

**The Rugged Guide to Creative Writing**  
**The Rocky**  
**Rutted**  
**Scratchy**  
**Weather-beaten**



**Belligerent**  
**Pugnacious**  
**Boisterous**  
**Rowdy**  
**Unruly**  
**Riotous**  
**Rough**

**The Rough Guide to Creative Writing**  
**at Kwantlen Polytechnic University**

# The Rough Guide to Creative Writing

at Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Welcome to the Creative Writing program at KPU!

Whether you are a first year student trying out a writing class or a senior student pursuing a major or minor, we're happy to have you in our department. What follows here is a rough introduction to our creative writing classes, faculty, and an awesome set of events, talks and readings.

Creative writing isn't just about sitting at a desk. No matter what stage you're at in your writing life, it's also about good discussions, bright ideas, and hearing other people's stories. Check out the literary scene at Kwantlen and share your stories with us.

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Check out  
Kwantlen Creative  
Writing Department  
on  
Facebook!



# Letter from the Department Chair



Welcome to the KPU Creative Writing community!

KPU Creative Writing is an active, creative home for writers and we welcome you to get involved.

We have a wonderful year coming up with some very interesting visiting writers including our Writer in Residence, poet and playwright Joseph Dandurand from Kwantlen First Nation. Our Creative Writing Reading series will be hosting some major Canadian talent from places as far flung as Surrey(!) and Toronto. The Creative Writing Student Guild (you can join!) will also be hosting readings and slam events and our end of year department reading and scholarship celebration is always a fabulous party with great student readings.

In terms of courses, we are very excited to expand our Special Topics offering this year and to offer ST at both the 2000 (2900) and the 3000 (3400) level. Topics range from Speculative Fiction to Writing in Nature to Spoken Word to Young Adult Literature to Zombies, Gods and Monsters – yes, something for everyone.

September 2016 sees the launch of some significant curriculum changes in our degree and one of these is the integration of the final 4200 level courses into the Writer's Studios (4150 and 4250) where you can work on a long-form manuscript in the genre of your choice.

If you are new to the department, need degree advising or just want to check in, please come and talk to me. I am on campus Tuesdays and Wednesdays and by appointment. I can be contacted by email anytime at: [Nicola.Harwood@kpu.ca](mailto:Nicola.Harwood@kpu.ca). Also, please keep in mind Arts Advising, who are very helpful if you need advice sorting out your degree plans and course requirements. Former chair and CRWR faculty member, Billeh Nickerson is also available for degree advising: [Billeh.Nickerson@kpu.ca](mailto:Billeh.Nickerson@kpu.ca)

I wish you all the best of luck with your studies at Kwantlen and hope very much that you find KPU Creative Writing your new home on campus. Welcome.

Nicola Harwood

[nicola.harwood@kpu.ca](mailto:nicola.harwood@kpu.ca)



## Letter from the Dean of Arts

Welcome to the fall academic term! With award-winning faculty, small class sizes, and off-campus cultural explorations, the Creative Writing department embodies the strengths of KPU – an undergraduate university that develops leaders, thinkers, and doers.



Whenever I've had the opportunity to attend the department's events I have enjoyed the energy and enthusiasm of the Creative Writing students. There is no question that Creative Writing students are some of the most passionate at KPU.

I look forward to seeing you at departmental events this year.  
All the best in your writing and other academic pursuits!

Diane Purvey, Dean of Arts



# A Note from Your Friendly Arts Advisors

Welcome to the Fall 2016 semester, and greetings from the Arts Degree Advising Centre! We, the Arts Degree Advisors, are here to help you plan all aspects of your degree program. Whether you choose the major or the minor, the Creative Writing program pairs beautifully with other Arts courses and programs. We can help you select courses that will support your academic interests and goals, and satisfy degree requirements.

Do you have questions about the new CRWR curriculum changes? About admissions to the Bachelor-level degree programs? Are you transferring from another university, and want to know how your transfer credits count? Are you ready to declare your major or minor? Do you have questions about which major or minor is the right fit for you? Whatever your questions are, we can meet with you to review your transcripts, discuss your goals, assess your academic progress thus far, and help you develop a comprehensive plan that leads to graduation.

Please make an appointment or come see us in the Surrey Arbutus Library to discuss all your options! We have advising in Richmond one day a week and in Surrey Monday through Thursday.

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT: [advisorconnect.kpu.ca](http://advisorconnect.kpu.ca)

CONTACT US: [artsdegreeadvising@kpu.ca](mailto:artsdegreeadvising@kpu.ca)

We hope you have a great semester!

**Naomi Ben-Yehuda**  
Naomi.Ben-Yehuden@kpu.ca



**Peter Warren**  
Peter.Warren@kpu.ca



**Anthea Pasin**  
Anthea.Pasin@kpu.ca

# Writers' Tools

Okay, if you're a KPU student already you know where the campus bookstore is and where to get your beverage-of-choice. This semester you'll need the basics: **pens, pencils, notebooks, textbooks, course packs** (course depending) and a computer.

But you'll also need to make some space in your day-to-day life and coursework for imagining things and *making stuff up*. To this end The Rough Guide suggests you get one special **writer's notebook**: compact enough to carry around with you so that you can jot down ideas for your stories, poems plays and screenplays. Maybe you're in a coffee shop and you overhear a funny exchange that might make a basis for a good bit of dialogue? Maybe you notice the way someone walks and you want to remember it? Maybe you get an idea for the first line of a poem?

You should also have access this semester to a good **thesaurus**. And not just the on-line ones that are free, but a really awesome one that surprises you with how many words you can find to replace one common or over-used word (like when 'awesome' becomes 'astonishing' or 'imposing' or...). The wonderful Canadian writer Timothy Findley once said: "The writer's second best friend is the Thesaurus. Their best friend is the waste basket." Accordingly the Rough Guide suggests that another of the writer's tools is a **sense of humour** and a willingness to write your heart out and then write it out again.

Another great tool is **work that inspires you**. Accordingly the Rough Guide suggests checking out writing by the very fine emerging writers who are publishing in Canadian literary journals right now. One day this may be you. The libraries have a whole host of great **literary magazines** to check out. Start reading them now. And read the work of our **visiting writers** before they come, it'll make meeting them a richer experience. Remember, these writers are part of your larger community. And remember, too, that the library has lots of good **reference books** on reading and writing poetry, fiction and plays etc. Ask your librarian or bookstore clerk where to get your hands on them.



# KPU Creative Writing 2016/2017

## Reading Series & Writer in Residence

With the help of the Canada Council, The Writers' Union of Canada and KPU, CRWR brings some of the most exciting writers from across Canada to our campuses. The visiting writers give a short reading and talk and then afterwards they answer your questions about their work, the writing life, or whatever else comes up. Books are sold after the reading so if you like what you've heard you can buy a copy and have it signed. Readings are free. You can bring friends, family or fellow students who aren't in creative writing. The more the merrier.

### **Betsy Warland**

Vancouver

Thursday Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, 4pm Fir 128

*poetry, nonfiction, memoir*

### **Jane Munro**

Vancouver

Tuesday Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 4pm, Library

*poetry*

### **Pamela Mordecai**

Toronto

Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 4pm, Library

*fiction, nonfiction, children's literature, poetry*

### **Kevin Spenst**

Surrey

Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup>, 4pm Library

*poetry*

### **Joseph Dandurand**

Kwantlen First Nation, Langley

Writer in Residence, Wed Mar 8<sup>th</sup> & Thurs Mar 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*poetry, playwriting, storytelling*

It's worthwhile coming out to these readings even if you don't have class that day. One year, Jordan Scott read from his new book *Blert* and the students who went talked about it for weeks afterwards because his performance and ideas were so inspiring. That's why it's worth the trek: you get inspired. If you have a creative writing class during a reading slot the whole class will go.

For updates, join the FB page Kwantlen Creative Writing Department.



## 2016-2017 Writer-in-Residence



### Joseph Dandurand

Every year KPU Creative Writing brings in a Writer In Residence. This visiting writer works for three days in consultations with students. This year's visiting writer is **Kwantlen First Nation poet, playwright and storyteller, Joseph Dandurand.**

The WIR meets with student writers one on one or in groups. To be considered for a slot you must submit a piece of revised writing. It's okay if it has already been workshopped. Please submit 8 pages max: double spaced for prose or script, single space for poetry. If the work is an excerpt please include a one paragraph synopsis. Specific details for submissions will be communicated closer to the Application opening.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN: OCTOBER 1, 2016**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE: JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**Submit to the CRWR departmental assistant Anne Lin: [Anne.Lin@kpu.ca](mailto:Anne.Lin@kpu.ca).**

Writer in Residence consultations are part of a larger celebration at Kwantlen which will include a talk by the WIR on a topic of their choosing followed by a wine and cheese reception where everyone gets to meet them. Watch for posters for time and place. All are invited.

# The KPU Creative Writing Guild

One of the KPU Student Association's most popular and successful clubs, The KPU Creative Writing Guild connects emerging fiction and non-fiction student writers, poets, and scriptwriters who wish to become more involved in their community. We hold weekly meetings to discuss tips, tricks, and techniques, and organize at least one open mic with a featured reader every semester. We also hold a poetry slam night on the third Thursday of each month called Slamapalooza. As a community, we also manage a creative writing podcast called *Comma Splice*, a variety show focused on creative writing. We are currently looking for 3 segments from other writers, so if you're interested in being a part of the podcast email the Guild president, Winston Le (His email is below).

We also encourage new writers to submit to Kwantlen's student-run literary and fine arts publication *Pulp*. Want to share or develop your writing, editing or computer skills, or work on procuring art? The magazine needs you!

**Who can join the Guild?** Any student enrolled at Kwantlen is welcome. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow students, talk writing, build your CV and make things happen.

**Why would you join?** Because writing is a solitary profession and it's good to meet with the likeminded. And it's FUN.

**When do people meet?** Every other Weds and Thurs from 3pm-4pm starting SEPT 14th and 15th of the semester. The meeting room is Birch 106 or Cedar 1065. Feel free to attend whichever of the two days works better for you, or feel free to attend both meeting times. Here is a complete schedule of the fall meetings:

Sept 14th 3-4pm Cedar 1065  
Sept 15th 3-4pm Cedar 1065  
Sept 28th 3-4pm Birch 106  
Sept 29th 3-4pm Birch 106  
Oct 12th 3-4pm Birch 106  
Oct 13th 3-4pm Cedar 1065  
Oct 26th 3-4pm Birch 106  
Oct 27th 3-4pm Birch 106  
Nov 9th 3-4pm Birch 106  
Nov 10th 3-4pm Birch 106  
Nov 23rd 3-4pm Birch 106  
Nov 24th 3-4pm Birch 106



You can also find us on Facebook: "The Kwantlen Creative Writing Guild" Click "JOIN" and one of the admins will add you to the group. Here's the URL:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1496757887209960/>

Questions? Please free to email the president of the Guild, Winston Le at

[winstonladdle@gmail.com](mailto:winstonladdle@gmail.com)

# The KPU Creative Writing Faculty

All our faculty are working writers who publish and produce as well as teach. Everyone in the department teaches Intro courses as well as upper level courses in their genres.



**Aislinn Hunter**  
fiction, poetry,  
creative nonfiction, craft  
and process  
aislinnhunter.com



**Jen Currin**  
poetry, craft and process  
jencurrin.com



**Ross Laird**  
creative nonfiction,  
craft and process,  
nature writing, business  
of writing, new media  
rosslaird.com



**Billeh Nickerson**  
poetry, spoken word,  
creative nonfiction,  
business of writing  
billeh.com



**Cathy Stonehouse**  
fiction, craft and process  
creative nonfiction,  
speculative fiction  
cathystonehouse.com



**Aaron Bushkowsky**  
playwriting, screenwriting  
solocollective.ca/\_aaron/



**Nicola Harwood**  
playwriting,  
screenwriting  
new media  
nicolaharwood.com



**Cathleen With**  
fiction, young adult  
fiction  
cathleenwith.ca

## KPU's Virtual Writing Centre

Although Creative Writing students sometimes think they don't need to know any grammar because they're going to give free reign to their "creative" side, a solid knowledge of the rules of written language is essential. Think for a minute you want to build this amazing house you designed yourself. But you don't know how to use a hammer and nails... it's like that. Language is the tool of our trade.

If you want to play with language meaningfully by bending grammar rules in your creative work, you'll need to know what those rules are to begin with, so you might want to check out the Virtual Writing Centre.

From the KPU home page, click on Current Students > Student Support > Tutoring > Learning Centres > Writing > Virtual Writing Centre.

The grammar handouts on the VWC offer a detailed explanation of the most common problems students encounter in their writing, along with a "cheat sheet" overview you can use to do the exercises after you've read the rules. Unlike some answer keys, the ones on the site explain *why* the answer is right, so you're not left scratching your head. Because real sentences don't come with pre-labeled errors, there's also a series of mixed grammar exercises that allow you to proofread for one additional rule at each level. If you work through the whole set, you'll be able to practice spotting common issues ten different times, so it's a great way to build your skills gradually.

You may also want to use some of the other materials on the site to work on your papers in other classes. The VWC offers advice on writing essays as well as advice on analyzing texts such as short stories and poems. There are also useful guidelines on how to troubleshoot for common mistakes you might make in writing about literary texts. If you can't find what you're looking for on the site, it's still a good starting place because it offers links to lots of other useful materials available at other universities and on the web.

If you have friends who'd like to access the content, they just need to click on Guest Access. <https://courses.kpu.ca/course/view.php?id=594>



# CRWR Scholarships

For Application forms please check out the Student Awards and Financial Assistance info at <http://www.kpu.ca/awards> or ask our departmental assistant, Anne Lin.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOON ON MARCH 15, 2017

\*Unless otherwise specified in the award criteria, it is expected that award recipients will be returning to KPU in the fall.

### BESS COYNE CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

Bess Coyne had a life-long love affair with literature. It began in childhood and blossomed over the years to include some of the great poets and novelists of history. She was a devoted reader of The Browning's, Tennyson, Keats, Kipling and later the Great War poet, Rupert Brooke. As a teenager, she copied her favorite pieces with pen and ink into a plain notebook which remains in her family today. Bess Coyne imparted the magic of the written word to her seven children by reading to them from the works of Louisa May Alcott, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain and Robert Louis Stevenson. She was born in Liverpool, England in 1913, lived on three continents and died at the age of 90 at her home in White Rock, BC where she had lived since 1947. Her epitaph may well be "Richer than I you never can be. I had a mother who read to me."

**Amount: \$1000 Tuition Credit (Fall)**

Criteria:

- Student 30 years of age or older
- must submit a six-page portfolio and a 500-word personal essay on "**What has surprised you the most about your own writing practice?**"

The Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios and responses and announce the winner. The award will also be recognized at the annual Scholarships & Awards Dinner each year. Students are to submit their writing portfolio and personal response, in a single file, via email to [Cathleen.with@kpu.ca](mailto:Cathleen.with@kpu.ca) by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted). Submissions should not include the student's name anywhere in the file, neither on the pages nor in a cover letter. All submissions should include a student number with the subject line *CRWR Scholarship Submission*.

### THE CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

The award is given annually to an outstanding Creative Writing student who has completed at least three credits of the Creative Writing program at KPU and who is continuing at KPU in the discipline. Students will be asked to submit a six-page portfolio and a 500-word personal essay on "**What has surprised you the most about your own writing practice?**" The Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios and responses and announce the winner. The award will also be recognized at the annual Scholarships & Awards Dinner each year.

**Amount: \$1000 Tuition Credit (Fall)**

Criteria:

- the candidate's caliber of writing (in any creative writing genre)
- demonstrated engagement with the craft and the quality of the student's personal response

Students to submit their writing portfolio and personal response, in a single file, via email to [Cathleen.with@kpu.ca](mailto:Cathleen.with@kpu.ca) by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted).

Submissions should not include the student's name anywhere in the file, neither on the pages nor in a cover letter. All submissions should include a student number with the subject line *CRWR Scholarship Submission*.

### **DAVID AND TERRY ATKINSON CREATIVE WRITING AWARD**

This award was established to commemorate the strong contribution former President Atkinson made to the institution. The award is given annually in the form of a tuition credit to an outstanding Creative Writing student who is continuing at KPU in the discipline and who demonstrates excellence in the craft. Students will be asked to submit a six-page portfolio, a one page CV and a 500-word personal essay on **the meaning and value of a literary community**. The Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios and responses and announce the winner. The award will also be recognized at the annual Scholarships & Awards Dinner each year.

**Amount: \$1000 Tuition Credit (Fall)**

Criteria:

- the candidate's caliber of writing (in any creative writing genre)
- demonstrated engagement in building community among Creative Writing students at Kwantlen
- the quality of their personal essay on "the meaning and value of a literary community"
- must have completed a minimum of 6 credits in the Creative Writing program

Students will be asked to submit their writing portfolio and personal response, in a single file, via email to [Cathleen.with@kpu.ca](mailto:Cathleen.with@kpu.ca) by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted).

Submissions should not include the student's name anywhere in the file, neither on the pages nor in a cover letter. All submissions should include a student number with the subject line *CRWR Scholarship Submission*.

### **BILLEH NICKERSON CREATIVE WRITING AWARD**

Named after KPU Creative Writing Alumnus and former department Chair, Billeh Nickerson, The Billeh Nickerson Creative Writing Award is given to an exceptional student working on a project informed by personal experience. Criteria: the candidate's calibre of writing (in any creative writing genre), the student's demonstrated engagement with the craft and the quality of their personal response. **Students will be asked to submit a short portfolio (six pages in any genre) from their project based on personal experience, and a five-hundred word personal essay on: "Why is your writing important?"**

**Amount: \$1,000 Tuition Credit (Fall)**

Students should submit their writing portfolio and personal response via email, in a single file, by the deadline, to [Cathleen.With@kpu.ca](mailto:Cathleen.With@kpu.ca). Late submissions will not be accepted. Submissions

should not include the student's name anywhere in the file, neither on the pages nor in a cover letter. All submissions should include a student number with the subject line Billeh Nickerson Award Submission. This award will also be recognized at the annual Scholarships & Awards Dinner each year.

### **PIPS WORDSMITH ENDOWED AWARD**

Polytechnic Ink Publishing Society (PIPS) is a non-profit society that governs KPU's main student-led publications such as The Runner. The society holds its mandates in high regards, which include duties to: "act as an unbiased agent of social, cultural and environmental change", and "use its freedom from commercial, political and other controls to ensure that it presents local, national and international news fairly, and examines what other media avoid." PIPS is pleased to present this creative writing award to a full-time KPU student enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing program.

#### **Amount: \$1000 Tuition Credit (Fall)**

Criteria:

- recipient must be enrolled in KPU's Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing program
- full-time student (9 credits or more) in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year at KPU
- CGPA of 2.00 or greater
- must not have received any other PIPS Endowed Awards for this current year
- recipient must provide a writing sample containing no more than 5 pages of poetry or prose, or an equivalent New Media project (Videos, Web content, etc).

The Creative Writing faculty will review the portfolios and responses and announce the winner. The award will also be recognized at the annual Scholarships & Awards Dinner each year. Students will be asked to submit their writing portfolio and personal response, in a single file, via email to [Cathleen.with@kpu.ca](mailto:Cathleen.with@kpu.ca) by the posted deadline (late submissions will not be accepted). Submissions should not include the student's name anywhere in the file, neither on the pages nor in a cover letter. All submissions should include a student number with the subject line *CRWR Scholarship Submission*.

### **ALL CRWR SCHOLARSHIPS: APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOON ON MARCH 15, 2017**

#### **BC ARTS COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR STUDENT WRITERS.**

See [https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/guidelines/artists/youth/scholarship\\_awards.html](https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/guidelines/artists/youth/scholarship_awards.html)

Please ask the two writing instructors of your choice for letters of recommendation **well before** the deadline, which for this award is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Significant CRWR Dates for 2016-2017

**September 6**, Classes start

**September 21-25**, Word Vancouver, <http://wordvancouver.ca/>

**September 29**, Betsy Warland Reading, 4pm Fir 128

**October 1**, Applications Open for Writer in Residence Slot

**October 17-23**, Vancouver International Writers Festival, <http://writersfest.bc.ca/>

**October 25**, Jane Munro Reading, 4pm, Library

**November 14**, Pamela Mordecai Reading, 4pm, Library

**December 5**, last day of classes for Fall semester

**January 1**, Applications Close for Writer in Residence Slot

**January 4**, classes start

**January 17**, Kevin Spent Reading, 4pm Library

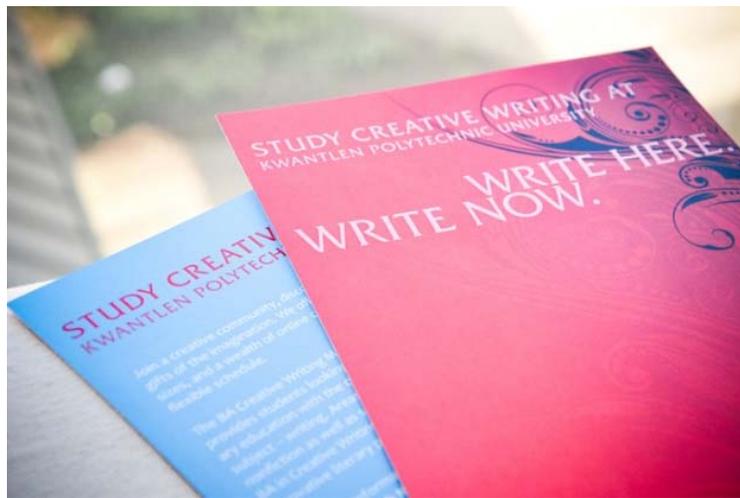
**March 8 & March 9**, Joseph Dandurand Writer in Residence, consultations, reading and talk

**March 15**, CRWR Scholarships Deadline

**April 6**, End of Year reading, party and scholarship presentations

**April 7**, last day of classes

**April 30**, deadline for B.C. Arts Council Creative Writing Scholarship Application



**Good Luck and Good Writing!**