Publications

Barthelman, Zach

Giles, Todd
“Fall Semester” and “Untitled” (poems). Lummox Journal March/April 2006: 6, 8.

Johnson, Michael L.
“The Cowgirl Way” and “At a Filling Station North of Oklahoma City” (poems). Georgetown Review 7.1 (Spring 2006): 42, 43.

Rabas, Kevin

Presentations

Joiner, Jennie
“Jimmy’s Haunting Fears of Responsibility in Randall Kenan’s A Visitation of Spirits,” College Language Association Conference, Birmingham, AL, 7 April.

Ohle, David
Invited Reading and Class Visit, Literary Arts Program, Brown University, Providence, RI, 17 April.

Accepted for Publication

Rabas, Kevin

Announcements, Notes, and News

• Sad News: Assistant Professor Emeritus Richard Colyer died Wednesday, 19 April, while scuba diving near Port Hardy, British Columbia. The specific cause of death is unclear; he was seen to fall off an underwater ledge upon which he was resting. He then sank into much deeper water where no one could follow in a rescue attempt. His body was recovered by submarine. An obituary published in the 26 April Lawrence Journal-World states that a memorial service will be held in Lawrence in early summer.

• Full-time Lecturer Mary Klayder has been selected as one of the four finalists for the Del Shankel Teaching Excellence Award. The Shankel Award is presented to the Most Outstanding Teacher at the University of Kansas as nominated and chosen by University of Kansas student-athletes. The award will be presented on 11 May.

• Important! As the end of the semester approaches, the Office Staff reminds full-and part-time faculty that it is inappropriate—and unwise—to have students turn in final exams or papers to the English offices. In the past, papers and examinations have been lost because they have been misplaced by students, turned in without names or names of teachers, etc, to the great inconvenience of students, faculty, and staff. During faculty, lecturer, and GTA orientation, this rule is emphasized, but it is difficult to enforce, particularly when instructions to students have already been given. This semester, please collect papers or take-home exams in class or during office hours. The staff understands that some students will turn papers in late because of illness or procrastination, and is prepared to accommodate them. Problems arise when the mailroom is used as the depository for entire classes.

KU and Regional Events

• University Theatre presents Mozart’s The Marriage of Figaro, 28, April, 4, 6 May, 7:30 pm, 30 April, 2:30 pm, Crafton-Preyer Theatre, Murphy Hall.

• Special Lecture, “Developing Democratic Values: Implications for the Ukrainian Orange Revolution,” Arthur Miller, Political Science, University of Iowa, 28 April, 3:00-4:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

Calendar


M 1 Carey Voeller, Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam, 1:00-4:00 pm, 326 Spencer Research Library (Barnard, Farmer, S. Harris, Sousa, Jewers).

Advisory Committee Meeting, 3:30 pm, 3132 Wescoe. Agenda: 1) hiring requests.

2Cs, discussion of “Elephants Teach” led by Emily Bobo and Michael L. Johnson, 5:00 pm, La Tropicana, 434 Locust, North Lawrence.

T 2 Voting Department Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4019 Wescoe. Agenda: 1) hiring requests; 2) revised department governance proposal; 3) Provost initiatives.

R 4 Resident Fellows Seminar, “Sterling A. Brown: Life in the Shadow of the Capitol,” John Edgar Tidwell, English, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Hall Center


Poetry Reading and Reception, readers include Beth Schultz, Silvia Kofler, and Brian Daldorph, 4:00 pm, Central Court, Spencer Museum of Art.
Spotlight on Research


Through an investigation of the epistles dedicatory and addresses to readers in English printed playtexts, I recuperate the richness of these prefaces and connect them to the practice of patronage. I see them as participating in and at moments constructing what I call “textual patronage”—the acknowledgement of indebtedness and gratitude. The prefatory matter discussed ranges from the printer John Day’s addresses to readers in the 1570 edition of *Gorboduc* to Richard Brome’s dedication to William Seymour and address to readers in his 1640 play, *Antipodes*. The book contains discussion of prefaces in plays by Shakespeare’s contemporaries, such as Marston, Jonson, and Heywood, as well as the address to readers in Shakespeare’s *Troilus and Cressida* and the First Folio (1623). I include chapters on printers and publishers, and women as patrons of drama.

I disrupt the neat and appealing idea that the publication of dramatic texts and their purchase by readers effectively replaced, made unnecessary, older systems of patronage. I argue instead that textual patronage expanded, not only through the emerging marketplace but also through aristocratic and noble patronage. Therefore, despite increased publication of dramatic texts, playwrights continued in growing numbers to find it desirable, if not necessary, to dedicate their texts and to address readers. The book’s chapters reveal a trajectory of playwrights’ finding and exploiting their authorial voices in dedications and addresses. These prefaces signal a developing sense and construction of authorship, since in them authors assert their identity, discuss their writing, and claim patronage.

This book is the first to offer a systematic analysis of this prefatory material in printed dramatic texts. The mutually beneficial system of patronage, evident in the prefaces, has the effect of extending theater and bringing it into the lives of countless others through print. In this way, the play continues to circulate, to energize the culture, to legitimize and define playwrights, and to offer status and other benefits to patrons.