On April 21, 2005, the Kansas Board of Regents approved KU’s proposal to add the terminal creative writing degree, the MFA (Master of Fine Arts), to its English department: and there was much rejoicing. This victory was prepared for and made possible by Tom Lorenz, Michael Johnson and other creative writing faculty members. When asked what praises he would like to share about the new MFA program, Richard Hardin promptly replied, “Praise for the quality of our faculty who are teaching in it. We need to keep that going and to avoid letting envy or special interests intervene. Praise for Tom Lorenz, the point guy in the whole operation. Let’s bring in a wide variety of the best student writers.” And with eleven committed, accomplished and award-winning creative writing faculty members on staff, KU’s program can offer MFAs in Fiction, Poetry, Non-Fiction, and Playwriting, attracting students from around the region with little competition.

No Big Twelve university in the region (including Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Nebraska) offers an MFA in creative writing. KU’s will be the first. And it is none too soon. According to the proposal “KU has long needed to offer an MFA in creative writing, the standard graduate degree in the subject and one much desired by applicants accepted into the present track-III (creative writing) MA program and those who go elsewhere because of the inadequacy of that program.”

While Wichita State University offers an MFA and may therefore be seen as a competitor for recruiting student writers, it has a creative writing faculty of six to KU’s eleven, is not a Big Twelve school, cannot offer hands-on experience with an internship on a nationally-regarded literary review (Cottonwood Magazine) or with an award-winning theatre company (English Alternative Theatre), and does not allow a cross-genre thesis. True, Wichita State does offer graduate students the opportunity to work on Mikrokosmos, but that is a campus, not a national, publication.

This comparison also shows how unique KU’s optional genre-combination thesis is. Wichita State University, like the University of Missouri, Colorado, and Nebraska, does not allow cross-genre manuscripts. But KU does, knowing that in order to be competitive in the writing, editing or academic market, students will need to be able to write in multiple genres and for multiple situations. Though KU does not go as far as the University of Texas at Austin, which requires students to declare a major and minor genre, it does offer and encourage students to consider the opportunity to study and write in more than one genre.

The previous MA with creative option degree was a two-year, thirty-hour commitment, requiring four graduate literature courses, three graduate creative writing courses, one elective and six thesis hours. This degree allowed for a creative thesis but did (and does) not count as a terminal creative writing degree. The MFA does.

MFA programs commonly require a three-year, forty-eight hour time commitment. KU’s will be similar. While some programs, like the University of Iowa’s, focus entirely around studio work, i.e., creative writing workshops and independent study courses, KU’s program will combine both studio and research, as do the programs at the University of Texas at Austin, Cornell, and/or Syracuse University (AWP Official Guide to Writing Programs). As Michael Johnson points out, “writerly reading of others’ work is crucial to [one’s] success in creative writing.” To remove the research component from the creative writer’s program of study is to remove a critical source of nourishment for his/her own writing.

Therefore, in accordance with this philosophy, KU’s total program requirement will be 48 hours: 15 thesis, 12 literature, 12 workshop and 6-9 elective. The program will involve an internship with Cottonwood or EAT (1 credit hr) and, for GTAs, English 803 (1 credit hr): a practicum on how to teach creative writing to undergraduate students. Each MFA TA will also teach creative writing within his/her primary genre during the second year of the new program.

One major change between the old and the new degree is that the MFA requires 15 thesis hours and the track-III MA required only 6.

Allison Rose Lopez, graduate fiction writer at KU, explains what that means for creative writers and what message it sends to prospective students about the program: “The fact that 15
Message from the Chair

You’ve all felt the excitement and anticipation that come as a new academic year begins—new classes, new students, new teachers, new worlds full of possibility ready to open up. I look over the range of English Department course titles listed in the timetable for the fall semester—from Professor Michael Cherniss’s Old English class to GTA Beth Lagaron’s “Women Writers of the Beat Generation”—and think about how much the Department really offers to the students here at KU. That list of titles, including old standards—eight sections of Shakespeare and twelve undergraduate literature survey courses—and innovative new subjects like Professor Giselle Anatol’s “Black Nobel Laureates” and Professor Deb Olin Unferth’s “Very Short Stories,” reflect the mixed nature of today’s English Department. One of the Department’s major accomplishments over the past year, in fact, has been to hammer out a flexible new long-range faculty hiring plan that attempts to maintain our strengths in traditional fields while building our reputation in exciting new fields as diverse as post-colonial theory, hypertext, and ecocriticism—while working under constant pressures that are dramatically reducing the size of our faculty.

Another of the key ways that the Department manages to keep the intellectual community alive and in tune with exciting new scholarship is by sponsoring guest speakers in a variety of fields from around the nation. This year, for instance, we hosted an impressive list of visitors, including noted theorist Fredric Jameson (Gunn lecturer), regional novelist Kent Haruf (Eberhardt lecturer), veteran American feminist scholar Judith Fetterley, literary sleuth Jean Yellin Fagan, innovative creative writer/editors Ron Silliman and Diane Williams, translator and theorist Caryl Emerson, award-winning poet C.K. Williams, Americanist Deb Clarke (who spoke on women and cars), and distinguished American Indian poet Simon Ortiz. Thanks go to Professor Marjorie Swann, who organized many of these events as Chair of the Lecturers & Readers Committee. In addition, English Alternative Theatre (EAT) staged a reading of former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove’s play *The Darker Face of the Earth* to coincide with Dove’s visit here as a Hall Center Humanities Lecturer. Each of these visitors, plus several others who visited classes and spoke to groups of students, and activities like EAT’s productions and the very successful national New Literacies Conference, headed by Professor Iris Smith Fischer, were funded by the generous donations of alumni and friends of the Department. Though Kansas may seem like an isolated place in the middle of the country, such support has enabled us to make KU a hub of intellectual energy and activity.

As a Department, we are also proud of the many awards garnered by faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. In addition to the honors featured on page 5, I also want to mention that Emeritus Professor Max Sutton and graduate student Kevin Rabas both won distinguished poetry writing awards from the Lawrence Arts Center and grad student Greg Brister was the recipient of an all-university Outstanding GTA Award. Seventy-five graduate and undergraduate students received Departmental Awards at our annual Awards Celebration. Their names are featured on our website (http://www.ku.edu/~english/awards2005.htm), which I hope you will check out. These awards, too, are funded by the generosity of donors, both large and small, and are much appreciated by the students whose efforts they reward.

Inevitably, as long-time faculty members retire and those who have taken their turn at administrative positions return to teaching, new people volunteer to fill positions of leadership in the Department. I express gratitude to Professor Philip Barnard, who stepped down after several years as Graduate Coordinator, and welcome Professor Byron Caminero-Santangelo, who is now serving in this capacity. Professor Katie Conrad takes over as Job Placement Advisor, replacing Professor Caminero-Santangelo. Thanks also go to Professor Conrad for chairing the national search committee for a hire in 19th-century British literature, which led to the appointment of Harvard professor Ann Rowland, who will be joining the faculty in the fall of 2006. We also welcome Professor Terese Monberg, a specialist in rhetoric and composition theory, who will join us this fall. And congratulations go to Professor Giselle Anatol, who earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor this year, and to Dr. Sonya Lancaster, who was promoted from Assistant to Associate Director of Freshman-Sophomore English.

Finally, as I end my first full year as Chair of the Department, I offer sincere thanks to all those who help to keep this Department healthy and vital—the full-time and part-time faculty, the students, the staff, the alumni, and the many friends who contribute in so many ways. This year we taught over 7,600 students each semester, in more than 300 different classes, serving the entire University and providing outreach activities to people across Kansas and throughout the nation. Our faculty and students have been actively involved in scholarship and publication that extend the boundaries of the discipline and engage with the brightest thinkers in today’s world. Thank you for being part of that mission.

—Dorice W. Elliott

MFA (continued from page 1)

hours will be devoted to the thesis is an essential endorsement of the actual purpose of this program—to help the students grow as writers. Many writing programs tack on more electives which detract from time spent pursuing writing goals. The commitment through the thesis hours to creative work is a strength of KU’s [MFA] program."

Even before the institution of the MFA at KU, students and faculty alike have felt a devotion to writing. During the academic year, graduate creative writing students gather their work together and congregate on Monday nights at six in Aimée’s Coffee House to read their work for the “Writers’ Readings” series. Student voices mingle with the hiss of cappuccino steam and the tinkle of bells at the front door as they present their poems, stories, novel excerpts or plays for fellow writing students, peers and professors, friends, local writing-lovers and the occasional passerby who just wanted some coffee. Jenny Noyce, current coordinator of the series and graduate student in fiction, believes these readings are vitally important for students because many of them want to be professional writers: “we should begin as soon
as possible to get our work out into the wide world. And even for those students who don’t necessarily have that goal, it is important to give a voice to the words that have been written down on pages for so many years. Also, the readings really help to instill a sense of community among writers.”

This community is built carefully, one reading at a time. The audience can vary from 10-20 members to standing-room only, and each reader may develop his or her own audience from reading to reading. As a part of the creative writing program, each graduate-level creative writing student is asked to do one reading a year, but one a semester is encouraged.

In addition to student readings, the entire creative writing community is strengthened by readings from professional writers as well. Rebecca Curtis emphasized this point, saying, “We very strongly hope to obtain better funding, also, so that we can begin an MFA reading series which will regularly bring in exciting new contemporary writers who will read their own work, as well as speak at length to the students about craft. We aim to make the program one of the best in the country.” Learning from and establishing relationships with successful writers is a vital element to the success of every writing student, both those who want to be writers and those who want to do some writing. In these and similar ways, the program is intended to fit any student writer.

The program’s initial goal is to accept six to eight full-time MFA students each year, with an eventual total of twenty-four full-time students, graduating six to eight students each year who will be qualified through their training to begin or advance their careers in teaching, writing, editing, and a variety of other occupations that require strong writing and critical-thinking skills.

Rebecca Curtis finds that “teaching at KU is especially enjoyable because the students, both graduate and undergraduate, work hard and are extremely motivated. Many students, I think, are very excited about the new MFA program—which Tom Lorenz, Mike Johnson and many others have worked so hard to put into place—because of the greater opportunities it may afford them: a terminal degree; a greater variety of classes to choose from, including craft classes designed especially for writing students; a greater variety of classes they can teach while pursuing their degree.” And she is right: KU students are extremely motivated and excited. In a brief and informal survey of the department faculty and students about the new MFA program, key questions were raised by students, both within and without the creative writing program: “When does it begin?” “Can current grad students apply without starting over?”

Yes, all twelve current track-III MA students have been offered the opportunity to smoothly transfer into the MFA this Fall (’05). While designing the new program, great care was taken to provide just this type of easy transfer for KU’s existing creative writing students: emphasis is placed on more thesis hours and not on additional coursework. For current students, switching to the MFA program may mean adding on another year of study, but it will give students a terminal degree which they can take out into the professional writing, editing, and teaching world. If they so choose, these twelve writers will be the first group to enter and graduate this program, and in this way the MFA will replace the track-III MA as the creative writing master’s degree at KU.

Some overall effects this new degree may have on the English department as a whole are obvious, while others may not be so immediately apparent. As Richard Hardin aptly pointed out, this new program will draw in more talented writers and further strengthen the pool of qualified GTAs at KU: “Both regionally and nationally it will draw good students into our midst—and therefore good GTAs.” Perhaps less apparent than this is the eventual effect that having more GTAs teaching undergraduate creative writing classes will have on the creative writing faculty each year. A typical [undergraduate] schedule would include eight or nine classes in fiction writing, four or five in poetry writing, two in screenwriting, one or two in playwriting, and one in creative non-fiction. With the addition of possibly six to eight new GTAs teaching these courses each year, it will free up senior creative writing faculty to teach more graduate-level creative writing courses, which will be much needed given the projected increase in the number of creative writing graduate students.

Perhaps, though, the most subtle change will be the most rewarding. The influx of creative-writing-student integration within the literature classroom—each MFA student is required to enroll in four literature courses—is bound to affect group dynamics for both students and teachers. William J. Harris, poet and resident jazz literature scholar, believes this can only benefit the student, his/her peers, and the work at hand: “In the literature classroom creative writers often bring the class back to the text. They are usually good close readers and are sensitive to issues of style and form. Since they are practicing writers, they have a good sense of how the author might have created the work under consideration. In short, they help us enter the world of the writer.” In short, the addition of the MFA is not only a victory for the creative writing faculty and students, it is a victory for the entire English Department.

—Emily Bobo

Emily Bobo is a Creative Writing Ph.D. student in the KU English Department. She holds an MFA degree from Wichita State University.
Gunn Bequest Funds

English Memorial Lecture, Science Fiction Study

Under terms of the late Dr. Richard W. Gunn’s will, an endowed lecture by a prominent scholar in the field of English will be delivered annually at the University of Kansas. Additionally, Dr. Gunn donated further funding to the previously-established J. Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction at KU, which is overseen by Professor Emeritus James Gunn, Richard’s brother. Gifts to the KU Medical Center were also specified.

Richard Gunn graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in liberal arts in 1941. He had always wanted to become a medical doctor and, in his senior year, he was able to advance that dream by simultaneously completing his final undergraduate courses while taking first-year courses at KU Med, which was then housed on the Lawrence campus. In 1944, just before his 23rd birthday, he earned his M.D. from KU Med, making him one of the youngest — if not the youngest — student ever to graduate from that institution, partly because of accelerated programs dictated by World War II.

He served as a medical officer in the U.S. Army during and after the war, then continued part-time military service with the Missouri National Guard in Kansas City from 1948 through 1981. In 1950, he established a neighborhood medical practice in Kansas City, later forming a partnership with fellow KU Med graduate, Don Carlos Peete, devoted to internal medicine. After Peete’s death and despite a heart attack in 1989, he continued to practice out of his home, assisted by the namesakes of the Science Fiction Center, Richard and James’s parents, Wayne and Elsie, who lived with him and worked in his practice until they passed away in 1990 and 1994 respectively. Richard Gunn died in November 2002.

Because of the demands of his medical career, Richard Gunn was unable to devote much time to his love of literature and the arts beyond patronizing local literary, dramatic, and opera causes. Jim Gunn, though, recalls that his brother loved Shakespeare and was fascinated by the controversies surrounding the authorship of his works. As a boy and young man in the 1930s, he also shared Jim’s interest in the developing genre of science fiction. “We both began reading the same pulp magazines back in 1932, but Richard’s time got diverted into studies,” Jim Gunn has wryly observed. Richard read early versions of James’s 1962 novel, The Immortals. “The Immortals is dedicated to Richard. I’d consult with him periodically while I was writing it, and he’d read my speculations about future medicine and say ‘this could never happen.’ Now a lot of it has come to pass.”

The first Richard W. Gunn Memorial Lecture took place on 24 January 2005. It was delivered by Fredric Jameson, William A. Lane, Jr. Professor of Comparative Literature, Professor of Romance Studies (French), and Chair of The Literature Program at Duke University. One of the most prominent and eclectic literary scholars of our day, Jameson read and elaborated on a chapter from his forthcoming work on Utopian literature. The lecture drew hundreds of listeners to the new Dole Institute of Politics, where many members of the much-larger-than-anticipated crowd watched the lecture on closed circuit television in the main hall of the building. Shakespeare scholar Marjorie Garber, professor of English and American literature and director of the Humanities Center in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, will deliver the second Gunn lecture in March 2006.

The J. Wayne and Elsie M. Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction was founded in 1982. Richard Gunn made a substantial donation to the Center in 1991. Each summer, the Center conducts a workshop for science fiction writers, offers a science fiction institute for teachers and some local students, and hosts the John W. Campbell Conference at which two of the major awards in science fiction authorship are presented (the Campbell Memorial Award for best science fiction novel of the year and the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for the best short story of the year). The workshop, institute, and conference have gained national and international recognition and acclaim. Richard Gunn’s endowed gift to the Center will initially be used to strengthen ongoing programming. On a larger scale, however, it will help guarantee that the pioneering work of Jim Gunn and his associates at KU will continue into a future where the science fiction speculations of today can be compared to the historical realities of tomorrow.

—Robert F. Elliott

Portions of this article were taken from a 12 July 2004 KU Endowment press release written by KU English graduate student, Jen Humphrey.

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.
Banner Year for Faculty Awards

Faculty members in the University of Kansas English Department earned an extraordinary number of honors and awards for teaching, advising, and service in 2004-2005.

In January, 2005, Professor Paul Stephen Lim was selected as the newest Chancellors Club Teaching Professor at the University of Kansas. Selection for this professorship is based on “excellence in teaching over a period of time as demonstrated by a strong reputation among students and faculty colleagues and by an established record of distinguished teaching.” There are only seven Chancellors Club Professors on the Lawrence campus at any given time. The title and an accompanying award of $5000 per year are held and received until retirement. The only other member of the Department of English to be so honored in the past is Beth Schultz.

In May, professor Maryemma Graham was informed that she was one of two recipients of this year’s prestigious Steeples Service to Kansans Award. This is an annual award that recognizes two KU faculty members for “significant service to the people of Kansas as a purposeful extension to their teaching and research.” Professor Graham’s leadership in gaining NEH and other funding for the hugely successful 2002 Langston Hughes Symposium at KU and her supervision of numerous community and statewide outgrowths of that program were key to her selection for this honor. The award includes a $1000 cash prize and a $1000 base adjustment to salary. The selection committee considers the longevity (more than one year of service) as well as the breadth of service (more than a single service project) in their deliberations.

On April 27, 2004, Professor Iris Smith Fischer received the 2005 John C. Wright Graduate Mentor Award at the Graduate School Awards Ceremony in the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union. This award is especially prized because winners are chosen from nominations submitted by graduate students from throughout the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The award includes a cash prize of $500.

The accolades for Professor Emeritus Haskell Springer’s teaching have followed him into retirement. In May 2005, Springer was informed that he had won the 2005 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Career Achievement Award. This annual award recognizes a retired faculty member in the College “who has made a significant contribution to the teaching of College students at either the undergraduate or graduate level and who has distinguished her or himself through excellence in teaching.” Retired faculty members who held a full-time tenured appointment at the University of Kansas for over twenty years are eligible for the award, which includes a $1000 cash prize. Professor Springer will receive the award and address new College faculty at a reception in Fall 2005.

On the first day of Fall 2004 classes, Doug Atkins’s English 555: Non-fiction Writing course was interrupted by the Chancellor, other dignitaries, and the press who presented him with a Kemper Fellowship. Twenty Kemper Fellowships worth $5000 are awarded each fall at KU-Lawrence, the Edwards Campus, and the Med Center to “support, improve, and reward outstanding teaching, advising, and service.”

During the spring semester of 2005, Professor Joseph Harrington served as the Walt Whitman Chair in American Literature in the American Studies Department at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. His appointment was awarded by the Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program. At Groningen, he taught a course entitled “Globalization, Literature, and Culture” and conferred with Dutch colleagues and students about texts and issues related to the issue of globalization generally.
New Faculty

New Assistant Professor of Fiction Writing, Deb Olin Unferth, has deep roots in Chicago. However, Latin America and Spain were also prominent influences during her formative years. She frequently visited her grandmother in Mexico while growing up and took trips into Central America. She also spent parts of her high school years in Spain and sheepishly recalls once sleeping through a bullfight held in her honor.

On the day of her high school graduation, her family moved to Phoenix and she decided to do her undergraduate work at the University of Colorado where she majored in Philosophy. Her taste in philosophers ran to what she calls the “more creative and playful” sages – the Ancients, Wittgenstein, Kierkegaard. While she toyed with the idea of pursuing a Ph.D. in Philosophy, she was not attracted by analytics. Instead, she began to write fiction, frequently in the form of “short shorts” (very brief short stories), though at the time she was unaware that this was a developing genre of fiction writing.

In 1995, curious whether fiction writing might be a career option, she began an M.F.A. program at Syracuse University and, as she puts it, “grew up.” She learned about literature, discussed issues of poetics and narrative, began to teach (discovering, as she did so, that she loved teaching) and “learned how to imagine myself as a writer.” She began to publish, won numerous awards, and, most importantly, with six months left in her M.F.A. program, “found my voice.”

Returning to her roots in Chicago, she taught adjunct classes at several universities, including the University of Chicago, Depaul University, and the Art Institute of Chicago, sandwiched between writing and traveling frequently once more in Mexico and Central America. Surprisingly, she found that teaching did not sap, but rather stimulated her writing energy. Her nineteenth published story, “Mr. Simmons Takes a Prisoner,” was published by Harper’s Magazine in August 2003, then optioned in 2004 to Robert DeNiro’s Tribeca Productions as the possible basis for a film. She has since won a Pushcart Prize and was mentioned in The Best American Short Stories, 2004.

Her experience as an Assistant Professor in English at the University of Kansas has been exhilarating. She loves her job and her students, and has been afforded the space and time she needs to pursue her writing as well. Her students have responded enthusiastically to her Fiction Workshops, as well as to her unique courses in Innovative Writing and Strange Texts. She is now writing fewer “short shorts” and has begun work on a novel set in Mexico and Central America, supported partially by a grant from the Hall Center for the Humanities that allowed her to travel to several U.S. and Mexican border towns and the Sonora Desert in the summer of 2005.

She is particularly excited about KU English’s new M.F.A. program (see feature story) set to begin in 2006. As this program develops, she would like to spearhead a Reading Series featuring energetic young writers moving to the forefront of American writing in the 21st century.

New Full-time Lecturers

After years of lobbying to upgrade at least some of the adjunct lectureships in the Department, English was delighted this spring to appoint four full-time lecturers who will begin teaching in these positions in Fall 2005. Long-time adjunct faculty members Tina Blue, Betty Campbell, Steve Evans, and Mary Klayder were selected from a pool of applicants with at least five years of teaching experience in the Department. Full-time lecturers in English will focus almost exclusively on teaching, instructing four courses each semester for an initial three-year contract period. Though appointments are not automatically renewed, successful full-time lecturers will be offered a second three-year contract, with the possibility of subsequent five-year contract renewals. Full-time lecturers will receive salaries that represent a significant fiscal improvement over standard per-class stipends. They will also receive full University benefits. Current plans call for up to eight more full-time English lecturers to be appointed over the next three years.

For years, successive chairs of the English Department have pled with College and University administrators to take steps that would diminish the exploitation of part-time faculty at KU (a problem that has been mirrored across the country). These full-time lectureships represent a significant effort by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Provost to address past and ongoing inequities.

Tina Blue holds an M.A. in English from KU and has taught freshman-sophomore English courses in the Department since 1972. She has also tutored in the humanities and written extensively about pedagogy, grammar and usage, essay writing, and literary interpretation. Betty Campbell, an Australian native, earned a Ph.D. from KU English in 1991, winning the Dorothy Haglund prize for Outstanding Dissertation that year. She has taught in the Department and at other regional institutions since 1983, offering primarily introductory courses in composition, drama, fiction, and creative writing, twice winning an Outstanding Instructor Award. She has also published poetry and short stories as well as critical articles in her areas of specialty – women’s writing in postcolonial cultures, Australian literature, and the novel. Steve Evans completed a Ph.D. in the English Department in 2000. His dissertation addressed aspects of three plays by Ben Jonson. He remains interested in Renaissance literature, but has also published articles in the fields of American Indian and gay literatures. Since
1990, he has taught a wide variety of introductory and upper-division courses, including numerous sections in technical writing and advanced composition, Shakespeare, Native American literature, and virtually all the freshman-sophomore English courses, including special topics and honors courses. Mary Klayder holds an M.A. in English from KU and has taught in several capacities within the Department since 1985. She served as Acting Assistant Director of Freshman-Sophomore English in 1991-1992 and then spent eight years as Assistant and then Associate Director of KU’s Honors Program, while continuing to teach English Honors courses. She was the first recipient of the KU Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant award in 1990 and has since won numerous additional teaching awards, including five highly-competitive university-wide Mortar Board Outstanding Educator Awards. She has also won the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences J. Michael Young Advising Award, indicative of her near-legendary reputation within the Department as an advisor and mentor.

Faculty News

This spring, Giselle Anatol was delighted to learn that she had been promoted from assistant to associate professor with tenure. In addition, her article “‘Coming Home to Our Place in Nature’: Derek Walcott’s Visions of Home in Omeros”—an ecofeminist look at the Nobel Laureate’s epic poem—was accepted for publication by the Journal of Caribbean Studies. Entries on Caribbean writers Nalo Hopkinson, Audre Lorde, Paule Marshall, and Patricia Powell were accepted for publication by the Nobel Laureate’s epic poem—was accepted for publication by the MELUS (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the U.S.) in the summer of 2004, and “‘The Pleas of the Desperate’: Collective Agency versus Magical Realism in Ana Castillo’s So Far From God” is due out in Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature this June. She also presented papers on U.S. Latina writers at two conferences: the annual MELUS conference in Chicago in April 2005 and the 10th International Women Writers of Color Conference in Baltimore in November 2004. An entry on Cuban-American writer Cristina García written by Marta has been published by The Literary Encyclopedia (online); García graciously agreed to be interviewed for the entry. Finally, Marta was awarded a sabbatical in spring 2005 to work on completing her manuscript, titled “Collective Identities: U.S. Latino/a Literature and the Construction of Ethnicity.” Those Latino/a writers have been keeping her busy!

Jim Carothers’ book, Reading Faulkner’s ‘Collected Stories,’ will be published by the University Press of Mississippi early in 2006. In this project, which involves introductions and line-by-line annotations for 42 Faulkner short stories, he collaborated with Prof. Theresa M. Towner of the University of Texas at Dallas (K.U. B.A. ’80), and had lots of help from research assistant Kima Jean Dirks (Ph. D. ’00). He divided his teaching time between the Honors Program (HNRS 190, ENGL 105 and 205) and the Edwards Campus (Shakespeare and the Modern American Novel). This fall he begins his third term as Presiding Officer of the University Council (Faculty Senate President).}

Katie Conrad had her busiest summer yet in 2004. In the spring and early summer, she organized “Joyce’s Ireland,” a week-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of Bloomsday (the day on which Ulysses is set) which featured music, storytelling, film, lectures, a conference, and culminated in a 29-hour marathon reading of Ulysses. The conference brought hundreds of people from KU and the community together. The marathon reading alone had over 140 attendees and 64 individual readers. (See selected photos at http://people.ku.edu/~kconrad/jibloomsday04.html).
After emerging from a two-day post-Bloomsday coma, Katie began preparations for more than a month abroad, including a conference in Liverpool and several weeks in Northern Ireland researching and doing the groundwork for a KU study abroad program in Northern Ireland (due to launch in the summer of 2006). Summer also saw the publication of her book, Locked in the Family Cell: Gender, Sexuality, and Political Agency in Irish National Discourse. After an equally busy fall, Katie had a bit of a break with a Keeler Intra-University Fellowship, which allowed her to take classes in political science in preparation for her next interdisciplinary book project.

Rebecca Curtis’s teaching work was split evenly between creative writing and literature this year. She taught an upper-level literature course last fall, “Edgy Women Writers,” which had an international focus, including writers from Brazil, Antigua, France, Japan, and Haiti, as well as from America. In addition, she taught an undergraduate fiction workshop. This spring, she taught the graduate fiction seminar, and an honors course for freshmen called “The Contemporary Short Story,” in which students studied the various forms short stories can take. Throughout the year she published fiction; her story “The Alpine Slide,” was published in the 18 October 2004 edition of The New Yorker and her story “Summer, With Twins” appeared in the June 2005 issue of Harper’s Magazine. Her story “Solicitations,” was anthologized in “The Best of McSweeney’s” (UK edition) in the fall of 2004, and “The Alpine Slide” was awarded an honorable mention in the 2006 O’Henry Prize Awards anthology.

Brian Daldorph was a finalist for the KU campus-wide Del Shankel Teaching Award for the 2004-2005 academic year. He had four poems published in a new anthology of Anglo-Cornish poetry, The Dreamt Sea, that includes the poetry of Thomas Hardy and John Betjeman. He finished work on a new collection of poetry, From the Inside Out: Sonnets. Coal City Review #20, which he edits, was published in April 2005. He also recorded fast times in the Wichita (2004) and Olathe (2005) marathons!

Frank Farmer was invited to contribute to a symposium on a recently discovered text authored by the Russian language theorist, Mikhail Bakhtin. The article—Bakhtin’s only known pedagogical essay—concerns itself with the teaching of style to 7th and 10th grade students in English. Each semester for the past three years, self-selected pairs of female students have facilitated a writing group at a local shelter for women with substance-abuse problems. Along with two of the graduate student facilitators, Professor Farmer is editing a collection of the writings of student participants, including the writings of the women who reside at the shelter. Professor Farmer served as Interim Director of Freshman-Sophomore English during the fall semester of 2004.

Iris Smith Fischer chaired the New Literacies Conference Committee this year. The committee oversaw the first biannual international New Literacies Conference (formerly known as the Conference on Composition and Literature) from March 3-5 on the topic “Writing, Teaching, Performing America.” (see p. 10) Fischer is editing a selection of papers presented at the conference for The Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism. In Fall 2004, Fischer continued to expand her course offerings in performance studies with a graduate seminar, “Performance Theory.” In spring 2005 she was delighted to receive the College’s John C. Wright Graduate Mentor Award.

Maryemma Graham discovered that the poetry revival program at KU has been a real plus for English 316, a survey course in major American writers usually approached with as much dread as optimism. She was especially pleased that, by the end of the semester, students who originally felt forced to attend literary events couldn’t wait to get to the next one. Two graduate classes, American Autobiography and The Slave Narrative Tradition, also went extraordinarily well.

The Project on the History of Black Writing turned twenty years old in 2004 and celebrated with an exciting lecture by Jean Fagan Yellin, author of the award-winning biography, Harriet Jacobs: A Life. The Project also received NEH funding to undertake a series of in-service and summer workshops exploring Toni Morrison’s work, including her children’s books, and all the issues involved in teaching her. The Langston Hughes National Poetry Project continued its second year of NEH funding with programs throughout the U.S. Because of the overwhelming response to these public poetry programs, the Project is investigating additional funding beyond NEH.

On the personal front, Graham’s colleagues and the University rewarded her the Steepleys Award for outstanding service to the people of Kansas. She notes that, “It was an honor I did not expect and for which I will be eternally grateful. I plan to mount the plaque on the wall of my sabbatical office this fall at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, NC. It’s a good day to be a Jayhawk.”

Dick Hardin was invited to give a talk for the KU Classics Department’s annual Awards Reception and spoke on “The Pseudolus Principle: An Appreciation of Plautus.” His account of the event? “At least half of the audience appeared to stay awake, and I received a free meal afterward.”

Susan Harris devoted major energies this year to university service, serving on some 11 committees that ranged from the department’s Advisory Committee to the University General Education Review Committee. As a relative newcomer to the KU community she values the institutional education the committee work gives her. With generous help from four units, including English, she also hosted the 19th-Century American Women Writers Study Group at KU in the fall (topic: “American Women Writers and John Brown”) and gave an outreach lecture on “Mark Twain and the Lecture Circuit” the morning of Hal Holbrook’s performance at the Lied Center. In the spring semester she served as a panelist on the NEH “We the People” Challenge Grants. On the publication front, with graduate student Shawn Thomson, she edited Kate Douglas Wiggins’ Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (Penguin, 2005) and wrote several articles on Mark Twain that will be published in 2005. Her teaching mirrored her publication and activities interests this year, including a graduate seminar in 19th-century American women writers and an undergraduate class on Mark Twain.

This spring Joseph Harrington served as the Walt Whitman Chair in American Literature and Culture, via the Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program, in the American Studies Department of the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. He taught two sections of an introduction to cultural theory, plus a graduate seminar on globalization and culture. He made presentations at the National English Congress, the Free University in Amsterdam, and the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg. At Groningen, he also presented a multimedia sample from his current research/creative project, Things Come On. Harrington’s book Poetry and the Public: The Social Form of Modern US Poetics (Wesleyan) continues to be reviewed and cited.


Michael L. Johnson continued as director of Freshman-Sophomore English during 2004, although he was on sabbatical in the fall.
semester, during which he was ably relieved by Frank Farmer, who had a shot at dealing with the exigencies and glories of FSE administration. Professor Johnson continued work on his cultural history of the West under contract with the University Press of Kansas and finished most of a collection of poetry about the American Southwest during his sabbatical. He did a number of local and regional poetry readings and presented an essay titled “Madness in Montana: The Last Best Craze” at the Western Literature Association meeting in Big Sky, Montana. Otherwise, he was featured in a French documentary (as a specialist in Western history) titled Le Credo Americain, which was directed by Alain Lasfargues, produced by Avidia, and aired in Europe on the ARTE network in November. For several months he worked closely with Tom Lorenz in the crafting of the Department’s proposal for an MFA in creative writing, which degree program was approved by the Board of Regents in April 2005.

Paul Stephen Lim was busier than ever with English Alternative Theatre (EAT), now in its 15th year. The 2004-05 season featured four staged readings of plays – Lucía Mad by Don Nigro (for the June Conference on Joyce’s Ireland), The Distance from Here by Neil LaBute (for Labor Day), “Zodgrya and the Seven Deadly Sins: Ten-Minute Plays by KU Students” (for the October conference on Godzilla), and The Darker Face of the Earth by Rita Dove (in conjunction with her KU Humanities Lecture in November). Full productions included Jocasta, by Michele Fabien, in April; a double-bill of KU student one-acts in October and a co-production in November with Haskell University of Weaving the Rain by KU graduate student Dianne Yeahquo Reyner (which was selected by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for further competition at the KCACTF regional festival in St. Louis in January). Paul also helped to have plays by his students staged elsewhere, including at the ATHE conference in July. In April came the announcement that Paul has been awarded a Chancellors Club Teaching Professorship, of which there are only 7 members on the Lawrence campus at any given time. The award comes with $5000 a year for as long as Paul keeps teaching, so that takes care of all dreams of ever retiring. MyKee, Paul’s seven-year-old dog, is not happy.

Marjorie Swann and William Tsutsui (History) published the essay “Art” in The Great Plains Region: The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Regional Cultures. This groundbreaking essay examines Great Plains visual arts from pre-contact Native American artists through to the present. In September 2004, Swann and Tsutsui presented the lecture “John Steuart Curry’s Vision of Territorial Kansas” to a packed house at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lawrence as part of the Hall Center’s Sesquicentennial Territorial Kansas Lecture Series. A version of this lecture, which offers a controversial reassessment of Curry’s relationship to Kansas, will be published in the collection John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History, ed. Virgil Dean (University of Kansas Press, forthcoming). And Swann’s ongoing work in collections studies has led to KU being awarded a major grant from the Museum Loan Network. Co-written by Swann and John Simmons (Natural History Museum), the grant will fund the creation of an installation by artist Tracy Hicks on the KU campus. Hicks will use herpetological specimens borrowed from the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago to create an exhibit that will explore how scientific specimens become objects of cultural heritage.

Phil Wedge will present a paper entitled “High Island Blues: The Sport of Birding in the Novels of Ann Cleeves” at the Sport Literature Association’s annual conference in June, this year held at Iowa State University. He continues to enjoy teaching the Literature of Sports course at KU and will teach a course in “Sports Literature in the Movies” in the Spring of 2006. He was named Wakarus Valley Elementary’s “Friend of Education” for 2004 by the Lawrence Education Association and USD 497, for his sponsoring of the school’s chess club the past five years. The chess team placed 12th in the 2004 K-6 Championship division at the National Elementary Chess Championships in Pittsburgh, PA! Phil continues to be poetry editor of Cottonwood Magazine and Press. He is also serving as judge for the L-70 Review’s poetry contest, which has been named “The George F. Wedge Poetry Award,” in honor of Phil’s father, a former professor in the department.

SAGE Update

A n abundance of sunshine greeted the department at the annual SAGE Picnic in the fall of 2004 as faculty and graduate students mingled on a surprisingly pleasant August evening. Despite the weather’s snub of tradition, SAGE carried on in its role of providing social and professional activities throughout the rest of the year. Under the leadership of co-presidents Kristin Bovaird-Abbo and Karla Knutson, secretaries Mindi McMann, treasurer Jennifer Floray-Balke, and first-year liaisons Leslee Friedman and Alicia Sutliff, SAGE continued under its one-year-old constitution to seek ways to improve graduate life in the department. Once more, the annual Halloween costume party was a great success. SAGE members also continued to assist with the hiring process through informal “Meet and Greet” receptions for visiting job candidates, and a number of graduate students volunteered to help with and to present at the highly successful New Literacies Conference. In the spring, the SAGE Awards Committee awarded the 2005 Mabel S. Fry Teaching Award to Professor Beverly Boyd. Please visit the SAGE website (http://www.ku.edu/~sage/) to read excerpts from the nominating letter. We will be updating the website with previous winners of the Mabel S. Fry Teaching Award, as well as adding more pictures of SAGE events and members.

In addition, SAGE has revived two series designed to help prepare graduate students for life beyond the department. Academics Anonymous offers both faculty members and advanced graduate students an opportunity to present their research interests in a casual environment. We had three exciting presentations this past year. Professor Giselle Anatol reported on her latest project, “The Things That Fly in the Night: Black Female Vampires in Literature of the African Americas.” Graduate student Matthew Candelaria led a spirited discussion on his project, “Flies in the Soup: Disgust, Food, and Verminous Horrors.” And finally, Professor Mary Catherine Davidson discussed her work in progress, entitled “Writing English Language History: Masculinity, Nostalgia, and Nationalism.”

Thanks to the efforts of graduate student Jen Humphrey and in response to graduate student sentiment, SAGE has re instituted a series of professionalization workshops. At the inaugural workshop, “Academia after Grad School,” faculty members discussed committee formation and function, career options in academia, and career planning services offered through the Department. The second workshop, “Publishing in the Big, Bad World,” directed largely at the creative writers in the department, focused on publishing opportunities and strategies, the role of agents, rejections, and types of markets, among other things. Workshops tentatively planned for the next year include critical publishing issues, preparing for conferences, and research skills.

—Kristin Bovaird-Abbo and Karla Knutson

FSE Report

The 2004-05 year saw a few changes in the Freshman-Sophomore English Program. Congratulations are in order for Sonya Lancaster, as she was promoted to Associate Director of FSE. Frank Farmer filled in as Interim Director while Michael Johnson enjoyed a fall semester sabbatical, and then turned the reins over when Johnson returned for the spring semester. Lisa St. Ledger was selected as the administrative intern.
The FSE committee faced several large tasks this year, including the re-evaluation and selection of the required handbook and revising the current structure of the English 102 course to make it more congruent with the University's General Education Committee's goals. The more routine task was accomplished with the adoption of the new edition of Andrea Lundsford's {italics}Everyday Writer{italics} for the next three year cycle, with technology workshops on the text's new features forthcoming. In response to the General Education Committee's requests, the FSE committee approved a new course description for English 102, and four pilot 102 courses were launched in the spring semester employing a more research-based and cross-disciplinary format. Thanks to Frank Farmer, Greg Brister, Samantha Parkes, and Joe Sommers for volunteering to teach these courses.

The FSE office organized several workshops in the fall and spring in conjunction with the Eberhardt Memorial Lecturer, Kent Haruf, a National Book Award Finalist and winner of the Mountains & Plains Booksellers Award. In the fall, Shawn Thomson led a workshop for FSE instructors to generate interest in Haruf's critically acclaimed novel {italics}Plainsong,{italics} entitled "Critical Strategies and Approaches to {italics}Plainsong," and then in the spring led a follow-up workshop on his experiences teaching the novel in conjunction with Haruf's campus appearance. The FSE Department also sponsored a spring GTA panel discussion, assisted by Joanna Harader, Jason Koepp, and Joe Sommers, entitled "One University Under God?: Religion in the English Classroom." Numerous FSE instructors received honors and awards. Greg Brister, Karla Knutson, Corinee Guy, Jennifer Balke, and Joe Sommers were recognized as Outstanding Instructors. Greg Brister also received the University Outstanding GTA Award. The Selden Lincoln Whitcomb Fellowship for Excellence in the Teaching and Study of Literature went to Ann Volin, and Sarah Stanley received the James A. Gowen Memorial Award for Excellence in the Teaching and Study of Composition.

The new pattern for planned future biennial conferences that will replace the traditional annual October Conference on Composition and Literature that the Department had organized each year since the 1950s.

This year, presenters and attendees were asked to consider U.S. culture in an interdisciplinary framework. Three questions were posed as guidelines for presentations: 1) What does it mean to be an "American" artist or writer? 2) How is "American" identity changing? 3) What is the role of performance (or writing, or teaching) in shaping "America?" Besides presentations, conference events included a performance of the Kaufmann and Hart American classic {italics}You Can't Take It With You{italics} by KU's University Theatre, a performance of Dianne Yehquio Reyner's {italics}Weaving the Rain,{italics} a co-production by Haskell Indian Nations University's Thunderbird Theatre and KU's English Alternative Theatre, and staged readings of John Gronbeck-Tedesco's {italics}The Four Horsemen{italics} (KU Theatre Department), Susan Glaspell's {italics}The Inheritors{(Susan Glaspell Society), and Mark Frossard's "Sam's Club" (EAT). The KU Jazz Studies Colloquium also sponsored several sessions in conjunction with the Conference, including a keynote address by soprano saxophonist Jane Ira Bloom.

Plenary speakers for the conference highlighted the national and international scope of the event. Christopher Bigsbys, professor of American literature at the University of East Anglia, stirringly challenged Americans to recognize the enduring genius and commitment of playwright Arthur Miller (who had died only days before) in his address, "Arthur Miller: Un-American." Anne Bogart, Director of the Saratoga International Theatre Institute and performance theorist, reflected on a lifetime's lessons learned in the world of American performing arts in "Six Things I Know for Sure about Being an Artist in the American Theater." José Munoz, a young associate professor of Performance Studies at New York University, provided a cutting-edge multi-cultural examination of "American" performance issues in "Globalization, Tropicalization and Latina/o American Theatre and Performance."

Participants at the conference hailed from as far away as the Free University of Brussels, the University of Malaga, and the University of Osijek (Croatia). Yale, Cornell, and the Universities of Virginia, Florida, New Mexico, California, Texas, and Iowa were also represented. Local and regional scholars and teachers abounded, including some from area high schools. Conference organization was brilliantly overseen and directed by Professor Iris Smith Fischer, who was very ably assisted by a strong committee of faculty, graduate students, and others. The conference was a financial as well as intellectual success, and plans for the 2007 New Literacies Conference (perhaps designed to feature KU's new MFA program) will soon get underway. Watch for a conference announcement in the 2006 Update.

—Robert F. Elliott

—Lisa St. Ledger

2005 New Literacies Conference

Over 300 people participated in the English Department-sponsored 2005 New Literacies Conference, "Writing, Teaching, Performing America," 3-5 March, on campus and at the Lawrence Arts Center. Held in partnership with the American Theatre and Drama Society, the conference firmly established the national and international scope of the event. Christopher Bigsbys, professor of American literature at the University of East Anglia, stirringly challenged Americans to recognize the enduring genius and commitment of playwright Arthur Miller (who had died only days before) in his address, "Arthur Miller: Un-American." Anne Bogart, Director of the Saratoga International Theatre Institute and performance theorist, reflected on a lifetime's lessons learned in the world of American performing arts in "Six Things I Know for Sure about Being an Artist in the American Theater." José Munoz, a young associate professor of Performance Studies at New York University, provided a cutting-edge multi-cultural examination of "American" performance issues in "Globalization, Tropicalization and Latina/o American Theatre and Performance."

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—Robert F. Elliott

—Lisa St. Ledger
1940s

James B. Chandler (A.B. 1947, M.A. 1949), having eased past his 83rd birthday this May, continues to enjoy life with his beloved Madeleine in the agreeable cultural waters of St. Louis. He continues his work with the board of the Societe Francaise de Saint-Louis and as the regional secretary of the Association of Former International Civil Servants, along with other odds and ends of local community service. He has managed to continue his presence in Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in Education mostly by continuing to be alive! While none of his descendancy has attended KU, he is gratified that his granddaughter Rachel Dore, a freshman at Loyola in New Orleans, has decided to go into Communications in lieu of law while her twin brother Philip does law at McGill.

1950s

Rev. Patricia Hager Buck (M.A. 1958) was appointed pastor of St. John United Methodist Church, Rio Grande City, TX, on 1 December 2004. She will be reappointed to that congregation at Annual Conference, June 2005. Pasha and her husband John live in the parsonage at 109 North FM 3167, Rio Grande City, TX, 78582.

Bill Sollner (M.A. 1954) finds himself “on call” for emergency puppet shows throughout southeast Kansas and beyond. His block-heads are in demand by care homes, schools, churches, retired teachers and social service agencies. Shows are custom-tailored to audience...by age and circumstance. Most frequently demanded is his unfiltered Punch & Judy. Latest version has “W” showing up to argue for his Social Security plan. Punch punches him out to roars of approval. Coming soon: Punch takes on Kim Jung Il and his “bum!”

1960s

After leaving the University of Kansas in 1958, Ralph A. Bellas (Ph.D. 1960) taught at Villanova University until joining the English Department faculty at Illinois State University in 1965. He retired as Emeritus Professor in 1979. First getting involved in international study programs at KU, he continued the interest throughout his career. After retirement he and his wife, Louise, served as Peace Corps volunteers in the Fiji Islands. They have traveled extensively throughout the world. He has authored two books, co-authored another, and has published articles and poetry.

Bob Bataille (M.A. 1965, Ph.D. 1970) continues to enjoy an active retirement (in May, 2000) after teaching for thirty-one years at Iowa State. Recent travels include a two-week hiking tour of Tuscany and Liguria last October and more recently a week’s tour of National Forests and wilderness areas in southern New Mexico. During the past few months, Bob and his wife, the novelist Mary Howard, also visited children and grandchildren in Topeka, Austin, and Portland, Oregon.

John I. Blair (M.A. 1966) recently observed his 28th anniversary as an advertising project manager for NCH Corporation, Irving, Texas, specializing in international marketing. He is married to Clara Franz Blair. Son Joseph I. Blair is married to Fui Chyi Blair (of Kuching, Malaysia). John enjoys flower gardening, birdwatching, bicycling, playing the piano, and reading. He continues to write poetry, with close to 200 poems published on various Internet poetry sites including Red River Review, Retrozine, and Prairie Poetry. He enjoys hearing from KU friends at blairbards@sbcglobal.net and will definitely respond to e-mails.

Alan E. Craven (Ph.D. 1965) was recently named Professor Emeritus at The University of Texas at San Antonio. He continues to teach Shakespeare courses on a part-time basis. Alan and his wife Jan live on the edge of the beautiful Texas hill country.

B. H. Fairchild (B.A. 1964, M.A. 1968) was this year’s CockeFair Chair Writer-in-Residence at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he gave a reading and led workshops. In an interview published in the February issue of The Writer’s Chronicle, he spoke at some length about his Kansas small-town project. He also was awarded his second NEA Fellowship in poetry and received the Bobbitt Prize from the Library of Congress for his fifth book, Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest. Another book of poems, Local Knowledge, will appear from Norton in October, 2005. He adds, “After the Bucknell disaster, I look forward to a full recovery in 05-06.”

Joe Hatcher (Ph.D. 1968) continues to consult with non-profit organizations. The most interesting project in the last year has been the Arkansas Sheriff’s Youth Ranches, an organization that aims to “address, remedy, and prevent child abuse and neglect by creating safe, healthy, and permanent homes for children” on five rural campuses throughout Arkansas. That occupies a couple of days a week, and an innumerable number of grandchildren’s sports events occupy the rest that is not spent on projects around home. Joe and his wife also like to spend time at their cabin in northern New Mexico, both winter and summer, and do some travel internationally and in the U.S.

James Hoggard (M.A. 1965) has had his 17th book published: Wearing the River: New Poems (Wings Press). He is the Perkins-Prothro Distinguished Professor of English at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Mary Duhamel Kramer (Ph.D. 1969) is a full professor at University of Massachusetts-Lowell, where she has taught since receiving her degree (Shakespeare, Chaucer, Beowulf to Milton, Honors courses). She has done considerable freelance writing for Boston-area and national publications and has had regular book review and humor columns in newspapers. She oversees an annual fundraiser for the public library that nets $28,000-35,000 and volunteers for the Boy Scouts. In her free time, she is an avid reader and traveller.

Charles Linck (Ph.D. 1962) writes: “Though Ernestine died February 27, 2001, and Charles lapsed into depression, he has recently returned to such activities as serving on the committee for the Bill Owens Centennial, November 8-9, 2005 at TAMU-Commerce (TX). He and Ernestine were both honored with bricks inscribed “Writer” in the Authors’ Park (Commerce) Walkway.

Llewellyn Ligocki (Ph.D. 1968) and his wife Marti have launched a new Web site for Impeccable Images, their outdoor and nature photography business: <http://www.impeccableimages.com/>. Lew’s address is 1785 Cinnamon Hill Drive S.E., Salem, OR 97306, <impeccable@earthlink.net>.

Jim Martin (M.A. 1968) was Associate Professor of English at Valley City State University, ND (1968-1971) and Assistant to the President (1971-1974). He returned to KU in 1974 as Director of Program Development for the KU Endowment Association. In 1991, he was named President of the Association and served until his retirement in 2002. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Lawrence and are parents of Grant Martin, a KU graduate.

Jim Welsh (M.A. 1965, Ph.D. 1996) returned to Kansas in 2005 to speak in Chanute at the Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum in April. He was invited to speak there with his friend and collaborator John Tibbetts, Associate Professor of Theatre and Film at KU. Welsh and Tibbetts have collaborated on a dozen books, the most recent of which was the second revised and expanded edition of The Encyclopedia of

1970s

Thomas Fox Averill (B.A. 1971, M.A. 1974) won the Ned Fleming Teaching Award and was recognized for 25 years of service at Washburn University of Topeka, where he continues to teach Creative Writing and courses in Kansas Literature, Folklore and Film. His collection of short stories, Ordinary Genius, published in April 2005, is the first in the new Flyover Fiction Series inaugurated by the University of Nebraska Press. One of the stories, “Matty,” was first published in Cottonwood.

During the past year Dean Bevan (Ph.D. 1971) continued his unplanned post-retirement career in theatre, singin’ and dancin’ for you in Lawrence Community Theatre’s Anything Goes and Brigadoon, plus roles in two local indie productions, “Rebels” and “If Gold Rust” – the latter his own creation. His full-length play, Choice, is currently being filmed by EMU Theatre, to be released in the fall. Dean also began writing theatre, music, and dance reviews for the Lawrence Journal-World, completing two dozen of these by season’s end. When not writing or acting, Dean and wife Judy enjoyed sailing in Vancouver’s Gulf Islands and in coastal southwest Florida, as well as a month’s travel in the new Baltic republics.

James Bogan (Ph.D 1979) continues to hold out in the Ozarks at the University of Missouri-Rolla, where he teaches art history and film. He judges that the most productive class period of his career happened during a Thomas Hart Benton and the Tradition of American Art class, when he and his students deployed 224 straw bales as a Celtic Double Spiral Space Centering Vehicle in under two hours on the campus. In April he spent a month at the Cill Rialaig Artist’s Retreat in Kerry, Ireland, writing, making, and gawking. The University of Missouri System awarded him the 2005 Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence, thus validating methods learned at KU in one semester’s teaching in 1968.

Al Devlin (Ph.D. 1970) continues to teach southern American and modern literature at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Teaching and research interests are shifting, however, to theatre, as dictated by editorial work on The Selected Letters of Tennessee Williams. Volume I appeared in 2000 and volume II in late 2004—both published by New Directions. A dramatic reading of Volume II was staged in March 2005 at the Manhattan Theatre Club, City Center, New York, with Richard Thomas reading the part of Williams. On the family front, his wife Molly is approaching retirement after a very successful career of teaching French at a local high school, while both sons (Eric, born in Lawrence, and Aaron) are now Texans living in Dallas.

Richard Harp (Ph.D. 1974) has been in the English department at UNLV for 30 years. He is currently Director of Graduate Studies and is interested in hearing from any of his fellow KU alums whose students might wish to pursue a graduate degree at UNLV. He is founding co-editor of The Ben Jonson Journal. He has children ranging in age from 32 to 3 and his wife Margaret is currently Chair of Foreign Languages at UNLV.

Patricia Cleary Miller (Ph.D. 1979) is starting her 23rd year on the English faculty at Rockhurst University in Kansas City. Besides teaching many courses and editing the Rockhurst Review, she has been writing poems in closed forms commissioned for special occasions. She has also written two odes, “Ode to the River Charles,” which she read at Harvard in her capacity as poet laureate of its alumni association; and “Hecuba’s Ode,” a retelling of The Trojan Women, which she read at a Poetry for Peace gathering at The Writers Place in Kansas City. She feels honored to have been able to read at George’s Poetry Hour last fall.

Pete Mirakian is a graduate of the Military Academy at West Point. During active duty military service, the Army requested that he complete an M.A. in English at the university of his choice. He chose KU and completed an M.A. degree in 1977. In the four subsequent years, he taught English composition and Philosophy to West Point cadets. During his four years at the Academy, he also took evening business classes, and completed an MBA degree from Long Island University in 1980. By 1981, he had left the military and returned to the Kansas City area to accept a position with Hallmark Cards. After working at Hallmark throughout the 1980s, he joined Seaboard Corporation, a Fortune 1000 international agribusiness company, in 1992. In 2000, he became the Director of Human Resources. Pete and his wife continue to reside in Olathe, KS. Two sons and their wives each have two children. One son’s family also lives in Olathe, the other resides in Michigan.

Larry Mundy (M.A. 1974) lives in Grapevine, Texas, is Assistant General Counsel for FelCor Lodging Trust, and recently published “Design and Build Your Own Live-Sound Speakers” as well as a series of articles on loudspeaker technology on the Shavano website and others. He will be returning to Lawrence for a brief visit in July, on one of his motorcycles.


Ron Pullins’s (B.A. 1968, M.A. 1970) company, Focus Publishing, has some interesting KU links. Having had Dr. Kenneth Rothwell for 16th-Century Literature at KU, and after various twists and turns of publishing fate, Ron proposed a series of Shakespeare performance texts to Rothwell, who directed him to Herb Coursen and James Lake as advisors for the series. Voila! Beginning in 2006, the company will start revising the Kittredge Shakespeare series which will be reissued as paperbacks and used as the core texts in a series covering performance issues on stage and on film. It also turns out two texts in German cinema, co-authored by KU German Ph.D., Robert Reimer, will be published by Focus this coming term. Furthermore, Focus’s Russian series editor, Jason Merrill, also earned his Ph.D. in Russian at KU. That’s a lot of Kansas in a little slip of a company.

Troy Dale Reeves (Ph.D. 1970) retired in December, 2002 after 34 years as professor of English at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas. In the spring of 2003, Troy was named ASU’s first professor of English emeritus. Troy and his wife, Susie, and son, Isaac, now live in the country near Nixa, Missouri. They enjoy operating a booth in an antique mall in Ozark, taking long walks in Busiek State Forest, and fishing and swimming at Table Rock Lake. An avid Jayhawks fan, Troy fondly remembers his professors at KU, especially Dennis Quinn, John Willingham, George Worth, and Frank Nelick. Troy regrets to report the death, in March, 2005, of his Angelo State University colleague and friend Dale Hess, who received his Ph.D. in English from KU in 1957.

Virginia Schneider (M.A.1964, Ph.D. 1970) retired from college teaching in 1987 at the age of 63. She built a house at Lake of the Forest in Bonner Springs in 1972 and is still enjoying living there. She has traveled extensively both before and during retirement. Her health remains good, so she is able to contribute in some measure to Kansas City Hospice, Best Friends, Bonner Springs Library, and Harvesters. In sum: “Retirement is great. I recommend it highly.”

Eiki Senaha (Ph.D. 1977) serves as a member of the Board of Trustees as well as teaching English and American literature part-time at Meio University. His son, Eijun Senaha, associate professor of English at Hokkaido University, who has been doing research at the University of South Carolina, took advantage of his time in the U.S. to visit K.U. and his father’s thesis advisor, Max Sutton, in Eudora in June 2005.
Bill Thompson (M.A. 1973) is serving his second term in the South Dakota House of Representatives. He continues to be “Engaged in a corrupted state/Wrestling with vice and faction.”

Thomas L. Warren (Ph.D. 1974) continues as Professor of English at Oklahoma State University and Director of the Technical Writing Program. This past year he taught a teacher training course and graduate courses in styles and editing, and communication theory. His book on cross-cultural communication (Cross-Cultural Communication: Perspectives in Theory and Practice) was published by Baywood Press. He once again was a Guest Professor during the summer term at the University of Paderborn (Germany). His wife, Mary Lee, continues as Executive Director of Judith Karman Hospice and is an elected board member of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

1980s

Tim Bascom (M.A. 1987) won the 2005 Bakeless Literary Prize in Nonfiction for his memoir Chameleon Days, which will be published by Houghton Mifflin in 2006. He also won editor’s prizes from The Missouri Review and The Florida Review in 2004, and one of the prize-winning essays was selected for Best American Travel Writing 2005, which will be published in October this year. A year ago Bascom completed an MFA in creative nonfiction from the University of Iowa, and he has been teaching at the Des Moines Area Community College since then, while living in Newton, Iowa with his wife and two sons. He will be on the job market for 2006. Any tips appreciated! (Email: tbascom@netins.net).

Sylvia Bryant received a Masters degree in English in 1988. Currently, she is Executive Director of Development at Alfred University, where she is overseeing a $150 million capital campaign. She lives in the tiny village of Alfred, New York, with her two sons: Parker, age 7 and Duncan, age 4.

Keith Coplin’s (Ph.D. 1989) novel, Crofton’s Fire, was up for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and though it did not win, it received mention. The novel is experiencing slow but healthy sales. Published by Putnam and Sons in January 2004, a paperback edition was released in February 2005 by Berkley Press. Keith is currently living in Colby, in western Kansas, where he is at work on his second novel, a political morality tale set in Oklahoma.

Mary Davidson (Ph.D. 1981) received awards from the Kansas and Western Missouri American Civil Liberties Union and from the Lawrence League of Women Voters for her work as president of the Douglas County American Civil Liberties Union in 2005. During her tenure, the DCACLU organized forums on freedom of information, the right to dissent, and a Freedom Fair. Membership doubled to more than 600. With other groups, the ACLU persuaded the Lawrence City Commission to call for the repeal of the USAPATRIOT Act. Mary credits her success to John Ashcroft.

Tom Fish (Ph.D. 1981) and Kathy Griffith Fish (M.A. 1980) continue to reside in Williamsburg, KY, and teach at Cumberland College, soon to be transfigured into the University of the Cumberlands. Tom was named chair of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages in May 2004, but professionally he is currently preoccupied with his responsibilities as Reaccreditation Director as Cumberland prepares for its review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Kathy continues to serve as co-director of freshman orientation and added Descriptive Linguistics to her teaching responsibilities this year. She also enjoys working with adult learners in the College’s degree-completion program. With daughter Dana now a college graduate working in Lynchburg, VA, and daughter Sally ready to begin her studies this fall at Centre College in Danville, KY, both Tom and Kathy look forward with anticipation to their lives as empty-nesters.

Beth Impson (Ph.D. 1988) continues to teach at Bryan College in Dayton, TN, where she was just awarded tenure. She would love to hear from others who were at KU during her graduate years, at <impsonbe@bryan.edu>.

Tom Russell (Ph.D. 1981; first graduate along with John Kessel of KU’s Ph.D. in Creative Writing Program) directs the MFA writing program at the University of Memphis. Last year he published a novel, Riding with the Magi (Livingston Press, Univ. of Alabama). Everybody he ever met at KU is in there toward the end. Keep reading. His wife Irma (M.A. 1974) teaches in the law school at the University of Memphis. Next year she will be on leave, teaching environmental law at Pace University School of Law in White Plains, NY. Son Nat, 25, is attending the CIA (Culinary Institute of America) in Hyde Park, NY, and daughter Anna, 22, is finishing her M.A. at Johns Hopkins in Public Policy. Greetings to anybody who’s still alive.

Debra Seely (M.A. 1983) is the author of a second novel for adolescents, The Last of the Roundup Boys (Holiday House 2004). The story takes place in Kansas in the 1880s and is a sequel to her first novel, Grasslands (Holiday House 2002), which comes out in a paperback edition in August (Penguin/Puffin).

Diskotech, Inc., Holly Franking Slegman’s (Ph.D. 1988) multimedia software publishing company, exhibited at BookExpo America this June in New York and did well considering that their brochure proclaimed that “Print is Passé.” Universities and librarians were interested in Diskotech’s new multimedia form of the novel and non-fiction. Publishers were promoting the graphic novel. Even Umberto Eco’s new novel is illustrated with colored covers of works he read as a youth. Slegman and her company look forward to watching the filming of The Martinsville Nightmare TV movie in Canada this fall. It is based on Diskotech’s true-crime CD-ROM. Slegman is working with Creative Management International to get the movie distributed in the US.

After fifteen years in the English Department at the University of Southern Mississippi, Anne Wallace (B.A. 1977, M.A. 1984) is joining the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro as head of the English Department. Anne’s daughter, Sarah, married Chad Richert a year ago in April and teaches speech and debate at Jesuit High School in New Orleans. Although the move to Greensboro takes her farther from Sarah, it also puts Anne much closer to her partner, Tony Harrison, who teaches Victorian literature at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Anne sends warm greetings to her teachers and classmates at Kansas, which remains her ideal of a university.

Linda Dobratz Wedge (M.A. 1985), wife of Assistant Professor Phil Wedge, has taught English at Free State High School the past seven years and particularly enjoys teaching the AP English course there. She recently participated in a workshop at KU on Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon, taught by Giselle Anatol.

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@kuallumni.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
After reading all of those English novels and plays detailing the life of the British leisure class, Philip (Jerry) Wilson (Ph.D. 1981) finally is gaining an understanding of what it means to be at leisure (minus the extreme wealth of most of the members of that class). Yes, the first year of retirement was splendid. In fact, Dianne and he have recently returned from a trip to South America.

1990s

Jesse Aleman (Ph.D. 1999) has earned tenure in the English Department at the University of New Mexico, where he is now the Director of Graduate Studies. His reprint edition of The Woman in Battle: The Civil War Narrative of Loreta Janeta Velazquez, Cuban Woman and Confederate Soldier, appeared in 2003 from U of Wisconsin Press; an award-winning essay on Santa Anna’s “wooden leg” appears in MELUS 29.3-4; and he has a book coming out of Rutgers UP in November 2005.

John R. Battaglia received the Ph.D. in English from KU in 1998. He lives with his wife and two children in Billings, Montana and is currently an English teacher at Billings West High School and an adjunct instructor of English at Rocky Mountain College. In the spring of 2002 he was Visiting Professor of American Literature at Minsk State Linguistics University, Minsk, Belarus. In the summer of 2005 he will be teaching English in the summer semester on the “MV Explorer” for the University of Pittsburgh’s Semester at Sea program. The ship will visit ports in northern and western Europe. John is also a speaker for the Montana Committee for the Humanities, giving programs on literature around the state to civic and professional organizations.

Brad S. Born (Ph.D. 1993), an Associate Professor of English at Bethel College, Kansas, has been appointed interim Academic Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs for the 2005/06 academic year.

Joanna Cooper (B.A. 1993, M.A. 1997) earned her Ph.D. in English this past fall from Temple University. Her dissertation, “Gothic Impurity: Race, Sex, and the Uncanny in American Literature, 1895-1905,” deals with authors Charles Chesnutt, Stephen Crane, Pauline Hopkins, and Sarah Barnwell Elliott. At Temple, she earned a Distinguished Teaching Award, which is given to two graduate instructors in the College of Liberal Arts every year. Joanna has a chapbook of poems and prose poems forthcoming from Dicey Books, and she will present a paper on Charles Chesnutt at the International Gothic Association Conference in Montreal in August 2005. In fall 2005, Joanna will be a Visiting Assistant Professor in English at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Clint Crumley (Ph.D. 1998) was named English Department Chair at Providence Day School in Charlotte, NC. His wife, Patricia Dinas, a psychologist, continues to enjoy her part-time private practice; and their two-year-old son, Field, has not only mastered jumping, but he sings just about constantly.


Marlon L. Fick received the National Endowment for the Arts Individual Fellowship for Poetry in 2005. He is the author of four books. His latest, from the University of New Mexico Press, is The River is Wide, released in May, 2005. He has also recently won the Government of Mexico’s National Endowment, as well as a Commendation from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs from the Government of Mexico. After teaching for three years at Kansas State, 2001-2004, he and his wife, Laura, returned to live in Mexico.

John F. “Jack” Healy (Ph.D. 1997) has been granted tenure and has been promoted to Associate Professor of English at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri, where he has taught since 2000. This past spring, in conjunction with his Irish Literature course, Healy organized a film, lecture, and music series, which included a lecture on Northern Ireland’s mural art by KU English’s own Katie Conrad. Healy also has been selected to teach Travel Literature and Postcolonial British Literature for the Spring 2006 semester at Imperial College, London, as part of the Missouri London Consortium. Jack and his spouse Kathy live in Columbia, Missouri, where they quickly took to biking regularly on much of the cross-state scenic Katy Trail as well as traveling throughout the state. Kathy is now an administrative assistant in the Office of University Affairs at the University of Missouri-Columbia. They are the proud parents of a demanding, energetic, and impish cat Kerry, who allows them to live in their western Columbia home under certain rigid conditions.

In Spring 2005, Denise Low (Ph.D. 1997) was visiting professor at the University of Richmond where she taught creative writing and American Indian Studies classes. She visited Robert Day at Washington College in Chestertown, MD and presented “Langston Hughes’s Early Life in the West,” for the Sophie Kerr lecture. In Virginia, she was able to continue research into the life of Charles Langston, grandfather of Langston Hughes, and Charles’s brother, John Mercer Langston. A collection of essays about Midwestern literature is forthcoming this fall from Ice Cube Press in Iowa. She continues to teach and chair the English Department at Haskell Indian Nations University.

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


Kimberly Meyer (M.A. 1994) is working on her Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Houston. Her poems and essays have appeared in many journals and she’s at work on a book about the pilgrimages she and her husband and three daughters have been making to America’s secular shrines. She can be reached at meyerhill@hotmail.com.

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg (Ph.D. 1995) had another book of poetry, Animals in the House, published by Woodley Memorial Press and she also had a chapbook of poetry, Reading the Body (Mammoth Press), published in conjunction with a collaborative performance by Rhythm and Blues singer Kelley Hunt, and the Prairie Wind Dancers in “Dangerous Curves: Breast Cancer Journeys” at the Lawrence Arts Center in Oct. of 2004. Caryn won the 2004 Phoenix Award for literary arts from the City of Lawrence, and she was named artist-in-residence at Rocky Mountain National Park for the summer of 2005. The National Association for Poetry Therapy awarded Caryn the Morris Morrison Education Award for founding the “Transformative Language Arts concentration at Goddard College (which she continues to direct).

Joy Raser (M.A. 1990; Ph.D. 1999) just completed her fifth year at The University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, where she was recently promoted to Assoc. Prof. of English
and granted tenure. In addition to teaching a variety of courses on the main campus, ranging from Comp to the Senior Seminar in Literary Criticism, she also teaches writing-intensive interdisciplinary courses (philosophy/fine arts; theology/literature) for the university’s evening program at the Johnson County Campus. This May, she participated in a post-doctoral study tour of Turkey that visited Christian, Judaic and Muslim sites.

Janet Rose (M.A. 1994, Ph.D. American Studies 2001) is the CEO of The Rose Group, a brand and market strategy consultancy and think tank in Kansas City. Rose writes about business and consumer culture and trends, and is currently completing a book on radical style in American culture. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Review, a regional Arts & Culture monthly magazine, has published reviews in various publications including Harvard’s Business History Review, has appeared on PBS, CNN, and FOX-News Radio, in the Kansas City Star and The Wall Street Journal.

Karen Siebert (M.A. 1992) is Community Relations Manager at Harvesters —The Community Food Network, Kansas City’s only food bank.

DONORS

Sincere thanks to the following contributors to various Department funds during the last three years:

Jeff Warner (B.A. 1984, M.A. 1992) is now a copy-editor and columnist at the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin newspaper in Walla Walla, Washington. He is married and has a son. Aside from daily copy-editing and pagination duties, Jeff writes a weekly, locally popular film review column in the paper’s arts and entertainment insert. He also writes the occasional column for the paper’s weekly Food & Family section — columns dealing with new fatherhood, married life and life in general. He has so far won three awards for his writing from Northwest regional journalistic societies. The joy of his life — apart from wife Melissa — is currently his delightful job.
and rambunctious toddler boy, but he also is enjoying rock climbing with local climbers.

Jonathan Witt (Ph.D. 1996) recently resigned a tenured position and went to work for the Center for Science and Culture, a Think-tank in Seattle, as writer-in-residence. He has co-authored the screenplay for a documentary, The Privileged Planet, which will be presented at the Smithsonian’s Museum of Natural History in June; and co-authored a book, The Meaning-Full Universe, which will appear in early 2006.

Amanda Witt (Ph.D. 1996) is happily homeschooling the three Witt children, blogging at http://www.wittingshire.blogspot.com and occasionally getting a poem or short story accepted for publication.

2000s

John Bruni received his Ph.D in English from the University of Kansas in December 2003. He is an Assistant Professor of English at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He has forthcoming articles on Jack London and Edith Wharton and is working on a book that examines popular science and evolution in early-twentieth-century U.S. naturalist writing.

Tony Harris (M.A. 2000) is in his third year teaching English and coaching football at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in Chicago, Illinois. Next year he begins his tenure as department chair. This past year he coordinated the Chicago Langston Hughes Poetry Circle. “I have been away from Lawrence four years now,” he says. “The Hughes Poetry Circle gives me an excuse to call back every now and then to see what is going on around campus.”

Angela Jones (Ph.D. 2001) is pleased to announce that she has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Professional/Technical Writing at Western Kentucky University. Over the summer, she and her husband, Brian Phillips, will relocate from Erie, Pennsylvania, to Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Alan Newton received his Ph.D. in English in 2002. Currently he lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with his wife, Rebecca Kuhn, where he teaches English at Pine Crest School.

Kelly Secovnie (M.A. 2004) has recently completed her first year in the Ph.D. program at the University at Albany, SUNY. She has been accepted to participate in this summer’s School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University, where she will study with Prof. Robert Young on the topic of cultural translation in a post-colonial context.

In the fall of 2005, Kristin Van Tassel (Ph.D. 2003) will begin a tenure track position in English, teaching writing and American literature, at Bethany College, located in Lindsborg, Kansas. She is currently writing a children’s book about farming and food with grant money she received from the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission. Kristin lives on a small farm (located northeast of Lindsborg, southeast of Salina) with her husband, David, and two sons, Cedar (6 years old) and Luke Oak (3 years old).

MAJ Tom Veale (M.A. 2002) will enter his third year of teaching basic and advanced composition at the United States Military Academy in the fall of 2005. He was recently promoted to Assistant Professor status, and will be leaving West Point to take an Army public affairs position in the summer of 2006. He is scheduled to return to Lawrence in November 2005 for his Ph.D. comprehensive examination.