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MacEwan's Writer-in-Residence is all about making 'connections'

Edmonton – The Department of English at MacEwan University is pleased to announce that Anne Marie Sewell has been named Writer-in-Residence.

Sewell was Edmonton's poet laureate from 2011-13 and is the author of two poetry collections *Fifth World Drum* and *For the Changing Moon: Poems and Songs*. As poet laureate, she developed a 'poem catcher' that asked people passing through city hall "*what's poetic in your life?*"

Sewell wants to help people make connections in their own writing. "Say you're writing about masonry – it probably comes down to how it connects with humans. Maybe it's the story of the workman who made the masonry or the generations of masons who came before and worked on various building projects. I feel like if I'm always looking for what the connection is. That's the basis of my creative process."

Sewell's first love is poetry and she explains her love of that literary craft. "Poetry lets your heart speak. It's the song we're born to sing. If birds don't sing, the sun doesn't rise. That's the old way of looking at it, and it's very quaint and metaphorical. But if you think about it deeply, if the birds don't sing, it's because they're not there, and if they're not there, then the whole web of the interconnection of life has broken down. So, it's a way of expressing the importance of caring for every living thing."

Sewell's advice for aspiring writers is 'live-a-life.' "I'm far from the first writer to say that, but I really think it's true. The idea that a writer has to be a lonely, splendorous thing is ridiculous. You always need people who see you as a person. That's what I would want to do with anyone who comes to see me as the writer-in-residence. What do you want to say? What's the song you want to sing? Because there are so many ways that people can write."

To book an appointment with MacEwan's Writer-in-Residence, please visit MacEwan.ca/WIR.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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