

# UPDATE

PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

No. 37

2002

## Let Langston Live in Lawrence Again

Langston Hughes's name was shouted and whispered throughout KU's Student Union from February 7-10 as more than 600 people gathered to celebrate this literary giant and Kansas native son. "Let America Be America Again: An International Symposium on the Art, Life, & Legacy of Langston Hughes" positioned Hughes as a major figure in 20th-century American literature.

Professor Maryemma Graham led the campaign for KU and the community of Lawrence to recognize Hughes's legacy and commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth. She and American Studies Professor Bill Tuttle co-chaired the symposium planning committee.

"The success of this centennial celebration and symposium belongs to the University of Kansas and the Lawrence community. A singular spirit united all of us: We wanted to bring Hughes home to a place that was more welcoming, more open, and more humane than the one he left as a child. And we don't want him to leave...ever again. After February 2002, anyone who thinks about the Hughes of Harlem, they will also think 'Langston Hughes of Kansas.' A bigger challenge lies ahead: to make his scholarship equally as important as his readership. We know Hughes as a literary populist, but so much more remains to be done, especially to fully grasp his unique contribution to vernacular modernism. In this sense, the 2002 centennial symposium was only the beginning for KU," Graham said.

Hughes, who is usually thought of as a poet, also wrote novels, plays, short stories, essays, autobiographies, newspaper columns, and children's books. He was the first African-American writer to succeed at making his living as a writer and the first to have a literary society devoted to studying his life and work. (The Langston Hughes Society was founded in 1981 and publishes the *Langston Hughes Review*.) His semi-autobiographical novel, *Not Without Laughter*, is based on his childhood in Lawrence.

Hughes is one of the best-known figures of the Harlem Renaissance, one of the young black writers who experimented with folk traditions and literary conventions attempting to overturn any and all assumptions about African-Americans. "He was imitated by poets all over the

world," the writer Ishmael Reed told the symposium. "He would put things down on paper, whether it was the plight of domestic workers or April in Paris. We should honor Langston Hughes for his ability to say what was in the souls of millions."

In addition to attending the symposium, Reed, whose visit was partly sponsored by the English Department, gave a poetry reading at the Student Union and attended Professor Brian Daldorph's class.

Reed was one of more than 75 presenters who came from as far away as Europe, Africa, and Asia to laud and critique Hughes. Participants included: Arnold Rampersad, the Hughes biographer who delivered the symposium's keynote address, Paule Marshall, Roy DeCarava, Amiri Baraka, Sonia Sanchez, Kevin Powell, Willie Perdomo, Emily Bernard, Hazel Rowley, and Dolan Hubbard. The gathering attracted the attention of *The New York Times* and C-SPAN, among other national media. KU faculty, including Chancellor Robert Hemenway, Professor

Edgar Tidwell, Professor Emerita Beth Schultz and Professor Giselle Anatol also participated.

"The scale was amazing. Everyone who should have been invited. When I look at other conferences planned in connection with the Hughes centennial, this one stands out by a mile," Rampersad said.

Symposium session topics included a panel of the editors of the 18-volume series from the University of Missouri Press, *The Collected Works of Langston Hughes*; "Hughes from Blues to Bop to Hip-Hop," "Revisiting the Harlem Renaissance," "Negro Mothers, Midnight Dancers, and Madame Alberta K. Johnson: Hughes Womenfolk," "Hughes Criticism and the Critics," "A World of Words: From the Midwest to Moscow," and "Multiple Passings."

Through people like DeCarava, Mari Evans, Baraka, and Marshall, who all knew Hughes, participants learned about Hughes's generosity and philosophy.

"The essential theme of his life was the celebration of black culture in all its forms and the



Chancellor Robert Hemenway and Alice Walker display an enlargement of the new Langston Hughes/Black Heritage postage stamp, introduced in February 2002

## 2001: The Year in Review



As I was reading recently about the imminent return of the Microbus to the U.S., it caused me to reflect on the wave of nostalgia moving through commercial and popular culture(s). From *The Greatest Generation* to Austin Powers to khaki capris to Arts and Crafts-style housing to flipped hair to 50s kitsch, to VW Beetles to Rolling Stones concert tours to representational art to traditional folk music — looking to the past for inspiration, meaning, and delight has permeated much of life around us. Why this might be so invites speculation and perhaps diatribes from varying perspectives. But when I consider my Department, I find little evidence of nostalgia in our teaching or scholarship. It is not that we have abandoned the past — far from it. *Beowulf*, Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton, for example, are well-placed in our offerings. They are far from alone, however. The voices of Moraga, Cisneros, Hughes, Hurston, Tolkien, Atwood and many others are also heard. It is the present and the future, however, that form the context for reading all writers, recent or past. New ways of understanding that shed light on where we might go as well as on where we have been thread through the work of the Department. This urge to create new knowledge, to push at the boundaries of the accepted, is, I be-

lieve, a sign of an intellectually healthy — as well as productive — group of scholar/teachers.

The past year brought not only lively teaching and far-ranging scholarship but national acclaim as well. As detailed in a separate piece here, the celebration of the Langston Hughes Centennial through a conference in February was noted in national media such as *The New York Times* and C-Span. Professor **Maryemma Graham**'s tireless efforts helped create an exciting and stimulating program that included Alice Walker, Arnold Rampersad, and Danny Glover. The study of Langston Hughes's poetry continues this summer in our annual Multicultural Literary Institute, memorably taught by Professor William Cook of Dartmouth and Professor Akiba Sullivan Harper of Spelman College. In our other summer institute, the Holmes Institute, Professor Dana Nelson of the University of Kentucky taught a highly-regarded course on the expanded canon of early American literature to the Civil War. The Centennial Symposium and both the summer institutes give evidence to the enrichment made possible by private support.

Private support also made possible another notable achievement this past year, the filling of the first new Hall Distinguished Professorship of American Literature and Culture. Professor **Susan K. Harris** will be joining us in the fall, coming from Pennsylvania State University. With research interests in Twain and women in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America — her most recent book is *The Courtship of Olivia Langdon and Mark Twain* — Professor Harris will play a strong role in the intellectual life of the Department and in the Humanities through the Hall Center. We are very pleased to have this opportunity. Joining the Department as well will be Professor **William J. Harris**, also coming from the Department of English at Pennsylvania State. Professor Harris's specialty is African American poetry, especially Amiri Baraka, and American literature. He also has a strong interest in the relationship of jazz and creative writing. The Department is also adding a Technical Writing Liaison position to help develop our technical and professional writing curriculum. **Chris McKitterick**, who has most recently worked as a technical writer and trainer of technical writers at Microsoft in Seattle, will

have a special interest in developing our offerings at the Edwards Campus in Kansas City. We will be a stronger department over the coming years because of these excellent hirings.

Although we have lost no faculty to retirement this past year, one promising young scholar will be leaving for another position this fall. Professor **Kirk Branch**, one of our composition specialists, will be continuing his career at Montana State University in Bozeman. We wish him the best! Taking a year's leave, Professor **Giselle Anatol**, African American and Caribbean specialist, will be teaching at Spelman College in Atlanta next year.

Even the big events in the Department's life are, of course, dwarfed by the events of September 11, 2001. The enormity of these acts causes us to reflect more deeply on our ordinary lives. The quotidian reality, the accumulation of thousands of smaller matters take on their own importance. Our classrooms, our studies, our offices and our meeting rooms are filled with the thinking, writing, reading, and discussing that make us who and what we are. We have approximately 130+ teachers teaching nearly 14,000 students a year. We believe we make the world better through our efforts.

But even the mundane can be worth noting. Those of you who were in Wescoe twenty-eight years ago can close your eyes and imagine what you saw then and come remarkably close to what can be seen now — with one exception. All offices and hallways on the second and third floors now have new carpeting. Next summer — the first floor? Despite budgetary uncertainties and restraints, we look to the future in our own work and thereby encourage students to prepare for their futures. The importance of private support to enable this progress increases each year. We are grateful to those of you who have shared as you can and encourage others to join us in promoting complex and humane reading, writing and thinking in all our myriad ways. Nostalgia has its comforts, but the fascination of exploration has its pleasures as well. We hope to continue to progress, thereby serving our students, our discipline, and our society.

■—Professor James W. Hartman, Chair

### Langston Hughes (continued from page 1)

celebration of the common folk. That was especially important for me as a writer. It really helped me be more appreciative of the words, the validity, even the sacredness of my own background, so I was able then to write about my own community with that same kind of regard and respect and celebration," Paule Marshall told *The Kansas City Star*.

The celebration began January 31 when Alice Walker braved the worst ice storm to hit

the Midwest in decades to speak to a sell-out crowd at the Lied Center. Walker spoke about her relationship with Hughes, who befriended her as a college student and a still-unknown writer. When Hughes gave Walker her first publishing opportunity, he essentially jumpstarted her career. "His success was that he had developed in himself an ultimate kindness. . . . For so many of us he was this seed that became this incredible sheltering tree. He was always watching out for us. It's

what elders do for people," Walker said.

The following week Danny Glover enthralled the Lied Center audience with an intensely personal reading of Hughes's poetry. "What a breadth of knowledge [Hughes had] about who he was, what his relationship to the world was, what his heritage was," Glover said.

As a special feature of the symposium, a packed house of more than 150 attended a half-day teacher's workshop—four times the number



Actor Danny Glover reads Langston Hughes at the Lied Center

originally planned. Led by Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper, professor of English at Spelman College and Bill Cook, professor of English and African

American Studies at Dartmouth College, the workshop, like the rest of the symposium, drew rave reviews from a wide range of participants. Not only did the group include teachers from elementary school through community college, but Headstart program teachers and an AARP program facilitator as well. One participant, who may be representative, said, "The workshop on teaching Langston Hughes was one of the best sessions that I have attended at any conference. It was both pragmatic and inspiring. I know that I will teach Hughes differently."

The celebration was community-wide. Symposium presenters visited Lawrence public schools, attended a film festival at Haskell Indian Nations University, and read poetry at the Lawrence Arts Center. The community's involvement and enthusiasm were overwhelming.

The commemoration of Hughes's legacy continues through the work of the Langston Hughes National Poetry Project, which Graham directs. The project received a planning grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities for "Speaking of Rivers: Taking Poetry to the People." Making more opportunities available to the general public to read, hear, and appreciate poetry is the project's goal by bringing people together in poetry circles. Other projects underway include a special issue of the journal *Callaloo* focused on Hughes which will be published in November.

■—Alison Watkins

## October Conference Moves to February

The October Conference on Composition and Literature, a fixture on the English Department calendar for the last fifty years, will get a new name and a new time frame beginning in February 2003. The Conference, originally developed as a link between secondary and university English education professionals in Kansas, had faced declining enrollments in recent years since the Columbus Day holiday was eliminated in Kansas public schools, limiting the number of English teachers who could attend. The conference will receive a new name, the "New Literacies Conference," and a new emphasis as a gathering for and celebration of Kansas authors and writers as well as teachers. The conference will also benefit from association with the week-long Langston Hughes February Fest, an outgrowth of this year's Langston Hughes Centennial Symposium, which will convene at the same time. Co-sponsors will include the Division of Continuing Education, the Lawrence Arts Center, and a non-profit organization, Writers' Inc. This year's conference, featuring novelist and short story writer Paule Marshall, will take place on February 21, 2003. The Langston Hughes February Fest will run from February 19-22.

## Department News Capsules

### The Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture

Professor Susan K. Harris of The Pennsylvania State University was selected this spring to join the University of Kansas faculty as the Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture. Professor Harris is a specialist in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American literature, particularly Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe and American Women's Fiction. She taught at Queen's College, City University of New York as well as Penn State before accepting the Hall Distinguished Professorship. In July 2000, Professor Harris taught a seminar at the University as an Alice Holmes Institute Fellow. She will be a member of the English Department, but will also take a leadership role in overall campus literary studies, especially as she contributes to the mission of the Hall Center for the Humanities, which fosters interdisciplinary study and excellence in the humanities at KU. She will also serve on the Hall Executive Committee. Professor Harris will be featured in the next edition of *Update*.

### Jewish Studies Minor Approved

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has approved a new minor in Jewish Studies which will be offered beginning in the fall of 2002. Professors **Cheryl Lester** and **M. J. McLendon** of the English Department were instrumental in getting this minor instituted. As part of the approval process for the minor, two courses were added to the English curriculum: English 336: Jewish American Literature and Culture and English 536: Literature and Theory of the Holocaust.

### Moby-Thon

To celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*, Emerita Professor **Elizabeth Schulz** organized a twenty-four hour marathon reading of the novel at the University of Kansas. The reading was held 8:00 am - 8:00 am, October 3-4, 2001, on Wescoe Beach. Good weather prevailed and 80 readers, many of them faculty members and

students from the English Department, but many others from other campus units and the community, participated in the reading. The event attracted numerous intent listeners as well as substantial numbers of casual passers-by though, admittedly, the largest audiences congregated during the daylight hours.

### 3108 Wescoe

For years, virtually all graduate examinations and committee meetings in the English Department have been held in the Department conference room, 3132 Wescoe. In January 2002, in conjunction with the departure of Communications Studies from Wescoe Hall, the Department outfitted a standard faculty office with a small conference table and six chairs to provide an alternate space for exams and small administrative gatherings. Graduate students can now gaze more intimately at the cheerful and compassionate countenances of their faculty examiners as they grasp for that elusive fact or train of thought that will propel them to a successful conclusion of the coursework or dissertation phases of their degree.

# Keepers by the Dozen

**Almost one-third of the full-time faculty in the University of Kansas English Department have published books in the last academic year.**

Twelve faculty members of the KU English Department published book-length works in 2001-2002, an extraordinary output for one academic year.



Bergeron, David M. *Practicing Renaissance Scholarship: Plays and Pageants, Patrons and Politics*. Duquesne University Press.

This collection of eleven essays by the author addresses various topics in English Renaissance drama and culture. The essays are united by a common argument for an “interrogative metonymy” in 21<sup>st</sup>-century scholarship. Professor Bergeron also continues to point out that English Renaissance court pageants deserve more critical attention than they have received. Professor Bergeron is a Conger-Gabel Teaching Professor of Renaissance Studies in the Department.



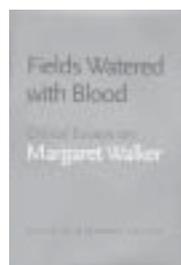
Elliott, Dorice Williams. *The Angel out of the House: Philanthropy and Gender in Nineteenth-Century England*. University Press of Virginia.

This volume, part of the Victorian Literature and Culture Series, examines the ways in which novels and other texts that portrayed women performing charitable acts helped to make the inclusion of philanthropic work in the domestic sphere seem natural and obvious. And, although many scholars have dismissed women’s volunteer endeavors as merely patriarchal collusion, Professor Elliott argues that the conjunction of novelistic and philanthropic discourse in the works of women writers – among them George Eliot and Elizabeth Gaskell, Hannah More and Anna Jameson – was crucial to the redefinition of gender roles and class relations. Professor Elliott is Associate Professor of Nineteenth-Century British Literature and Culture in the Department of English and received the 2001 Mabel Fry Award for Teaching in the Department. She spent the summer of 2002 as Director of KU’s British Summer Institute.



Farmer, Frank. *Saying and Silence: Listening to Composition with Bakhtin*. Utah State University Press.

In *Saying and Silence*, Professor Farmer explores the relationship between the meaningful word and the meaningful pause, between saying and silence, especially as this relationship emerges in our classrooms, our disciplinary conversations, and in encounters with publics beyond the academy. Each of his chapters addresses some aspect of how we have our say, speak our piece, often under conditions where silence is the institutionally sanctioned and preferred alternative. He has enlisted a number of Bakhtinian ideas (the superaddressee, outsideness, voice in dialogue), to help in the project of interpreting the silences we hear, of naming the silences we do not hear, and of encouraging all silences to speak in ways that are freely chosen, not enforced. Frank Farmer is Associate Professor of Composition and Rhetoric Studies in the Department and a leader in the growing area of service-learning at the University.



Graham, Maryemma, ed. *Fields Watered With Blood: Critical Essays on Margaret Walker*. University of Georgia Press.

In this, the first critical assessment of the full scope of Margaret Walker’s career, Professor Graham has assembled an international group of scholars to analyze and reflect on Walker’s life and work. Walker’s poetry collection, *For My People*, and the novel, *Jubilee*, receive special attention, but the full range of Walker’s endeavors as a scholar, teacher, activist, mother, and family elder are covered in an attempt to explore her aspiration to unite the world of home and community with that of poetry, literature, history, and theology. Maryemma Graham is Professor of American and African American Literature in the Department. She also directs the Project on the History of Black Writing. She was the organizer of the Langston Hughes Centennial Symposium (see cover story) as well as Chair of this year’s October Conference on Composition and Literature.



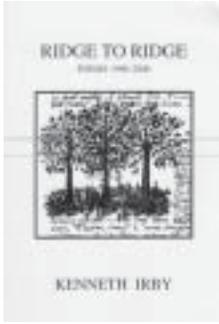
Hardin, Richard F. *Love in a Green Shade: Idyllic Romances Ancient to Modern*. University of Nebraska Press.

Professor Hardin’s latest book is simultaneously an examination of the reception history of Longus’s *Daphnis and Chloe*, beginning with its Renaissance rediscovery, and an exploration of the idyllic romance tradition in fiction and drama. While Virgil and Theocritus beget a tradition of poetry concerned with male eroticism, idyllic romance centers on the couple in a story pointing toward marriage. In addition to *Daphnis and Chloe*, this study considers works by numerous other authors who were influenced by the idyllic romance tradition, including William Shakespeare, John Milton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Willa Cather, George Sand, Thomas Hardy, Pardo Bazan, and Yukio Mishima. Richard Hardin, Chair of the Department from 1997-2000, is Professor of Renaissance literature.



Harrington, Joseph. *Poetry and the Public: The Social Form of Modern U.S. Poetics*. Wesleyan University Press.

The poets of the radical labor movement of the 1910s combined aspects of both popular and high modernist poetics in order to intervene in specific historical settings and interact with specific audiences. Professor Harrington explores this phenomenon and then proceeds to examine how this more public tendency in poetry evolved in the latter half of the twentieth century into forms such as poetry slams and community-based workshops. He also discusses how the history of poetry provides clues that can help us understand the genre’s relative absence from histories of American literature. Overall, the work sheds new light on changes in the textual form of poems, the critical reception of poems, and debates in the popular press about the nature of poetry and the poetic theories of poets. Joseph Harrington is Associate Professor of American Literature in the Department.



Irby, Kenneth. *Ridge to Ridge: Poems 1990-2000*. OtherWind Press, Inc.

Acclaimed contemporary poet, Robert Kelly, says of Professor Kenneth Irby's latest collection of poetry: "Reading Irby's . . . new book is to go

back to the questions we keep begging or forgetting. Why do we write as we do? What is the difference between writing and thinking, thinking and remembering, naming, desiring?" Professor Stanley Lombardo writes: "Irby's verse extends the contours of classical elegy and pastoral through poetic time and into our own time." Associate Professor Kenneth Irby teaches poetry writing, twentieth-century poetry and Shakespeare in the Department.



Johnson, Michael L. *From Hell to Jackson Hole: A Poetic History of the American West*. Bridge House Books.

This collection of poems, illustrated by works of western art, is a journey through time and the whole sweep of the American West, up to and including the Hollywood legends. The poems distill and condense the lives of many colorful historical characters. One reviewer stated: "Michael L. Johnson . . . has taken what many consider to be a humble subgenre of American verse—so-called 'cowboy poetry'—and turned it into literature of the highest order." *From Hell to Jackson Hole* won the 2002 Publishers Marketing Association's Ben Franklin Award in the category of poetry and literary criticism. Michael L. Johnson, former Chair of the Department, is Professor of English and, currently, Director of Freshman-Sophomore English.

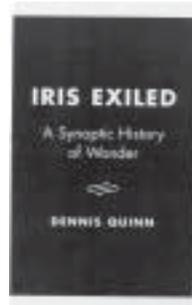


Neill, Anna. *British Discovery Literature and the Rise of Global Commerce*. Palgrave Press.

In this contribution to the burgeoning field of Pacific Studies, Professor Neill examines how, between

1680 and 1800, British maritime travelers became

both friends and foes of the commercial state. Examining voyage narratives by William Dampier, Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Tobias Smollett, Samuel Johnson, James Cook, and William Bligh, Professor Neill demonstrates how the transformation of travelers from nomadic outlaws into civil subjects, and vice versa, takes place against the political-economic backdrop of commercial expansion. Anna Neill is Associate Professor of Eighteenth-Century Studies in the Department, with special interests in film, cultural studies, and pedagogy.



Quinn, Dennis. *Iris Exiled: A Synoptic History of Wonder*. University Press of America.

In his Preface to this interdisciplinary work, Professor Dennis Quinn argues that "wonder," a human emotion key to the acquiring of wisdom, "is commonly misidentified

with doubt, aesthetic delight, curiosity, the pleasure of discovery, vague religious sentiment, delight in novelty, indiscriminate approval, and sheer gush." He declares that his "main object" in this history is "to deepen and broaden understanding" of this "phenomenon" of wonder. He accomplishes this task by considering and citing the thought and works of Plato, Homer, Virgil, Lucretius, St. Augustine, Boethius, Dante, and Shakespeare among others. Dennis Quinn is Professor of Renaissance Literature in the Department, but has published on many diverse literary, historical, and philosophical figures and issues.



Swann, Marjorie. *Curiosities and Texts: The Culture of Collecting in Early Modern England*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

During the early modern period, an obsession with collecting gripped England, finding expression across the

economic and social strata. In this new book, Professor Swann examines the imperatives behind this craze for collecting physical objects and discusses its relationship to the literary culture of the period. Through a wide-ranging series of case studies, she addresses two important questions: How was the collection, which was understood as a form of cultural capital, appropriated in early modern England to construct new social selves and modes of subjectivity? And

how did literary texts—both as material objects and as vehicles of representation—participate in the process of negotiating the cultural significance of collectors and collecting? The work sheds new light on material culture's relationship to literature, social authority, and personal identity. Marjorie Swann is Associate Professor of Renaissance Studies in the Department.



Davis, Frank Marshall. *Black Moods: Collected Poems*. Ed. John Edgar Tidwell. University of Illinois Press.

This edition collects for the first time all of Frank Marshall Davis's extant published poems as well as his known

previously unpublished work. Davis, a native Kansan, was an editor, reporter, columnist, and critic as well as a poet. His early work helped promote Chicago as a site of the New Negro Renaissance in the 1930s; late in his career the Black Arts Movement welcomed him as "the long lost father of modern Black poetry." Professor Tidwell's introduction to this edition, "Weaving Jagged Words into Song," examines both Davis's politics and his poetry. He also provides a chronology and notes on the poems. Professor Tidwell is Associate Professor of American and African American Literature in the Department.

## Help Create Opportunities

In the past few years the Department has been able to expand academic opportunities for its students and faculty through a number of programs and awards—e.g., English Alternative Theatre, the Alice F. Holmes Summer Institute, and the Merrill Awards for graduate student research projects and conference participation. These have been funded wholly or substantially through the generosity of concerned alumni/ae and friends.

In this time of financial challenges to the quality of education at KU, the Department asks that you consider making a contribution, in whatever amount is comfortable for you, to the English Department Development Fund. Please send your tax-deductible donation to Ms. Terri Knoll Johnson, Senior Development Director, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Kansas University Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928. If you like, specify how you wish your gift to be used. In doing so, you can take satisfaction in knowing that you have created opportunities for students and faculty in your Department.

## New Faculty

New Assistant Professor **Mary Catherine Davidson** joined the KU English faculty this year. Professor Davidson is an English Language specialist who completed her doctoral work at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto in the fall of 2001. Her dissertation, which earned a notice of distinction from the Canadian Society of Medievalists, was entitled *Code-Switching in England in the Late Medieval Period*. She also successfully completed a Ph.D. minor in Gender and Medieval Literature. She graduated with an undergraduate B.A. double major in Latin and Medieval Studies from the University of British Columbia in 1992.

A native of North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Professor Davidson initially attended nursing school in her home province. Indeed, even after her career focus shifted to language study, she used her training and talents as a nurse to work her way through college in Vancouver, “studying Cicero during the day and providing health care for the mentally challenged at night.” Part of her appreciation for and desire to analyze language and communication derives from her experience working with individuals who struggled to express themselves at all. She finds satisfaction in listening patiently to and eventually understanding those who are frequently dismissed as hopelessly inarticulate or incoherent (our alert KU English scheduling officer quickly assigned her a Freshman-Sophomore English course).

Professor Davidson’s personal interests include a pair of odd-couple passions: film noir and golf. Presented with an opportunity to teach a topics course of her own devising in her first semester, she developed an evening curriculum which combined reading the hard-boiled fiction of James M. Cain, Raymond Chandler, Jim Thompson, Walter Mosley and others with viewing and analyzing American film noir of the 1940s and 1950s. Packing woods and irons rather than heat, the 6’2” Professor Davidson must nevertheless seem like a “femme fatale” to the quivering white spheres she chases around Orchards Golf Course with frightening regularity. At Toronto, Professor Davidson was noted for throwing about and abusing somewhat larger white orbs as organizer, coach, and first baseman of the Medieval Centre’s softball team, the Papal Bulls. At KU Professor Davidson has developed an interest in squash. Her film interests also extend to classic European cinema and Iranian cinema.

Professor Davidson’s scholarly focus is on the medieval period, but she is generally interested in the intellectual history of language theory and linguistics. Working within the new area of historical pragmatics, Professor Davidson combines literary criticism with discourse analysis.



She specializes in the study of medieval multilingualism and applies historical discourse analysis to describe language-mixing (or code-switching) of Latin, French and English as specialized modes of literate communication in fourteenth-century England. Her investigation of multilingual writing practices in late medieval England specifically develops new methods for studying multilingualism and also serves to supplement such topics of current focus in medieval studies as literacy, cross-cultural communication and the construction of authority. She is presently developing two book-length studies out of her research. The first, a discussion of the sociocultural dimensions of multilingualism in her chosen period, will be written for a broad audience of medievalists, language historians, literary critics and cultural theorists. The second project, a series of case studies on multilingual practices in the fourteenth century among such medieval “professionals” as common law lawyers and lay clerks, will be written for a specialized audience of scholars in historical linguistics. She has recently been invited to visit the University of Turku in Finland to compare notes with scholars there and hone her methodology of discourse analysis. Professor Davidson will regularly teach undergraduate courses in History of the English Language and Major British Writers to 1800. She will also teach a graduate course on Gender and Desire in Medieval Literature this academic year.

Professor Davidson’s interest in multilingualism extends to contemporary social issues. Her experiences as an English Language examiner of non-native speakers, for instance, have revealed some disturbing problems with cultural imperialism in tests – an unexplained reference to “I-90” in a reading being a minor example. Professor Davidson is concerned with the monolingual biases of present-day Anglo culture. This not only prevents students from understanding the culture and literature of medieval Europe, but promotes a narrow-minded approach to our diverse society today. She would like to foster respect in her students and her community for multilingual and second language proficiency.

## Faculty News

In February 2002, **Giselle Anatol** was honored to give KU’s 15th Annual James E. Seaver Lecture on Continuing Issues in Western Civilization. She spoke on the poetry of Nobel Prize-winner Derek Walcott in a paper entitled “A Modern Homer Writes Home: Derek Walcott’s Vision of Returns in *Omeros*.” Anatol has had several articles on Caribbean women’s literature come out this year. She will spend the upcoming academic year at Spelman College in Atlanta.

**Margaret Arnold** completed a third year of phased retirement and has two more to go. She presented two papers on Milton and one on Mary Sidney Wroth during the past academic year. The Arnolds took part in an archeological tour of Mexico in April to learn something new, and Margaret will spend six weeks in England doing research on Wroth and Milton in the summer to finish something old. She would enjoy hearing from former students.

**G. Douglas Atkins** continued his writing on the essay and on literature, criticism, and religion—he has several book-length manuscripts awaiting transcription (if only he could find someone able to read his handwriting!). During the academic year, he again taught 800 and reports having a great experience; in the spring he offered a graduate seminar in the critical essay and a completely new undergraduate course in Pound and Eliot (one of the two or three best classes ever, he reports, with 28 students interested in poetry!). For the year he served as Chair of the College Committee on Graduate Studies. Finally, he and Rebecca, a volunteer in oncology at LMH, became in December proud parents of Millie, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Meanwhile, Doug’s daughter Leslie began a tenure-track assistant professorship in theatre at Boise State, and his son Christopher, a doctoral candidate in art history at Rutgers, spent the year doing research in The Netherlands.

In May 2002, **David Bergeron** presented a paper, “Absent Fathers in *All’s Well That Ends Well*,” at the international meeting of the Mediterranean Studies Association in Aix-en-Provence, France. From there he managed to spend a few days in Paris, and then several days of research at the British Library, London. In March 2002, Professor Bergeron was the invited respondent to a seminar at the national Shakespeare Association of America meeting in Minneapolis. The topic of the seminar was: “Pageantry: Occasion, Place, Performance, and Text.” This spring, Bergeron was also recognized for “Teaching Excellence” at KU’s Fifth Annual Teacher Appreciation Banquet. He was chosen by undergraduate English majors as the recipient for the English faculty. (He is still in a state of surprise and delight at this award.)

**Beverly Boyd** has been busy as usual spreading the word on Middle English literature to her students. She also gave invited lectures on the Wife of Bath to Western Civilization honors students, and on Saint Philippine Duchesne to an Art History seminar on iconography. This summer she will attend the Arthurian congress in Bangor, Wales.

This was a particularly productive year for **Byron Caminero-Santangelo**. He spent much of the year completing his manuscript, *Reading Postcolonial Cultural Hybridity: African Fiction and Joseph Conrad*, which focuses on debates over how to interpret the revision of Western cultural forms in the work of postcolonial writers. His article on the relationship between Nadine Gordimer's fiction and the work of Joseph Conrad was published in an edited collection (*Conrad at the Millennium*), and his article on the African writer and theorist Ngugi wa Thiong'o appeared in the *African Literature Association Bulletin*. He very much enjoyed teaching an excellent group of graduate students in a course on twentieth-century colonial and postcolonial British fiction, which included not only modernists such as Conrad, Woolf, and Forster but also the more contemporary novelists Hanif Kureishi, Salman Rushdie, and Tayeb Salih. Finally, he continued his work as Job Placement Advisor, working closely with graduate students who are seeking employment in what can only be described as a brutal job market.

**Marta Caminero-Santangelo** had a productive first year as a tenured Associate Professor. Two articles were accepted for publication: "Margarita Engle, Cuban American Conservatism, and the Construction of (Left) U.S. Latino/a Ethnicity" will be published in *Lit: Literature / Interpretation / Theory*; and "'Jasón's Indian': Mexican Americans and the Denial of Indigenous Ethnicity in Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima*" will appear in *Critique*. Professor Caminero-Santangelo has also enjoyed teaching some new classes over the last year and a half, including a course in the influence of slave narrative on 20<sup>th</sup>-century African-American literature and a new introductory course on U.S. Latino/a literature. In her "off" time, Professor Caminero-Santangelo delighted in reading to, singing with, and photographing her (now) 2-year-old daughter, Nicola.

**Brian Daldorph's** poems and stories have appeared in *New Letters*, *North American Review*, *Clackamas Literary Review*, *The Kansas City Star*, and elsewhere. This academic year he taught writing and literature classes at the University of Kansas, and also taught at Lawrence Alternative High School as part of the Langston Hughes Project. His long article about the Langston Hughes Symposium, "Art, Life and Legacy of Langston Hughes," was published by *Potpourri*. During Spring Break he taught in English Schools. He also distinguished himself in the Beijing Marathon in October, finishing in a

time of 3 hours, 9 minutes and 40 seconds, the first American finisher!

Spring Break ended on a happy note this year for **Dorice Williams Elliott**. She returned to campus to find in her mailbox both the letter saying she had been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure and the first advance copy of her newly-released book, *The Angel out of the House: Philanthropy and Gender in Nineteenth-Century England*. Added to that, her youngest child is graduating from high school. She feels like she will be beginning a new life this coming year. In 2001-2002 she also delivered two conference papers on her new project, tentatively entitled *Transporting Class: Reinventing Social Relations in Australian Convict Fiction*.

The literature of the American South continues to occupy **Doreen Fowler**. In the spring of 2002, she reviewed two books on William Faulkner for, respectively, the *Modern Language Review* and the *Arkansas Review*; and she published two essays: "Carson McCullers' Primal Scenes: *The Ballad of the Sad Café*," in *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, and "Revising *The Sound and the Fury: Absalom, Absalom!* and Faulkner's Postmodern Turn," in *Faulkner and Postmodernism* (UP Mississippi). In the fall of 2002 she will teach a new course that will intensively analyze and juxtapose arguably the two most interesting writers of the twentieth century, William Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor. Also in the fall, she will begin a three-year term as a member of the Executive Committee of the Hall Center for the Humanities.

Just another day in the life of **Maryemma Graham**, 2001-02. In addition to teaching the largest number of students ever in her history at KU—160 total for both semesters—Graham has filled every moment of every day beginning in July 2001: directing the Langston Hughes Centennial Symposium, writing multiple grants to fund assorted activities, organizing Langston Hughes projects on both coasts, serving as president-elect of the Toni Morrison Society, and completing work on a book, *Conversations with Margaret Walker*. Her biography-in-progress of Margaret Walker earned her an ACLS fellowship for 2003, which will take her away from the classroom and into the archives of libraries north and south. Perhaps then we will finally see *The House Where My Soul Lives*, the first-ever biography of the writer who is sometimes called the voice of the twentieth-century South. Graham's accomplishments were recognized by the Commission on the Status of Women, who awarded their highest honor to her in spring 2002 and inducted her into the University of Kansas Women's Hall of Fame.

**James Gunn** had his millennial novel *Catastrophe!* published—retitled *The Millennium Blues*—by Easton Press in a collector's edition and by E-Reads electronically and as print-on-demand. Better late than never. A collection of

his stories, *Human Voices*, will be published later this year by Thorndike Press. And he is revising his four-volume anthology *The Road to Science Fiction* for Scarecrow Press. Volume 3 was published in March; #1 and #2 will be published in September and October or November. He still offers his science-fiction program (Writers Workshop in Science Fiction, Campbell Conference, and Intensive English Institute in Science Fiction) in a well-packed four weeks in late June and July. He has updated his autobiographical essay for *Contemporary Authors* and contributed the introduction to the *Cambridge Companion to Science Fiction*.

During his spring 2002 sabbatical (the last ever) **Dick Hardin** spent a month reading old books at the British Library and Cambridge University Library. He and Virginia enjoyed long walks, (some) English beer, and a few drives in the area in a rented car that was larger than requested and required constant checking of the left side on the unnatural highways of that country. During part of their stay they lived in a village with no stores and two pubs. Dick is studying the revival and reception of Plautus following the discovery of most of his plays in the 1400s. Recent turns of events have driven him to take an unhealthy interest in comedy.

**Ken Irby's** book, *Ridge to Ridge: Poems 1990-2000*, was published at the very end of 2001 by OtherWind Press in Ann Arbor, MI. New work has appeared in the last year or will soon appear in *Fist Intensity* and *Hambone*. The year brought a welcome return to teaching the undergraduate Shakespeare survey and the opportunity to offer a new course on the poetry of Walt Whitman and Herman Melville. In March 2002 Ken and John Moritz, Lawrence poet, printer, and publisher, gave a joint reading from their most recent volumes at The Raven Book Store on East 7<sup>th</sup> St. as part of its continuing series of authors' presentations and signings.

**Michael L. Johnson** continues as director of Freshman-Sophomore English. In June he presented a paper entitled "Native Nature: The 'Ecological Indian' in the Wild West" at the biennial conference of the association for the Study of Literature and Environment in Flagstaff, Arizona, and he was a featured poet at the annual meeting of the Western Literature Association in Omaha, Nebraska, in October. His *From Hell to Jackson Hole: A Poetic History of the American West* was published by Bridge House Books to some glorious reviews in the fall, and he's been busy doing readings since.

**Cheryl Lester** is completing her co-edited diversity reader for social workers, looking for a publisher for her co-edited collection of essays on teaching Bowen Family Systems Theory, and continuing revisions of the Faulkner and Black Migration study. She is also preparing to write an essay on the course of Jewish assimilation over several generations in her family history. Lester is especially pleased to note that many members of her extended family congregated in

Lawrence, Kansas, this spring to join her and **Philip Barnard** in celebrating the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Julia.

**Stuart Levine** and his wife, Dr. Susan F. Levine, signed contracts with the University of Illinois Press for two new scholarly editions, each providing variorum texts, comprehensive annotations, and introductions, as part of Illinois' Poe series: *Eureka*, and *Poe's Critical Theory/The Major Documents*. Stuart has also had another short story, "Contact Hitter," accepted by a sports magazine, *Aethlon*. Stuart continues to perform professionally as a French hornist—23 times during the past academic year. Many of his concerts are supported by a grant from Concerts for Young People; he writes and narrates these programs designed to involve children in concert music. He and Susan travel a good bit: two weeks each in music programs in Prague and in Padua, ten days on architecture and archeology in southern France. And he still wastes a lot of time taking all-day bicycle rides and fishing.

**Paul Stephen Lim** continues the momentum with English Alternative Theatre. The academic year began with the Labor Day staged readings of "The Problem" by A. R. Gurney, and "Spinning Into Butter" by Rebecca Gilman (featuring departmental thespians **Carothers, Devitt, Hartman** and **Hirsch**, among others). In October there was a double-bill of student one-acts. The year culminated with EAT's annual March Madness "Final Four" competition of one-act plays from Paul's beginning playwriting class. Paul continues to be the Playwriting Chair for Region V of KCACTF, and he travels most weekends to adjudicate productions. He is also on the play selection committee for the Association of Theatre in Higher Education. This past year saw attention paid yet again to Paul's own work. His play *Mother Tongue* was premiered in Manila to uniformly rave reviews, and the production was extended twice to accommodate the crowds. His play *Conpersonas* was the subject of a Ph.D. dissertation. And his entire "oeuvre" to date was discussed extensively in *Asian-American Playwrights: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*, ed. Miles X. Liu (Greenwood Press, 2002). The book costs \$94.95, and Paul says he would like to borrow it from anyone who decides to invest in such treasures. Last summer, because he felt sorry for having neglected his long-time companion nine months out of twelve, Paul took MyKee for a couple of extended car trips to Dallas, Santa Fe, Mount Rushmore and the Badlands. Paul came back with the usual touristy souvenirs, but MyKee left her own mementos behind, everywhere.

**Anna Neill's** book *British Discovery Literature and the Rise of Global Commerce* was published by Palgrave in May 2002. She was also promoted to the rank of associate professor this year. She spent much of the summer of 2001 in New Zealand doing research for an article (to be published in an essay collection in 2003) on the national museum in Wellington. Also, to-

gether with **Kirk Branch**, she has been running and teaching in a literacy program at Douglas County Jail throughout 2001 and 2002.

**Dennis Quinn's** year was mostly devoted (in its original meaning of "sacrificed") to the completion of his book, *Iris Exiled: A Synoptic History of Wonder*. The wizards who decide such things classified the book as philosophy, a status which he has never claimed and which may cause some consternation among friends and professional philosophers. About the book, Dennis says "it is chewy but digestible." His next project will be a book on The Integrated Humanities Program (1970-78), which he has found continues to interest even people who never participated. Possible titles: *Nothing Succeeds Like Failure*, or *Scotched but not Killed*, or *The Roots, Foliage, and Fruits of an Experiment in Tradition*. The main emphasis will fall on the Program's life-after-death, its continuing influence, and its future. Dennis welcomes alumni suggestions, stories, and information. He and Eva are enjoying good health.

**Janet Sharistianian** gave a paper entitled "European Culture, Peace-Loving Musicians, and the War Books of Vera Brittain and Willa Cather" at the 'Mars in the Ascendant: The Great War and the Twentieth Century' conference at Northampton College, Univ. of Leicester, and the Imperial War Museum, London, in July/August. She also gave a paper entitled "Home Front, War Front, History: Four Texts of the First World War" for the Edith Wharton Society at MLA in New York in Dec. (the four texts were by Lewis, Cather, Wharton, and Slesinger). She directed her fifth NEH Summer Seminar for School Teachers, "American Women as Writers: Wharton and Cather." Janet was also awarded a Big XII Faculty Fellowship to do research during the spring of 2002 in the Cather Archives at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

After postponing his retirement until December 2003, **Max Sutton** has been savoring his last months of teaching, an experience made possible by some very fine students. In June of 2002 he and Claire returned to Norway to visit their son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter; this year all the children and grandchildren plan to gather in Florida for a pre-retirement celebration. When asked what he will do after retirement, Sutton feels a bit like an undecided freshman on being asked about his major. He would like to say, "Dawdle."

**Marjorie Swann** spent 2001-2002 working on her new book, "*Without Conjunction*": *Desire, Society, and Anti-Fruition in Early Modern England*. In the fall, Marjorie was a Humanities Research Fellow at the Hall Center; in the spring, she was on sabbatical and also held a W. M. Keck Foundation and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. During her time at the Huntington, Marjorie not only did research but also participated in the Southern California Renaissance Workshop. She was delighted to dis-

cover her book *Curiosities and Texts: The Culture of Collecting in Early Modern England* (published in July 2001 by the University of Pennsylvania Press) for sale in the bookstore at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

In the summer of 2001, **John Edgar Tidwell** and two colleagues wrote and submitted a major proposal to the Kansas Humanities Council to fund "Reading and Remembering Langston Hughes," a series of discussions of four books by the well-known African American writer who spent part of his childhood in Lawrence. As project director, he coordinated the program that was conducted at six sites around the state (Iola, Independence, Hays, Norton, Topeka, and Lawrence). In addition to these book discussions, he assisted with the planning and implementation of the Langston Hughes Symposium. In this symposium, he also delivered a paper: "Private Life, Private Lies: Frank Marshall Davis, Langston Hughes, and the Problem of Self-Representation." This presentation was only one of ten he gave this school year. In April, he received a wonderful surprise: an advance copy of his edition of *Black Moods: Collected Poems*, written by Frank Marshall Davis and published by the University of Illinois Press. The book is officially due out in June. With the award he received from the Humanities General Research Fund, he plans to spend the summer researching and assembling a collection of Davis's journalism for possible publication.

## From the Coordinator of Graduate Studies

The 2001-2002 year produced changes in the staff of the department's graduate programs. Graduate Coordinator Philip Barnard made his way through the yearly cycle for the first time. **Lydia Ash** joined the department as new Graduate Secretary and distinguished herself with valuable contributions in several areas. Perhaps most notably, she has worked to upgrade the departmental website. Please have a look at the website's current form at <<http://www.ku.edu/~english>>. In addition, Lydia helps organize the admissions and fellowship review process, keeps track of program statistics and data, acts as a contact and information source for students, faculty, and applicants, and oversees the program's considerable scheduling needs! We are fortunate to work with her. **Byron Caminero-Santangelo** continued his valuable work as the department's job placement officer. Among other contributions, he developed a new job search handbook for department faculty and students, organized workshops on non-academic employment, arranged practice interviews, and consulted with students entering the job market.

Summer 2002's special seminars continued

the department's tradition of summer graduate offerings staffed by distinguished visiting scholars. The Holmes Institute was taught by Professor Dana D. Nelson (University of Kentucky) and focused on new approaches to the expanded canon of Early American literature. Following on the heels of last Spring's very successful Langston Hughes Symposium, our Summer Multicultural Institute focused on Hughes and was co-taught by Professors William Cook (Dartmouth College) and Akiba S. Harper (Spelman College).

In Fall 2002, the department is welcoming an incoming class of about thirty graduate students, an unusually large group by contemporary standards. These thirty students (eight seeking PhDs, the rest MAs) are a diverse group of seventeen women and thirteen men, coming to KU from universities in twelve states, two Canadian provinces, and Japan.

Congratulations go out to the department's outstanding graduate students for the awards they earned during the 2001-2002 year. Among others, Donna Binns was awarded a university-wide GTA award and John Bruni was successful as the department's nominee for a university-wide Summer Dissertation Fellowship award. Kirby Fields's work in **Paul Lim's** English Alternative Theatre program resulted in several distinctions for his play, *Mourning Glorie*. In January 2002 the play was featured regionally in Lincoln, NE. It is also being published and is slated for a Spring 2003 production at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park.

During the coming year the graduate committee will work to propose revised lists for the MA exams and a new format for written work in the PhD exam. We are considering ways to simplify procedures concerning the MA thesis and continue to work on ways to improve the overall quality of student experience in our programs.

## SAGE Update

Continuing recent tradition, the Student Association of Graduates in English (SAGE) kicked off the 2001-02 academic year in a welcoming and merry style with the annual SAGE picnic at "Dad" Perry Park in Lawrence. Staff, faculty, and students contributed dishes, mingled with one another, and greeted the incoming graduate students in an effort to eliminate the cooking of dinner on the last weekend before the beginning of the semester. SAGE's primary function in the fall semester was giving graduate students the opportunity to share their creative work via the popular Creative Reading Colloquiums. Held at a local coffeehouse, the creative readings were well attended. Graduate students shared their poetry, short fiction, drama, creative nonfiction, and political essays at these gatherings.

The Spring semester featured the SAGE Book Sale, which helped raise money to reimburse students' travel expenses as they zipped across the country to various academic conferences. In addition, SAGE regularly sponsored morning "coffees" for visiting professors: Hall Center candidates Susan Harris, Gillian Brown, and Brook Thomas, and the University of Chicago's David Bevington. These meetings allowed SAGE to advance its mission of providing graduate students with unique opportunities to interact with elite members of the field in a professional manner.

An exciting new development this past year has been the implementation of Academics Anonymous—an informal forum that allows faculty to present current research to interested graduate students and fellow faculty. Discussions ranged from Harry Potter to civic duties.

*SAGE Advice* has continued to thrive. Mixing humorous and light-hearted anecdotes with useful information about graduate school and the English program, the bi-semesterly publication keeps the department abreast of SAGE's functions and activities.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the new SAGE officers for the 2002-03 academic year:

Presidents: Lisa St. Ledger and Crystal Gorham  
 Secretary: Tiffany Walter  
 Treasurer: Shawn Thomson  
 SAGE Advice Editors: Kristen Bovaird-Abbo and Ellen Fangman

■—Kirby Fields and Joanna Harader

## Freshman-Sophomore English Report

In August 2001, seventeen new English instructors attended New Teacher Orientation. Returning Director **Michael Johnson** and Assistant Director **Sonya Lancaster** continued to offer guidance and support for new and experienced FSE instructors. They also led efforts to improve professional development and working conditions for English GTAs and lecturers.

The Graduate Teaching Assistants and Lecturers Committee expanded the current professional development requirement to include various options such as attending FSE workshops, regularly participating in discussion groups such as 2Cs, attending regional/national conferences, submitting materials for the resource file or norming sessions, or regularly participating in a teaching team. Instructors will now select from these categories and report their activities in their merit-evaluation portfolio.

The Freshman-Sophomore English Committee also sought to improve teaching and learning conditions in FSE courses by decreasing the maximum class sizes of 200-level courses from thirty-five to thirty students. The FSE Committee also

modified English 102 goals to allow for a wider variety of approaches to teaching writing about literature, changed the final exam policy to a final project policy for 101 and 102 courses to better suit the goals of these writing courses, and developed policy for a new portfolio option that allows FSE instructors to engage in portfolio assessment if they attend a series of workshops next year.

The FSE Office also sponsored several workshops during the 2001-2002 academic year. The first workshop, "From High School to College," examined both college preparation and college credit courses taught at the high school level. Writing Center Director Michele Eodice led the second workshop, "Concerned about Plagiarism?" She demonstrated the use of plagiarism search engine Turnitin.com and discussed strategies for preventing plagiarism in English courses. The FSE Office and the Eberhardt Memorial Fund also presented the very successful panel "Writing Beyond the University." Former KU students returned to discuss their experiences as writers.

Several FSE instructors received honors and awards for their outstanding teaching in the Department of English this year. Donna Binns received University-wide recognition as an Outstanding GTA. Geneva Diamond, Emily Donnelly, Matthew Hollrah, Paivi Hongisto, and Kara Northway earned Departmental awards for teaching. The James A. Gowen Award for Excellence in the Study and Teaching of Writing went to Matthew Hollrah. Kara Northway and Emily Wicktor each earned a Selden Lincoln Whitcomb Fellowship in recognition of excellent work in both teaching and research.

■—Donna Binns

### Keeping in Touch

Some alumni/ae have requested information about students and instructors who were at the University during their college years. Unfortunately, the Department does not keep records of former students. Those interested in locating them should contact the University of Kansas Alumni Association, which can assist in the search. Please report a change of address directly to The University of Kansas Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Ave., Lawrence, KS 66044-3169. You may communicate electronically with KUAA via [kualumni@kualumni.org](mailto:kualumni@kualumni.org); fax: 785/864-5397.

Following are relevant websites and addresses:

- General KU Information:  
<http://www.ku.edu>
- English Department home page:  
<http://www.ku.edu/~english>
- English Department e-mail:  
[english@ku.edu](mailto:english@ku.edu)

# ALUMNI NEWS

## 1940s

**Victor Amend**, (M.A. 1942), is in his nineteenth year of retirement from the English Department at Butler University. His time is filled by constant reading of literary works, playing Bach, Mendelssohn and others on the organ, travel to Europe, attending the Shakespeare Festival (at Stratford, Ontario) and the Aspen Music Festival, and other activities.

**James Chandler** (B.A. 1943, M.A. 1949 (WW II intervening!)) writes: "At our first April meeting of Mid-County Rotary this year, what should emerge but 'Whan that April with his shoures sote, the droht of March hath perced to the rote . . . ' from a 75-year-old member who could still recite the first hundred lines! Inspired by this feat, my wife Madeleine and I decided to make the joint celebration of our eightieth birthdays at the end of April a festival of (bad) verse. Family and friends coming from California, Utah, Michigan, Washington D.C., France and Belgium knew that the price of admission was an original poem, any subject. Haikus were especially encouraged, e.g., 'I am a poet/ I rise early so as to/ go from bed to verse.' In sum, while language and literature are subjects of serious study, they can be a hell of a lot of fun, and at any age."

**Dorothy Hadley Cravens** (M.A. 1941) received a Ph.D. degree in English from the University of Colorado in 1953. She was a Professor of English at Friends University, Wichita, from 1947 to 1989. She resides in Wichita, 1120 N. Hydraulic, #101, 67214.

**William H. Hutton** (M.A. 1949), still residing in Colorado Springs, CO, continues to write prolifically.

**Elizabeth Pieper**, (M.A. 1944) was named Citizen of the Year by the Chanute City Commissioners. She is active in her church, civic organizations, Retired Teachers of Kansas, and school and community college activities.

## 1950s

**Sachiko Sugawa Kushiro** (M.A. 1955) is Professor Emeritus at Kyoto Women's University, where she still enjoys teaching two hours a week. She serves also as a member of the Board of Education, Muko City, Kyoto.

**Mordecai Marcus** (Ph.D. 1958) and his wife **Erin** (B.A. 1957) continue to live in Lincoln, NE, now five years after his retirement from the English Department at the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln. They welcome messages at <mmarcus@unlserve.unl.edu>. Mordy has just published his seventh chapbook of poetry: *Gathering Treasure*, from Puddinghouse Publications. His friends think it contains his best work to date but he doesn't quite agree because for the last two and a half years he has been writing about 8 to 10 poems a week in strikingly different veins, motivated partly by the freedom of being retired. During much of 1999 he wrote and rewrote a 90,000 word semi-autobiographical novel. Its protagonist takes a Ph.D. in English from the University of Arizona, and some of this material is borrowed from his years at Kansas.

## 1960s

After surviving bladder cancer surgery in the fall of 1999, **Bob Deming** (M.A. 1961) decided to retire as Professor and Chairperson of the Department of English at SUNY College at Fredonia in June 2000 and join his wife Anne, President of Notre Dame College in Cleveland, Ohio, thereby ending 12 years of a commuter marriage. Subsequently, Bob passed the requirements to be an Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener (a national program) in order to volunteer-teach 4th grade plant science, write for the bi-monthly *Trumpet Vine*, and answer the Master Gardener Hotline once a month. Academic year 01-02 found Bob teaching one film course at Kent State in the Fall and another film course at Cleveland State in the spring, while pursuing additional work as coordinator of garden volunteers at Cleveland's Hope Lodge and taking watercolor and drawing classes at the Cleveland Museum of Art. He reputedly said recently, "Why didn't I think of doing these kinds of things sooner" instead of publishing and chairing English departments!

**Tom Erskine** (M.A. 1963), will retire as Professor of English from Salisbury University in June of 2002 after 31 years of service as professor, English Chair, and academic dean at the Maryland school, and settle in Portland, Maine. Still active at the end of his academic career, he is currently completing work on *The Encyclopedia of Orson Welles*, co-authored with **Chuck Berg** of the Film Studies Department in Oldfather Hall at KU. This work is scheduled for publication in 2003 by Facts on File, New York. Tom holds the record at Salisbury University for Fulbright grants, having completed assignments in Jordan, Thailand, and Romania. His most recent book, co-authored with **Jim Welsh** (Ph.D. 1996) is *Video Versions: Film Adaptations of Plays on Video*, published by Greenwood Press in 1999. He also founded the

journal *Literature/Film Quarterly* at Salisbury in 1973, now edited by Jim Welsh.

**B. H. Fairchild's** (B.A. 1964, M.A. 1968) fourth book of poems, *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest*, is forthcoming from Norton in November of this year. He recently received the Arthur Rense Poetry Prize of \$20,000 from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *Hudson Review*, *Yale Review*, and *TriQuarterly*. Congratulations to Jayhawk hoops on a great season!

**Joe B. Hatcher** (Ph.D. 1968) continues to serve as president of the Foundation at the University of Central Arkansas and is in the second year of a three-year commitment as interim chair of the English Department.

**David Leon Higdon** (Ph.D. 1968) now lives in the Sandia Mountains of Albuquerque with deer, bobcats, coyotes, and bears for neighbors. He spent July touring Tuscany and attending the Society for the Study of Time conference. He is writing a study of contemporary British intertextuality called "Mind the Gap" and has recently published essays on H. G. Wells, B. S. Johnson, Irvine Welsh, Bharati Mukherjee, and the uses of concordances.

After thirty-five years of college teaching at Simpson College (Iowa), Christendom College (Virginia), and Magdalen College (New Hampshire), **Mitchell Kalpakgian** (M.A. 1965) has accepted a position as academic dean and instructor at a private school in Sunapee, NH, where his youngest son attends. His most recent book is *The Mysteries of Life in Children's Literature* (Neumann Press, Long Prairie, MN). His most recent articles are "The Dangerous Prevalence of the Imagination and the Sins of the Intellect" (*The Catholic Faith Magazine*, Nov./Dec. 2001), and "The Meaning of Wisdom" (*New Oxford Review*, May 2002). He has been a widower since 1998 and is the father of five children ranging in age from twenty-eight to fourteen. His address is 14 Geneva St., Warner, NH 03278 <kalpakgian@juno.com>.

**Robert N. Lawson** (Ph.D. 1966) finished self-serializing his 480-page novel, *The Bridge of Dreams*, on his web site <<http://www.washburn.edu/reference/bridge24>> as planned last December (along with featuring another Kansas author with a book in print, and a Japanese author, each month). He is now doing a four-play dramatic adaptation of his novel, which will take these next two years, and has just put the last act of the first play, *Betty*, online.

## ALUMNI NEWS

At graduation, **James B. Martin** (M.A. 1968) joined the faculty of Valley City State University (ND) as an Instructor of English (1968-69); Asst. Professor of English (1969-71); Asst. to the President (1971-74). He returned to Lawrence to join The Kansas University Endowment Association in 1974. Since 1991 he has served as President of the Association. Jim and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of one son, Grant Martin, a 1997 graduate of the University of Kansas.

**Sherry Anne Mowrer Newell** (M.A. 1965), is serving on the Board of Southwest Oklahoma Opera Guild. She was also elected to membership in Lawton's oldest club (100 years), the Shakespeare Club. She continues on Exec. Council, C.U. Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi (National Honor Society)

**Thorold (Tod) Roberts** (M.A. 1968) continues to teach composition and internet communications as an adjunct faculty member at Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. In addition, he provides writing and editing services to management consultants and other clients. The book, *RAF Wings Over Florida*, which he edited and published through Purdue University Press, has been featured in a widely broadcast PBS video about the training of British flying cadets in World War II. He also serves as volunteer coordinator for the transcription and web-publishing of the Kansas Historical Quarterly (1931 to 1977). He welcomes contact from former K.U. colleagues. Please write to <troberts@ringling.edu>.

### 1970s

After a productive fall sabbatical from Washburn University, **Tom Averill** (M.A. 1974) has been on leave, spending a delightful semester teaching at alma mater KU. His novel, *Secrets of the Tsil Cafe*, was a finalist in the Literary Food Writing category of the annual cookbook awards of the International Association of Culinary Professionals, and will be available in paperback in June 2002. His next novel, *The Slow Air of Ewan MacPherson* (working title), is accepted by BlueHen/Putnam for July 2003 release. In April 2002 he received the Edgar Wolfe Award from the Kansas City, Kansas, Friends of the Library, and spoke about his great indebtedness to the life and work and teaching of his first and best creative writing professor.

**Terry** (M.A. 1974) and **Robert Axline** (Ph.D., EE, 1974) are still in Albuquerque, NM. Since the last *Update*, they have become grandparents.

Terry started as the Research Coordinator for the Albuquerque Biological Park (aquarium, botanic garden and zoo) in 1993, writing exhibit interpretation, articles, grants and original scripts for a locally produced television series, *Adventure Rio*. In 1999 she became the Research and Marketing Manager, overseeing the areas of marketing, special events and graphics. In 2000, Terry received an Emmy award for best children's program (NATAS, Rocky Mountain Chapter) as co-producer of *Adventure Rio*. She stays in contact with alumnus **Barry Baddock** and wife, Sue.

**Phyllis Bixler** (Ph.D. 1976) has retired from Southwest Missouri State University after over 30 years of college and university teaching. She is looking forward to reading, reading, reading anything she wants and, belatedly, enjoying parenthood—sponsoring a young couple from Ukraine studying in the United States.

**James Bogan** (Ph.D. 1979) continues to hole up in the Ozarks at the University of Missouri-Rolla—except for excursions into the larger world. In November of 2001 he spent a month in the Cill Rialaig Artists' Retreat in the Kingdom of Kerry without phone, email, TV, radio, or newspapers, but with a desk, a peat stove, and a view out over the Atlantic. *Made in Cill Rialaig*, a hand-made book with a poured glass cover, was the result. He also helped put a slate roof on a 250 year-old cottage on Horse Island. In March of 2002 he taught Michelangelo Meets the 20th Century (Benton and Rivera) at Teikyo University in Maastricht, The Netherlands. As a result of getting lost on his bicycle in Belgium, he stumbled on a sculpture garden and one thing led to another. In June he will construct a one-ton Double Spiral Space Centering Vehicle for the European Fantastic Sculpture Exhibition. *Trance Arrows*, a bilingual edition of poems in English and in Portuguese, will be published by Timberline Press in April 2003. Fond regards to the refugees of **Charlton Hinman's** bibliography course.

**Albert J. Devlin** (Ph.D. 1970) continues to teach Southern and modern American literature at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He (and co-editor, Nancy Tischler) is also continuing research for volume 2 of "The Selected Letters of Tennessee Williams," due from New Directions in 2004. (Alas, there's a third volume!) Volume 1 has been dramatized as "A Distant Country Called Youth" and presented in reading theatres in New York, Hartford, and New Orleans, with Robert Sean Leonard and Richard Thomas ("John-Boy" of "The Waltons") as

Tennessee in different productions. The volume also received the MLA's Morton N. Cohen Award in 2001 for "a distinguished edition of letters."

**Janet Juhnke** (Ph.D. 1975) has enjoyed being back in the classroom as Professor of English at Kansas Wesleyan University this year after a six-year stint as Vice-President and Dean of Faculty at KWU. She also now serves as Chair to the Kansas Humanities Council for a three-year term, and she continues as Humanities Scholar in the TALK program for KHC.

**Doug Mackey** (Ph.D. 1976) is currently employed as an editor at *Pocket PC* magazine in Fairfield, Iowa. Last year he published his "21st Century Sixties novel" called *Weird Scenes Inside the Godmind* <www.qubikbooks.com>.

**Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg** (M.A. 1988, Ph.D. 1995) coordinates the Transformative Language Arts M.A. program at Goddard College where she also teaches in the newly formed Goddard Institute for Transdisciplinary Studies. Her poetry has recently appeared in *GW*, *Frontline*, *Feminist Studies* and other publications. She continues to live just south of Lawrence with her three children and husband, and all continue to fight the highway department to make Hwy. 59 safe on its current alignment. In related news, Caryn has been undergoing treatment for breast cancer (caught early!), which includes surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, and she would love to hear from others learning more about life this way: <carynken@mindspring.com>.

**Paul W. Nisly** (Ph.D. 1974) writes that—although the number of years seems quite improbable—he was honored for thirty years of service at Messiah College in PA. Twenty-four of those years he was the department chair of a very diverse department, virtually a humanities division. This spring he had a sabbatical leave, which included eleven rewarding days in St. Petersburg, where he and his wife joined a Russia Studies Program. After having taught Dostoevsky for many years, the study trip to "Dostoevsky Country" was a dream come true.

**Ron Pullins** (M.A. 1970) writes: "Almost forty years ago (1963) I started at the University of Kansas and took the required Freshman Com. Plato was required reading. I am not so sure I understood it well then. Now I am more confident I have much to learn. But we (Focus Publishing) are publishing new editions of many Platonic dialogues and have just finished a new translation/edition of *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*. I send it along as a gift in honor of **Frank**

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**Nelick** and his colleagues, **Dennis Quinn** and **Arvid Shulenberg**. Traditions persist in the oddest ways.

**Elizabeth (Beth) Scalet** (M.A. 1971) continues to toil in the halls of industry as a technical writer/editor at DST Systems in Kansas City. She also runs her own independent recording label, Marais des Cygnes Recording, which has released four CDs of her music, and she continues to write music with Kathryn Buehler Lorenzen, another KU English grad.

**Eiki Senaha** (Ph.D. 1977), Professor of English Literature at Meio University in Nago, Okinawa, Japan, writes: "On May 29, 2002, I was invited to a reception in honor of Professor David E. Shulenberg, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of the University of Kansas, and Professor Diana Carlin, Dean of the Graduate School and International Programs. The reception was hosted by U.S. Ambassador Howard Baker and Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker. It was a great pleasure to meet about 160 alumni of the University of Kansas at the Official Residence of the U.S. Ambassador. I am also invited to lecture on Wordsworth's concept of Nature at the Wordsworth Summer Conference to be held at Grasmere during the period of July 27-August 10."

**Laura H. Weaver** (Ph.D. 1977) continues to write on Mennonite-related topics. Her essay, "A Mennonite Retirement: From Work Projects to Play Projects," will appear in *Women Confronting Retirement: A Nontraditional Guide*, ed. Nan Bauer-Maglin and Alice Radosh (to be published by Rutgers University Press in February 2003).

**Carol Shiner Wilson** (M.A. 1970), continues to serve as Dean of the College for Academic Life, Muhlenberg College, PA. She was recently asked to submit a chapter on Jane Barker, whose works Carol edited for Oxford UP, for *Women's Poetry, 1660-1750* to be published by Palgrave Press. She also presented a paper on Barker at NEMLA, Toronto: "Negotiating the Limits of Science and Faith: Jane Barker and the Healing Arts." Carol has also been named to the executive board of Turning Point, an organization providing services and shelter to abused women.

### 1980s

**Dr. Daniel Born** (M.A. 1980) is chief of staff at the Great Books Foundation in Chicago, and editor of its new quarterly magazine, *The Common Review* (available at bookstores coast-to-coast; some online content at <[www.thecommonreview.org](http://www.thecommonreview.org)>). He has

published essays recently in *The New York Times*, *Education Week*, and *Mennonite Quarterly Review*.

**Sylvia Bryant** (Ph.D. 1988) is the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at Alfred University, in Alfred, New York. She and her husband, Bill Carty, who is Professor of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science at Alfred, have two sons: four-year-old Parker and one-year-old Duncan.

**Don Dowdey** (M.A. 1985) is now the Dean of Library and Information Technology at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. He received his Masters of Library Science and worked in the NASA technical library at Hampton, Virginia, before moving to the mountains of west Texas. He is active in statewide-library organizations and is chair of the Big Bend Regional Sierra Club. His wife, Marilyn Dell Brady (Ph.D. KU, History, 1987) has retired from college teaching. One daughter, Melissa, lives nearby and works at Fort Davis National Historic Site. The other daughter, Michelle, (Ph.D. Emory, Philosophy) teaches at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Beth Impson** (M.A. 1985, Ph.D. 1988) is director of writing programs at Bryan College in Dayton, TN, where she is Professor of English. Besides teaching various writing and literature courses, Beth directs a writing center and is working to establish a writing-across-the-curriculum program. Her book, *Called to Womanhood*, was published last summer by Crossway Books. One result of that publication was an invitation to help plan the October 2003 conference sponsored by the International Center for Gender Studies. On the home front, four kids-in-law and three grandchildren have joined the extended family, while one child still at home keeps life interesting.

**Chuck Marsh** (Ph.D. 1985) has been named William Allen White Foundation Professor at KU's School of Journalism and Mass Communications. The second edition of his textbook, *Public Relations: A Values-Driven Approach* (Allyn & Bacon), with co-author David Guth, will be published in 2002. He and wife Kris live in Lawrence and have two children, Will, 11, and Gillian, 6.

**Ron Morrison** (Ph.D. 1988) and **Sarah Morrison** (Ph.D. 1984) are still at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. They experienced a hectic year with Ron as chair of the faculty senate, Sarah chairing the university tenure committee, and a home undergoing a major renovation. Sarah, who was pleased to see her

essay on Margaret Atwood appear in *Tulsa Studies* in 2001 and to have another essay on Samuel Johnson accepted by *Age of Johnson*, was named the university's Distinguished Researcher for 2002. Their son, Leavitt, will be entering the sixth grade this fall.

**Holly Franking Slegman's** (Ph.D. 1988) book *Deconstructing the Internet* will be published next year. Her internet publishing company, Diskotech.com, is bringing out Internet-Editions™ of previously published multimedia works on CD-ROM: *The Martinsville Nightmare* and *Negative Space*. Both will be sold and can be read online or downloaded.

**David Sprunger** (M.A. 1985, Ph.D. University of Illinois, 1992) continues as chair of the twenty-member English Department at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. His latest publication is a co-edited anthology of essays on *Monsters, Marvels, and Miracles: Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Imaginations* (Medieval Institute Publications, 2002).

Since graduating with an M.A. in Creative Writing in 1980, **Robin Tawney** returned to Albuquerque and a variety of occupations over the last 20 years. At the University of New Mexico, he taught composition; managed the editing and production of the *Blake Quarterly*, a scholarly journal; and recruited under-represented minorities for medical school. During this time, he also completed a master's degree in counseling, certification as a Natural Therapeutics Specialist, and licensure as a massage therapist. Now, he maintains a private practice in mental health counseling and bodywork (humans, not cars) and teaches at the New Mexico School of Natural Therapeutics and the North American College of Botanical Medicine. Robin continues to write poetry; he is currently beginning a series of sonnets about the spiritual principles of surat shabda yoga. Despite such lofty goals, he and his wife, JoAnne Altrichter, also a massage therapist, read far too many mystery novels and far too little literature.

**Sharon Oard Warner** (M.A. 1984) continues as Director of Creative Writing at the University of New Mexico. She is also Founding Director of the Taos Summer Writers' Conference, which has grown steadily since its inception in 1999. This year's event will draw over 150 participants from across the U.S. and Canada to take part in 15 different writing workshops. The Conference is held at the historic Sagebrush Inn and Conference Center in Taos, New Mexico.

**William Wisner** (M.A. 1985) has published articles in *The Sewanee Review*, *Audubon*, the

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fashion magazine *ELLE*, and *The Cresset*. His professional publications have appeared in *Library Journal*, *Journal of Academic Librarianship* and *Texas Library Journal*. Bill's monograph *Whither the Postmodern Library?* (McFarland) appeared in 2000. His article "The Perilous Self" is scheduled for publication in *The Sewanee Review* next year.

### 1990s

**Ted Blake** (M.A. 1994) has accepted a position in the English/Humanities Dept. at Idyllwild Arts Academy. His new address will be P.O. Box 38, Idyllwild, CA 92549, tedblake@principia.edu. Lydia Jayne Fisher Blake (born last July) joins him, his wife, Enicia, and son, Alden (4), as the family moves to the San Jacinto mountains east of LA to pursue rock collecting and be closer to extended family and the San Andreas fault.

**Denise Grohwin Croker** (B.A. 1987) and **Joe Croker** (M.A. 1990) live in Nashville, TN and teach at The Harpeth Hall School—an independent school for girls with distinguished alumnae who include Amy Grant (Christian singer-songwriter), and Reece Witherspoon (actress). Ms. Croker is director of the school's Winterim program. Denise also teaches English literature and sponsors the student newspaper. Likewise an English instructor, Joe divides his time between teaching writing and serving as an instructor in Harpeth Hall's art department. His specialty is graphic design. The couple have one daughter, Saffron Anne, and a second child on the way. Recently Mr. Croker released a compact disc, "All the Pretty Girls," produced by Bonnie Raitt sideman George Marinelli. His work is available online at <http://www.joecroker.com>.

**Christopher C. De Santis** (Ph.D. 1997) was one of nine scholars of African American literature selected to edit the seventeen-volume *Collected Works of Langston Hughes*, published by the University of Missouri Press. De Santis recently published two volumes in the collection: Vol. 9, *Essays on Art, Race, Politics, and World Affairs*, and Vol. 10, *Fight for Freedom and Other Writings on Civil Rights*. De Santis presented his research on Hughes's nonfiction at the recent Langston Hughes Symposium at KU. He was promoted this year to Associate Professor of American and African American Literature at Illinois State University in Normal.

Since receiving her degree, **Jennifer Dean** (Ph.D. 1994) has been working in test development. Formerly with Harcourt Educational Measurement, she is currently

employed as the Director of Educational Assessments for the K-12 division of Educational Testing Service. This division of ETS is a year and a half old and based in San Antonio, Texas (not Princeton). The focus of Jennifer's job is developing custom test items and ancillary materials for state departments of education and she is involved with test content, project management, and client contact. Jennifer is pleased to report that although Henry James has fallen to the background of her life, she draws heavily on the writing and editing skills she honed while at KU. Jennifer's family is doing well. Daughter Melissa is expecting her third child this week; daughter Carrie was married June 8; and son Alexander graduated from Yale on May 27. Jennifer and husband Alex focus most of their weekend energies on the grandchildren, the golf course, and their home in San Clemente.

In January 2000, **Cheryl Hofstetter (Townes) Duffy** (Ph.D. 1996) was appointed as Director of Composition at Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas, where she has been teaching since 1992. She was recently promoted to Associate Professor of English, she has twice been nominated for the Pilot Award for Professional Excellence and Commitment to Teaching, and she has twice been selected for "Top Prof" distinction by the Mortar Board Student Honorary Society. During the spring 2002 semester, she was on sabbatical, researching service-learning/community-based writing. In October 2002 she will present a paper on these subjects at the Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition in Louisville, Kentucky. On a personal note, in 1999 she married Bob Duffy, and her daughter, Anna, will be (gasp) a sophomore in high school this fall. Oh, and Cheryl still likes to eat at Al's Chickenette.

After graduating from the English Department at Kansas, **James Elmborg** (Ph.D. 1994) pursued a career in academic librarianship. He was Head of Library User Education at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, and then became Andrew Mellon Librarian for Information Technology at Furman University and Wofford College in South Carolina. He currently teaches in the graduate program at The University of Iowa in the School of Library and Information Science, where he is an Assistant Professor. He specializes in issues of teaching and learning in academic libraries.

For the last two years, until December, **Carol Estes** (M.A. 1995) was managing editor of *YES!* magazine, a national alternative press zine published on Bainbridge Island, a ferry-ride from

Seattle. She proudly notes that the magazine won its first award, the Utne Reader Cultural Coverage award, during her tenure. Currently she's compiling and editing a book of the best writing on farms and farmland for a small press in Seattle and helping to launch a film company. Her real labor of love, though, is teaching creative writing to the men of the Black Prisoners Caucus at a close-security prison for men in Monroe, Washington, and working for criminal justice reform. She can be reached at <estes1@earthlink.net>.

**Chris Haven** (M.A. 1991) recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Writing Department at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, a faculty which includes fellow alumni **Ronald Dwelle** and **Dan Royer**.

**Lawrence Jenab**, (B.A. 1993, M.A. 1998, JD. 2002) graduated this May from the KU law school, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Kansas Law Review. He graduated first in his class, received the Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement, and was elected by the faculty to carry the law school banner at Commencement. This summer, he begins a one-year clerkship for Deanell Reece Tacha, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. While clerking, he will also teach Civil Procedure as an Adjunct Professor of Law at KU. The following fall, he plans to enter private practice in Kansas City. His areas of emphasis will be employee benefits and appellate litigation. Larry and his wife, Farrell, were blessed with their second child, Lucy Genevieve, last August 16. Their son, Henry Sebastian, is now 3.

**Mike K. Johnson** (Ph.D. 1997) is still enjoying teaching at the University of Maine at Farmington. He also reports that his book, *Black Masculinity and the Frontier Myth in American Literature*, will be published this year by the University of Oklahoma Press. Life in Maine continues to be an adventure. He even saw a moose strolling through his front lawn one evening last summer.

**Jennifer Lawler's** (Ph.D. 1996) sixteenth book, *Punch! Why Women Participate in Violent Sports*, was published this spring by Wish Publishing. She was featured on the PBS television show, "To the Contrary," in April. She just signed a contract with Viking to publish an as-yet-untitled book about the wisdom and philosophy of martial arts. Other forthcoming books include "Martial Arts for Dummies" (Hungry Minds/Wiley) and "The Byzantine Empire" (McFarland and Company). She has begun a speaking career,

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giving workshops and seminars on overcoming mental and emotional obstacles through physical training. Now happily divorced, Jennifer still lives in Lawrence, Kansas, with her adorable (she admits to being biased about this) daughter and two rambunctious (everyone agrees) dogs.

**Amy Lerman** received her Ph.D. in May of 1997. Currently, she lives in Arizona and teaches full-time at Arizona State University. She continues to present at conferences, most recently on **Scott Heim** at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Jeanette Lugo** (M.A. 1996) is an Instructor of English at Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia.

**Pat McQueeney** (Ph.D. 1995) has completed her third year as full-time English faculty at Johnson County Community College. She teaches both on-site and on-line. Her “What’s in a Name?”—her analysis of the struggle to open a writing center at KU—is a chapter in the award-winning *Politics of Writing Centers*, published by Heinemann.

**Tod Marshall** (Ph.D. 1996) is Assistant Professor of English at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. His first book of poetry, *Dare Say*, won the 2001 University of Georgia Press Contemporary Poetry Competition. Georgia will publish Tod’s book this fall.

**Jennifer Pehlke** (M.A. 1991) teaches writing at College of Lake Canty. She and her husband, Brian Zimmer, are expecting their second child this summer.

**Amy Southerland** (M.A. 1992, M.S., Journalism, 1997) is communications project manager for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. She oversees the production of marketing materials, manages the foundation’s web site, and serves as resident editor and wordsmith. She also offers business writing workshops to co-workers, which gives her a chance to draw on her six years of experience as a GTA—the biggest benefit of teaching at work being that there are no papers to grade. Despite her decision to forgo finishing her Ph.D. (Amy has the lesser-known and dubious distinction of being “ABCD” — all but comprehensives and dissertation), friends at work jokingly refer to her as “Dr. Amy.” While she resides in Midtown in landlocked K.C., Amy tries to escape to the beach (Tybee Island, to be exact) as often as possible. Amy-related miscellanea can sometimes be found at <[www.amyamy.org](http://www.amyamy.org)>.

**Lewis Toland** (Ph.D. 1998) now teaches college prep English and junior college English at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, where he is an Associate Professor. Seven of his former high school students attend or will attend the military academies. He continues to publish articles and reviews about Texas novelist Elmer Kelton, notably in a special issue of *Southwestern American Literature* devoted to Kelton. He has given papers at the Western Literature Association, the West Texas Historical Association, and the Angelo State University Writers Conference, among others. The school email address is <[toland@nmmi.edu](mailto:toland@nmmi.edu)>.

After four years in Seattle making a transition from academics to editing, **Jeff Warner** (M.A. 1992) is currently a copy-editor for the *Union-Bulletin* newspaper in Walla Walla, Washington, a newspaper owned by the Blethen Group which also owns the *Seattle Times*. Because of the small staff, Jeff’s duties are many and varied: creating actual page layouts and placing stories, editing stories and writing headlines, manipulating photos and graphic illustrations, assembling the weekly TV listings book and a weekly 16-page Arts & Entertainment section, and, his favorite thing, writing a video review column, alerting readers to top-notch but lesser-known video films. He is engaged to be married July 20, 2002.

**Jim Welsh** (Ph.D. 1996) will dedicate his twelfth book, *Shakespeare Into Film* (forthcoming in July 2002 from Checkmark Books), to KU mentors who helped to shape his career, **Kadi Hinman** and **Paul Murray Kendall**, both of whom, according to the dedication, “taught me to appreciate Shakespeare and how to write productively while also teaching full time,” and also to a third KU mentor, **Ken Rothwell**, now emeritus from the University of Vermont, who wrote a splendid bibliographical survey that serves as a Preface to the book. Jim is also co-author with John Tibbetts of the Department of Theatre and Film at KU of the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Filmmakers* recently published by Facts On File, New York (2002).

**David Whalen** (Ph.D. 1992) is now Chair of the Department of English as well as Dean of Faculty at Hillsdale College.

After four years in Baltimore, MD—teaching at Goucher College and Towson University—**Karl Woelz** (Ph.D. 1997) has moved to south-central rural PA, where he lives, with partner Will Harris, between two Amish farms. He is now at work on a new literary project, editing *M2M: New Gay Fiction* for AttaGirl Pres. In May 2001 he won a Lambda Literary Award for his editing of

*Men on Men 2000: Best New Gay Fiction* (Dutton/Plume). He is also a two-time recipient of the National Gay & Lesbian Press Association’s Vice Versa Award. His short fiction has been optioned for the screen by HBO Films; his fiction, essays, and reportage have appeared in more than a dozen books and journals, including *Best American Gay Fiction 2*, *The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review*, and *The James White Review*.

**Jane M. Wood** (Ph.D. 1999) is Associate Professor and Chair of Liberal Arts at Baker University in Overland Park, KS. She co-authored a recently released book, *What Eve Didn’t Tell Us* (Judson Press). It is now available at Barnes and Noble and online at Amazon.

### 2000s

**Thomas Argiro** (Ph.D. 2000) is an Instructor in the English Department at Auburn University. An article, “‘As Though We Were Related’: Faulkner’s Black-Italian Chiasmus” is forthcoming in *MELUS*. Most recent presentation: “Elvis Redux: The Politics of a Literary Resurrection,” Twentieth Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville, Spring 2002.

**Kima Dirks** (Ph.D. 2001) is a freelance copy editor of scientific, scholarly, and governmental publications. She also writes fiction inspired by her literary hero, William Faulkner.

**Erika Jacobson Dvorske** (M.A. 2000) daily fulfills a lifelong dream of getting paid to do research and works as the Director of Research and Development for United Way of Wyandotte County. In addition, Erika is happily finding “community,” along with husband, John, in Kansas City, Kansas.

**Angela Jones** (Ph.D. 2001) has completed her third year as an assistant professor of English at Mercyhurst College, a liberal-arts college in Erie, PA. At Mercyhurst, she teaches introductory courses in composition and literature and upper-level courses in composition and professional writing. She is also the faculty advisor for the Honors Program newsletter.

After spending the 2000-01 school year at Western Michigan University’s English department, studying in the Ph.D. program and teaching, **Ryan Murray** (M.A. 2000), decided to return home to the Kansas City area as well as to make a major career change and follow his dream. In the fall of 2001, he began working on a B.A. in Elementary Education at the University

of Missouri – Kansas City, and has completed his first of three years there. He plans to be a kindergarten teacher. In the spring ('02), one of his poems was published in *Number One*, the UMKC literary journal. He also received the best poem award for that issue.

**Douglas Steward** (Ph.D. 2000) is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, where he teaches contemporary American literature, critical theory, literature and culture of the 1970s, and queer studies. His entries on

Essex Hemphill and Assotto Saint will appear in the forthcoming *Contemporary Gay Poets and Playwrights*, and an article on Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* is forthcoming in *Callaloo*. He is working on a book manuscript titled *The Tricky Phallus: Queer Psychoanalytic Studies in Race*.

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## All Good Things Must Come To An End



Organizers, guests, and presenters relax and celebrate after lunch in the Grand Ballroom of the Kansas Union on the last day of the Langston Hughes Centennial Symposium. From Left: Joanne Gabbin, Eugene Redmond, Daryl Dance, Amritjit Singh, Maryemma Graham, Jerry Ward, Val Gray Ward, Sandra Govan, Fahamisha Patricia Brown. Seated: Mari Evans, Amiri Bakaka, Roy DeCarava, Sonia Sanchez

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