SLAM mag is the electronic magazine of the School of Literature, Art & Media (SLAM) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, providing updates on the activities of the School and celebrating our research and teaching achievements.

In this issue:
- Head of School welcome
- School news & new faces
- Department news & events
Head of School

welcome

It’s nice to be back in the role of HoS for 2017, and to reconnect with colleagues from departments across the School. SLAM will certainly miss Annamarie Jagose as its head and wishes her well in her new role as Dean of the Faculty.

I’m already struck by the immensity of the work of change in which the School is to participate this year (my crumb-covered computer keyboard testifies to the fact that I never eat lunch away from my desk...). At a recent gathering of first year coordinators it was heartening to see how thoughtfully and collegially SLAM colleagues are engaging with the opportunities offered by curriculum transformation, in particular thinking about ways to make feedback more personal and teaching more interactive.

This issue of SLAMmag, however, covers the summer period, and illustrates conclusively that academics (like SLAM’s hard-working admin staff) don’t just disappear over the summer, but engage in a wide range of teaching and research activities. For denizens of Woolley levels 3 and 4, this activity took place despite summer temperatures soaring to the early forties, with office temperatures not far behind (recording an average of 34 degrees). Then as flash floods roared, staff from level 1 hiked up their skirts and trousers to clear drains and dam doorways in the hope of fending off a repeat of the 2011 and 2015 flooding incidents in their performance and office spaces. Productive meetings with the WHS committee, the Dean and the Director of CIS leave me hopeful that we may finally see some direct action to improve these workspaces.

I hope everyone took time for some quality relaxation over the holidays, and look forward very much to working with you in the coming year.
The School is delighted to introduce the 2 SLAM recipients of the 2017 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Postgraduate Teaching Fellowships - Breann Fallon (Studies in Religion) and Jyhene Kebsi (English):

Breann Fallon
Department of Studies in Religion

“It is an honour to be selected as one of the Teaching Fellows, and I am grateful to the University, the Faculty, and my supervisors for this opportunity. My love for teaching has grown exponentially since I began tutoring for the Department of Studies in Religion in 2015, tertiary education truly becoming a deep passion to which I hope to dedicate my life. As such, being given the opportunity to further develop my personal pedagogical take on higher education, while also moving into unknown territory such as unit co-ordination, is truly exciting. It is true that I am nervous about balancing this role with my own research, but I am looking forward to the personal development that the challenge of a teaching fellowship will bring.”

“Breann Fallon is in her third year of PhD research and has, during that time, become a highly skilled teacher in Studies in Religion. She has extensive experience of tutoring in 1000 and 2000 level units during semester, and of teaching in intensive mode for Summer School. Her teaching style is distinguished by confidence and calm, and students feel at ease in her classroom while being intellectually challenged. The Teaching Fellowship offers her career and skills development, through unit coordination, managing BlackBoard sites, and teaching smaller seminar classes at 3000 and 4000 level. Breann is a passionate teacher, with particular interest in disability, widening participation, and inclusive education. Student feedback about Breann from RLST 1002 A History of God, Deities & Demons and RLST 1005 Atheism, Fundamentalism & New Religions is overwhelmingly positive and she is an asset to the department.”

~ Professor Carole Cusack
Jyhene Kebsi
Department of English

“I am very happy to have been awarded one of the ten Teaching Fellowships offered by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and the only one offered in the English Department. While it will be very intimidating for me to attend the departmental meetings alongside professors, I am eager to start my Fellowship year, and to benefit from their knowledge and expertise. I am thrilled because this award will allow me to refine my pedagogical skills. The skills I will learn will enable me to enhance student learning and to better understand academic life. I feel grateful to the English Department and to the Faculty for giving me the opportunity to improve my teaching. I look forward to this exciting and challenging year.”

“Jyhene Kebsi obtained her BA(Hons) in Tunisia and her MA from Laval University in Canada. Before coming to Sydney she also studied at Montreal University and at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3). Her ambitious and timely PhD thesis (submitted in January 2017) deals with representations in literature and film of paperless migration from the Arab world to Europe, North America and Australia. As a researcher fluent in Arabic, French and English, and with wide overseas experience, Jyhene therefore brings to her teaching valuable international, multi-lingual, inter-disciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives. She has previously tutored in literature and film studies, and in first semester 2017 she will teach in ENGL1026 Constructing the Fictive Self. Jyhene is committed to student-centred teaching, providing opportunities for her students to exchange ideas, and to develop friendships that create an enjoyable and productive classroom environment.”

~ Professor Robert Dixon
I'm delighted to join SLAM as a Lecturer in the Department of English for the next two years. I have just returned to Australia (it's lovely to be back home!) from completing graduate degrees at Yale University and the University of Oxford. The focus of my studies has been medieval English language and literature.

My current research examines the composition of medieval statute law from the Anglo-Saxon period to the reign of Henry VIII; I'm also working on a number of digital humanities projects to digitise and edit medieval manuscripts and rolls.

I'm looking forward to introducing new cohorts of undergraduates to the delights of medieval literature.

I am a newly appointed continuing Lecturer in Digital Cultures in MECO, and my research focuses on digital games and play. I am particularly interested in multiplayer games, and the way that our own play and experience is mediated by others.

In 2015 I published an edited collection on EVE Online, the ruthless sci-fi MMOG at the focus of my PhD titled 'Internet Spaceships are Serious Business'. Before coming to Sydney, I was a Research Fellow in the Microsoft Research Centre for Social Natural User Interfaces at the University of Melbourne where I developed a project designing cognitively enriching games for the orangutans at Melbourne Zoo. Much of my free time is spent walking my border bollie who is particularly enjoying swimming each morning in Sydney Harbour.

I am a newly appointed continuing Lecturer in Digital Cultures in MECO. In 2017 I will be teaching Cyberworlds, Researching Digital Cultures and Media and Communication Landscapes. My research focuses on mobile media and networked publics, digital inequalities, racisms and antiracisms, and transformations in work and everyday life. I am committed to research that builds capacity, challenges inequality and makes a social impact.

On weekends, I love hanging out with my partner Sarah and my two children, Casper and Alice. I love movie-watching and game-playing (board and computer games). I'm a fan of science fiction films and literature. I do Taekwondo and am working towards getting my black belt. I spent many years travelling when I was a kid and have a broad interest in world events, culture and language.
Fiona McFarlane

I'm a novelist and short story writer – my novel *The Night Guest* (2013) explores memory and aging, and my collection of short stories *The High Places* (2016) includes stories previously published in *The New Yorker* and *Best Australian Stories*. I have a PhD in English from the University of Cambridge and an MFA in Fiction from the University of Texas at Austin, so I enjoy combining my academic and creative backgrounds in my teaching for the Masters of Creative Writing in the Department of English.

Sydney is my hometown and, after over a decade in the UK and the US, it’s lovely to be back. I’m currently working on a novel set in South Australia's Flinders Ranges.

Helena Robinson

After several of years of sessional teaching I’m excited to be joining the University in a full-time capacity with a 3-year lectureship in Museum and Heritage Studies.

Until the end of 2016 I worked as a collection manager and social history curator in tandem with my academic research and teaching, so I have a keen interest in the ways in which museological thinking and cultural policy translate into, and intersect with, museum practice. My PhD research focused on the integration ('convergence') of museums with libraries and archives, exploring how institutional and administrative change influences the interpretation of material culture. Currently I am examining the concept of participation in cultural policy discourse and museum programs.

I seem to spend most of my so-called ‘free’ time trying to keep my household under control or ferrying my three sons to various sporting or musical activities!
In the news from the Art History Department, we are celebrating two recent publication prizes - Mary Roberts’ Istanbul Exchanges has won the AAANZ Book Prize, the most prestigious prize awarded for a book by an Australian Art Historian, and Stephen Whiteman and Richard E. Strassberg’s Thirty-six Views: The Kangxi Emperor’s Mountain Estate in Poetry and Prints has won the JB Jackson Prize, from the Foundation for Landscape Studies, awarded to books published in the past three years in landscape studies that “break new ground in method or interpretation…and contribute to the intellectual vitality of garden history and landscape studies”.

We are delighted to welcome Helena Robinson, our new colleague in Museum Studies. She will be joined later in the year by Anna Lawrenson, who will take up her Scholarly Teaching Fellowship in Museum Studies in July, when she returns from Maternity Leave.

The Power Institute is having a very busy first semester, with the beginning of our Sydney Asian Art Lecture Series. Convened by Stephen Whiteman in collaboration with the China Studies Centre, Visasia and The Art Gallery of New South Wales - Julie Nelson Davies got this series off to a flying start on Thursday, 9 March, and three more key voices in Asian Art will complete this year’s line-up.

We are also launching two new Power Polemic publications: Barbara Creed’s Stray, about Animal ethics and the Anthropocene, and Thomas Crow’s No Idols, about religion in the history of Modern and contemporary art.

With the conference collaboration with ANU/NGA in Canberra on 16 and 17 March, “Living Versailles”, convened by Mark Ledbury with alumnus Robert Wellington, this makes for a busy and exciting moment in which the extent of our collaborations and initiatives is amply demonstrated.

We also note that with the exciting news of the Chau Chak Wing Museum becoming a reality, Mark Ledbury, Donna Brett and Stephen Whiteman have been awarded a University Teaching Innovation Grant to pioneer approaches that will bring students closer to objects in the Museum in problem-based and student-led ways - and together with our new Fieldwork unit being run in Winter Study period this year in Paris, and a new masters unit in the planning with White Rabbit Gallery, we are all excited about the new opportunities we are offering students at all levels to get out of the lecture rooms and up close to objects and spaces in the real world.

Recent publications
In 2017 staff in Celtic Studies will be working closely with the Celtic Studies Foundation to develop a new strategic vision for Celtic Studies. 2018 will see the launch of the University’s new curriculum, including the provision of first-year teaching in Celtic Studies. We continue to seek ways in which to develop our programme in connection with both the University and the wider community.

In 2016 we farewelled our very popular lecturer Dr Katherine Spadaro, who has taught Scottish Gaelic across the last three years. Katherine is moving away from Sydney and we wish her the very best for all her future endeavours.

Congratulations to Dr Lynette Olson (Celtic Studies Foundation) for bringing to completion the volume *St Samson of Dol and the Earliest History of Brittany, Cornwall and Wales* (Boydell Press: Studies in Celtic History. This *volume* presents research from an international colloquium held in Sydney in 2013, with contributions by Caroline Brett, Karen Jankulak, Constant Mews, Lynette Olson, Jean-Claude Poulin, Richard Sowerby, Ian Wood, and Jonathan Wooding. The first Life of Samson (*Vita prima S. Samonis*) is one of the most important (and often neglected) early sources for Celtic Britain. This is a major contribution in the field.
At the end of 2016 three members of staff were promoted: Olivia Murphy to Lecturer Level B; Sarah Gleeson-White to Associate Professor; Peter Marks to Professor. The department congratulates these staff members for promotions that reward their respective strengths in research, teaching and governance, as well as contributions to the life of the Department, Faculty and University.

We welcome two new staff members, Anya Adair and Fiona McFarlane, to the Department. We also welcome Jyhene Kebsi, our 2017 Postgraduate Teaching Fellow. See the ‘news’ pages of this issue of SLAMmag for more.

The Department will be having launches in the coming months for three recently-published books by staff members:

Dr Isabelle Hesse - The Politics of Jewishness in Contemporary World Literature: The Holocaust, Zionism and Colonialism (Bloomsbury, 2016). Reading a wide range of novels from post-war Germany to Israeli, Palestinian and postcolonial writers, the book offers a comprehensive exploration of changing cultural perceptions of Jewishness in contemporary writing.

Dr Jan Shaw - Space, Gender, and Memory in Middle English Romance: Architectures of Wonder in Melusine (Palgrave Macmillian, 2016). This book offers a much-needed consideration of Melusine within medieval and contemporary theories of space, memory, and gender. The Middle English Melusine offers a particularly rich source for such a study, as it presents the story of a powerful fairy/human woman who desires a full human life - and death - within a literary tradition that is more friendly to women’s agency than its continental counterparts.

Associate Professor Sarah Gleeson-White - William Faulkner at Twentieth Century-Fox (Oxford UP 2017). This is a scholarly edition of the five screenplays that Faulkner wrote while under contract to Twentieth Century-Fox during the mid-1930s, and another he wrote in the early 1950s. It includes a lengthy introduction that explains exactly what Faulkner did as a screenwriter at Fox while contextualising his Hollywood labours in a broader genealogy of Hollywood screenwriting and practices of adaptation and collaboration during one of the most important eras of American film history.

Dr Isabelle Hesse organised a one-day conference at the University of Sydney, entitled ‘Palestine in the International Imaginary, 1987-2017’, with Jumana Bayeh (Macquarie University) and Ben Etherington (Western Sydney University). The event, held on 24 February, brought together scholars, artists, activists, and writers to consider how the idea of Palestine has evolved within and across different national contexts since the first Palestinian intifada. The conference included papers on a variety of topics from Palestine in the German imaginary over Palestinian art before and after the first intifada and the possibilities of Palestinian and Israeli co-resistance. After the paper presentations, there was a roundtable discussion with playwright and author Samah Sabawi, independent researcher Ihab Shalbak, and Benjamin Miller from the Writing Hub, focusing on Palestine in the global imaginary now, before moving on to the keynote address, entitled ‘Human Rights or Revolution: Towards a History of Palestine Solidarity’. This lecture, which ran as part of the Sydney Ideas programme, was delivered by current SLAM visiting fellow Dr Anna Bernard (King’s College, London).

In the 2017 QS World Rankings of Departments by Subject, the English Department was rated 1st in Australia and 18th best department in the world.
Recent publications


Sydney Intellectual History Network

2017 marks the fourth year of the Sydney Intellectual History Network’s (SIHN) collaborative research programming, as we continue to build on cross-disciplinary interests around the Enlightenment and eighteenth-century studies. From the foundation of SIHN, a group of our researchers from across the Faculty (Francesco Borghesi, Barbara Caine, Stephen Gaukroger, Jennifer Milam, Cat Moir, Glenda Sluga and Anik Waldow) launched a successful bid for Sydney Research Excellence Initiative funding for the Enlightenment Thinking Project. This research collaboration is just getting underway and will focus on the impact of Enlightenment thought in relation to contemporary issues of tolerance, prosperity, globalisation, subjectivity and empiricism.

Two workshops are planned for this year, involving researchers from the universities of Southampton, Warwick and Edinburgh. SIHN reading groups continue, including the highly active Long Eighteenth Century Group led by the English Department’s Elias Greig and Jessica Sun. Planning for the Nichol Smith XVI Seminar (DNS) in Brisbane this coming December is in place, with SIHN sponsoring Georgia Cowart (Case Western) as a keynote. The call for papers has been released, and we hope that many academics and postgraduates from SLAM will be participating in this conference, which is now the principal meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. A special issue of Eighteenth-Century Life resulting from the last DNS will be out in April, edited by Nicola Parsons and Jennifer Milam, with essays contributed by Olivia Murphy and Shane Greentree of the Long Eighteenth Century Reading Group.

In November, SIHN will be hosting Deviant Thinking: Early Modern Philosophy and the Enlightenment, organised by Anik Waldow with a special panel on deviant art and aesthetics. The Digital Humanities Research Group is also planning a number of events, with contributions from Mark Allon, Linda Barwick, Mark Byron and Stephen Whiteman. Check SIHN’s webpages for further details.
Jim Martin recently gave the opening plenary address at Shanghai’s Jiao Tong University’s (Martin Centre) 3rd international conference, which focused on forensic linguistics. He gave an overview of his work on restorative justice, specifically Youth Justice Conferencing in New South Wales.

Nick Riemer was a visiting international scholar at the Empirical Foundations of Linguistics lab in Paris, where he gave a series of four seminars on the epistemology of comparative linguistics.

Monika Bednarek has started her Special Studies Program in the Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her chapter on the transnational uptake and circulation of television dialogue was recently published in the edited volume Style, Mediation, and Change (OUP).

In January, Ahmar Mahboob participated in a meeting on developing a language policy for the Aga Khan University in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. More details can be found here.

In February, Ahmar Mahboob was one of the featured speakers at the TESOL Summit on the Future of TESOL held in Athens. More details and the recording of Ahmar’s talk can be found here.

Nick Enfield was appointed Director of SSSHARC (Sydney Social Science and Humanities Advanced Research Centre). He will take up the two-year term immediately.

Nick Enfield was awarded a Sydney Research Excellence Initiative 2020 grant for the project “The Crisis of Post-Truth Discourse”. His collaborators include Alana Mann (MECO), Joy Murray (Physics), John Keane (Sydney Democracy Network), David Schlosberg (Sydney Environment Institute), Colin Wight (Government and International Relations), Joel Nothman and Hugh Durrant-Whyte (Centre for Translational Data Science), and Peter Fray (UTS journalism). The project seeks to analyse the problem of ‘Post-truth Discourse’ (AKA ‘alternative facts’, ‘bullshit’, etc.) with the aim of helping solve the problem. We are collaborating with engineers at the Sydney Informatics Hub to design a real-time bullshit detector.

Nick Enfield published his answer to the Annual “Edge Question”. This year the question was “What Scientific Term or Concept Ought to be More Widely Known?” Nick’s answer was “Verbal Overshadowing”. This was covered in The Guardian.

Monika Bednarek’s book The Discourse of News Values (co-authored with Helen Caple) was recently published. From the book description: “The Discourse of News Values breaks new ground in multimodal news discourse, offering the first book-length treatment of the discursive analysis of news values and the construction of newsworthiness. The book explores how the news is ‘sold’ (made newsworthy) to audiences through the semiotic resources of language and image, providing a new analytical framework which can be used by other researchers in their own subsequent studies. It combines in-depth theoretical discussion with analyses of authentic news discourse (both language and images) from around the English-speaking world, including three empirical case studies: one that analyses news values around the topic of cycling across different English-speaking cultures; one that analyses images disseminated by news media organisations via Facebook; and a third that focuses on the 100 ‘most shared’ news items.”
Nick Enfield’s book *Distributed Agency* (co-edited with Paul Kockelman) was recently published:

“*Distributed Agency* presents an interdisciplinary inroad into the latest thinking about the distributed nature of agency: what it’s like, what are its conditions of possibility, and what are its consequences. The book’s 25 chapters are written by a wide range of scholars, from anthropology, biology, cognitive science, linguistics, philosophy, psychology, geography, law, economics, and sociology. While each chapter takes up different materials using different methods, they all chart relations between the key elements of agency: intentionality, causality, flexibility and accountability. Each chapter seeks to explain how and why such relations are distributed - not just across individuals, but also across bodies and minds, people and things, spaces and times. We hope that the book will be a resource for researchers working on allied topics, and for students learning about the elements of human-specific modes of shared action, from causality, intentionality, and personhood to ethics, punishment, and accountability.”

Gwen Hyslop recently published *A grammar of Kurtöp*:

“A grammar of Kurtöp, is the first descriptive grammar of Kurtöp, a threatened language of Bhutan, and the only reference grammar of any East Bodish language. The East Bodish languages are a relatively unstudied branch of the larger Tibeto-Burman family, situated in Bhutan and neighbouring regions in Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh. The chapters introduce the language and the people who speak in a historical context and then go on to detail the structure and history of the sound system of the language, discuss word classes and clause structure, morphosyntax and syntax, and illustrate rich system of evidentiality and related categories. The book is of interest to Tibeto-Burmanists, historical linguists and those interested in the prehistory of the eastern Himalayas, and to linguistic typologists.”

**Recent publications**


2017 is promising to be a stand-out year for MECO, as we welcome staff and host important conferences in our fields.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Justine Humphry and Dr Marcus Carter to the team, while long-standing lecturing rock stars Dr Joseph Brennan and Ms Alison Ray join us on a full-time basis.

Mapping the Magazine (MtM4), 2016

Speaking of rock stars, congratulations to Dr Megan Le Masurier and Dr Rebecca Johinke who hosted the fourth Mapping the Magazine (MtM4) conference from 12 to 14 December 2016. This “intimate meeting” of international magazine scholars from many disciplines drew key figures in magazine studies including David Abrahamson (Northwest University) and Tim Holmes (Cardiff University).

ANZCA (Australia and New Zealand Communication Association) Conference 2017

What are the worlds of communication we inhabit, create, and reshape? And how can we interpret the dynamic expansions and contractions of our mediascapes?

MECO is proud to be hosting ANZCA 2017, the primary national conference in our discipline. Keynotes include internationally distinguished scholars Professor Daya Thussu (Westminster), Professor Paula Gardner (McMasters), Professor Silvo Waisbord (George Washington) and Professor Wanning Sun (UTS).

Last time we hosted this conference was under the leadership of a very special former President and Chair of MECO, our dear colleague and friend Associate Professor Anne Dunn, in whose name a special ANZCA award is given annually.

Communication Worlds: Access, Voice, Diversity, Engagement will be held from 5 to 7 July with a special day for PhDs and ECRs on 4 July.

ANZCA 2017 welcomes a wide range of submissions for papers and panels spanning all areas of contemporary media and communications studies, policy, and practice.

SWARM Conference

MECO is co-hosting the 2017 SWARM Australian Community Managers conference from 30 to 31 August in New Law, with a research symposium on the second day.

The theme for the conference this year is the impact of automation, AI (artificial intelligence) and algorithmic cultures on the life of online communities.

SWARM is the only gathering of this type in Australia, and is a wonderful opportunity to hear industry, academics and policy makers come together around critical questions for our digital communications worlds.
Recent publications

Gerard Goggin, Mark McLelland (Eds.).

Kathy Clelland

MECO farewells long-time colleague Dr Kathy Cleland, who is leaving the University for new adventures.

Kathy was appointed Lecturer in 2003 to teach what was then the Bachelor of Arts Informatics. As a key part of a small team she founded the Digital Cultures program in 2006, and established the Digital Cultures undergraduate major from 2007. After Digital Cultures merged with MECO in 2012 Kathy became indispensable to the whole Department.

Kathy has also worked as a freelance curator, presenting exhibitions in Australia, New Zealand and Asia, including ARTificial LIFE, the Cyber Cultures exhibition series, Mirror States and Face to Face: portraiture in a digital age. We wish Kathy all the best in her future pursuits.
The Department welcomes Breann Fallon, our 2017 Postgraduate Teaching Fellow. See the ‘SLAM News’ pages of this issue of SLAMmag for more on Breann.

The Department recently launched two new edited volumes by members of staff:

Christopher Hartney and Daniel J. Tower (eds), Religious Categories and the Construction of the Indigenous.

This volume significantly advances the academic debate surrounding the taxonomy and the categorisation of ‘indigenous religion’. Developing approaches from leading scholars in the field, this edited volume provides the space for established and rising voices to discuss the highly problematic topic of how indigenous ‘religion’ can be defined and conceptualised. Constructing the Indigenous highlights the central issues in the debate between those supporting and refining current academic frameworks and those who would argue that present thinking remains too dependent on misunderstandings that arise from definitions of religion that are too inflexible, and from problems caused by the World Religion paradigm. This book will prove essential reading for those that wish to engage with contemporary discussions regarding the definitions of religion and their relations to the indigenous category.

Carole M. Cusack and Pavol Kosnáč (eds), Fiction, Invention and Hyper-reality: From Popular Culture to Religion.

The twentieth century was a period of rapid change for religion. Secularisation resulted in a dramatic fall in church attendance in the West, and the 1950s and 1960s saw the introduction of new religions including ISKCON, Scientology, and the Children of God. New religions were regarded with suspicion by society in general and Religious Studies scholars alike until the 1990s, when the emergence of a second generation of ‘new new’ religions – based on popular cultural forms including films, novels, computer games and comic books – and highly individualistic spiritualities confirmed the utter transformation of the religio-spiritual landscape. In this book, scholarly treatments of cutting-edge religious and spiritual trends are brought into conversation with contributions by representatives of Dudeism, the Church of All Worlds, the Temple of the Jedi Order and Tolkien spirituality groups. This book will simultaneously entertain, shock, challenge and delight scholars of religious studies.

Recent publications


The Department of Theatre & Performance Studies

Words by various Theatre & Performance Studies staff

**Chancellor’s Committee Grant**

The Department of Theatre & Performance Studies houses important records pertaining to the history of performance practice in Australia. It also houses hardcopy, photographic and video (tape and digital) documentation from the early days of performance studies at the University of Sydney.

With the assistance of a $2,500 grant from the Chancellor’s Committee, the Department was able to employ archivist, Barbara Campbell, to audit and sort materials into that which belong to the Department and that which is simply stored here.

The grant was targeted at working on the Peter Oldman video archive. In 1998, the Department (then the Centre for Performance Studies) took receipt of the Peter Oldman collection of videotapes of Australian theatrical performances that Peter had been professionally documenting since the early 1980s. This is a non-accessioned closed archive, meaning that the Department has structured research access to it, and permission for access can also be extended to others by the owner, but the University (and Department) does not have ongoing legal responsibility for the archive.

The Department now has much greater control of this collection thanks to the assistance that the grant provided.

Barbara was also able to describe, box and re-shelve other archives housed in the Department, including:

- Bruce Keller archive material
- Entr’Acte
- The Sydney Front

The rehousing of these materials means they are now protected from flood damage.

The greatest benefit of this project is in value adding to an already extremely valuable asset. Video recordings of performances are the most valuable capturing of an otherwise ephemeral art form. However, progress in technological advancements brings with it ongoing challenges for how to maintain access to that history – how to migrate the important visual data from one medium to another.

The grant from the Chancellor’s Committee was vital in assisting the Department’s commitment to the study of theatre and performance culture, and towards the best-practice pilot for the ongoing digitisation of this historical resource.

**Dr Glen McGillivray**

At the end of 2016 Dr Glen McGillivray spent a month at the British Library on a research trip funded by SLAM and the Faculty. Dr McGillivray was undertaking archival research for his project *Communities of Sentiment: Actors, Audiences and Emotions in the Eighteenth-Century English Theatre, 1741-1782.* The project reconsiders the putative naturalistic revolution in acting associated with David Garrick in the mid-eighteenth century in order to explore how conventionalised practices of emotions affected audiences.

**Dr Paul Dwyer**

Some of you will recall that Dr Paul Dwyer worked last year on *Tribunal*, a piece of documentary theatre about the politics of asylum (and dancing!), that had a sell-out season at the Griffin Theatre. Critics were very complimentary, saying:

- "…unquestionably powerful … theatrical magic"  
  - suzygosee.com

- "It's a must-see of a very special kind"  
  - Ben Neutze, Daily Review.
Theatre & Performance Studies

The AusStage ARC LIEF Grant Project

AusStage provides an accessible online resource for researching live performance in Australia. Development is led by a consortium of universities, government agencies, industry organisations and collecting institutions.

In late 2016, the consortium was successful in its application to the ARC Linkage, Infrastructure and Equipment Fund (LIEF) for stage 6 of the project through the LIEF program. The program of work to be undertaken involves developing 3-D visualisations of sites of performance, to be integrated into the existing database, including the various geographical, temporal, and network mapping resources available through the site.

The Department of Theatre and Performance Studies’ contribution to stage 6, led by Associate Professor Ian Maxwell and Dr Laura Ginters, will be to research and to build, in collaboration with colleagues working on similar projects and industry partner Ortelia Interactive Spaces, 3-D renders of lost Sydney performance venues.

Initially we will concentrate on two theatres. The first will be the Royal Victoria Theatre, a 1,900 seat venue built in 1838 on Pitt Street, near the site of the current Strand Arcade, and destroyed by fire in 1880. Research undertaken by Ross Thorn, an Honorary Associate of the Department in the 1970s and 1980s, yielded several ground plans and elevations of an 1865 refurbishment of the theatre; the AusStage database already includes over 200 entries for performances in the venue. Our research will seek to augment this data with not only a walk-through 3-D visualisation of the building itself and its place in the mid-nineteenth century streetscape, but with other forms of records - posters, programs, reviews, images, diary accounts and the like - which will be integrated into the visualisation.

The second building will be the Paris Theatre, formerly located on the south west corner of Whitlam Square, at the city end of William Street, opposite the Hyde Park Cenotaph, a site now occupied by the Connaught apartment block. Built in 1915 as the Australia Picture Palace, the façade of the building was designed by Walter Burley Griffin; the Dictionary of Sydney entry describes it as “a very modest reinforced concrete building with a tall cylindrical corner element and heavy concrete balconies. The façade was articulated by the relief stucco paneling”.

The theatrical significance of the building lies in its use, in 1978, as a venue for the Paris Theatre Company, the short-lived project that paved the way for the Sydney Theatre Company, following the collapse of the Old Tote. Again, our research will retrieve, in the first place, architectural drawings and plans upon which to construct a digital visualisation.

As we develop the protocols and processes for dealing with such materials, we will look to turning our attention to the vast legacy of lost theatre and venue architecture across Sydney.
Frances Di Lauro was awarded a 2017 Strategic Education Grant to produce undergraduate Open Learning Environment (OLE) units with team members Rebecca Johinke and Jennifer Dowling. The project, entitled Participatory writing in digital mode, was one of only three large grants awarded and the only grant awarded to fund a 6 cpt OLE. This open learning environment builds on previous trials conducted by the applicants and other colleagues at the University of Sydney who have experimented with new approaches to formative and summative assessment. The units promote group research, collaborative planning and participatory writing, writing across networks and negotiating discourse communities.

Benjamin Miller convened the ‘Emerging Approaches to Rhetoric’ conference from 8 to 9 December 2016. The conference included a film screening, traditional Hawaiian dinner, and panel discussion in association with the Free University Western Sydney, the Pacific Film Festival, and the Ted Noffs Foundation. The keynote speaker was Associate Professor ku‘ualoha ho‘omanawanui (University of Hawaii), who delivered an address on Kanaka Maoli rhetorics. Academic presentations were delivered by international and local academics, as well as by Writing Hub staff and associates including Benjamin Miller, Alyssa O’Brien, Omid Tofighian, Steven King, and Gayatri Kotnala. In her paper, “Cross-Cultural Rhetoric of the Plagiarised Text”, Alyssa argued that scholars today might embrace fluidity and cultural flexibility in expressions of writing, and that this stance might help us better meet the needs and support the writing practices of our increasingly diverse student body at this time of curricular transformation.

The Faculty’s Pacific Studies Network helped organise a workshop with Associate Professor ho‘omanawanui on methodologies for writing studies and indigenous research. The conference was made possible by funding from the Faculty Conference Support Scheme and the valuable contributions of colleagues Omid Tofighian, Evelyn Corr and Alyssa O’Brien.

In December 2016, Writing Hub tutor, Lucinda Holdforth’s, essay, "The very first rough draft: speechwriting and history", was published in P. Ashton, A. Clark and R. Crawford (Eds), Once Upon a Time: Australian Writers on Using the Past.
The following departments and programs are located in the School of Literature, Art and Media:

- Art History
- Celtic Studies
- English
- Linguistics
- Media and Communications
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- Museum Studies
- Studies in Religion
- Theatre and Performance Studies
- The Writing Hub