graduated with his BA



in 2001 and has been doing well for himself since then. He went on to further his education completing his MA and PhD degrees in English Literature at SFU. While attending SFU, Battis received the Governor General's Gold Metal for achieving the highest academic standing in his graduating doctoral class. Battis was interested in the work of B.C. author Eden Robinson (Haisla/Heiltsuk), whose work showed similar interests to his own in popular culture. Battis has written two books in the category of 'hypercriticism' titled *Blood Relationship: Chosen Families in Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel* (MCFarlane & Co., 2005) and *Investigating Farscape: Uncharted Territories of Sex and Science Fiction* (2007), both of which critique popular culture. Battis also published a book titled *Night Child* (Ace:Penguin), which may turn out to be the first in a series. *Night Child* is about crime in Vancouver but has a supernatural twist when the investigator Tess Corday looks into occult crimes. Battis also has experience teaching, having spent the 2007/08 year at Hunter College in New York City. He taught courses on gender in television, as well as a course on cult television audiences. Battis is now focused on doing post-doctorial research where he will

be comparing and analyzing literature for gay and lesbian teenagers, using materials such as 'zines and their own personal online blogs. Battis received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant to aid in this endeavour. Battis' experience at UFV was one that he links to his success. "UFV is one of the main reasons that I've been successful," he states. "I was surrounded by lots of mature students who really wanted to be there, had great professors and found that the place had a real nurturing vibe." Jes is now an assistant professor in the English department at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan. For further information on Jes Battis please refer to his online blog at: <http://www.jesbattis.blogspot.com>
--Adapted from "Ultimate Multitasker" article by Anne Russell



David Thiessen graduated from UFV (when it was still UCFV) with a BA concentration of English and History in 1994 and was one of the first UFV students to benefit from the university's offering the degree option. Thiessen received a full graduate scholarship and went on to obtain a Master's Degree in Library and Information

Studies from UBC. His career has taken off since then, beginning at the Fraser Valley Regional Library. He then moved on to become manager for the Township of Langley and White Rock Libraries. Thiessen is now the supervisor of seven different libraries. When reflecting upon his UFV days Thiessen says this: "I could write a book on how my years at UCFV impacted my sense of self, my ideas, my life and my work." Thiessen was particularly influenced by English professor Virginia Cooke, as well as Eric Davis (now Dean of Arts) and Political Science professor Scott Fast. His education at U.F.V. seems to have prepared him well for his career in an area very near to his heart. Thiessen states that, "Public libraries are 'the people's university' — the only institution where barrier-free lifelong learning for any and all is the central mandate of its operation." As it turns out the apple didn't fall too far from the tree. David's son now attends U.F.V.
--Adapted from article by Anne Russell

Anagrams
1. Deterrence Iris Win
----- (6) ___ (2)
----- (9)
2. Mere Merest Muss
----- (6)
----- (8)
3. Donuts Levy
----- (5) ----- (5)



New Fall Courses:

Engl 108 Introduction to Literature

This course will introduce students to the three major literary genres—poetry, drama, and prose fiction—and will provide them with a critical vocabulary for analyzing and interpreting works of literature. The three genres will receive approximately equal coverage during the course. Each genre will be represented by texts from a range of literary periods and national literatures. The course will involve a mixture of lectures, class discussions, and workshops.

Engl 216 Introduction to Shakespeare

This course introduces students to Shakespeare's works at the second-year level, with detailed attention to his language, thought, and cultural context. Students will read a selection of Shakespeare's plays and poetry.

Engl 321 The Enlightenment to Romanticism, 1750-1800

The second half of the eighteenth century was a period of intellectual and political ferment across Europe and it ushered in the major change in sensibility known as Romanticism. This course examines representative poems, essays, and works of fiction in British literature from 1750 to 1800 that reveal the depth and extent of the transition from "Enlightenment" to Romanticism.

Engl 334 Victorian Poetry and Poetic Theory

This course will examine the poetry and poetic theory of the Victorian era, 1830-1900. Representative works by Tennyson, Arnold, the Brownings, the Rossettis

Hopkins will be studied in relation to the aesthetics of Mill, Arnold, Ruskin, Pater, Buchanan, and Symons.

Coming Soon: 400 level seminar courses.

Planning Courses for Fall?

The tentative Fall timetable has been posted online. If you want to get a head start on your course planning, check it out at:

<http://www.ufv.ca/ar/semesterinfo/timetables/tentative-fall.htm>

Learn, share, discover!

A new club called **English Corner** will be meeting Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 8pm in A315. The meetings will be to discuss English, improve vocabulary and a conversation skill, make new friends, and is primarily aimed at students whose first language is not English. It's free of charge and open to students with intermediate to advanced English skills. The club started in January 2009, and was based on successful clubs from UBC and SFU of a similar nature. For further questions or if you would be interesting in volunteering with helping to facilitate a discussion please contact Neda at: ufv.englishcorner@gmail.com

Answers:

1. Writer in Residence
2. Summer Semester
3. Novel Study

Louden Singletree

The long awaited first edition of *The Loudon Singletree* Literary Magazine has been released. The magazine consists of poetry and short fiction by UFV faculty, students and alumni. At the moment copies can be picked up from Lesley Poh's office, but a launch/reading will be scheduled in September. An online version will also be available in the near future. The magazine hopes to be published annually. If you would like to send a submission please contact Andrea MacPherson andrea.macpherson@ufv.ca. Other inquiries can be sent to: louden.singletree@ufv.ca



Comments and Questions?

If you have a comment, a question, an event, or an idea for a story, or an article submission, please contact the editor at quillnewsletter@ufv.ca

For any further questions about the English Department or program check out our website at <http://www.ufv.ca/english.htm>