Welcome to the fall 2009 edition of SAGE Advice! I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who contributed your thoughts, advice, and messages to this issue. I hope that each of you gains some insight, inspiration, or laughs from the articles that follow. Though we are only three weeks into the fall semester, I am already looking forward to the spring issue. If you have any story ideas, announcements, photos, or advice for the next issue, feel free to email me or stop me in the hall.

Happy Autumn!
-Kari Jackson

SAGE would like to welcome the Department's newest graduate students, as well as welcome back our returning grads to a new academic year. As returning members know, last year was very productive for SAGE. SAGE worked to further environmental responsibility and sustainability in the English Department. The organization’s Sustainability Committee secured recycling bins for GTAs' and lecturers' offices and copy rooms, and SAGE members strove to save paper by using unwanted fliers and other scrapped documents in office printers. SAGE also continued its participation in the national Make a Difference Day campaign. Members worked at the lakeshore, trails, and parking lots of Clinton Lake, picking up trash and recycling the majority of what they found. SAGE is proud that its members are promoting environmental awareness in the Department and community.

SAGE’s fundraising efforts continued to be successful in 2009. SAGE ran its bi-annual "Rent a Graduate Student" fundraiser, the proceeds of which support SAGE travel awards and events. The funds raised allowed the organization to support three graduate students with large travel awards. In addition, SAGE sponsored four Academic Anonymous sessions and organized the second-annual "Wescoe Mixer" at which members socialized and networked with graduate students from other departments in Wescoe.

Thanks to the Resolution on GTA/Lecturer Office Space drafted in 2008, GTAs and lecturers spent the 2008-2009 school year housed in temporary office space in Watson Library and the fourth floor of Wescoe, as opposed to being in an unsecured area of the Military Science Building. SAGE is pleased that the resolution helped to secure the return of all GTA and lecturer offices--as well as the SAGE lab--to Wescoe Hall.

SAGE looks forward to a great 2009-2010 academic year. Keep checking the SAGE listserv for announcements about upcoming meetings and activities, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Have a great semester,
Kristen Lillvis and Ann Martinez, SAGE Co-Presidents

A Message from the Co-Presidents
Welcome to our New Graduate Students!

M.A. STUDENTS

**Kara Bollinger**
Jackson, MO  
*Rhetoric & Composition*

She spent the summer waitressing “at a really classy 24-hour dining establishment in Kirskville, MO—Pancake City,” though she “occasionally escaped this grease-ridden place by taking random trips to Oklahoma City and Philadelphia.” If she could have any other job, she thinks “it would be really great to be a photographer or to follow a band around writing for/about them. Preferably Wilco…or Bruce Springstein because let’s face it, he’s awesome.”

**Jennifer Brussow**
Lawrence/Abilene, KS  
*Rhetoric & Composition*

Her special talents are “speaking German, knitting preposterous things, making the worst puns humanly possible, [and] extensive knowledge of beers.” If she could be any literary character, she would be Meg Murry from *A Wrinkle in Time* because, she says, “she was the first relatable character I found in a book.”

**Sarah Fettke**
Wichita, KS  
*Minority Lit, American Lit, & Cultural Studies*

Her special talents are playing the piano and the carillon. If she could be any literary character, she would be Joe Gardener in *The Tommyknockers* because “he’s flawed but ultimately heroic.” Also, if she could have any other job, she would be a writer for *Entertainment Weekly.*

**Naomi Green**
Topeka, KS  
*Literature*

This summer she worked at a summer camp (Boys and Girls Club), and she says her special talent is cooking without recipes. If she were a food, she would be spaghetti because “it’s a reliable comfort food, but it can be prepared many different ways.”

**Amanda Hart**
Lawrence, KS  
*Literature (Social Justice)*

This summer, she worked, traveled through Germany and Austria, and took piano lessons. If she could be any literary character, she would be Alice in *Alice in Wonderland* because “this world is always surprising me with new and unexpected wonders!” Also, if she were a food, she would be angel food cake because, she says, “I’m light, spongy, and fun.”

**Marty Jarden**
Lincoln, NE  
*20th C. British Lit.*

His special talent is playing the piano “especially poorly.” He spent the summer house painting and re-siding, and he says if he could have any other job he would be a custom cabinet and furniture builder. If he were a food, he said he’d be “spaghetti—there’s a lot of me, and I sort of sprawl all over the place.”

**Jason Manes**
Ellsworth, KS

His special talent is playing the piano “especially poorly.” He spent the summer house painting and re-siding, and he says if he could have any other job he would be a custom cabinet and furniture builder. If he were a food, he said he’d be “spaghetti—there’s a lot of me, and I sort of sprawl all over the place.”

**Rachel McMurray**
Tulsa, OK

Among her special talents, she says, “I can wiggle my ears. I can also identify any episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* by title within 5 seconds.” If she could be any literary characters, she would be Don Quixote because “I love his unfailing optimism and faith and his ability to see adventure everywhere.”

**Hui “Jane” Meng**
China  
*Literature*

She spent the summer traveling. If she could be any literary character, she would be Scarlet in *Gone with the Wind* in order “to be a different me,” she says. Also, if she were a food, she would be watermelon: “juicy.”

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PhD Candidate Stephanie Scurto gave birth to twin boys, Michael Francis and David Mitchell, on 12/22/08. After taking off the spring semester, she is back to teaching this fall.
New Graduate Students, continued…

Jennifer Nish  
Omaha, NE  
*Rhetoric & Composition*  
If she were a food, she would be pizza, “the kind they make in Italy. Why...because it’s impossible not to love it, honestly.” Most recently, she says the literary character she would like to be is Howard Roark from The Fountainhead because “he seems to have a very unique way of interacting with the world.”

Joy Bancroft  
*M.F.A STUDENTS*  

Mary Dockery  
St. Joseph, MO  
*Poetry*  
Her special talents, she says, are “giving bad advice that my friends never take and watching Law & Order reruns.” She got married this summer and gave up her last name, though “so far it doesn’t seem to fit, but I’m working on it.”

Danya Goodman  
Boston, MA  
This summer, she “taught Human Sexuality at KU, started a mindfulness group at the KU Psych Center,” and “watched an amazing amount of trashy reality shows.” If she could be any food, she would be “a glass of sangria because I can be sweet and fruity but also can have a sassy kick.”

Gabriela Lemmons  
Kansas  
This summer, she worked her full-time job and took her “very last undergraduate English course.” If she were a food, she’d be “something poisonous so that I wouldn’t be eaten.” She’d like to be an oceanographer if she could have any other job.

Iris Ann Moulton  
Salt Lake City, UT  
*Poetry & Short Fiction*  
She and her boyfriend “took mini and major roadtrips all over Utah” this summer. She says, “It was our way of saying goodbye to the state.” If she could have any other career, she would be “a coroner, forensic pathologist, or run a funeral home, but, she adds, “let’s hope the placement rate at KU is as high as they say…”

Mark Petterson  
Kansas City  
*Fiction*  
He spent his summer “trying to avoid work and failing badly.” He did “lots of manual labor” and took “a couple of road trips.” If he were a food, he would be “something bland. Cheerios?” Also, his alternate career choice would be “majority owner of Liverpool FC.”

Ben Pfeiffer  
Kansas  
*Fiction*  
If he could be any literary character, he’d be Sherlock Holmes: “he can bareknuckle box and play the violin.” He wrote, read, and remodeled his house this summer, and, when asked what other career he’d have, he said, “There are other jobs?”

Ph.D. STUDENTS

Colin Christopher  
Lawrence, KS  
*Postcolonial Lit/Theory, Ecocriticism*  
Among his special talents, he says, “I’m very good at fantasy baseball and Wii Mario Kart, and I love mountain biking and surfing, although I’m not very good at them.” If he could be any literary character, he’d be Charlie Bucket because “it would be cool to own all of Willy Wonka’s stuff without being insane like Willy Wonka.”

Dave Lawson  
NH, OK, and NYC  
*Fiction*  
His special talents are “reading quickly—my friends accuse me of just speed reading, but alas, they are jealous. Also writing, of course, and devastatingly wonderful one liners.” He can’t decide if he would be Andre Louis Moreau from Sabatini’s Scaramouche, or Tom Jones from Fielding’s novel of the same name, or The Count of Monte Cristo, if he could be any literary character.

Ashley Ortiz  
Denver, CO  
*American Literature*  
She is quite talented when it comes to “knowing trivia about Disney Princess movies,” and if she could have any other career, she “would be a guide on the Safari ride in Disneyworld.” Also, if she could be any literary character, she would be Jo March because “who doesn’t love a literary tomboy?”

Abayo Animashaun
Dear Graduate Students,

I’d like to offer everyone a special welcome to the new academic year, as the new Chair of the English Department. I am excited to be taking on this role, because I truly believe that we have a vibrant department and a fantastic group of graduate students and dedicated GTAs here at KU.

I’d like to take this space to encourage you all to make use of all the resources available to you here. Please seek out your teaching mentors, the Job Placement Advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, your committee members, and me for advice on any questions that occur to you. We want to help you present your many strengths in as compelling a way as possible. We are here, truly, for you.

My door is open; stop in and say hi!

Sincerely,

Marta Caminero-Santangelo

Requests from Our Director

Welcome (back) to the English graduate program!

I have a couple of requests:

First, tell me what you want and need from the program. I can’t guarantee I can produce it, but if I can, and if it seems like a good idea, I will (and have). Let me know how the program can be improved (especially if you’ve already found out the hard way!) – whether in big ways or small. For instance, if there are courses that you would like to take, but that aren’t offered, tell me what they are. Or if you have ideas for completely overhauling the MA program.

Secondly, take a look at the Graduate Handbook (the PDF is at the Dept. web page). Familiarize yourself with the contents, as is the de facto Constitution for the program. And if you feel that any of those by-laws are not being observed – or not being observed consistently – please let me (or the appropriate administrator) know.

Finally, please, please have a Plan B – if you don’t get a full-time teaching job; or if you don’t get accepted to a PhD program; or if you just get sick of it and want to leave. This doesn’t mean you’ll activate Plan B. But it will make you feel a lot better and more secure about Plan A.

I’m looking forward to working with you this year. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if I can help you.

- Joe Harrington,
Director of Graduate Studies
jharrington@ku.edu
Conference Attendees Share Experiences

Daryl Lynn Dance:
I spoke on pedagogical identity on March 12, 2009 at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) held in San Francisco, CA. I enjoyed the conference; it gave me a wonderful opportunity to work with KU alum Angela Glover and fellow graduate student Cedric Burrows, who were a part of the panel on pedagogical identity. Most importantly, it gave me an opportunity to acquaint myself with such a fascinating city.

I also spoke on “Students’ Right to Their Own Language” at the Nanzan University American Studies Summer Seminar (NASSS) held in Japan in July of 2009. Japan was great—hot and rainy; the people I met were wonderful. This is an experience I will treasure!

Sam Bell:
I attended the Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture since 1900 at the University of Louisville, KY, last February. I read a nonfiction essay on a creative panel; it is recurring this February 2010 and is a great environment for both creative and literary panels.

Where is Jameelah Lang?
Jameelah Lang, a third-year MFA student, left Lawrence in June 2009 to assume a residency in South Carolina. Here’s what she’s up to, in her own words:

“This year, I’m serving as the Writer-in-Residence for a program in Spartanburg, South Carolina called HUB-BUB. HUB-BUB is a non-profit organization that hosts an art gallery, concert venue, and a community arts program. Each year, HUB-BUB also selects three visual artists and one writer to “live free and create” for eleven months, providing an apartment, utilities, and a stipend in exchange for ten to twenty hours of work per week for the program. Work includes attending HUB-BUB-sponsored events, bartending at openings, and spearheading community projects.

“As the writer, much of my time working for the program is spent apprenticing for Hub City Writers Project, which is a sister organization to HUB-BUB. Hub City is an independent, regional, sustainable press and literary arts organization. We host readings, organize conferences, publish manuscripts, host the South Carolina First Novel Prize, and serve as “hub” writers in South Carolina’s Upstate region.”

Follow Jameelah’s HUB-BUB blog: http://jameelah.hub-bub.com/

WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO STUDY IN LAWRENCE?

Z’s Espresso. It’s usually quiet and not very busy.
-Heather Bastian

I, like many, like La Prima Tazza downtown. Or the Lawrence Public Library. The bookstore in the union as well - mainly for the view!
-Sam Bell

The 5th floor of the library is a good place to write papers. People don’t always observe the “quiet” part of the “quiet study zone,” but when they do I like to check a laptop out of the library and head up to the 5th floor to take advantage of all the big tables to spread out my notes and books.
- Rob Topinka
Bathtub Kansas Writers’ Collective

In October 2008, graduate creative writing students gathered to form a writers’ collective, which would eventually be officially named the Bathtub Kansas Writers’ Collective.

But the Bathtub Collective is not exclusively Kansas graduate students, as the Collective promptly opened up to Lawrence writers outside of the department. Bathtub, then, connects Kansas’s creative writing program to writers around the community.

Last fall, Bathtub participated in a writers’ exchange with the MFA program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, which prompted a new and thriving connection between the two programs. It was so successful that the Collective is currently in the process of planning writers’ exchanges of their own with other programs in the area, including Wichita State, Kansas State, and the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville.

The biggest event of Bathtub’s first year was in Chicago in February 2009 at the AWP (Association of Writers & Writing Programs) Conference. At the conference, Bathtub represented the Kansas MFA/PhD programs in creative writing and introduced themselves as a collective to prospective students, KU alumni, and fellow programs.

Bathtub is looking forward to the April 2010 AWP Conference in Denver, where they will present a panel titled “Bathtub Kansas Writers’ Collective: A Community of Writers.” KU students participating on the panel are DaMaris Hill, Amy Ash, Jameelah Lang, Andy Anderegg, Kari Jackson, and Robert J. Baumann. The panel will discuss the Collective’s “aims to promote literature and writing,” along with panelists presenting on “the need for and benefits of establishing a community of writers that extends beyond the limits of the University,” according to the conference website.

In its second year, the Collective will continue to collaborate with local artists, host reading series featuring local writers, initiate a Writers in the Schools (WITS) program in Lawrence, and grow in members and connections within the community.

According to the Bathtub blog, “Most importantly, the writer’s collective gives writers in Lawrence a common voice and a unified front for action both within and outside of Kansas.”

Follow Bathtub’s blog: http://bathtubcollective.blogspot.com/

www.KansasBathtub.org

How to Relieve the Stress of it All

When I asked our graduate students their remedy for a stressful semester, I received a near unanimous response: exercise!

“I have had success by balancing exercise with study - even a walk or a run will help me relax, review, and even refocus,” says Sam Bell.

Heather Bastian suggests taking group fitness classes through Lawrence Parks and Recreation because “they offer a variety of classes at a very affordable price.”

Other excellent de-stressors mentioned by students include having a good support system, pets, and, of course, beer.
Upcoming Events

Next SAGE Meetings
October 7
November 4
3:30 pm in Wescoe 4050

Stay Tuned
Creative Writers’ Reading Series!
Halloween Party!
Wescoe Mixer!

SAGE Officers

Co-Presidents
Kristen Lillvis, Ann Martinez

Secretary
Jana Tigchelaar

Treasurer
Rob Topinka

First-Year Liaisons
Colin Christopher, Audrey McDonald

Academic Anonymous Committee
Eric Hood, Erin Conley, Jennifer Nish

Advisory Committee
Nate Williams

FSE Committee
Heather Bastian, Cedric Burrows, Jason Barrett-Fox

Graduate Assembly Representative
Rob Topinka

Graduate Committee
Pat Phillips, Kari Jackson, Amy Ash

GTA/Lecturers Committee
Andy Anderegg, Pat Phillips, Erin Williams

Lecturers/Readers Committee
Amy Hume, Masami Sugimori, Lauren Kiehna

Library Committee
Keri Behre

MFA Committee
Kari Jackson

Professionalization Workshop Committee
Margaux DeRoux, Amy Ash, Meghan Kuckelman

Public Face/Alumni Relations
Meghan Kuckelman, Nate Williams

Summer Institutes Committee
Katie Egging

Supplemental Funds
Lance Turner

SAGE Advice Editor
Kari Jackson

SAGE Events Committee
Erin Conley, Lisa Stockton, Paula Prisacaru, Margaux DeRoux

Sustainability
Ali Brox

SAGE Web Master
Susan Thomas

Shutterbug: Lisa Stockton

http://groups.ku.edu/~sagegroup/