

ALECC News

The Annual Newsletter of the Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada / Association pour la littérature, l'environnement et la culture au Canada



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President's Report

Jennifer Schell

"Our worlds changed in a matter of weeks, as the pandemic reshaped our lives and the lives of those around us."

Composing this report is not an easy task, given the events of the past year. First, I want to acknowledge all of the hardship and loss that we experienced over the last fourteen months. Our worlds changed in a matter of weeks, as the pandemic reshaped our lives and the lives of those around us. We wore masks, stayed home, ordered takeout, and purchased lots and lots of cleaning supplies. We mourned the dead, and we celebrated the living. We also enjoyed [Gurdeep Pandher's exuberant dancing](#), broadcast to us from deep in the Yukon wilderness.

Despite all the difficulty, we persevered. And so I also want to acknowledge all of our accomplishments, no matter how small or various. We answered innumerable emails. We attended Zoom meetings and taught online classes. We endured the interruptions of our incorrigible (and awfully cute) companion animals. We found new ways to connect with one another. We attended online talks, symposiums,

conferences, book clubs, and happy hours. We created art, produced scholarship, organized communities, and engaged in activism. Given the circumstances, this is no small list of achievements.

As an organization, ALECC spent the year planning initiatives and organizing events. Last July, we formed the Antiracism and Equity Working Group, because of our stated commitment to “recognizing and supporting the scholarship, writing, art, and leadership of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour and the pursuit of ecological justice in Canada and around the world.” Please see [“ALECC’s Commitment to Antiracism”](#) to learn more. Also in July, ALECC held its first online conference, “Watersheds, lit., fig.” All the credit for this smashingly successful event goes to our amazing conference organizing committee. Thank you!

Looking to the future, ALECC has a number of new projects on the horizon. In the coming months, we hope to refresh the website, updating its look and functionality. We intend to make more concrete plans for the 2022 conference, deciding on the format and issuing the call for papers. And we look forward to the next issue of our affiliated journal, *The Goose*. Guest edited by Anita Girvan and Rina Garcia Chua, its theme is “e-Racesures,” and its publication date is this June. None of this would be possible without ALECC’s many volunteers, including the members of the Executive, Antiracism and Equity Working Group, Conference Planning Committee, and *Goose* staff. Thank you for your energy, enthusiasm, time, and service!

Rapport de la présidente

Jennifer Schell

La rédaction de ce rapport n’est pas une tâche facile, compte tenu des événements de l’année écoulée. Premièrement, je tiens à reconnaître toutes les difficultés et les pertes que nous avons vécues au cours des quatorze derniers mois. Notre monde a changé en quelques semaines, alors que la pandémie a remodelé la vie de tous et de toutes. Nous portions des masques, restions à la maison, commandions des plats à emporter et achetions beaucoup de produits de nettoyage. Nous avons pleuré pour nos morts et nous avons célébré les vivants. Nous avons également apprécié la danse exubérante de [Gurdeep Pandher](#), qui nous a été diffusée depuis les profondeurs de la nature sauvage du Yukon.

“Notre monde a changé en quelques semaines, alors que la pandémie a remodelé la vie de tous et de toutes.”

Malgré toutes les difficultés, nous avons persévéré. C'est pourquoi je tiens également à saluer toutes nos réalisations, qu'elles soient modestes ou variées. Nous avons répondu à d'innombrables courriels. Nous avons assisté aux réunions Zoom et donné des cours en ligne. Nous avons enduré les interruptions de nos animaux de compagnie incorrigibles (et terriblement mignons). Nous avons trouvé de nouvelles façons de communiquer les uns avec les autres. Nous avons assisté à des discussions en ligne, des symposiums, des conférences, des clubs de lecture et des happy hours. Nous avons créé de l'art, produit des bourses d'études, organisé des communautés et engagé dans l'activisme. Compte tenu des circonstances, ce n'est pas une petite liste de réalisations.

En tant qu'organisation, l'ALECC a passé l'année à planifier des initiatives et à organiser des événements. En juillet dernier, nous avons formé le Groupe de travail sur l'antiracisme et l'équité, en raison de notre engagement déclaré à «reconnaître et soutenir les bourses d'études, l'écriture, l'art et le leadership des Noirs, des Autochtones et des personnes de couleur et la poursuite de la justice écologique au Canada et dans le monde.» Veuillez consulter [«ALECC's Commitment to Antiracism»](#) pour en savoir plus. En juillet également, l'ALECC a tenu son premier colloque en ligne, «Watersheds, lit., fig.» Tout le mérite de cet événement au succès retentissant revient à notre incroyable comité d'organisation du colloque. Merci!

Tourné vers l'avenir, ALECC a un certain nombre de nouveaux projets à l'horizon. Dans les mois à venir, nous espérons actualiser le site Web, en mettant à jour son apparence et ses fonctionnalités. Nous avons l'intention de faire des plans plus concrets pour le colloque 2022, de décider du format et de lancer l'appel à communications. Et nous attendons avec impatience le prochain numéro de notre revue affiliée, *The Goose*, qui sera éditée par invitation par Anita Girvan et Rina Garcia Chua, et son thème est «e-Racesures», et sa date de publication sera en juin. Rien de tout cela ne serait possible sans les nombreux bénévoles de l'ALECC, y compris les membres du comité exécutif, groupe d'antiracisme et d'équité, le comité de planification du colloque et l'équipe de *Goose*. Merci pour votre énergie, votre enthousiasme, votre temps, et votre service!

Alanna Bondar Memorial Book Prize

We are preparing to invite nominations for the next Alanna Bondar Memorial Book Prize. This biennial award is named in honour of Dr. Alanna F. Bondar (1968-2014), an ecocritic, ecofeminist, poet, teacher, and founding member of ALECC. In the spirit of Alanna Bondar's own work, the committee seeks to award the prize to provocative, original, and stimulating books on environmental topics. Full details are available at <https://alecc.ca/alanna-bondar/>. The nomination form will be available soon, with a submission deadline of December 15, 2021.

The 2020 prize was awarded to *Anatomic* by Adam Dickinson. Honourable mentions were awarded to *Environmental Activism on the Ground: Small Green and Indigenous Organizing* edited by Jonathan Clapperton and Liza Piper; *Treed: Walking in Canada's Urban Forests* by Ariel Gordon; *Of Land, Bones, and Money: Toward a South African Eco-poetics* by Emily McGiffin; and *An Ecotopian Lexicon* edited by Matthew Schneider-Mayerson and Brent Ryan Bellamy. Many thanks to the jury: Molly Wallace, Petra Fachinger, and Odile Cisneros.

The winner of the next award, for books published in 2020 and 2021, will be announced at ALECC's 2022 conference.

Prix commémoratif littéraire Alanna Bondar

Nous nous préparons à inviter des candidatures pour le prochain Prix commémoratif littéraire Alanna Bondar. Ce prix biennal est nommé en l'honneur de la Dre Alanna F. Bondar (1968-2014), écocritique, écoféministe, poète, enseignante et membre fondatrice de l'ALECC. Dans l'esprit du travail d'Alanna Bondar, le comité cherche à décerner le prix à des livres provocateurs, originaux et stimulants sur des sujets environnementaux. Tous les détails sont disponibles sur <http://alecc.ca/alanna-bondar/>. Le formulaire de candidature sera bientôt disponible, avec une date limite de soumission du 15 décembre 2021.

Le prix 2020 a été décerné à *Anatomic* par Adam Dickinson. Des mentions honorables ont été attribuées à *Environmental Activism on the Ground: Small Green and Indigenous Organizing* édité par Jonathan Clapperton et Liza Piper; *Treed: Walking in Canada's Urban Forests* par Ariel Gordon; *Of Land, Bones, and*

Money: Toward a South African Eco-poetics par Emily McGiffin; et *An Ecotopian Lexicon* édité par Matthew Schneider-Mayerson et Brent Ryan Bellamy. Un grand merci au jury: Molly Wallace, Petra Fachinger et Odile Cisneros.

Le lauréat du prochain prix, pour les livres publiés en 2020 et 2021, sera annoncé lors du colloque 2022 de l’ALECC.

News and Publications by Members

Pamela Banting

“H₂Ocean: The Wet Ontology and Blue Ethics of Sue Goyette’s *Ocean*,” *Studies in Canadian Literature* 45.2 (2021), 122-40.

Jessica Marion Barr

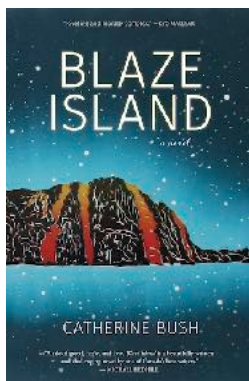
ALECC Executive Member-at-Large Jessica Marion Barr accepted a contract renewal for a three-year LTA position as Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator for the interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts and Science Program at Trent University, with additional teaching in the Department of Cultural Studies, where she designed and teaches an Eco Art workshop course. She is currently pursuing several community-engaged projects around invasive species removal and creative repurposing. A review of Charlotte McConaghy’s novel *Migrations* is forthcoming in *A/J: Alternatives Journal*.

Brian Bartlett

A prose book of nature writing, *Daystart Songflight: A Morning Journal* is scheduled to be published by Pottersfield Press in the fall of 2021. Excerpts from the book have been or will soon be published in *The Antigonish Review* (forthcoming), *The Dalhousie Review* (100.3, Autumn 2020), *The Goose* (18.1, 2020), and *The Nashwaak Review* (44/45.1, Fall/Winter 2020/21).

Catherine Bush

Blaze Island, a novel, by Catherine Bush, published by Goose Lane Editions. <https://gooselane.com/products/blaze-island> (365 pages Published: September 1, 2020, Paperback: 9781773101057 \$24.95). *Blaze Island* has been recognized as a *Globe and Mail* Best Book of 2020, a *Writers’ Trust of Canada* Best Book of the Year, a 49th Shelf Books of the Year (Fiction) Selection, and one of *Maclean’s* magazine’s “20 books you need to read this winter.” *Blaze Island* asks how far a parent will go to create a safe world for a child and what the children of today will need to do in order to imagine a future



for themselves. How do you imagine a tomorrow when the present seems, whichever way you look, to be hovering on the brink of catastrophe? An excerpt from *Blaze Island*, “The Storm,” is published on Terrain.org, September 2, 2020, <https://www.terrain.org/2020/fiction/the-storm/>. Other recent publications are “Writing the Real,” *Canadian Notes and Queries*, Special Issue, *Ecological Unravelling*, 106 (Winter 2020), <http://notesandqueries.ca/essays/writing-the-real-catherinebush/> and “Aspiration, or How to Write A Biophilic Novel,” *The Dalhousie Review*, Biophilia issue, Autumn 2020. Catherine Bush is also Team Leader, **Imagining Climates**, an online site, funded by a Guelph Institute of Environmental Research Small Grants Project, addressing cross-disciplinary ways in which artists and researchers use imaginative practices to conceptualize and address the climate and biospheric crises. Projects include: *Micro-climate Stories*, 150-word responses from writers and scientists, with ongoing solicitation of responses from the public; *Climate Conversations*; and *Field Trip*, an indigenous-led sound walk, <https://sites.uoguelph.ca/gier/imagining-climates/>.

Paul Huebener

Paul Huebener’s article “[Stealing Sleep: Expanding the Conversation on the Literary Politics of Sleep and Insomnia](#)” appears in *English Studies in Canada*, vol. 44, no. 3, 2018 (published in 2021). This article argues that representations of sleep in Canadian and Indigenous literature can challenge us to reexamine how we conceive of sleep and how we might confront the cultural forces through which inequitable encounters with sleep take shape.

David Huebert

Humanimus (Palimpsest Press, 2020), <https://palimpsestpress.ca/books/humanimus/>.

Jenny Kerber

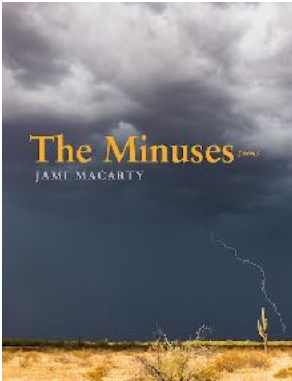
“Tracing One Warm Line: Climate Stories and Silences in Northwest Passage Tourism,” *The Journal of Canadian Studies*, forthcoming.

Ariel Kroon

“Living Beyond the End Times: An Argument for Queer Utopianism.” *SFRA Review*, Vol. 51, No. 2 (Spring 2021), 23 Apr. 2021, <https://sfrareview.org/2021/04/23/living-beyond-the-end-times-an-argument-for-queer-utopianism/>.

Cheryl Lousley

“After Extraction: Idling in the Ruins in Michael Winter’s and Alistair MacLeod’s Neoliberal Fictions,” *Studies in Canadian Literature / Études En Littérature Canadienne*, vol. 45, no. 2 (May 2021), 229–53. Also “[Ecocriticism](#),” in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature* (Oxford University Press, 2015). Article published October 27, 2020 (38 pages). Print forthcoming in September 2021.



Cover photo by Liz Kemp

Jami Macarty

The Minuses by SFU creative writing faculty and new ALECC member, Jami Macarty, was published in March 2020 by the Center for Literary Publishing at Colorado State University, and as of September 2020, is the 2020 New Mexico-Arizona Book Award - Poetry Arizona winner. Conjuring the literature of the desert and beckoning attention to ecological and feminist issues, *The Minuses* invites readers into borderlands battlegrounds between the myriad forms of domination and resistance. Destructive nor’easters pummel shorelines. The desert “waxes, waxes,” continuing to exert itself. The population of raptor and carrion birds increases with the co-incidence of eating disorders, sexual harassment, family and intimate-partner violence, homelessness, suicide, environmental destruction, species endangerments, and other forms of disrespect and distress, as human beings abuse one another and themselves under the aegis of patriarchy. The voices of *The Minuses* amplify the precariousness that predicates women’s lives and the natural world, laying bare the struggle and faith required to endure with integrity and spirit intact. <https://upcolorado.com/university-press-of-colorado/item/3779-the-minuses>

Jessica McDonald

In October 2020, I launched a scholarly/pedagogical podcast called Teachin’ Books, all about the ways people teach, learn, and work with literature. It features interviews with people from a variety of informal and formal teaching and learning contexts – such as higher education, K-12 education, book clubs, local theatre, city tour guiding, and more – and it also includes solo episodes in which I talk about the ways I teach literature and other cultural works in undergraduate English classes. All the episodes can be found at <https://teachinbooks.com/> or on most podcasting apps.



Graphic design by
[Jade McDougall](#)

Edie Steiner

In December 2020 Edie Steiner completed a 1-hour documentary film, *Borderland Memories*, with support from the Canada Council for the Arts. The film was accepted to screen at the 2021 *Ethnografilm Paris* film festival, which is postponed to 2022. Some of her previous films are now available on ResearchTV (<https://researchtv.ca/>), a new peer-reviewed media platform for sharing knowledge through film.

Anne Simpson

Speechless, a novel (Freehand Books: Calgary, 2020). Also *Experiments in Distant Influence: Notes and Poems* (Gaspereau Press: Kentville, NS, 2020).

prOphecy sun

In 2021 prOphecy sun, Member-at-Large of the ALECC Executive, was awarded a *Jack and Doris Shadbolt Fellowship in the Humanities* at Simon Fraser University. Recent publications include book chapters with Kristin Carlson and Kate Hennessy, *Research-Creation as a Generative Approach to Sound Design* (Routledge, 2021), forthcoming, and with Greg Corness and Kristin Carlson, “Interfaces for Sound Installation,” *Foundations in Sound Design: A Multidisciplinary Approach*, Edited by Michael Filimowicz (Routledge, 2020), 120-140; journal publications “Environmental Traces,” *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities*, vol. 1, no. 2 (2020), and with Reese Muntean, “[The rise of Flâneuse landscapes](#),” *Papers on Language and Literature* (2021). EID: 2-s2.0-85104446868. “[Fluvial Memories](#),” *ReISSUE Magazine*, 2021; an art installation, “7-channel sound and video installation” (video) and “60 Minute Sound Composition” (audio recording), *Feminist Bodies in a Posthuman Mountain Imaginary*, Oxygen Art Centre, 2020; and an exhibition catalogue, *Feminist Bodies in Posthuman Mountain Imaginary*, Oxygen Art Centre, 2020.

Melanie Dennis Unrau

Melanie Dennis Unrau finished her service both as a Co-Editor of *The Goose* and as Poetry Editor at *Geez* magazine in fall 2020. Also in 2020, Melanie joined the University of Manitoba Institute for the Humanities as a Research Affiliate. Her dissertation, “*Tend the rusted steel like a shepherd*”: *Petropoetics of Oil Work in Canada*, was awarded the Canadian Studies Network/Réseau d’études canadiennes Best Ph.D. Dissertation in Canadian Studies and the University of Manitoba’s Distinguished Dissertation Prize.



Her article “Rig Talk and Disidentification in Peter Christensen’s *Rig Talk* and Mathew Henderson’s *The Lease*” is forthcoming in *Canadian Literature*.

Join us at the Annual General Meeting

We will hold our Annual General Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, June 23rd from 3:00pm-4:00pm (Eastern Daylight Time). Members will receive the Zoom link via email just prior to the event.

Among other things, we will be gathering feedback from the membership regarding the format for ALECC’s 2022 Conference. Please join us and let us know whether or not you would prefer an in person or an online event. Hope to see you there!

Rejoignez-nous à l’Assemblée générale annuelle

Notre assemblée générale annuelle aura lieu sur Zoom le mercredi 23 juin de 15 h à 16 h (heure avancée de l’Est). Les membres recevront le lien Zoom par e-mail juste avant l’événement.

Entre autres, nous inviterons des commentaires des membres concernant le format du colloque 2022 de l’ALECC. Rejoignez-nous et dites-nous si vous préférez ou non un événement en présentiel ou en ligne. Espérons vous y voir!

Become an ALECC Member

Most of what our organization does to encourage and facilitate environmental humanities art, writing, and scholarship is carried by the passion and energy of our members. Paid membership provides funds to support the website, *The Goose*, conferences, events, translation, and more.

Become a member, renew your membership, and join our discussion listserv at <https://alecc.ca/membership/>.

Devenir un/une membre d'ALECC

Ce que notre organisation fait pour encourager et faciliter l'art, l'écriture et la recherche dans les sciences humaines de l'environnement repose essentiellement sur la passion et l'énergie de nos membres.

L'adhésion payée fournit également des fonds pour soutenir le site Web, *The Goose*, les conférences, les événements spéciaux, la traduction, et autre.

Devenez membre, renouvelez votre adhésion et rejoignez notre forum de discussion à <https://alecc.ca/membres/>.

ALECC website: alecc.ca

The Goose: A Journal of Arts, Environment, and Culture in Canada: scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/

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