

MA ALUMNI PROFILES



Stephen Carlick (2010-2011)

It was through my English MA at Ryerson that I met the Books Editor for the *National Post*. He came to our practicum meeting for a Q&A, and I struck up a conversation with him afterwards that led to my first published book review. As a 23-year-old trying to establish a name for myself as a writer, that gave me both confidence and credibility. I'm not sure I'd be where I am today without that crucial meeting. I am currently the Senior Managing Editor at Exclaim! Magazine.



Laura Chapnick (2013-2014)

Having completed a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature and Art History at McGill University, Laura interned at *FASHION* magazine the summer before joining the LitMod Program in 2013. Since then, Laura has also completed a Digital Media certificate at OCAD. Laura currently works as the Marketing Manager at House of Anansi and Groundwood Books. Previously, she worked at Penguin Random House Canada as their Content Marketing Coordinator. Laura credits the LitMod Program with helping her get her start in publishing as it gave her the opportunity to intern in the industry, meet publishing professionals, and familiarize herself with the landscape of Canadian publishing.



Bassam Chiblak (2011-2012)

As a Victorianist, having the undivided and personalised year-round attention of my MRP and RA supervisors was the unexpected pinnacle of my experience in the English MA in Literatures of Modernity; I was a peer. Moreover, the funding was unrivalled, which allowed me to live comfortably and partake in many digital humanities events in Toronto. I am currently completing my PhD studies in English at the University of Victoria.



Brianna Cooze (2016-2017)

I chose Ryerson's Literatures of Modernity program because the practicum option was an attractive opportunity to expand on my work experience at a Toronto-based literary organization. I was placed at the Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA), which led to a full-time position there after graduation—I am now TIFA's Programming Coordinator. LitMod's graduate assistantship positions and the practicum allowed me to build a strong foundation to begin a career as an arts management professional.



Kelly Duval (2015-2016)

Having completed a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature and Creative Writing, Kelly soon thereafter entered Ryerson's LitMod Program in 2015. As a current Content Marketing Specialist for an agency called Advance B2B based in Helsinki, Finland, Kelly helps B2B SaaS companies grow their business through content marketing. For Kelly, the LitMod Program bolstered her critical thinking abilities, as well as her writing and editing skills. The program helped Kelly improve her public speaking skills, and taught her not only how to work independently, but also how to work in collaboration with others.



Alec Follett (2010-2011)

The Ryerson English MA provided valuable exposure to many fields of literary study through its core course LM8901. Classes were led by different professors who highlighted specific areas of study, and were attended by the entire cohort. In addition to creating a strong community, this course directed me to an MRP topic and provided me with a foundation that has helped me successfully navigate my MA and PhD work. I am currently completing my PhD studies in English at the University of Guelph.



Laura Gergley (2010-2011)

After completing her Bachelor's Degree with a Major in English Literature, Laura developed a strong passion for publishing. It was because of LitMod's practicum component that she was able to explore her passion and land her first job in publishing. Following graduation, Laura's been working in publishing ever since and currently works for McGraw-Hill Canada as their Customer Marketing Manager. She has had the honour and privilege of shaking hands with some of Canada's most notable literary and scholarly authors. Laura believes that LitMod equipped her with fundamental skills in critical-thinking, copywriting, data analysis, and research, which continues to push her exciting career to new places.



Alex Gurnham (2009-2010)

Having completed his Bachelor's Degree at Carleton, with a Double Major in English and History, Alex worked at bank before joining the LitMod Program in 2009. Since LitMod, Alex has earned a Bachelor's of Education from OISE, at the University of Toronto. Alex is currently employed as a high school teacher in the TDSB. He has worked at a number of schools across the city, primarily teaching English, History, and Special Education classes. Alex's Master's Degree ensured he was eligible for a higher pay bracket (than with a BA alone) once he secured a teaching position. The LitMod program also helped Alex learn the art of persuasive speaking and presentation.



Megan Hamilton (2016-2017)

I was fortunate in my time at Ryerson in that my cohort quickly became a tight-knit group, which allowed for engaging discussions in the seminar room and in the grad lounge. In addition to the excellent community of students and faculty, I found the practicum component of the program to be invaluable in securing my job post-graduation as a Bilingual Editor for Captivate, a digital media company. I had no professional editing experience prior to my practicum with *Broken Pencil Magazine*. The variety of courses offered and the breadth of experiences, such as acting as a TA and participating in symposia, helped me to hone in on a career path in law, and I am thrilled to be continuing my academic journey at Western Law this fall.



Dennis Hogan (2013-2014)

At Ryerson, I TA-ed two literature sections, worked as a research assistant at the Centre for Digital Humanities, was funded to attend a week-long conference with Ryerson colleagues, and published my first article in an academic journal. Faculty encouraged me to be involved, steered me toward invaluable opportunities, and gave freely of their time and attention in mentoring me. I am currently completing my PhD studies in Comparative Literature at Brown University.



Andrea Karr (2010-2011)

Before making her way to Toronto, Andrea completed an Honours Bachelor's Degree in English Literature, with a Minor in Theatre, at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg (her beloved hometown). She then joined the LitMod Program in 2010 and completed a practicum with *Broken Pencil* magazine. Due to that placement, she nabbed an eight-month-long internship at *Flare* magazine, where she was able to gain valuable knowledge and contacts. Andrea moved on to work as an editor at *Canadian Living* magazine before choosing to freelance full time. Her job now involves travelling Canada and the world and writing for numerous Canadian publications and international brands. Andrea credits her LitMod practicum and RAship with helping her to develop the practical skills and experience necessary for her future career.



Paul Mathew (2009-2010)

Paul worked as a professional musician before joining the LitMod Program in 2009. Since 2015, he has been working towards his Chartered Professional Accounting designation. Paul works at the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario, mainly on value-for-money audits of government agencies and ministries. Much of the value-for-money audit work consists of reading and interpreting policy, interviewing stakeholders, assessing risk, and contributing written analysis to the annual report. The skills Paul developed in LitMod - clear communication, critical thinking, attentive listening, and an open mind - were a big asset to this work and helped him to secure his position.



Mary Ann Matias (2017-2018)

A long-time Ryersonian, Mary Ann completed her Honours Bachelor's Degree in English, moving on to join the LitMod Program in 2017. During her time there, Mary Ann joined Book*hug as a practicum student, where she developed strong skills in project-management and a knowledge of the broader cultural field of publishing in Toronto, consequently earning the MA Award for Best Practicum and an internship with the company following the completion of her Master's Degree. Additionally, she was able to hone her skills in literary analysis and editorial curation by taking up several Research Assistantships with LitMod staff, such as Andrew O'Malley's A Crisis of Innocence and Dr. Jason Boyd's Stories in Play Initiative. As well as working towards being a writer, Mary Ann now works as the Administrative Coordinator at Toronto Scholars Collegiate, a private high school dedicated to providing university-level international education, where she helps manage the staff and ensure the success of their students. She is thankful to the LitMod Program for providing the education and resources through which to refine her skills in the English curriculum and drive for success.



Leila Meshgini (2010-2011)

The best thing about this program is its intimate size, which allows for greater engagement and collaboration between students and faculty than a typical graduate program. I was quickly able to get to know the faculty and their research interests, and learn about RA opportunities. This helped me find my dream position RAing at the Children's Literature Archive, which directly led to my pursuing a career in librarianship. I am currently Community Experience Librarian at West Vancouver Memorial Library.



Chelsea Miya (2012-2013)

One of the benefits of doing my MA at Ryerson was having the opportunity to get involved with a digital project at the Centre for Digital Humanities. Not only was I gaining valuable technical skills, but I had a strong sense that my work was contributing to the larger research community. I am currently completing my PhD studies in English at the University of Alberta.



Julie Morrissy (2013-2014)

After completing a Bachelor's Degree in Law and a Master's Degree in Creative Writing, Julie joined the LitMod Program in 2013. She completed her PhD in Creative and Critical Writing in 2018 at Ulster University in Northern Ireland. Julie is currently the Newman Fellow in Creativity at University College Dublin. She is also a published poet, with her debut poetry collection *Where, The Mile End* published in 2019 with Book*hug in Canada and tall-lighthouse in the UK & Ireland. The LitMod Program was crucial to Julie's academic and creative development. In LitMod, Julie had the opportunity to pursue new research paths, such as rhetoric, and to meaningfully engage with projects in those areas. This assisted Julie with broadening her academic interests, and improving her research, teaching, and academic writing skills. Julie notes that the learning environment in LitMod was open and dynamic, and that she benefitted immensely from the mentorship of LitMod faculty members.



Aesha Nananso (2017-2018)

After earning a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Western Ontario, completing an Honours Specialization in English Language and Literature with a Minor in Criminology, Aesha entered Ryerson's LitMod program in 2017. She is currently employed full-time as a Salon Coordinator, where she worked before entering the program. This September (2019), she will begin a fully-funded PhD in English at the University of Toronto, continuing research on representations of Black motherhood—an area that she first explored in her Scholarly Essay. For Aesha, the LitMod program allowed her to delve into her literary interests through its unique course offerings. She found mentors in her professors, who provided endless support and encouraged her to take her work beyond the classroom and into international conferences and literary journals. Aesha gained valuable work experience in her roles as a Teaching Assistant, Marking Assistant, and Research Assistant. Overall, Ryerson's LitMod program allowed Aesha to refine her writing, research, and oral presentation skills, all of which she will continue to use in her future work.



Sara Saljoughi (2008-2009)

As an MA student in the program, I learned how to analyze literature and other texts using nuanced and innovative methodologies. Through coursework and in the process of writing my MRP, I learned how to speak to a field and a discipline. The program's emphasis on professionalization was also a great benefit to me as I moved into my doctoral studies.



Allison Smith (2009-2010)

My favourite part of the program was getting to spend my days discussing books and ideas with a group of smart, engaged people. Our seminar rooms were sanctuaries of thought and debate that felt a million miles away from the bustle of the city below. Allison is the Founder and Publisher of Queen's Park Today.