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Governor General's Award-winning playwright Colleen Murphy named Edna Staebler Laurier Writer-in-Residence

WATERLOO – Colleen Murphy, an award-winning playwright and screenwriter, has been named the 2014 Edna Staebler Laurier Writer-in-Residence. Murphy's residency occurs from January to March, 2014.

Widely respected in theatrical circles, Murphy is an internationally acclaimed author of 10 plays, including the new plays *The Goodbye Bird* – which Murphy created during her 2011-2012 residency with Finborough Theatre in London, UK – and *Armstrong's War*, which premiered at Vancouver's Arts Club theatre in 2013. Her screenplays include the Genie-nominated *Termini Station*, and her films have played to audiences at film festivals in Germany and France, as well as at the Toronto International Film Festival. Murphy won a Governor General's Award in 2007 for her play *The December Man*.

Murphy will work on several new projects throughout the winter term and deliver two "Generating Art" public lectures. Her first lecture will be held at 4 p.m. on Feb. 6, in DAWB 2-104, and the second lecture will be held at the end of March. Murphy will also hold regular office hours in the Faculty of Arts office, DAWB 5-108A, to work with students on their creative writing from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, beginning Jan. 15. For further information about her office hours, contact Cathy Mahler at cmahler@wlu.ca.

In addition to writing for film and theatre, the multi-talented Murphy is a librettist. She is currently working on several projects for opera production, including *The Liberation and Enslavement of Oksana G.*, which will premier in Toronto with Tapestry New Opera in 2015, and *The Breathing Hole*, an opera set in the Canadian Arctic.

The Edna Staebler Laurier Writer-in-Residence program was established in 2012 from a bequest from Canadian author Edna Staebler. The program is a full-time, three-month residency for Canadian writers. The writer-in-residence is based on Laurier's Waterloo campus for the entire three months, and splits his or her time between writing and community programming at Laurier's multiple campuses. Community programming includes reading manuscripts and consulting with students and the public, visiting classrooms, and giving readings and lectures. The residency launched with author Andrew Westoll.

The search for the 2015 Edna Staebler Laurier Writer-in-Residence will begin in March 2014.

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