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Increased Gender Balance Energizes KU English

Marta Caminero-Santangelo was hired as an assistant professor in the University of Kansas English Department in 1997. Since that time she has published a major book and numerous well-placed scholarly articles, been awarded early promotion, gained a reputation as a brilliant teacher, been elected twice to the Department's Advisory Committee, pioneered an entirely new field in the Department's curriculum (U.S. Latino/Latina Studies) and – oh, yes – along with her husband, Graduate Studies Coordinator-elect, Byron Caminero-Santangelo, brought two children (Nicola, 4, Gabriel, 1) into the world. Marta is one of a dozen women full-time faculty members hired in English since 1994 who have diversified and energized the Department, raised female representation above national averages, and given prominence to gender issues at a time when both undergraduates and, especially, graduate students in the Department are increasingly likely to be women.

In 1981, with the ratio of men to women professors in the English Department standing at 48-8, Professor Janet Sharistianian, hoping to assure women faculty adequate representation in Department governance, proposed by-law language requiring that one of the members of the Department's powerful six-person Advisory Committee must always be female.¹ This restriction was approved and remained in force until 2003-2004 when one vote kept the Advisory Committee from becoming all-female – raising questions about which sex was in danger of disenfranchisement. The first woman Chair of the Department, Dorice Elliott, appointed in July 2003, proposed that



Associate Professor Marta Caminero-Santangelo counsels in her office with an undergraduate student from her American literature survey course. Photo by Nicole Madril.

the election rules be changed to specify that the committee's make-up must include "at least one male and one female member of the faculty." The committee members, among them Susan K. Harris, the first woman Distinguished Professor in the Department, and Conger-Gabel Teaching Professors, Amy Devitt and Kathryn Conrad, approved this language. However, when the full faculty met to vote on this issue, recent University Kemper Award recipient, Professor Marjorie Swann, suggested that the balance (and respectful mind-set) of male and female faculty members in the Department had reached a point where no gender restrictions in

governance were necessary. In mirthful unanimity, the 1981 restriction was revoked with an added directive to the Chair that she seek out and eliminate any other by-law specifications related to gender imbalance.

A self-study of KU English in Spring 2004 required quantitative documentation regarding many facets of Department life. The process inspired this (unrequested) spin-off. Consider these numbers. Since the founding of the University of Kansas, only 40 women have held the rank of full-time assistant professor or higher in the Department of English. Nearly half of them taught in 2003-2004. Only 11 women have held the rank of full professor. Seven of them were full-time faculty members in 2002 (one has since retired and another passed away). The 48-8 male/female ratio of a quarter-century ago has morphed into a 27-17 proportion that, sadly, reflects retrenchment in financial support for the humanities as well as advances in gender equity. Nevertheless, though the Department has shrunk over 20% in a little more than twenty years, the number of

female full-time faculty members has more than doubled and the balance between men and women professors is more equal than it has been in fifty years.

Surprisingly, during one period of the twentieth century, in terms of pure numbers, the gender balance of men vs. women professors on the KU English faculty was equal. The early titans were men – Charles Graham Dunlap and Edwin Mortimer Hopkins were joined at the turn-of-the-century by notables Raphael O'Leary and Selden Whitcomb among others. However, the first woman assistant professor – Margaret Lynn – was hired as early as 1901 and Lulu Gardner joined her in 1905. By 1924, the

New English Chair: Dorice Williams Elliott



Dorice Williams Elliott was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar in 1969. That didn't help, however, when she sought merit scholarship aid from the local private university. At that time, fifteen full scholarships existed for men. There were none for women. Undaunted, she worked as a cashier and bookkeeper for four years to supplement a tuition waiver. After graduating with highest honors in English in 1973, she taught secondary school English and journalism for seven years, the last four helping to support her husband through graduate school.

After bearing two children, Elliott began an M.A. in British literature in 1983. Memorably, eight-months pregnant with her third child, she clambered over stiles and hiked up moors to visit Top Withens (Wuthering Heights) in Yorkshire in 1984. Contradicting the expectations of her religious subculture, she then applied to doctoral programs around the country in 1986 and arrived the following year to begin her Ph.D. work at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore with a flexible husband and children aged 3, 5, and 7. Mentored by internationally-renowned Victorian scholar, Mary Poovey, she held her own in rigorous classes with elite students up to twenty years younger while still making every effort never to miss a child's school concert, play, or teacher conference. Interspersed with her graduate work, she spent a year as president of the women's organization of her church in inner-city Baltimore and another year as leader of the church's young women (12-18) in that area. Another academic year she taught a religious education class for high school students in her home every morning at 6:00 am.

Ph.D. in hand, Elliott was hired as an assistant professor by the University of Kansas in 1996. Since arriving at KU, she has won the Department's Mabel Fry Award for excellence in teaching, supervised a Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Conference in Lawrence, done diligent service on numerous department

and university committees, and directed or assisted in the M.A. and Ph.D. work of 59 graduate students – not to mention, in concert with her husband, shepherding three strong-willed teenagers through adolescence.

Professor Elliott has published several articles on nineteenth-century British novels, non-fiction, and social issues. In 2002, her book, *The Angel Out of the House: Women and Philanthropy in Nineteenth-Century England* was published by the University Press of Virginia. That same year, she was promoted to associate professor. She has taught a wide variety of courses – freshman-sophomore service and honors courses; survey, topics and major authors courses in nineteenth-century British literature (including courses on Jane Austen, the Brontës, and Charles Dickens); senior honors and graduate seminars; and a course overseeing the methods and work of graduate teaching assistants. Her new book project investigates literature of the Australian convict period and its impact on British society.

In the spring of 2004, perhaps not least because of faculty members' respect for experience gained during a non-traditional yet somehow representative female academic odyssey through the second half of twentieth-century America, Associate Professor Dorice Elliott was unanimously elected the first woman Chair of the University of Kansas Department of English.

number of male and female professors was equal (7-7), though the ranks were certainly not (all seven men were full professors, only Lynn had achieved that highest rank). Including "instructors," – roughly equivalent to today's lecturers – women faculty members outnumbered men 17-11. During the sixteen years that William Savage Johnson served as Chair (1924-1940), gender representation remained about the same and the rank imbalance had narrowed. Raw numbers were dead even (9-9 male/female professors, 12-12 including instructors) with male/female rank numbers standing at 5-3 full professors, 2-3 associate professors, and 2-3 assistant professors.

Then the Department and the world changed. For a generation, from the start of World War II until the mid-1960s, four straight Chairs of English were hired from outside the University. Numerous long-lived female professors retired or died. Societal and professional attitudes favored the hiring of men in higher education. Instructors, an in-house pool from which numerous female assistant professors had been previously hired, were phased out. Between 1939 and 1979, the Department hired 81 male professors and 15 female professors. Unlike most of their earlier

counterparts, several of the new women hires stayed only a few years. When Beth Schultz arrived at KU in 1967 there were fifty male professors in the English Department. She swelled the female ranks to five.



Assistant Professor Giselle Anatol gestures to her Caribbean literature class. Photo courtesy of University Relations.

The late 60s and early 70s, however, brought another sea change. As national civil rights and affirmative action efforts gathered strength throughout the U.S., women's rights advocates at the University of Kansas made requests and then, in peaceful protest, demands of the KU administration. On February 7, 1972, a group called the February Sisters occupied the East Asian Studies building on campus seeking increased resources "to meet the pressing demands of women." One offshoot of this dialogue was the creation of a Women's Studies Program at the University in 1973. English's Janet Sharistanian served as its first director. Hiring patterns in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s also became more balanced, particularly as nepotism and conflict of interest hiring policies first eased and then reversed so that spousal accommodation within the University and the Department were encouraged rather than prohibited. Indeed, one factor in increased departmental gender balance and stability has been the option for couples to secure employment for both parties in the institution. In 2003-2004, over 10% of the full-time faculty members in the Department (both men and women) were initially hired directly or indirectly as a spousal accommodation. Since 1994,

female tenure-track faculty hires in the Department have outpaced male hires by 12-8. All these women have remained in the Department (two of the men have left). Thus, two-thirds of the newest faculty members in the Department are women. The percentage of female full-time faculty in the Department has consequently surged to 38%, above the national average for doctoral-granting departments in the United States, which stands at 31%.²

More women faculty are teaching more women students, especially graduate students. University of Kansas enrollment overall stands at about 52-48% female.³ In the fall semester of 2002, the gender ratio in upper-division undergraduate classes in English was only slightly higher at 53-47%. That may come as a surprise to several KU English faculty members, who, anecdotally, but with near-unanimity, guessed (at my request) that the ratio was nearer to 2-1 female. They must be teaching graduate classes. In the fall of 2002, 105 of the 162 graduate students in the Department's 500-900-level classes were female (65%).⁴ Including those who just completed their degrees this spring and those who are en-rolling for Fall 2004, KU English has 86 female and 48 male graduate students on its books.⁵ The percentages hold for both M.A. and Ph.D. students. The Ph.D. ratio is 31-16, though that figure is a bit deceptive since the incoming class of doctoral students consists of eleven women and only three men. Another reason that more female than male English scholars are being hired at KU and elsewhere is that the pool of applicants for positions is increasingly female while women still remain underrepresented as a percentage of the profession.

Until the 1970s, the women faculty at KU were better known for their teaching than their research and many taught only lower-level writing courses. It should be noted, though, that Josephine Bowman published a scholarly book on Old English as early as 1911, Jean Gagen wrote a pioneering work on women writers of the Renaissance in 1954, and Beverly Boyd unleashed a torrent of articles, editions, books, chapters, and reviews relating to Chaucer and the medieval period beginning in 1956. (At KU since 1962, Boyd continues to teach, present, and write in her field today). Dorothy Van

Ghent, a major literary critic of the mid-twentieth-century, taught in the Department from 1947-1951. Her watershed work, *The English Novel: Form and Function*, published in 1953, grew out of lectures she prepared for her KU English classes. L. R. Lind, her contemporary in the KU Classics Department, notes that her preface to this book contains the following acknowledgment: "The book has a special indebtedness to the students in my courses in the novel given at Kansas University . . . Their constant determination that the novel needed to justify itself by a relationship with life, with *their* lives, has given the book its chief assurance of orientation toward reality."⁶



Associate Professor Kathryn Conrad lights up the night at about 3 am during the wandering marathon reading of *Ulysses*, part of the June 2004 Joyce's Ireland Conference.

Certainly, the twelve women faculty members hired in the last ten years cannot be accused of a lack of productivity. The four untenured professors are on track to publish scholarly books and creative collections in their fields (two are fiction writers). The six who began their time at KU as assistant or associate professors have all been promoted after assembling impressive research agendas, including critical books. The two female scholars who were hired at full professor rank have, between them, published fifteen monographs, edited collections, editions or co-editions, and textbooks since 1994, along with a host of articles, chapters, etc. Furthermore, though the ten literary scholars frequently teach classes in traditional periods of English literature (one each in medieval, early modern, 18th, 19th, and 20th C. British, one in 19th C. American, and four in 20th C. American), their specialties include diverse and emerging areas of interest: ethnic and minority literatures, collection literature, discovery and travel literature, multi-

language literature, regional literature, and commonwealth literature (Irish and Northern Irish, Caribbean, and Australian) of the colonial and post-colonial periods. One common thread is an interest in women writers, gender issues, and feminist theory and criticism which resonates well with the interests of the Department's female majority of students.

Janet Sharistianian believes that the trend toward hiring new women faculty in the University of Kansas English Department since 1980 has been the single most influential factor in achieving the easy sense of gender equality that the Department enjoys today. Beth Schultz agrees, though she also cites the creation of the

Women's Studies and American Studies Programs, a more woman-oriented curriculum, and the emergence since the 1960s of feminist-minded male colleagues as important factors in improving gender consciousness. On Beth's first visit to KU, she was assured that the Department was very casual about gender roles – she would not have to wear white gloves to any department function. This news did not entirely dispel her apprehension about the place of women in the Department. But the gloves came off across the country in the next few years, allowing women in the latter part of the century to negotiate issues of sex, family, work, religion, community, and society more freely. The fruits of this movement are evident in the successes of a new generation of female scholars in

KU's English Department.

1. All numbers of faculty were calculated using staff listings in the catalogs of the University of Kansas, 1901-1999, and *Information for Full-time Faculty in the Department of English, 1980-2003*.

2. "2000-2001 AAUP-Faculty Salary & Distribution," <<http://www.aaup.org/issues/WomenHE/Wbellas.htm>>. The Modern Language Association's report "Women in the Profession 2000" suggests that increased hiring of women faculty may be a mixed blessing.

3. "Head Count by Sex," University of Kansas Profiles, DEMIS, Office of Institutional Research and Planning, 2002.

4. Fall 2002 University of Kansas Department of English grade sheets.

5. Figures supplied by University of Kansas Graduate School

6. Lind, L. R., "Dorothy Van Ghent: Teacher and Critic (1907-1967)," *Classical and Modern Literature: A Quarterly* 16.1 (Fall 1995): 7-18.

New Faculty



Geraldo U. de Sousa spent his early years with seven siblings in the countryside in the Brazilian highlands, where his parents operated a general store/café. He used to read a lot, listen to the BBC World Service and the Voice of America, and lead his siblings on expeditions into the nearby wilderness. When he was 12, his family moved to the new capital of Brazil, the “planned city” of Brasilia that was being erected on the savanna-like central plateau. In the late 1960s, Brasilia was essentially a frontier town, only a few years old and with little infrastructure, located far from Brazil’s coastline population centers. After secondary school, while working full-time doing clerical and administrative work for USAID (United States Agency for International Development), de Sousa still managed to earn a double B.A. in English and Portuguese in three years from CEUB (Centro de Ensino Unificado de Brasilia), a college of fewer than 4,000 students that now enrolls over 20,000. While continuing to work for USAID, he wrote over 100 letters of inquiry to graduate schools in the United States, eventually obtaining a scholarship package to attend Vanderbilt University. Simultaneously, however, he won a Fulbright Grant in a nationwide competition, opening the door to other possibilities, including a very strong offer from the University of Kansas. He knew nothing about Kansas except what he had learned from westerns (he had been spared the *Wizard of Oz*), but was impressed by KU’s beautiful catalog. His resolve strengthened by an enthusiastic recommendation from one of his teachers, he set off for Lawrence in 1977 to seek a doctorate in English.

Professor de Sousa has very fond memories of KU English in the late 70s and early 80s. He

especially enjoyed the camaraderie of the graduate students. He served as vice-president of SAGE, helped put out the Department’s graduate student scholarly magazine, *Penumbra*, and was one of the founders of the Brazil-Portugal club, which introduced Carnival celebration to the campus (this program continues today). The English graduate students held mock-oral exams in preparation for the PhD comprehensive exam (often impersonating their graduate professors). They carefully critiqued one another’s credentials and applications for employment and even arranged mock-interviews among themselves. Though he originally planned to write on Emily Dickinson, de Sousa was inspired by his Renaissance literature seminars to focus on Renaissance drama for his doctoral study, although his interest in American literature has always remained strong. As a young boy, he was introduced to Shakespeare and was also entranced by Zeffirelli’s film of *Romeo and Juliet*, but the Bard was rarely taught in Brazil. Now, he immersed himself in Shakespeare’s language, borrowing the department’s Shakespeare LPs and listening to them repeatedly. This set his course. In fall 1982, he completed his Ph.D. after defending his dissertation on Ben Jonson and Thomas Middleton.

De Sousa took an adjunct assistant professor job at Iowa State for three years, gaining valuable experience teaching composition and technical writing as well as some Shakespeare. He returned to KU as an assistant professor from 1987-1989 and then received an offer to continue his career at Xavier University in Cincinnati where he compiled an excellent research and teaching record over fourteen years, attaining the rank of full professor. He very much enjoyed the Jesuit school’s concentration on educating the whole individual. In 2004, he once again returned to KU as Associate Professor of Renaissance literature.

Professor de Sousa (you may see him referred to in places as “Sousa;” he has shortened his name in non-professional circumstances for convenience) is co-author (with KU’s Professor David Bergeron) of the widely-used *Shakespeare: A Study and Research Guide*, now in its third edition. His *Shakespeare’s Cross-Cultural Encounters* was published in 1999 (Macmillan and St. Martin’s). A new and revised paperback edition was issued in 2002 (Palgrave). He is also the managing editor of *Mediterranean Studies Journal*. He is currently working on a book project entitled *Habits of Pleasure: Shakespeare and the Art of Living*. He contributes regularly to professional journals and has taught courses at all levels in Milton, literary theory, and modern drama as well as in Shakespeare and other Renaissance literature. Besides the Renaissance, his chief interests

include 19th-century Brazilian history and literature, as well as travel; he counts Brazil, England, Spain, and Hungary among his favorite destinations. He is an avid collector of 19th-century travel books. He is also very interested in what might be called the philosophy of travel, a subject he is exploring in his Fall 2004 Honors Proseminar: *Journeys of Discovery*. Investigating texts by writers from Sir Thomas More to Jon Krakauer (including works by Shakespeare, Sartre, O’Neill, and Elizabeth Bishop, among others), class members will ponder Claude Lévi-Strauss’s dictum, “Travel is usually thought of as a displacement in space. This is an inadequate conception. A journey occurs simultaneously in space, in time and in the social hierarchy,” and Arthur Conan Doyle’s statement in *The Lost World*: “The unknown is up against us on every side.”

Assistant Professor **Rebecca Curtis** grew up in Gilford, New Hampshire – a beautiful place, but not very diverse. After high school, she followed her older sister to the Claremont Colleges system in California (her sister attended Claremont McKenna; she chose Pomona). She planned, initially, to major in political science and then enter government service, but she was seduced by her English classes and ended up doing a creative thesis in her senior year. Ready for even more diversity, she decided to move to New York City where she eventually pursued an M.A. in English at NYU, with a concentration in creative writing and poetry. To earn extra money, she also worked thirty hours a week for Kaplan, Inc., teaching test-taking skills at a center and tutoring students in their homes. Her most memorable student, who wanted to go to law school, not for the degree but for “the education,” flew in from Paris to be tutored.



After earning her M.A. in 1999, she was accepted into the prestigious M.F.A. in Fiction program at Syracuse University. Surrounded by a “great” community of writers, she was very

productive, serving as the fiction editor of Syracuse's *Salt Hill Journal* and publishing numerous stories, some nominated for prizes, in other leading journals like *McSweeney's* and *The Greensboro Review*. Soon after she completed her degree, one of her stories was published in *The New Yorker* and she has since had several more publications, one in *Harper's Magazine*. She taught for a year at St. Mary's College of California before being hired at KU in Fall 2003.

Professor Curtis has been very impressed by the hard work and dedication of both the undergraduates and the graduate students in creative writing at the University of Kansas. This year she supervised a highly successful Graduate Reading Series and she hopes to bring more young active creative writing professionals to KU for readings and workshops. She is completing a short story collection and debating whether to tackle a novel. A popular teacher, she concentrates on fiction writing courses, but also has taught a literature course in contemporary women writers.

Faculty News

Giselle Anatol is delighted to be back at KU after one year's leave, which she spent teaching at Spelman College, a historically black, liberal arts college for women in Atlanta, GA. During the 2003-2004 academic year, Anatol continued her research on Caribbean speculative fiction writer Nalo Hopkinson. She gave papers on Hopkinson's *Midnight Robber* at the Mid-America American Studies Association Conference in Lawrence and the Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars Conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (both in April). An article on vampiric imagery in Hopkinson's *Brown Girl in the Ring* and the short story collection *Skin Folk* has recently been accepted for publication in the Canadian journal *Mosaic*, a forum for the interdisciplinary study of literature. In addition, Anatol has a chapter on Caribbean migration in the newly released *Cambridge Companion to the African American Novel*, edited by **Maryemma Graham**.

In May 2003, **David Bergeron** participated in the 6th annual international conference of the Mediterranean Studies Association, held in Budapest, Hungary. At the conference he chaired a session on Shakespeare and presented a paper, "Wherefore to Mantua?" He was awarded a sabbatical leave in Fall 2003, to complete a draft of a book, entitled *Textual Economies in English Drama, 1570-1640*.

In late 2003, the new, revised edition of his *English Civic Pageantry 1558-1642* was published by the Arizona State University Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. The

original book was published in 1971. Bergeron also accepted the Center's invitation to give a lecture at ASU in March 2004: "English Pageants and Derelict Scholars." He chaired a seminar at the Shakespeare Association of America meeting in New Orleans entitled "King James I: Author and Mover" that turned out to be a lively, two-hour discussion of James's impact as writer and influence.

Byron Caminero-Santangelo's manuscript "Reading Postcolonial Cultural Hybridity: African Fiction and Joseph Conrad," continued its long and winding road towards publication. It will be published by State University of New York (SUNY) Press in December, 2004. He also wrote the foreword to **Brian Daldorph's** poetry collection *Senegal Blues* and was invited to give a paper on ecocriticism and African literature at a special seminar session on African literature and Critical Theory at the annual African Literature Association conference in April (Madison, WI). Professor Caminero-Santangelo received a General Research Fund award for the summer and a sabbatical leave for the fall to work on his new project on ecocriticism and African literature. Beginning January 2005, Professor Caminero-Santangelo will be the new director of graduate studies for the department. He will be stepping down as Graduate Job Placement Advisor after five years in the position. On a personal note, Byron and **Marta Caminero-Santangelo** welcomed their son Gabriel into the world on June 26, 2003.

Marta Caminero-Santangelo is proud to announce the birth of her second child, Gabriel Anthony, born in June 2003. In June 2004, Marta traveled to Cuba (the birthplace of her parents) as part of a faculty development seminar; Marta met with professors at the University of Havana to discuss Cuban diaspora literature as well as recent developments in Cuban literature. In other news, Marta's article "'Jasón's Indian': Mexican Americans and the Denial of Indigenous Ethnicity in Anaya's *Bless Me Ultima*" appeared in *Critique's* Winter, 2004 issue, and another article, "'Puerto Rican Negro': Defining Race in Piri Thomas's *Down These Mean Streets*," is scheduled to appear in *MELUS* (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the U.S.) this summer (2004).

Jim Carothers's teaching for the fall semester concentrated on Faulkner and Hemingway, with a Freshman Honors Tutorial, an undergraduate Major Authors course, and a graduate seminar devoted to one or both of the two. His spring teaching included the Modern American Novel and the 30th anniversary edition of the Literature of Baseball class. He compares his current research project, an annotation and gloss on Faulkner's *Collected Stories*, to "having contracted to build a six-lane transcontinental highway paved with one-inch

ceramic tiles; when you've done a dozen or so bits in a morning, you think you're making progress, but when you lean back and look at the distance left to go . . ." In the spring he was chosen by undergraduates in the Department to receive the Celebration of Teaching award through the Center for Teaching Excellence. Next year he serves as K.U. Faculty Senate President-elect.

Professor **Kathryn Conrad** is looking forward to an exciting summer both at home and abroad. With the help and inspiration of her students, she is organizing 'Joyce's Ireland: A Celebration of the Bloomsday Centenary', a week-long blow-out celebration of James Joyce and Irish culture that will take place June 10-17. By the end of the summer, she will have gone to Northern Ireland twice: the first time in March for an invited conference at Queens University on the Troubles, and the second time in July and August for research in Belfast and Derry for an article on politics and sexuality in unionist culture. Professor Conrad was awarded a Keeler Intra-University Fellowship this year, which will allow her to study in the Political Science Department for the Spring 2005 semester. She was also honored with a Conger-Cabel Teaching Professorship, which she will hold with two other colleagues for 2004-2006. Her book, *Locked in the Family Cell: Gender, Sexuality, and Political Agency in Irish National Discourse*, has now been released by the University of Wisconsin Press.

Brian Daldorph's third full-length book of poems, *Senegal Blues*, was published by 219 Press in summer 2003. Brian is now in his fourth year of teaching a Creative Writing class at Douglas County Jail. An article on his work there appeared in the campus literary magazine, *Kiosk*. He has also taught at Lawrence Arts Center. This summer he is Director of the British Summer Institute, taking KU students to study in London, York and Edinburgh. He will also spend July in Lusaka, Zambia, where he will be participating in a program to establish links with the University of Lusaka.

Last year was a busy year for **Amy Devitt**, as two book projects came to completion at the same time. Her book on genre theory appeared in the Rhetorical Philosophy and Theory series from Southern Illinois University Press with the title *Writing Genres*. Meanwhile, the textbook for composition that she has been writing with former graduate students **Mary Jo Reiff** and **Anis Bawarshi** appeared from Longman, entitled *Scenes of Writing: Strategies for Composing with Genres*. Recognition of her work in genre theory also appeared when her 1993 article "Generalizing about Genre" was selected to represent contemporary rhetorical genre theory in the collection *Concepts in Composition*, edited by Irene Clark. In addition to her teaching of the survey and practicum for

new teachers of English 101 and her own composition class, Professor Devitt also tackled a new course on feminisms and composition, team-teaching the seminar with **Frank Farmer**. Just to keep her really busy, she also reprised the role of Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie* for Paul Lim's English Alternative Theater.

Iris Smith Fischer continues to teach American and comparative drama, as well as performance studies, and has added the American Literature II survey to her course list this past year. With Mechele Leon (Theatre & Film), she is starting a new Hall Center faculty seminar on "Performance & Culture," to begin in August 2004. Among other activities, Fischer is coordinating the new incarnation of the New Literacies conference (formerly the Conference on Composition and Literature, or "October Conference"), now a biannual national meeting. The next conference will be held in Lawrence from 3-5 March 2005 on "Writing, Teaching, Performing America." In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the conference, the committee hopes to have sessions on poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, pedagogy, drama, performance, music, and film. Be sure to check the conference website, www.ku.edu/~nlc, for further details.

Supported by a Hall Center Humanities Research Fellowship during the fall and by a sabbatical in the spring, **Doreen Fowler** had a productive year. She made substantial progress on her book project, "Making a Difference: Race and Psychoanalysis," and she had two essays accepted for publication. "Faulkner's Return to the Freudian Father: *Sanctuary* Reconsidered" will be published in *Modern Fiction Studies*, and "Writing and Rewriting Race: Flannery O'Connor's 'The Geranium' and 'Judgement Day'" will appear in the *Flannery O'Connor Review*. After a year away from the classroom, she is looking forward to teaching two new courses in the fall, a graduate seminar entitled "Race and Identity" and an Honors Proseminar, which will apply a psychoanalytic method to literary racial constructions. She is particularly proud of her daughter, Carina, who was an Honor Roll student in her first year in junior high school.

Dick Hardin spent a week in Chicago at the Newberry library last summer reading old books and hanging out at a Best Western motel. His room had HBO so he finally got to see "Sex and the City." As a recent convert to curmudgeonism, he decided he didn't want to live on the same planet with people who liked that show. A high point of the experience was being hosted for the weekend by KU English graduate **John Kalich** and Sheri. He also got free room and board from former colleague and fellow Drayton scholar **Jack Oruch** and Elaine, while attending the Comparative Drama conference in Columbus in April; they avoided

the topic of *Poly-Olbion* altogether.

The Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program has named **Joseph Harrington** as the Walt Whitman Chair in American Literature and Culture for Spring 2005 in the American Studies Department at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. He will teach a version of the course "Globalization, Literature, and Culture" (which he has previously taught at KU); he hopes to compare the attitudes of Dutch and US students towards texts and issues related to globalization. During a sabbatical in the fall of 2004, Prof. Harrington completed most of the research for his work-in-progress, entitled *Things Come On*. This research included trips to the Tennessee State Archives, the Gore Center at Middle Tennessee State University, and the archives at Murray State University (KY.). His work is forthcoming in *First Intensity*, *Poetry Flash*, and in the anthology *Poetry and Cultural Studies: A Reader* (Wesleyan UP). His book *Poetry and the Public: The Social Form of Modern US Poetics* (2002) continues to be cited and taught at universities in the US and Canada.

Ken Irby had new poems published during 2003 in *First Intensity* and *No*, and an entire book collection, *In Denmark*, presented as an inset in the second issue of *No*. The poem which appeared in *No* #1, "[record]", was then selected to be included in *Best American Poetry 2004*. In June of 2003 he taught in the Summer Writing Program of the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics, Naropa University, Boulder, CO, and gave a reading there of his work. He has been invited to participate in the conference honoring the centenary of the birth of the American poet Louis Zukofsky, to be held at Columbia University this September. Among other classes offered at KU in the past year, it was especially enjoyable and rewarding to teach a Major Authors course dealing with the contemporaneous work of Ernest Hemingway and Hart Crane, who share exactly the same birthday and various other particulars, but never met.

Bud Hirsch's article "Stay Calm, Be Brave, Wait for the Signs: Sign-offs and Send-ups in the Fiction of Thomas King" will appear in the Summer 2004 issue of *Western American Literature*. An essay review entitled "Blackfoot Pedagogy" is also forthcoming in *WAL*, as is another review, which will appear in *Studies in American Indian Literature (SAIL)*. Hirsch will also receive an Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award this October from the National Academic Advising Association. He presented papers at two conferences this past year: "A Community of Words: Self and Story in American Indian Autobiographical Writing" at the Western Literature Association Conference in Houston and "Regeneration Through Humor: Another Survival Strategy" at the Native American Literature Symposium in the Mdewakanton

Dakota Sioux Community, Prior Lake, Minnesota.

Michael L. Johnson continued this year as director of the Freshman-Sophomore English program. He continued also to work on his cultural history of the American West, due out from the University Press of Kansas in a year or so. He read from his poetry at the Western Literature Association meeting in Houston in October and was awarded a sabbatical leave for this coming fall, during which he will work on a book of poems about the Southwest.

Paul Stephen Lim launched the 2003-2004 EAT season in June with staged readings of a double-bill of new full-length plays by two of his prize-winning students, **Tim Macy** and **Kirby Fields**. This was followed by the Labor Day staged reading of *Take Me Out* featuring, among others, **Jim Carothers** as the manager of an unruly baseball team. January and February were incredibly hectic months because Paul was a member of the National Selection Team for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Teaching only one night a week in Lawrence during the spring semester, he managed to attend all eight regional festivals of the KCACTF, travelling over 11,000 miles and seeing over 75 productions. EAT was represented at the KCACTF Region 5 festival in Denver, CO by eleven of his students. EAT's one official entry at the festival was "The Story of Izanagi and Izanami," a ten-minute play by Kristen Wirsig which won the regional competition, and then went on to take the top prize at the national festival. In the spring, Paul also directed a production of "Miss Julie," by August Strindberg, and conducted a series of playwriting workshops at the Douglas County Jail. Finally, Paul is proud to report that two of his playwrights have been accepted into prestigious MFA programs on full scholarship—**Kirby Fields** at Carnegie-Mellon, and **Paul Shoulberg** at Indiana University.

Anna Neill has been working on a new project identifying relationships between literary criticism and the history of prison reform. She returned to teaching in the spring after a semester-long maternity leave. Neill published essays this year in two edited collections: *The Global Eighteenth Century* and *On Display: New Essays in Cultural Studies*.

Geraldo de Sousa returned to the department in January, after nearly fifteen years at Xavier University in Cincinnati. Over the past year he attended conferences and gave papers related to his current research project: "Shakespeare and the Phenomenology of the House" at the South-Central Renaissance Conference; "Hamlet, Denmark, and the Politics of Pleasure," at the 6th Annual International Congress of the Mediterranean Studies Association (MSA) in Budapest, Hungary; and "King Lear and the History of Poverty, at the

7th Annual International Congress of the MSA in Barcelona, Spain. He also gave a paper, "Middleton, Representation, and Phenomenology of London Life," at the Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America in New Orleans.

Marjorie Swann had several opportunities this past year to continue to develop her scholarship on material culture. In the fall of 2003, Marjorie co-directed a Hall Center Faculty Colloquium on the subject "Collecting and Collections: Interdisciplinary Perspectives." With her colloquium co-director, John Simmons of the Natural History Museum, she also obtained a grant from the Museum Loan Network that allowed a team of KU researchers to travel to the Field Museum of Chicago in September 2003. In the fall, she taught for the first time a graduate seminar in collections studies that was cross-listed with the Museum Studies program. In May, she led a graduate workshop entitled "The Material Renaissance" for the Department of English at Ohio State University and gave an invited lecture for Ohio State's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies entitled "*The Compleat Angler* and The Culture of Collecting." This lecture complemented the paper Marjorie delivered in March, "Something's Fishy: The Ecology of *The Compleat Angler*" at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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.

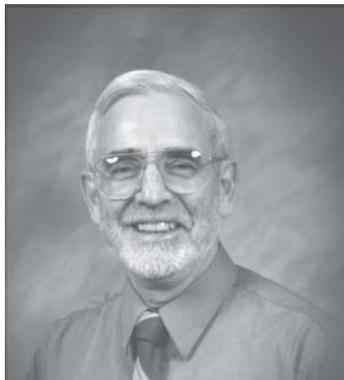
In this time of financial challenges to the quality of education at KU, the Department asks that you consider making a contribution, in whatever amount is comfortable for you, to the English Department Development Fund. Please send your tax-deductible donation to Ms. Kathleen Brady, Senior Development 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.

Transition

On July 28, 2004, *Update* editor Robert Elliott met with KU English's three newest emeritus professors, Max Sutton, Haskell Springer, and Margaret Arnold, all of whom officially retired in May 2004, though Sutton did not teach this past year. Together they compiled 111 years of service in the Department. Elliott asked them several questions about their time at KU. The following is a report of their responses:

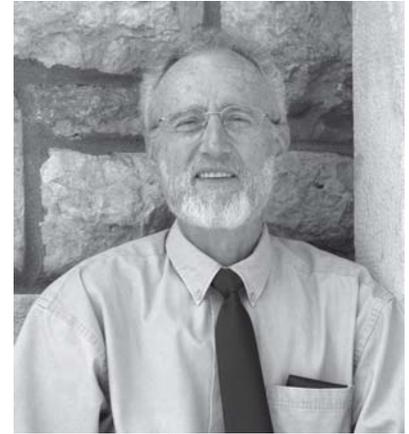
Elliott: What were your first impressions of the KU English Department?

Max Sutton recalls the high ceilings and curving stairs of Old Fraser Hall and the opportunity to share faculty offices. He was privileged to share space with Professor Roy Gridley. The Department projected a welcoming attitude that, he was surprised to discover, extended to faculty relations with graduate students. The KU English faculty supported and encouraged graduate students, even in their examinations, a far cry from what he had experienced at Duke University while working on his doctorate.



Professor Max Sutton arrived in Lawrence in 1964. His specialties: Victorian poetry, satire, and humor, Manx literature, narrative theory.

Haskell Springer began his career at KU working in Carruth-O'Leary, a building less pleasant than Old Fraser. He, too, though, recalls a welcoming senior faculty and the collegiality of shared office space. He learned a lot from Professor Ed Ruhe. He remembers being pleased that prospective junior faculty did not have to make presentations to the advanced ranks. The Department was relaxed and informal. The Chair himself drove Springer to the airport after his first visit! He noted that he was part of an "Indiana University pipeline" that also delivered Jack Oruch, Pete Casagrande, Joel Gold, Jack Farrell, and Gerhard Zuther to KU.



Professor Haskell Springer began service at KU in 1968. His specialties: Nineteenth-century American literature, textual editing, hypertext. Photo courtesy of Nicole Madril.

Margaret Arnold's first impressions of KU were very different. She attended KU as an undergraduate and met her husband, Bill, here. As an incoming faculty member, though, she remembers the geniality of Professor George Worth and the support she received from two fellow University of Texas degree-holders, Beverly Boyd and Dick Hardin.

Arnold believes there were fewer cliques and divisions among the English faculty in the 60s and 70s at KU than elsewhere. Sutton, however, noted that "there were some" (handball and poker cabals were darkly referenced). All sensed that the older faculty in the 1960s worried about salary compression and academic competition from their younger colleagues. They believe that same dynamic is at work in the Department now.

Elliott: Over your long careers what changes have you noticed in the English Department?

Sutton, Springer and Arnold agreed that the single-most noticeable change in the Department is the reduction in conversation. Colleagues used to chat far more frequently. They cited, again, shared office space as a spur to social interaction, but also the lack of air conditioning, which kept doors open. Younger faculty members in the Department now seem somewhat more private. This phenomenon has been exacerbated by the introduction of e-mail, another de-personalizing facet of the contemporary academy.

Sutton pointed out that priorities have shifted in the Department over the course of his career. When 3-3 teaching loads were in place, and classes were also larger, research, though naturally encouraged, still received considerably less emphasis than it is given now. Then, when teaching responsibilities were lightened and



Associate Professor Margaret Arnold was hired by the English Department in 1968. Her specialties: Renaissance literature, comparative literature, women writers..

class sizes were reduced, veteran professors were left feeling guilty (unnecessarily) about their lack of research productivity, particularly in relation to newcomers who did not have to deal with the same set of circumstances. Springer, an Americanist, recalls that American literature commanded little respect when he started at KU. The field, however, quickly exploded, and Americanists were “squeezed” between overwhelming student demand and few faculty specialists. A battle also ensued over women’s literature. Of course, everyone pointed out, the canon has changed dramatically. Sutton remarked, with sadness, on the decline of Victorian studies in the Department in recent years as student interest has flagged and numerous talented Victorian specialists have retired. Arnold commented that the growth and development of the Freshman-Sophomore English program has been very interesting to her.

Sutton tried to recall when some male professors dared to stop wearing neckties. This subject led to a discussion of the changing protocol of address between professors and students. As the custom of addressing students by “Mr” and “Miss” faded in the 1960s, instructors were also hard pressed to keep students from hailing them by their first names. All were bemused that this trend has reversed in recent years. Many students now insist on addressing their teachers as “Doctor” or “Professor” in classroom or even informal settings.

Elliott: Decades are an arbitrary measuring stick, but, given that truism, did you find the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, or 00s particularly interesting for doing research or teaching?

The 60s and 70s won the prize here. Sutton took the lead in noting the period’s compelling (and stressful) elements: British literature (his area) was deemed irrelevant, the Vietnam War brooded over the campus, lifestyle experimentation was rampant (one student approached Sutton and genuinely and

compassionately urged him to take drugs because it would do him so much good), the administration and faculty maintained a call list for emergencies. Perhaps not surprisingly, the intensity of the period made all three feel good about being teachers. On a lighter note, Springer recalled the many dogs on campus and even in class.

Elliott: Our feature article in this edition of *Update* discusses changes in gender representation in the Department in the 20th century. Do you have any comments on this issue?

Arnold simply applauded the increased legitimacy women and women’s issues have acquired since the 1970s. Springer acknowledged that women faculty and students were not taken as seriously as their male counterparts when he began teaching. Sutton concurred to a degree, but cited Professors Jean Gagen and Beverly Boyd as female faculty members whose research was viewed with great respect, even in the 1960s. Springer added that the hiring of strong young women scholars and teachers like Elizabeth Schultz and Janet Sharistanian softened male prejudices. That process accelerated in the 1980s and 1990s. Sutton has been tremendously impressed by the credentials and achievements of the most recent junior and senior-level male and female hires.

Elliott: What did you enjoy most about working in the KU English Department?

Sutton most enjoyed the friendships he made, and many wonderful students. Arnold praised the Department’s supportive environment. Springer elaborated on this, citing especially the Department’s flexibility. He has had the opportunity to pursue his interests in both research and teaching. For example, his requests to teach topics courses, honors seminars, major authors classes, etc. were routinely approved.

Elliott: If you were beginning a research or teaching career in the Department now, what would your interests be?

Springer warned that the Department has failed to keep pace with the groundswell of work being done in electronic scholarship and via Internet technology. Other state universities, not to mention prestigious private schools, have far outdistanced KU English in this arena. These burgeoning fields would occupy him if he was starting anew. Arnold is not ready to quit on the Milton book she has been writing for a number of years. That would (and will) come first. She is also intrigued with the emerging field of Peace Studies. In teaching, she would try to turn back

time and rekindle the careful reading of poetry. Sutton is concerned about the fragmentation of the field into minuscule categories based on gender, ethnicity, or geography. He would like to research and teach the greatest literature of a given period regardless of its origins. That said, he sheepishly confessed he would like to teach an entire course on North Carolina Mountain literature, for which he has developed an intemperate fondness.

Sutton is optimistic overall about the future of the English Department at the University of Kansas. The new faculty replacing the old is doing excellent research and teaching effectively. Arnold believes that this Department, which has always valued quality teaching, is in good hands. Springer is pleased by what he calls a “healthy climate” in the Department, especially in terms of race, ethnicity, and gender. Now if only the student body were equally diverse and stimulating!

As the discussion closed, Arnold sounded a melancholy note. With the approach of fall, she feels a certain wistfulness about her retirement. She anticipates missing new classes, new students, the bustle and excitement of a new academic year. Springer said his principal anticipation is a stress-free August. Sutton, the veteran retiree, leaned forward to comfort Arnold. With just a hint of mischief, he advised, “Don’t worry. You’ll get through it.”

Edward F. Grier 1917-2004

Professor Emeritus Edward F. Grier died 15 June 2004 at the age of 87. He taught in the University of Kansas



English Department from 1951-1984. He was also Chair of the American Studies program from 1953-1964. He received his Ph.D. in American Civilization in 1949 from the University of Pennsylvania and was a pioneer in the teaching of American literature at KU. Grier devoted much of his career to editing the monumental six-volume *Walt Whitman: Notebooks and Unpublished Manuscripts* (New York University Press, 1984). For many years, a teaching award in the Department was named for him. He also endowed a loan fund for struggling graduate students.

SAGE News

The 2003-04 year kicked off with what was quite possibly the hottest SAGE picnic ever. . .literally. With the mercury rising to well over 100 degrees, there was an excellent turnout at "Dad" Perry Park in celebration of the new year, new faculty and staff, and new graduate students. 2003-2004 also marked the first time that SAGE operated under a constitution and an executive committee. A key addition to SAGE administration was a First-year Graduate Student Liaison position. **Adam Klinker** and **Nathan Wall** jointly held this position, working with co-presidents **Samantha Parkes** and **Joseph Sommers**, treasurer **Brian Harries** and secretary **Aaron Profitt**. This new position was part of one of the year's major projects: outreach into the greater graduate community. Other key initiatives included:

- major renovation of the SAGE lab including a fresh paint job, two new computers, a video camera with tripod, a microwave oven, etc.

- a summer letter-writing program to welcome all incoming graduate students
- ongoing funding of student conference participation but with a specific focus on financial support for presentations at KU English's 2004 James Joyce Bloomsday celebration.

- a remarkable and admirable website/newsletter renovation <http://www.ku.edu/~sage> by SAGE's dedicated editor, **Kristin Bovaird-Abbo** (to whom we offer profound thanks).

Graduate student social functions also became a permanently established concentration with the establishment of a full-time social committee headed by **Beth Lagaron** and **Mindi McMann**. This committee oversaw:

- various social gatherings including the annual Halloween extravaganza and the SAGE Spring Potluck.

- receptions for prospective faculty members.

- the annual SAGE creative readings which included bringing in published and award-winning writers such as Miami-native Alonzo and Writer of the Future, **Matthew Candelaria**.

As usual, SAGE held its annual book sale in the fall. In addition, the raffle of a pair of men's basketball tickets and an incredibly generous anonymous financial donation helped to swell SAGE coffers. This funding allowed SAGE to help FSE purchase some supplementary videos for the 101 practicum class. Culminating this fine year, SAGE was pleased to honor the Associate Chair of the English Department, **Tom Lorenz**, with the

Mabel S. Fry Excellence in Teaching Award. Under provisions of the new constitution, SAGE then held its first election of new officers. **Kristin Bovaird-Abbo** and **Karla Knutson** were elected co-presidents, with **Jennifer Floray-Balke** as treasurer. The secretary and first-year liaison will be appointed in Fall 2004 by the Executive Committee.

■—Samantha Parkes and Joseph Sommers

FSE Report

Michael Johnson and **Sonya Lancaster** returned as Director and Assistant Director of the Freshman-Sophomore English program this year. **Robin Holladay** returned as FSE secretary, and **Matthew Hollrah** was selected as the administrative intern.

Along with continual revisions of the *Manual for Teachers* and *CAL*, the FSE committee approved several new rhetorics and readers for use in English 101. They are: *Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing*; *A Meeting of Minds*; *Scenes of Writing*; *Convergences*; *Rereading America*; *Exploring Literacy*; *Reading Our Histories, Understanding Our Cultures*; *The World Is a Text*; and *Everything's an Argument with Readings*.

The FSE office organized several workshops, a panel, and a literary reading, bringing several notable authors to campus. The fall workshops included "Teaching a Kinder, Gentler *Writing Analytically*: Using the Classroom as a Site for Oral Prewriting," conducted by authors David Rosenwasser and Jill Stephen of Muhlenberg College. Andrea Lunsford of Stanford University led "Creating Communities of Writers In and Out of the Classroom." Sonya Lancaster, assistant director of FSE, led a workshop entitled "A Discussion of 'Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement of Best Practices.'" In the spring, the Eberhardt Memorial Fund sponsored the "Writing Beyond the University" panel, featuring alumni authors **Tod Marshall**, **Laura Wexler**, Michael O'Brien, and doctoral candidate, **Dan Hoyt**. The Eberhardt Memorial Lecture/Reading brought National Book Award Finalist, National Book Critics Circle Award Winner, and KU alumnus, **B. H. Fairchild**, back to campus. Spring workshops included "Evaluating International Student Writing," a joint workshop conducted by Chris Jensen of the Applied English Center, FSE, and **Moir Ozias** of the Writing Center, as well as a workshop on technical writing conducted by **Chris McKitterick**.

Numerous FSE instructors received honors and awards. Outstanding Instructor Awards went to **Mary Bunten**, **Brooke Finan**, **Rob Howard**, **Ellen Kroeker**, **Samantha Parkes**, and **Jane Vandervelde**. The Selden Lincoln Whitcomb Fellowship for Excellence in the Teaching and Study of Literature went to **Matthew Hollrah** who also received a Carlin Graduate Teaching Award from the Graduate School. **Tiffany DeJaynes** received the James A. Gowen Memorial Award for Excellence in the Teaching and Study of Composition.

■—Matthew Hollrah

Job Placement News

Byron Caminero-Santangelo completed his service as Job Placement Advisor in May 2004. **Kathryn Conrad** will take over this position in the Department. It has been a very successful year for job placement. Professor Caminero-Santangelo reports that four KU English Ph.D. recipients have accepted tenure-track positions for Fall 2004. Two other job-seekers were offered tenure-track positions but decided to turn them down. Graduates from all three Ph.D. tracks (literature, creative writing, composition and rhetoric) are having success on the job market.

Caminero-Santangelo also provided these statistics: From 1998-2004, the University of Kansas English Department has produced 58 PhDs. Of these, at least 26 have secured tenure-track employment (there may be others). Since many have not sought tenure-track jobs or have conducted only limited searches, this is a very respectable record. In his experience, most doctorate-holders from KU English who look for tenure-track positions – and continue to look – eventually find one. He would also like to glean more information about those who have earned advanced degrees (M.A. or Ph.D) from KU English since the Job Placement Advisor position was created in 1999. What are you doing now? For PhDs, specifically, did you do a substantial search for a tenure-track position (i.e. more than just a few applications in a limited area)? If you did get a tenure-track position, where is it? Please e-mail any information you may be able to supply to **Lydia Ash**, the Department's graduate secretary, at <lash@ku.edu>.

We are aware of the following graduates who have secured tenure-track/permanent positions in the last five years:

Kaye Adkins	Missouri Western University
Jesse Aleman	University of New Mexico

Anis Bawarshi	University of Washington
Donna Binns	Eastern Illinois University
John Bruni	South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Bill Carpenter	Lafayette College (PA)
Shu-Dong Chen	Johnson County Community College (KS)
Angela Crowe	Georgia Southern University
Amy Cummins	Fort Hays State University (KS)
Tracy Floreani	Baker University (KS)
Mo Godman	Washburn University (KS)
Jack Healy	Central Methodist College (MO)
Scott Hendrix	Albion College (MI)
Loretta Holloway	Framingham State College (MA)
Dan Hoyt	Baldwin-Wallace College (OH)
Michael Johnson	University of Maine at Farmington
Angela Jones	Mercyhurst College (PA)
Dominic Kim	Dong-A University (Korea)
Amy Kolker	Black Hawk Community College (IA)
James McWard	Johnson County Community College (KS)
Dan Kulmala	Fort Hays State College (KS)
Kara Northway	Xavier University (OH)
Jennifer Palmgren	Saint Paul's College (VA)
Liz Rowse	University of Minnesota-Morehead
Marlin Schaich	Nebraska Methodist College
Jane Wood	Baker University (KS)

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; 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

Department News Capsules

2003-2004 Conferences

The University of Kansas Department of English hosted two major conferences in the 2003-2004 academic year. In September 2003, **The Central Renaissance Conference** attracted over seventy early modern scholars to the Lawrence



Holiday Inn Holidome. Professor **Richard Hardin** organized and oversaw all conference activities. Plenary speaker David Cressy of The Ohio State University addressed the subject of "Print, Censorship, and Satire on the Eve of *Areopagitica*."

In June 2004, **Joyce's Ireland: A Celebration of the Bloomsday Centenary** generated a week of scholarly and community activities related to James Joyce's *Ulysses*, which follows several fictional characters as they saunter around Dublin, Ireland on June 16, 1904. Principal speakers Professor Vicki Mahaffey of the University of Pennsylvania and Michael Patrick Gillespie of Marquette University spoke on "The Joyce of the Future" and "Joyce's Humane Comedy" respectively. A wandering marathon reading of *Ulysses* in downtown Lawrence highlighted this genial outburst of academic, musical, and dramatic endeavor. SAGE and a committee of graduate students drawn from a 2004 Joyce seminar assisted Professor **Kathryn Conrad** in organizing this event.

Alumnus Delivers Eberhardt Lecture

Award-winning poet and KU graduate **B. H. Fairchild** (M.A. 1968) presented the 2004 John F. Eberhardt Memorial Lecture/Reading on April 7 in the Spencer Art Museum Auditorium. Fairchild won the 2002



National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry for *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest*. His 1998 *Art of the Lathe* also won numerous awards, including the Kingsley Tufts and the William Carlos Williams and was a finalist for the National Book Award. B. H. Fairchild grew up in small towns in Texas, Oklahoma, and southwest Kansas. He is now Professor of English at California State University, San Bernardino.

Conger-Gabel Teaching Professors

A committee comprised of the first Conger-Gabel Teaching Professors in the KU English Department has selected Professors **Kathryn Conrad**, **Jim Hartman**, and **Tom Lorenz** to succeed them during the period 2004-2006. Professors **Giselle Anatol**, **David Bergeron**, **Amy Devitt**, and **Paul Lim** were appointed the inaugural Conger-Gabel Teaching Professors in 2001. The professorships take their name from donors Wren Gabel and Esther Conger Gabel of Rochester, NY. Esther Conger Gabel received her B.A. in English from KU in 1931.



In December 2003, The University of Kansas Libraries, with help from the English Department, purchased access to **Early English Books Online**. EEBO is a searchable database of digital images of every book, pamphlet, and broadside printed in England or its colonies, or in English anywhere in the world, between 1475 (the first book printed in English) and 1700. The database currently includes 96,000 works and is expected to reach 125,000 works when complete.

EEBO is a major interdisciplinary resource that includes important early works in religion, science, exploration, political science, law, literature, music, and other fields. The search engine helps locate books by title, author, or subject. Enhanced indexing allows scholars to pinpoint maps, portraits, coats of arms, music, and illustrations. The original page image is presented online for viewing, printing, or downloading. EEBO's collection of texts and its searching capabilities complement the holdings of original printed and manuscript material from this period held in KU's Kenneth Spencer Research Library. Acquisition of this research tool was made possible by several private gifts to the KU Endowment Association and the English Department's William Savage Johnson Fund.

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1940s

Lois Pauline Caffyn (B.A. 1935, M.A. 1944) taught in high schools in Kansas: Summerfield, Plainville, and Dodge City Senior High for twenty years, plus some extension classes from KU and Washburn University. She then accepted the position of Language Arts Specialist in the Kansas State Department of Education, where she served all Kansas schools that requested her help by phone, letter, and visit/speech. She also lectured (on request) at Pittsburg State and Emporia State to students planning to teach English. She continued taking summer schools and workshops for personal growth. One October day in Dodge City when students were writing a "poem," a girl slipped up to the teacher's desk and said, "I think you should write one too." Now Lois has four booklets of her poems for family and friends (not hardback for sale): *Through a Glass Darkly*, *Christmas, Plus, Crumbs*, *Unfinished Business*, and a fifth one, *Prairie Breezes*, in the proofreading stage. Thanks, Dana! Lois retired in 1978. Now 91 years of age, she lives in an independent apartment in Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Dr., #204W, Topeka, KS 66614. (Aldersgate is a United Methodist retirement village with all stages of care.)

James Chandler (M.A. 1949) and Madeleine Chandler are still at it at age 82: Jim is into Rotary and rashly agreed to be club secretary (busiest job in Rotary) this year and next despite his standard advice to new retirees that the magic word is "No!" He got off the board of La Societe Francaise de Saint-Louis, but somehow attends board meetings and gets put to work. Both he and Madeleine are addicted to solving puzzles (paper ones, not the real ones they worked at in real life) with lots of Bridge and Scrabble and, of course, enjoyment of the rich cultural life of St. Louis: arts, symphony, theatre and the like. And then there's the joy of seeing our great-grandson Tyler, age 2 1/2, grow and flourish.

Six Essays on Edward Martyn (1859-1923), Irish Cultural Revivalist, by Jerry Nolan (the Edwin Mellen Press, 2004), has been dedicated to **William J. Feeny** (M.A. 1948). The dedication is generous recognition of correspondence with Feeny while the work was in progress over the years, and of Feeny's 1984 book, *Drama in Hardwicke Street*, one of Nolan's sources.

1950s

William Sollner (M.A. 1954), impresario of Pied Piper Puppets, is limiting himself to Punch & Judy shows now, but that can include anything he wishes. His aim is to keep the foxy old

trickster as outrageous as ever. Latest workup is subtitled "W meets Punch meets JFK." Political correctness is not in the Punch canon!

1960s

Charles Bassett (Ph.D. 1964) retired as Lee Family Professor of American Studies and English at Colby College in Waterville, Maine in 1999. That said, he has continued to teach a course or two a year since and favors the classroom over escaping Maine winters. He also writes a weekly column for the student newspaper and plays jazz on Thursdays on the student radio station.

Kathryn Moen Calvin Braeman (M.A. 1968) announces the marriage of her daughter Ms. Elizabeth Kristen to Ms. Malihe Kigasari in San Francisco at City Hall on February 13, 2004, a historic day of same-sex marriages where couples promised to be "spouses for life." Ms. Kristen is a Skadden Fellow and public interest lawyer at the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center in San Francisco. She is an honors graduate of Miami University and received her J.D. with Order of the Coif from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California Berkeley. Her mother is an Administrative Judge at the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals.

Joe Hatcher (Ph.D. 1968) has enjoyed more free time in the last year since completing his two-year interim chairmanship of the English Department at University of Central Arkansas. He is working as a search and management consultant with Horizons Stewardship, Inc. So far the assignments have been interesting and the workload about right.

David Leon Higdon (Ph.D. 1968) taught a course on the British 1890s at the University of New Mexico during the Fall 2003 term and will be teaching a course required of all English majors in the Fall 2004 term. He completed essays on Graham Swift and Peter Ackroyd and is researching temporal perception in Holocaust narratives.

Bill Holm (M.A. 1967) is now half-retired from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, MN. He teaches during the Fall semester—for which he draws half a salary, health insurance, et.al. Leaving school teaching proved psychologically easy, but economically dicey. He spends Spring traveling, writing, doing readings, and practicing the piano. In summer he disappears to Hofos, north Iceland, where he bought a small fisherman's cottage about 100 feet from the sea. There he writes, listens to the noise of water, and "contemplates the idiocy of

Bush/Ashcroft America." His newest book, *Playing the Black Piano*, poetry, is his tenth. He plans to write many more for whoever can still read. Go to Iceland and pay him a call. There'll be coffee, at least, maybe a drink too.

Frank Kelly (M.A. 1969) begins his 30th year as Professor in the Dept. of English and Humanities at Farmingdale State University of New York. *Pageant*, the musical for which he co-wrote the book and lyrics, continues to be performed throughout the world.

Llewellyn Ligoeki (Ph.D. 1968) has retired from his position as Communications Program Administrator for the King County (Wash.) Department of Transportation. Previously he taught English at Washington State University. Lew and his wife Marti now own and operate Impeccable Images, a photography business specializing in outdoor and nature images. Lew's address is 1785 Cinnamon Hill Drive S.E., Salem, OR 97306.

James G. McGahay (M.A. 1965), recently retired after 32 years as a University Relations administrator at Boston College. For the last 22 years, he wrote the citations for that university's honorary degrees, which is probably something of a record in the academic world.

Sherry Mowrer Newell (M.A. 1964) is still active in English, Foreign Language, and Interdisciplinary Honor Societies, as well as the local Humane Society, Opera Guild, and Magic Lantern Film Society in Lawton, OK. She also serves as editor of her parish monthly newsletter and continues to sing in the Civic Chorus, the *Messiah* Choir, and St. Andrew's Chancel Choir.

Paul A. Parrish (M.A. 1968) was named Head of the Department of English at Texas A&M University in January 2004. A Regents Professor at TAMU, he continues to serve as the Chief Editor of the Commentary for *The Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne* (Indiana University Press, 1995-).

1970s

Tom Averill (M.A. 1974) saw the release of his second novel, *The Slow Air of Ewan MacPherson* (BlueHen/Berkley), in the summer of 2003. In 2005 a collection of his short fiction, *Ordinary Genius*, will be published by University of Nebraska Press. He continues as Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence at Washburn University.

After completing her Master's in English, **Kim Mitchell Bethea** (M.A. 1975) jumped into a

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career in information technology. Kim is currently with the State of Wisconsin heading up an Internet team. Kim completed her Ph.D. in Communications and Educational Technologies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002, has a sophomore at UW-Madison, and will be spending winter semester at Oxford University, England with her husband. She can be reached at kimmitchellbethea@yahoo.com.

Dean Bevan (Ph.D. 1971) continues to live happily in Lawrence with his wife of 44 years, Judy. His time since retirement in 2004 has been spent in traveling (this spring: a hat trick of the three Baltic republics) and theater, both writing and acting. In the past year he performed in “Kiss Me Kate” and “The Philadelphia Story” at Lawrence Community Theatre, and in “V Henry K” (in which he played Henry Kissinger) at EMU Theatre, as well as a film role in “The Cow-Pow Project,” an indie production. He has written five plays in the last three years, with three performances and a fourth (“If Gold Rust”) scheduled for this August.

James Bogan (M.A. 1968, Ph.D. 1979) continues to be based on the Ozark Plateau at the University of Missouri-Rolla. In spring semester 2003 he was the Director of the Missouri-London Program at Imperial College and survived a semester of being an administrator with no permanent scarring. He constructed a *Celtic Double Spiral Space Centering Vehicle* for the Third Exhibition of Fantastic Art in Eben-Emael, Belgium. (Three tons of hand-lugged stone and 200 feet of hawser, among other items too numerous to itemize.) He spent the month of March in the Amazon filming boats, alligators, and boa constrictors (who do NOT take direction well) for his poetic documentary: *The Adventures of the Amazon Queen*. More information to be had at www.umar.edu/~jbogan.

Lisa Browar (M.A. 1976) will begin her third year as University Librarian at New School University (formerly known as “The New School for Social Research” and soon to be renamed “The New School”) in New York City. Having become a Certified Fund Raising Manager in 2001, she is nearing completion of the Executive Master’s Degree Program in Philanthropic Studies at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). This year she published two journal articles related to philanthropy, “Mutually Assured Survival: Library Fund-raising Strategies in a Changing Economy” (published in *Library Trends*); and “Paving the Road to Hell? Cultural Institutions and the ‘New’ Philanthropy” (published in *RBM: A Journal of Rare Book, Manuscript, and Cultural*

Heritage Institutions). In her spare time, Lisa tends her prodigious theatre and opera habit. This year, and for the first time, she managed to see every show nominated for the Tony award. She did not, however, correctly guess all the winners.

Marilyn Holcomb (M.A. 1973) wound up a thirty-year teaching career with the Omaha Public Schools in the fall of 2003. She taught everything from eighth grade American history and literature to sophomore honors English. She feels very proud to have “turned on” some remarkable young people to good literature and prides herself on having heard a few say, “I LIKE Dickens now!” Currently she is taking a class entitled “Weights for Women,” starting a small antiques business with a college friend, and cleaning cat cages at the Nebraska Humane Society.

Roger M. Laub (Ph.D. 1978) and Karen Wade (Ph.D. Psychology 1973) were married on Valentine’s Day, 1970, in KU’s Danforth Chapel. As Garrison Keillor would have it, they are still married. Their only child, Aaron M. Laub, was born in 1971 at the hospital in Lawrence. Aaron has a B.A. (in English!) from Ohio State University and works with computers. Roger is pastor of a small Lutheran parish in Lockbourne, Ohio. Karen works for Franklin County and also does some consulting.

Frances M. Leonard (Ph.D. 1972) writes: “On July 15, I complete 26 years as director of the Texas Humanities Resource Center. On July 31, I am retiring. This is a position with an organization that did not exist during my graduate school career. Although the National Endowment for the Humanities was founded in the mid-1960s, the Texas Council for the Humanities was not established until 1973 and the Resource Center was not organized until 1978. Certainly I did not know that I was in training for this kind of lifework. Work in public humanities has been a wonderfully rewarding experience: I got to be a perennial student, researching, organizing imagery, and writing copy for more than three dozen traveling photo-panel exhibits on topics ranging from The Art of Chivalry to Shakespeare to modern art and public responses, to censorship of the humanities. These exhibits have been presented in more than 4,000 public programs, reaching more than ten million viewers across the United States, in Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, and the United Kingdom. [Could I have taught that many students in 26 classroom years?] Finally, as I ride off into the sunset, I am co-editing a book, *Conversations with Texas Writers*—50 writers, to be precise—which will be published by the University of Texas Press in February 2005.”

Patricia Cleary Miller (Ph.D. 1979) this year celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of her degree, remembering the immortal words of the Dean, Frances Horowitz, that KU graduates must spend the rest of their lives serving the common good. Patricia was promoted to the rank of full professor last spring, and continues to teach seven courses a year in her twentieth year at Rockhurst University. She edits the *Rockhurst Review*, now starting its eighteenth year. Her most recent publication was a booklet of student work inspired by an exhibition of ghostly photographs at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art. She writes poems inspired by paintings and by chamber music. A notable recent work treats the murals that Mark Rothko painted for Harvard’s Holyoke Center.

David Norlin (MAT 1970) will take early retirement from Cloud County Community College, Concordia, as of next January, 2005. He taught first at Topeka West High School, going on to Garden City Community College for eight years, and then to Cloud County. He will join his wife Janice, attorney for Marietta, Kellogg, and Price, and a 1996 KU law grad, at their new home in Salina this summer. He ends an activist career as teacher (enriched by a KU sabbatical in 94-95), department chair, editorial writer, and Kansas Senate candidate. He is looking forward to time to evaluate new challenges—and perhaps even do some writing.

Eiki Senaha (Ph.D. 1977) was most pleased to meet Chancellor Robert Hemenway at the reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador and Mrs. Baker at their residence in Tokyo on June 4, 2004. On March 31, 2004, he retired as a full-time professor from Meio University though he still teaches English literature part-time and serves as a trustee on the Board of the University.

Thomas L. Warren (Ph.D. 1974) continues as Professor of English at Oklahoma State University. This past year he taught a teacher training course, and, in the spring, courses in document design, project management, and writing and publishing scholarly articles. He had a collection of his essays on cross-cultural communication accepted by Baywood Press and published “Increasing User Acceptance of Technical Information in Cross-Cultural Communication” in *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*. He presented papers at FORUM 2003 in July and the Institute for Technical and Scientific Communication (England) in October. For FORUM 2003, he was also publications manager. He once again was a Guest Professor during the summer at the University of Paderborn (Germany). His wife, Mary Lee, continues as Executive Director, Judith Karman Hospice and is an elected board

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member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

1980s

Dr. Daniel Born (M.A. 1980), editor of *The Common Review*, spoke at the University of Kansas's Program in Humanities and Western Civilization Feb. 27 on the topic, "Two Funerals and a Wedding, or Great Books and Bad Ideas: Mortimer Adler on Liberal Education." *The Common Review*, the quarterly of the Great Books Foundation, was nominated for a 2003 Utne Independent Press Award in the category of arts/literary coverage.

Leigh Clark (Ph.D. 1983) has moved from James A. Garfield High School in East Los Angeles to James Monroe High School in the San Fernando Valley section of L.A. (yes, the student newspaper is called the *Monroe Doctrine*). In addition to working as co-coach of Monroe's Academic Decathlon team and teaching all English courses in the School for Advanced Studies (SAS), in July he will take up the duties of English Department Chair along with those of SAS Coordinator, while still attempting to bring some sense of an ending to that intractable sixth novel, an *opus* at this point certainly *longum* if not quite *magnum*. He lives in the far north end of the San Fernando Valley with his wife Susanne Gordon, also an English teacher at Monroe, and their three rescued beagles.

Keith Coplin's (Ph.D. 1989) novel, *Crofton's Fire* (Putnam 2004) continues to garner rave reviews. Art Winslow in *The New York Times* calls it "engaging," and describes the central character, Lt. Michael Crofton, as "antiheroic in sentiment and heroic in act, and in a subtle way the novel attempts to be a tale of each, shot and recoil." Coplin's second novel, *Big-Legged Jimmy*, has been optioned by Putnam. He continues to teach at Colby Community College in western Kansas and is at work on his third book.

In War and Famine: China's Honan Province in the 1940s by **Erleen J. Christensen** (Ph.D. 1985) is to be published soon by McGill-Queens University Press in Montreal. In one of the forgotten tragedies of World War II, ten percent (or more) of the population of Honan Province died of disease, warfare, and famine during the world war - while still more died in the civil war that followed. The work is based primarily on unpublished letters and reports written from the province during the 1940s by Westerners living and working there. It documents both the efforts at relief and the international

community's inability to provide much help to the millions, most of them civilians, who died.

Holly Franking (Ph.D. 1988) just signed an agreement with 4 Square Productions in Canada. They are producing her multimedia CD-ROM, *The Martensville Nightmare*, as a movie of the week. Filming on this true-crime story starts next summer. Holly will get credit as an Executive Producer and Creative Consultant. Holly gave a multimedia presentation, "The Future of the Book is Now: How Technology is Creating New Delivery Systems for Information," at Trinity College in Dublin last August.

Angela Hoffman Falk (formerly Karstadt) (M.A. 1988) lives in Uppsala, Sweden, and is Senior Lecturer in English Linguistics at Gävle University College in Gävle. She published a revised and expanded version of her University of Minnesota dissertation through Uppsala University in November 2003 under the title *Tracking Swedish-American English. A Longitudinal Study of Linguistic Variation and Identity*. Life history recordings in her hometown of Lindsborg, Kansas, as well as in Minneapolis, Minnesota, provided the main sociolinguistic data for her study of long-term language contact between Swedish and English. Her household is bilingual too, now that she's married to a Swede, Erik Falk, and has two children, both born in Uppsala: Esbjörn Harald, age 2.5, and Viveka Elsa, 6 months. Her email address is still karstadt@telia.com.

Jim Jones (M.A. 1987) has been running a clerical computer school for disabled adults in Seattle for over 12 years. He also teaches medical clerical courses at Bryman College. Jim writes for the *Pacific Reader Magazine* and *Tablet*. He plays keyboards in the punk rock band Cross Dress for Less, and has recently finished a novel, *Free Patty Hearst*, and is looking for a publisher.

Sarah Robertson Morrison (Ph.D. 1984) and **Ron Morrison** (Ph.D. 1988) continue to serve as professors of English at Morehead State University in the foothills of Appalachia. Sarah has been busy with the daunting task of developing an online Milton course to be offered in the fall of 2004. This last year, Ron is delighted to have won an Outstanding Teaching Award from the South Atlantic Association of Departments of English and the Distinguished Researcher Award from Morehead State. Old age and illness have reduced the equine population to one donkey and one mule. Thirteen-year-old Leavitt keeps both of his parents busy with his academic and athletic activities.

Randall Popken (Ph.D. 1984) is still at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas. As part of a longer research project, he has published two articles recently on former KU English faculty member Edwin M. Hopkins (1862-1946). Randy asks that any former faculty or students who might have known Dr. Hopkins contact him at popken@tarleton.edu or 254-968-9037.

Having taught at Shawnee Mission West High School for over 30 years, **Jerry Wilson** (Ph.D. 1981) will be retiring this June. Jerry and Dianne plan to travel, perhaps even to visit old colleagues from KU days! They'll also be splitting time between homes in Kansas City and Taos, New Mexico.

1990s

Kaye Adkins (Ph.D. 1998) has been promoted to Associate Professor at Missouri Western State College. Her article "Serpents and Sheep: The Harriman Expedition, Alaska, and the Metaphoric Reconstruction of American Wilderness" appeared in the Fall 2003 issue of *Technical Communication Quarterly*, and her article "'Foundation-Stones': Natural History for Children in *St. Nicholas Magazine*," is in the recently published collection *Wild Things: Children's Literature, Ecocriticism, and Ecological Literacy*, edited by Sidney Dobrin and Kenneth Kidd. At Western, Dr. Adkins teaches a variety of courses in composition and technical communication.

Virginia (Ginger) Brackett (Ph.D. 1998) resides in Chicago and serves as Chair of the English Department at Triton College located just west of the City in River Grove, Illinois. She also acts as Coordinator of the Scholars Program, directing an academic enrichment program for a group of 60 select students, into which she recently introduced a service learning initiative and negotiated student internships with the Frank Lloyd Wright and Ernest Hemingway Foundations. Ginger co-coordinates the annual international poetry and graphics competition as part of Triton's Salute to the Arts, co-editing the institution's art journal, *Ariel*. She will complete a two-year research project, *Study Guide for 18th- & 19th-century British Novels* (Facts on File) this summer and will begin a new project with the same publisher focusing on non-English novels. Her eighth and ninth books, *Restless Genius: the Story of Virginia Woolf* and *A Home in the Heart: The Story of Sandra Cisneros*, will be published in August by Morgan Reynolds Press and an article on Cisneros's *House on Mango Street* is part of Greenwood Press's *A Companion to Catholic Literature* (2004). She will also work with the Ernest Hemingway

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Foundation to create a film version of Hemingway's "A Soldier's Home." She lives with her husband, Edmund, who serves as Director of Grants and Institutional Planning at Triton College.

Mark Browning (Ph.D. 1996), has just completed a year-long sabbatical during which he studied the curricula available to and used by home school educators. He has recently had an article, "The Hermits of Distance Education: Toward a Broader Commitment to Online Learners," accepted for a special issue of *Christian Scholar's Review*. With the sabbatical completed, he will be attempting to re-acclimate himself to teaching at Johnson County Community College.

Theresa Duran (Ph.D. 1999) was hired as an editor at Pomegranate Communications a few months after receiving her degree. Pomegranate, a publishing house located in Sonoma County, CA, produces books, calendars, and gift items in association with museums, art galleries, and foundations. In January 2004, Theresa reduced her hours at Pomegranate in order to pursue her interest in book indexing. This spring she completed an indexing course through UC-Berkeley and attended the national conference of the American Society of Indexers in Alexandria, VA. By the end of this year, she hopes to have enough work as a freelance indexer to justify quitting her "day job." She and her husband, Paul Miller (also a KU alum), live in the small, scenic town of Fairfax in Marin County, CA, enjoying the many local hiking trails.

Patrick Enright (Ph.D. 1994) received tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2002 from Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK. He presented a paper, "Cordelia, Astraea, and Justice's Death in *King Lear*: Unheeded Admonition?" at the Central Renaissance Conference last fall; in spring his entry on Cyril Tourneur appeared in *The Age of Milton*, published by Greenwood Press; also in spring he was named co-director of the M.A. in English Program at NSU. He just recently enjoyed a 1500-mile trip on his motorcycle to Illinois and back through the Ozarks.

Jeff Loeb (Ph.D. 1995), has been appointed as the first Chair of Faculty at The Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City, Missouri, beginning in the 2004-05 school year. His new duties include faculty professional development and teacher evaluation for all disciplines, and he will also continue as Chair of English, a post he has held for five years. Loeb also saw the publication of his article "The 'New' African American Literature of the Viet Nam War," in the book

Arms and the Self (2004). This brings to over forty the number of critical and personal pieces Loeb has published in books and professional journals since receiving his Ph.D. nine years ago.

Andrew Lamers (M.A. 1991) is an Associate Professor of English at Bakersfield College, where he has taught since 1996. He has completed review work for D.L. Johanyak's *Shakespeare's World*, Kitty Chen Dean's *Essentials of the Essay*, and Marjorie Ford's *Dreams and Inward Journeys* (5th edition). Beyond academic interests, he enjoys day-hiking in the mountains with his son, Nathaniel. He looks forward to hearing from friends and colleagues at alamers@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Jennifer Lawler's (Ph.D. 1996) 22nd book, *Dojo Wisdom for Writers* (Penguin Compass) will be published in August 2004. The next book in her *Dojo Wisdom* series, *Dojo Wisdom for Mothers*, will be published Mother's Day 2005. *Dojo Wisdom*, the first book in the series, won a 2004 book award from the American Society of Journalists and Authors. *The Self Defense Deck*, a gift product she authored (Chronicle Books) will be published in the spring of 2005. This fall, she'll embark on her 40+ city tour to promote *Dojo Wisdom for Writers*. She continues to teach martial arts and self defense workshops across the country, and also coaches writers one-on-one. She's a co-instructor of an e-course for writers. She serves as co-chair of the Book Division of the National Writers Union. She homeschools her daughter Jessica with a little help from their two rambunctious dogs.

Denise Low (Ph.D. 1997) is chair of the English Department at Haskell Indian Nations University. In spring 2005 she will be a distinguished visiting professor at Richmond University in the creative writing program. She is co-editing a special issue of *American Indian Research and Culture Journal* on Leslie Marmon Silko's novel *Ceremony*. Recent article publications are in *Studies in American Indian Literature* and *A Confluence of Cultures: Lewis & Clark, Conference Proceedings* (University of Montana Press). A personal essay on Geronimo's boots and collectibles is in *Arts & Letters*. Her book of poems, *Thailand Journal*, was a notable book of 2003, *Kansas City Star*.

Laura Moriarty (M.A. 1999) was on a book tour for her first novel, *The Center of Everything*, when she learned she was pregnant. She was living in Maine at the time, but as soon as she returned, she began a tireless campaign to convince her boyfriend to move with her to Lawrence, the greatest town in the world. He agreed to give the Midwest a try; their daughter,

Vivian Silver, was born at Lawrence Memorial in March of 2004. Laura is working on her second novel, loving Lawrence, and changing a whole lot of diapers.

Amber Reagan-Kendrick (M.A. 1992) graduated in 2004 with a Ph.D. in American Studies at KU. Her dissertation, "Ninety Years of Struggle and Success: African Americans and the University of Kansas, 1870-1970" is an oral history. She continues as associate director for the School of Medicine's Health Careers Pathways Program and teaches adjunct at Donnelly College.

Jeff Warner (B.A. 1984, M.A. 1992) continues to work at the *Union-Bulletin* newspaper in Walla Walla, Washington where he has worked as a copy-editor and writer since Oct. 1999. Besides the more mundane (but interesting and fast-paced) work as a copy-editor and paginator, Jeff also writes a weekly film review, "Video Discoveries," highlighting off-beat, lesser-known but quality films out on video and DVD. For a year now he has also written several feature columns for the paper's Food and Family section front page, to which he tries to impart a more literary and poetic style than most journalism (putting to use that Creative Writing minor...). Jeff is married, to Melissa, going on two years now and their first child, Graham, will turn one August 27. In his spare time he continues to toy with fiction, poetry and painting, and has begun rock climbing with several climbers in the area. He still, of course, longs to write that Great American Novel. . . .

David M. Whalen (Ph.D. 1994) presented "Equality, Festivity and the 'Wrackful Siege of Battering Days,'" an invitational lecture in honor of Weaver/Ingersoll Award-winner Paul Johnson at the October 2003 Ingersoll symposium. He chaired a session on "English Renaissance Poetry and Language" at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference as well as presented lectures on Russell Kirk to the Summer Honors Fellows of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. He particularly enjoyed, however, delivering an unlikely lecture titled "The Ironist, the Pragmatist, and the Rubber Chicken" at Hillsdale. In January he became Associate Provost at Hillsdale College. His wife, Janet, is expecting their tenth child this August.

2000s

Although he wrote his dissertation on the comedies of Ben Jonson, **Steve Evans** (Ph.D. 2000) has added a couple of new and rewarding courses to his teaching repertoire: technical writing and "American Indian Literary Modernism." His second article on Spokane/

Coeur d'Alene author Sherman Alexie will appear this year in a collection of critical essays from the University of Utah Press.

Tracy Floreani (Ph.D. 2000), assistant professor of English at Baker University, won Baker's 2004 Kopke Teaching Award, which includes a \$5000 prize.

Bill Pitsenberger (B.A. 1969. M.A. 2001) served as General Counsel for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas in Topeka from 1978 to 2004. He was recently promoted to Senior Vice-

President. Over the course of several years, and with substantial indulgence from the faculty, he earned an MA in English at KU in 2001.

Thomas Veale (M.A. 2002) recently finished his first year of teaching at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He has taught both composition and literature classes, and was recently selected to serve as the course executive officer for first-year composition next fall. On April 1, 2004, he was promoted to the rank of major. He is on a leave of absence from the University of Kansas, and plans on returning

to Lawrence in May, 2005 to take his Ph.D. comprehensive examination. He would love to receive e-mail from any of his Kansas colleagues at ct1810@usma.edu.

Jill Zasadny (M.A. 2001) formerly Jill Blanche, has passed her Comprehensive Exam and Field Exam and is currently engaged in writing her dissertation. She is tentatively scheduled to defend in early fall, 2004. Jill is currently teaching at St. Benedict's and St. John's, in Minnesota.

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To discuss possible session or paper topics, contact the conference co-organizers:

William W. Demastes, ATDS President, wdemast@lsu.edu

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