

CACLALS Report

Our annual conference was held in association with the Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, in Saskatoon May 26-28, focused on a single dimension of postcolonial literature: indigenous Canadian literature. In recent years a highlight of the annual conference has been the Aboriginal roundtable, and this year's conference, "Aboriginal Storytelling, Poetry, and Performance Art Bridging Communities," built on that tradition. There were four roundtables or panel sessions, as well as three sessions of papers. Gerry Turcotte, the founding director of the Centre for Canadian-Australian Studies at the University of Notre Dame in Sydney, Australia, delivered the keynote address, entitled "A 'Playful' Competition in the Spirit World: Building Bridges in the Spectral Nation." Louise Halfe gave a plenary talk entitled "The Exploration of the Cree Language Underworld in Writing, Psychology and Spirituality."

CACLALS published Spring and Fall issues of the newsletter *Chimo* in a new on-line format. The announcement of publication is sent to all members. *Chimo* can be accessed via the CACLALS website (<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/caclals/>).

Sukeshi Kamra gave notice of her resignation in March 2007 and resigned as president of CACLALS as of August 31, 2007. At the AGM, held on August 21, 2007 in Vancouver, Neil ten Kortenaar was elected interim president for the remaining year of Sukeshi's term. CACLALS has now moved to the University of Toronto, where Neil and the secretary-treasurer, Maria Casas, are based.

The most exciting event on the CACLALS horizon is the annual conference, to be held in conjunction with Congress at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver May 31-June 2 2008. The theme is "Thinking Beyond Borders." Laura Chrisman (University of Washington), the author of *Postcolonial Contraventions: Cultural Readings of Race, Imperialism and Transnationalism* (Manchester UP, 2003), will give a keynote address entitled "The Challenge of Black Worldliness," looking at the relations between black South African nationalists and African American intellectuals and at how black ideas of modernity and of being in the world traveled in the early 20th century. Ato Quayson, director for the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational

Studies at the University of Toronto and author of *Postcolonialism: Theory, Practice or Process?* and *Aesthetic Nervousness: Disability and the Crisis of Representation* (Columbia 2007), will give a keynote lecture entitled "Of Ethnoscapes and Alienation: Debating Diaspora Literature." The AGM will take place then, too, and there will be elections for a new executive committee to hold office for the next three years.

Neil ten Kortenaar
Interim President