

# UPDATE

PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

No. 41

2006

## THE FRANCES L. STIEFEL PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

I have always told new English faculty members looking for a role model that they should imitate Richard Hardin. He is the very model of what an English professor should be." Former Chair of KU English Jim Hartman spoke these words as part of a toast at a reception in June 2006 to celebrate Professor Richard Hardin's selection as the inaugural Frances L. Stiefel Professor of English at the University of Kansas. Hardin was chosen by a committee of three elected faculty members from the Department and two faculty members from other disciplines appointed by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The professorship was awarded to Hardin in recognition of his distinguished record in all three of the profession's evaluative categories – teaching, research, and service.

Frances L. "Pat" Felt Stiefel was a 1926 graduate of KU. Though no major is recorded for her degree, a notation by her graduation picture in *The Jayhawker* yearbook (see below) lists her emphasis as English. She grew up in Salina, KS, and returned there after graduation for the rest of her life. She was active in community service work, especially Girl Scouts and the Theatre Guild, and served for fifteen years as secretary of the Salina American Red Cross. In 1951, she married Milton I. Stiefel, a University of Illinois graduate and President of Stiefel Bros. and Co. Department Store in Salina. When Frances Stiefel died in 1985, Milton Stiefel established a trust to endow a chair in English at KU in her name at the time of his passing. He continued to engage in philanthropic work, notably, in 2001, donating \$500,000 to the



Frances Felt, 1926

University Archives, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas Libraries



Kristi Wass/CLA&S

Professor Richard Hardin contemplates his new eminence from his sumptuous office on the first floor of Wescoe Hall.

restoration of the historic Fox Theatre in downtown Salina, which was renamed the Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts. Milton Stiefel died in January 2005 at the age of 95.

After twenty years of inflation, the money in the Frances L. Stiefel Trust Fund was no longer sufficient to endow a chair. However, thanks to additional funds solicited by KUEA from the Hall Family Foundation and the Board of Regents, it became possible to create a named professorship in English that would provide the recipient with a \$20,000 per year increase in salary. The Department voted to award the professorship internally on a rotating basis. A full professor with a superb record will be selected as the Stiefel Professor of English every three years. In 2006, seven professors were nominated for this honor and award and Richard Hardin was the Stiefel Selection Committee's unanimous choice to be the first to hold this title.

Dick Hardin has taught in the English Department at KU for forty years. A native Texan, he received a B.A. in English from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1959. After four years of service in the U.S Army, he pursued graduate degrees at the University of Texas

(Austin), earning his Ph.D. in 1966. Like many Ph.D.s since, he prepared for the rigors of interviewing for jobs at the annual Modern Language Association Convention. But Kansas struck first, offering him an assistant professorship before the grand gathering. Having accepted the position, he flashed some of the ironic humor that has endeared him to several generations of students and colleagues. He went ahead, attended MLA, and "interviewed for the hell of it." How many graduate students fantasize about reversing the balance of power in interviews at MLA? Dick Hardin lived that dream.

The balance of research, teaching, and service that caught the eye of the Stiefel Committee began early in his career at KU. Having taught composition courses in graduate school, he was more than willing to work with then-Freshman-Sophomore English Director, John Willingham (a fellow Texan), in the V-6 program, especially after he discovered that Kansas produced "better students than Texas." He frequently taught freshman courses, often in the summer, and especially enjoyed using Willingham's 101 curriculum, a combination of literary and non-literary reading and writing.

## Message from the Chair



It has become a commonplace to say that “we’re in an era of transition,” but with a new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a new Provost, and even a new Dean of Libraries, we in the English Department can truthfully say that we’re in the midst of significant change. One of the key themes of both the new Dean and the new Provost, both of whom came to us from other universities, is that the University of Kansas is a hidden treasure—a much better school than most people recognize—and that we need to tell our story better. As alumni, I hope that you will assist us in that project, for you are among the most important public voices for the University and the Department. In fact, as part of the project of better telling our story, our new leaders are placing more emphasis on outcomes assessment and strategic planning, and we will be getting in

touch with many of you, especially those who received degrees in the last ten years or so, to ask you to evaluate the educational experience you received in the English Department. I encourage you to take an active part in helping us assess what we’ve done well and what we need to improve on.

Among our recent successes, I count our hiring of some outstanding young faculty members, including the seven part-time instructors who have been hired as full-time lecturers, as well as new tenure-track faculty like Terese Monberg (profiled in this newsletter), Ann Rowland (who just arrived here from Harvard to begin teaching early 19<sup>th</sup>-century British literature), and Stephanie Fitzgerald (who will teach half time for us and half for Indigenous Nations Studies). Our new M.F.A. degree has attracted some outstanding young creative writers to the Department, people whose names I’m sure you will be reading in prominent places very soon. The past year’s line-up of visiting scholars and speakers, described on page 4, is, I think, quite impressive, and these visits certainly contributed to the intellectual tone of the Department and the larger community of KU and Lawrence. We have continued to offer an exciting and innovative menu of courses, from the sophomore-level “The Comedic Chaucer” (Karla Knutson) and “Holocaust Literature” (M. J. McLendon) to upper-level courses ranging from Dick Hardin’s course on Marlowe to Deb Olin Unferth’s “Comics and Collage,” and graduate courses in Mark Twain (Susan Harris), “Metaphor” (Jim Hartman), and “Studies in Life Writing” (Maryemma Graham). Our students

seem engaged and intellectually curious, with over 70 receiving awards and scholarships—many of these through your generosity—at our annual spring Awards Ceremony. Despite troubles like the “cancer cluster” identified in Wescoe Hall and the illness of one of our long-time colleagues, Bud Hirsch, we continue to maintain morale and are passionate about our work.

We are also very proud of our alumni, many of whose published books were celebrated this past semester. Twenty-eight representative volumes were gathered by our staff and then featured in our display case as an exhibition entitled “Monographs, Editions, and Creative Work Published by KU English Alumni since 2000.” One of the most rewarding things about teaching is to see the success of our students who build on and often surpass the insights gained from their mentors.

I am especially delighted that so many of you responded this year to our request for information on what you’re up to—so many, in fact, that we had to edit most of them in order to fit them all in these pages. I’m impressed by the variety of activities you are involved in and the great contributions you are making to higher education, non-profit agencies, entrepreneurial businesses, and a host of other important and interesting arenas. I hope you attribute at least a part of your successes to your education here, just as any successes we can claim as a Department are in large part due to your continuing support and interest.

■—Dorice W. Elliott

### *Stiefel (continued from page 1)*

Sporadic teaching of freshman service courses like English 101 and 102 has been a hallmark of Hardin’s career. Though all full-time faculty are required to teach freshman- and sophomore-level classes from time to time, most professors now teach either Honors Seminars or topics courses that are linked to their research. As recently as 2005, Hardin waded into the trenches to teach a 102. Even while serving as Chair (1997-2000), he took on large service courses. His decision to stand for that most onerous administrative position, for that matter, was typically Hardinesque. Convinced by mid-90s arguments that the chairship should rotate more frequently, thus spreading the burden around, he decided to take his turn first and volunteered. When not teaching or serving on a committee (he has done considerable College and University as well as Department service), he can be found, morning or afternoon, in his office, reading, writing, or advising, or engaged in productive colloquy with students or colleagues. He is a fixture at late afternoon or evening Department-sponsored events. While the stereotype of the lazy

professor is almost universally untrue, everyone acknowledges that Dick Hardin is the antithesis of that myth. He is a lunch-bucket professor.

“Workman-like,” in its best sense, also describes Dick Hardin’s research career. Though he has emphasized shorter pieces rather than books, he has nevertheless written three monographs (a fourth is nearing completion) and edited or co-authored three other full-length projects. Meanwhile, he has generated nearly fifty articles, as well as numerous reviews. The consistency and regularity of his production is striking. His first book, *Michael Drayton and the Passing of Elizabethan England*, was published in 1973. In 1979, his edition, *Survivals of Pastoral*, came out. Three major projects came to fruition in 1991 and 1992, including his monograph, *Civil Idolatry: Desacralizing and Monarchy in Spenser, Shakespeare, and Milton. Love in a Green Shade: Idyllic Romances Ancient to Modern* saw print in 2000. His book on the Roman dramatist Plautus’s reputation and reception in the sixteenth century is forthcoming. Links between

his sabbatical leaves and his major works are evident. And, with few exceptions, he has published one or more articles every year since 1968. Chairs of the Department have come to feel that no semester is complete until a Hardin publication of some kind lands on their desk for review and recording in the annual bibliography.

As the titles of his books reveal, Richard Hardin’s specialty is the English Renaissance. Still, no professor can quite escape the fear that Hardin knows more about his “period” or “authors” than he or she does. A voracious reader, he is conversant across timelines and disciplines, and this astonishing array of knowledge enriches his teaching (and his collegial interactions) enormously. Early in his career, also, he learned the value of historical context for his studies from his colleague, Dan Patterson. Though Hardin had written his dissertation on the Elizabethan and Jacobean poet and playwright Michael Drayton, his discussions with Patterson about seventeenth-century English history led him to view Drayton and his works in an entirely new light. Later, his collaborations with KU

History faculty member Bill Gilbert reinforced the value of approaching literature from an interdisciplinary perspective. Together, Hardin and Gilbert taught cross-listed courses in Renaissance Humanism and The Elizabethan World. Dick's commitment to interdisciplinarity remains strong in the twenty-first century. In 2005, he taught an overload course on the Faust tradition with KU German professor Frank Baron.

Hardin's teaching and research are intimately connected. Discoveries made while teaching turn into research. Insights gained from this research make their way back to the classroom. In the latter part of his career, this symbiosis has led to a fascination with origins. Though Hardin confesses his interests are unfashionable, he has been drawn back to antiquity and is utilizing his old Latin minor as a tool in researching the influence of the classical period on Renaissance and more modern texts. He is particularly interested in the venerable genres of Romance and Comedy. With the awarding of the Stiefel Professorship to Richard Hardin, undergraduate and graduate students can look forward to a few more years of exploring these realms with someone who has carefully pondered their significance ("or," as he might quip, "the lack thereof").

Graduate students. Any summary of Richard Hardin's career must include mention of his work with KU English M.A. and Ph.D. candidates. To keep the list of graduate students on whose committees he has served to one page, he resorts to fine print on his CV. He has chaired the same number of M.A. theses, Ph.D. comprehensives, and Ph.D. dissertations as the number of years he has taught at the University (40). The numbers for his participation as a reader and committee member are exponentially higher.

Most of these students have gone on to their own careers in English or a related field. Maureen Godman (Ph.D. 1997), Associate Professor of English at Washburn University, speaks for many when she states, "He [Hardin] represents the best of those teachers who offer lifetimes of service to the profession with little thought of their own self-advancement. His tireless commitment to teaching and scholarship, and his vision of what it means to be an educated and principled citizen of the world have given countless students an education broader and more humane than they could have hoped for."

## New Scholarships and Awards

At the May 2006 English Honors and Awards Ceremony, several new student scholarships and awards were presented for the first time. The variety of the donors and

of the designated recipients is striking. KU English is grateful for the thoughtfulness and generosity of those who contributed the funds for these scholarships and awards.

Jim Arnold, of Austin, Texas, attended the ceremony and presented the inaugural **Maud Cies Jackson Award** to Kathryn Seibel, a creative writing major in the Department. Arnold explained that the award is named for his grandmother, who moved to Lawrence from Missouri in 1923. Her three children all graduated from KU. Over the years until her death in 1966, Jackson wrote numerous books, short stories, poetry, and some non-fiction for young people. Her works are held by the Douglas County Historical Society. The award, sponsored by a family foundation, memorializes her life and literary efforts.



Maud Cies Jackson

**The Peedee Brown Non-Traditional Student Scholarships** were also presented for the first time this spring. Peedee Brown (B.A. 1988), of Fairway, Kansas, earned her degree by taking KU Regents Center courses after marrying and raising a family. She created these scholarships especially for strong students who, for one reason or another, do not fit the usual age profile at the University of Kansas (or, in more colloquial terms, as she put it, "someone like me.") Recipients this year included Tricia May, a late-20s medieval studies student, Jack Kline, an empty-nester at the University's Edwards Campus and Anna Gonzalez, 30, a commuter from Topeka, who describes herself as a "full-time mother and full-time student in that order."

**The Nancy Stockwell Scholarship** was presented this year to creative writer Jameelah Lang, whose fiction often explores her Saudi heritage. The scholarship is intended for female students from underrepresented ethnic backgrounds who have shown



Nancy Stockwell

ability in writing prose or drama. Nancy Stockwell (M.A. 1966), originally from Paola, KS, battled cystic fibrosis all her life, taught sociology when her health permitted, and wrote when it did not. She was the author of a collection of short stories (*Out Somewhere and Back Again: The Kansas Stories*). She was fiercely devoted to social issues and helped

support early feminist presses in California. Despite her illness, she became a member of the LPGA, and once won a golf tournament while on oxygen, unhooking herself from the bottle to make shots. She wrote her letter of gift from a hospital in San Diego in 1998, where she was awaiting a double lung transplant. Complications from the operation took her life a few months later. In her letter, she included a note to all recipients that reads in part, "I hope this small award helps to encourage you to write about your history and the place where you come from. I hope this award helps you to have faith in your creativity and your intuition—those are the two things which brought me a good life . . ."

**The Angela Jones Opportunity Fund** is an award that has not been mentioned as prominently as it deserves because it is given during the year, rather than at the year-end ceremony. Angela Jones (Ph.D. 2002) is an assistant professor of English at Western Kentucky University. When she graduated in 2002, her family (Max and Sonja Jones, parents, and Renita Jones Anderson, sister) provided funding for an annual graduate student travel award to be given each year in her honor. The award is competitive. Graduate students submit papers they hope to give at an upcoming conference. A committee of faculty members decides the winner. With funds for travel so tight, this award provides a deserving M.A. or Ph.D. candidate an opportunity for professional exposure and advancement. Graduate students are particularly pleased that the award is named for someone who, very recently, was in their position.

## 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 Nancy Jackson, 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.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS CAPSULES

### Wescoe Hall Health Study and Renovation Plans



Artist's rendering of Wescoe Hall Terrace Infill

After Professor Bud Hirsch was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in the spring of 2006 (see **Faculty News**), a Wescoe Hall occupant expressed concerns to the administration about the number of individuals with offices in Wescoe who have developed the same health problem in the last ten years (five known cases, two tumors proved benign). This is a strikingly high incidence rate given the limited population of the building, even considering turnover during the last decade. A brief media circus ensued. Reports that an Australian university had closed two floors of a building in similar circumstances added fuel to the fire. Some faculty members abandoned their offices to work from home and requested that their summer and fall courses be rescheduled in non-Wescoe classrooms.

In response, a full epidemiological study, led by Dr. John Neuberger of the KU Medical Center, was commissioned by the University. An initial air quality study, done over the summer, showed no abnormal levels of potentially hazardous substances, though it did reveal zero air flow in parts of the building (no surprise to the inhabitants). Elevated levels of formaldehyde, a common indoor pollutant, were discovered in some rooms, but the number of particles remained within OSHA guidelines. The study will be repeated during the fall semester. In the meantime, Dr. Neuberger will continue gathering data from current and former building occupants. The results of his study are expected early in 2007. The ventilation problems are being addressed.

Ironically, the study is being undertaken in the midst of a renovation project on the building. In 2005, a proposal to initiate a college-specific tuition for the express purpose of gutting and rebuilding Wescoe Hall was voted down by the students. However, alternative funding was secured to begin work on a Wescoe "infill" that will enclose the western half of Wescoe Hall. That project kicked off in June. Current plans also call for the first floor of Wescoe to be leveled once the infill is complete. University officials see no reason, at this point, to delay or abandon renovation plans.

### Visiting Writers and Scholars

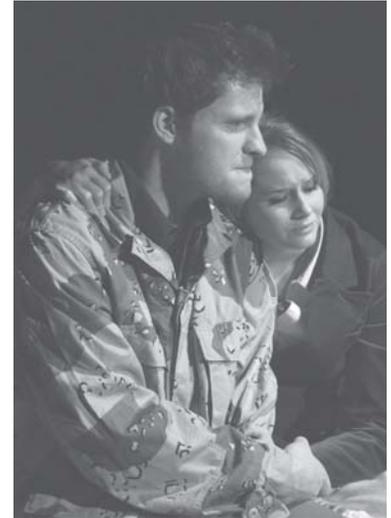
The Hall Center for the Humanities Lecture Series brought novelist **Salman Rushdie** to KU to address a packed Lied Center in October 2005. Not surprisingly, he provided some pungent commentary on current events while discussing his maturation as a writer. U.S. Poet Laureate **Ted Kooser** was a guest of the English Department's Lecturers & Readers program, as was Notre Dame medievalist **Dolores Frese**. The **Eberhardt Memorial Lecture** was delivered by **Ellen Cushman**, a composition and rhetoric specialist from Michigan State, who is a pioneer in utilizing new technologies for service-learning. Renowned Shakespeare scholar **Michael Neill** lectured on South African writer J. M. Coetzee. Harvard's **Marjorie Garber** then mollified KU's and Lawrence's bardolaters by expounding on "Bartlett's Familiar Shakespeare: The Pleasures and Pitfalls of Quotation" in the annual **Gunn Memorial Lecture**. Versatile fiction and creative non-fiction writer **Merrill Gilfillan** and young Irish poet **Kevin Higgins** gave readings in the fall and spring respectively. In addition, the Department hosted Fulbright Scholar **Dr. Louisa Matmati**, University of Annaba, Algeria. Dr. Matmati is doing research for a comparative study of African American writer Toni Morrison and Algerian novelist, translator, and filmmaker Assia Djebar.

### Kemper Fellowship to Hartman



Professor **Jim Hartman** was awarded a 2005-2006 Kemper Fellowship during the first week of the Fall 2005 semester. Provost David Shulenburg and his "surprise patrol" deputies interrupted Hartman's English 587: American English class to make the presentation. Twenty Kemper Fellowships worth \$5,000 are awarded each fall at KU-Lawrence, the Edwards Campus, and the Med Center to "support, improve and reward outstanding teaching, advising, and service."

### EAT and University Theatre Co-Produce Original Play



Joe Carey ("Josh Now") and Candace Bondank ("Katie") in *An Army of One*

For the first time since English Alternative Theatre was founded in 1990, EAT and University Theatre cooperated in staging an original play by a KU student in November 2005. *An Army of One*, by '05 English graduate Zacory Boatwright was produced in the Inge Theatre in Murphy Hall. Actors were cast during University Theatre auditions and the production was supported by UT designers and technical staff. Paul Hough of Kansas City directed. The play, which tackled the issue of post-traumatic stress syndrome in Iraq War veterans, sold out its run and an extension. It was also selected for production at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Regional Competition in January 2006. EAT's artistic director, **Paul Stephen Lim**, was extremely pleased with the play, which was written in his advanced playwriting class, and with the opportunity to work with his University Theatre counterparts. As the new English M.F.A. program accepts its first students in Fall 2006, Lim hopes that an ongoing relationship with University Theatre can be established that will offer EAT's writers and directors a chance to share the space, equipment, talent pool, and other resources of University Theatre for the benefit of both organizations and the University community.

Associate Professor **Dorice Williams Elliott** was appointed to a second term as Chair of English following evaluations during Spring 2006. She will serve until June 2009.

## New Faculty



Terese Guinsatao Monberg

Assistant Professor **Terese Guinsatao Monberg** grew up in the Hyde Park area of Chicago. Though many members of her family worked at the near-by University of Chicago in administrative positions, the lives of UC's professors were foreign to her. Now, when she returns home (as she often does), she finds herself gravitating to academic haunts. Those who knew her during her teenage years might find this transformation especially surprising. A high school dropout ("I didn't see the relevance"), she spent two years working before a yen to become a writer lured her back to an experimental secondary school in downtown Chicago. Run on a quarter system, with classes designed like college courses, the school took advantage of the city's many attractions and specialties to educate its students.

Reconciled to scholastic pursuits, Monberg sought an undergraduate degree at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Initially an engineering major, she transferred into English after finding, in the midst of her first physics course, that she "couldn't get passionate about why the ball rolled down the hill." Her cousin warned her, however, that English majors never get jobs, so she graduated in Economics and was hired (along with numerous English majors) as a computer programmer/analyst trainee by a major Chicago bank. Her future husband, John Monberg, sat behind her in training.

In 1990, Terese and John moved to Troy, NY, where John began a graduate program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In 1993, Terese entered a Master's Program in Rhetoric and Composition, also at RPI. The field had intrigued her since her days in Urbana-Champaign. She had always been fascinated by the discrepancy between standard "lines" used in public/personal communication and the real objectives that lay

behind the rhetorical mask. She went on to earn a Ph.D. from RPI in 2002.

After teaching briefly at the University of Louisville, she accompanied her husband to KU and served for a year as Assistant Director of the Honors Program. In this capacity, she oversaw the Dean's Scholars program and mentored upper-division students from traditionally underrepresented population groups who wished to attend graduate school. She found this work especially fulfilling.

Professor Monberg's research grows out of her doctoral dissertation, *Re-Locating Ethos: Rhetorics of Hybridity and the Filipino American Nation Historical Society (FANHS)*. Her dissertation synopsis states, "A rhetoric of hybridity – as a mode of practice and/or analysis – assumes that 1) rhetorical artifacts are always situated in relationship to more than one context or community; 2) these contexts and communities are heterogeneous and have been shaped by histories of uneven power relationships often involving racial domination; and 3) an attention to persuasive appeals hides other forms of work that "texts" or rhetorical artifacts perform. The rhetorical notion of ethos, once situated within this expanded notion of rhetoric, allows me to examine how members of a Filipino-American community-based historical society have used rhetoric to re-negotiate their sense of belonging in different communities. By reading these rhetorical negotiations of group membership against larger forces of social and economic change, this analysis gives us a better understanding of the rhetorical processes through which social identities are constructed, imposed on others, and negotiated – a necessary extension for a discipline that has long claimed a commitment to democracy and justice."

In general, Monberg wants to show how Asian American rhetorics "carve out space, write their histories, protest conditions, and reinvent identities." She is particularly interested in the elusive contributions of behind-the-scenes women to Asian American rhetoric, and in the cross-racial alliances and influences she discovers through painstaking analysis of oral and written communication of this kind. Professor Monberg has already published several articles and essays on this subject. Backed by a New Faculty research grant, she hopes to produce two more articles in the near future, then begin shaping the sum total of her work into a monograph. Meanwhile, she has taught graduate courses in Cultural Rhetorics and Composition Studies during her first year in the Department, as well as a freshman-sophomore Honors course entitled "Radical Educators." She enjoys fitness activities (to counter an equally strong enjoyment of eating). The Kansas landscape has not yet totally discouraged her love for gardening, and she dabbles with photography when time permits.

Professor **Ann Rowland**, a specialist in nineteenth-century British literature and culture will join the KU English Department in Fall 2006. She has taught at Harvard University for the past five years after receiving her Ph.D. from Yale. Assistant Professor **Stephanie Fitzgerald** will take up half-time duties with KU English at the same time. A 2005 graduate of Claremont Graduate University, Dr. Fitzgerald will also hold a half-time appointment with the Center for Indigenous Nations Studies. Her specialization is American Indian literature. Professor Rowland and Professor Fitzgerald will both be profiled in the next edition of *Update*.

## New Full-Time Lecturers

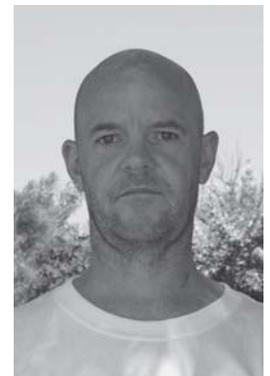
Three new full-time lecturers have been hired by the Department on three-year contracts that begin in Fall 2006. This is the second group of lecturers to be hired as part of a projected four-year plan to create twelve full-time positions of this kind.

**Stephen Johnson** received an M.F.A. from Wichita State University in 1999. He has been a part-time lecturer at KU since 2000. He specializes in teaching the sophomore-level Introduction to Poetry course, though he often teaches freshman composition courses as well. A published poet himself, he enjoys attending and supporting fiction and poetry readings in Lawrence.



Stephen Johnson

**Iain J. W. Ellis** holds a Ph.D. in American Culture Studies from Bowling Green University. He has been a part-time lecturer at KU since 2000. Besides standard composition courses, he has taught a sophomore-level course in "Expressions of Youth Rebellion" and upper-division courses in Recent Popular Literature and Punk



Iain Ellis

Literature. Originally from England, he also holds an M.A. in Modern English and American Literature from the University of Leicester. He is a frequent contributor to PopMatters (located at popmatters.com) and his submissions on Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Chuck Berry, and Wanda Jackson are forthcoming in the book *Subversive Rock Humorists*. Besides teaching at KU, he has also been a part-time lecturer at Johnson County Community College, where he won the 2005 Lieberman Teaching Excellence Award for Adjunct Faculty.

**Jane VanderVelde** earned an M. A. in English with a teaching emphasis (including certification) from the University of Illinois. She has taught in the Freshman-Sophomore English program for ten years. She has also taught and revised curriculum



Jane VanderVelde

for KU Continuing Education and the Office of Independent Study. Besides teaching the basic 101 and 102 FSE courses, she has also taught Introduction to Fiction and Introduction to Poetry, as well as another sophomore-level course of her own devising entitled "Literature of Love and Marriage." She has been active in FSE and University pedagogical workshops and, in 2003-2004, won an Outstanding Instructor Award in the Department. In 2004-2005, she helped organize KU English's New Literacies Conference. This past year she represented the part-time lecturers as a member of the Department's Advisory Committee.

## Faculty News

**Giselle Anatol** recently returned from the International Conference of the Association of Caribbean Women Writers & Scholars (ACWWS), held this year in North Miami. There, she gave a paper entitled "Written on the Body: Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Edwidge Danticat's *The Dew Breaker*." She was honored to see the Haitian writer in the audience, and, after the panel, to have the chance to speak with her about the talk. In October, Anatol was invited to present work at an Americanists conference at the University of Pennsylvania. "The Horror of Racism in Eddie

Murphy's *Vampire in Brooklyn*" was an excerpt from her current research project *The Things That Fly in the Night: Images of Female Vampirism in Literature of the African Americas*.

**G. Douglas Atkins's** new book, his ninth, appeared with strong reviews from the University of Georgia Press. The book is entitled *Tracing the Essay: Through Experience to Truth*. Earlier, he signed a contract, with Georgia, for another book, tentatively titled *Reading Essays*. He continued work on other projects as well, including books on T.S. Eliot and the essay, reading and criticism, and the "journey toward understanding." In the spring, he enjoyed a sabbatical leave, wrote a lot, submitted manuscripts, and attended his son Christopher's Ph.D. graduation in Art History from Rutgers and his wife Rebecca's graduation, in Management, from Ottawa. He reports continuing strides in the collecting of first editions, from Hilaire Belloc to T.S. Eliot, Allen Tate to Geoffrey Hill, as well as Hemingway and Fitzgerald.

**Philip Barnard** enjoyed a sabbatical leave in Fall 2005, during which he completed most of the work for a new edition of Charles Brockden Brown's *Edgar Huntly* (1799) which will appear in September 2006. He has also been completing his next project, an English edition (translation and critical introduction) of François Guéry and Didier Deleule's *The Productive Body* (1972). This is a study of modern mind-body dualism from Descartes to Marx and Taylor, and its relation to conceptions of labor and the body under industrialism on the one hand, and the emergence of psychology as a social sciences discipline on the other.

**David Bergeron** reports that in March 2005, he gave two invited lectures at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia: "Shakespeare Rewritten: John Fletcher's *The Woman's Prize*," and "Shakespeare in the Closet." On 26 May 2005, Bergeron presented the paper "*Hamlet's Closets and Hamlet's Closets*" to the international meeting of the Mediterranean Studies Association in Messina, Sicily. He followed this conference with a tour of Sicily, focusing primarily on Greek temples and theaters from the 8th century B.C. This led to a marvelous five days in Rome. (Well, somebody has to do it!) In February 2006, his book, *Textual Patronage and English Drama, 1570-1640*, was published by Ashgate in the UK and the USA. This book focuses on epistles dedicatory and addresses to readers in dramatic texts and associates these paratexts with practices of patronage.

**Beverly Boyd** presented papers on Chaucer at the Hawaii Conference on Arts and Humanities and read three poems at their New Poet's Corner. She published an article on Chaucer's descendants entombed in Ewelme Church, Oxfordshire (photos by David Smith, of

Oxfordshire) in *Stained Glass*, quarterly journal of the Stained Glass Association of America. She is also circulating a book on Chaucer's ancestors.

**Byron Caminero-Santangelo's** book, *African Fiction and Joseph Conrad: Reading Postcolonial Intertextuality*, was published in December 2005 by State University of New York (SUNY) Press. "Different Shades of Green: Ecocriticism and African Literature" was accepted for publication in *An Anthology of African Literary Theory and Criticism* (Blackwell), and an article on the Ogoni writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, entitled "Of Freedom and Oil: Nation, Globalization, and Civil Liberties in the Writing of Ken Saro-Wiwa," is due to be published in *REAL: Research in English and American Literature* this fall. Both articles are part of his current project on environmentalism and African literature. In January 2005, Professor Caminero-Santangelo began his tenure as Director of Graduate Studies.

**Marta Caminero-Santangelo** was pleased to learn that her book, *On Latinidad: U.S. Latino Literature and the Construction of Ethnicity*, has been accepted by the University Press of Florida and will be published in the late summer of 2007. The first full-length literary study to address head-on the question of how Latino/a literature wrestles with the construction of a collective pan-ethnic identity ("Latino" or "Hispanic"), *On Latinidad* examines the texts of prominent Chicano/a, Dominican-American, Puerto Rican, and Cuban-American writers to consider the imagined boundaries that delineate a collective group of people: how narrative draws those boundaries, how they have fluctuated, who—in terms of race, national origin, class, citizenship—gets included and who gets excluded, etc. Marta is also in the initial stages of planning a conference on U.S. Latina/o Studies at KU for Spring 2008; and she has organized a group of KU faculty to work on a proposal for a KU Latina/o Studies program.

**Jim Carothers** taught the undergraduate Faulkner and Hemingway class and an Honors class in Comedy and Humor in the fall, and the undergraduate Shakespeare and an undergraduate Honors Proseminar in Modernism in the spring. He represented University Governance at Regents meetings in Topeka and presided over the University Council, completing his third term as KU's Faculty Senate President. The University of Mississippi Press published his *Reading Faulkner: Collected Stories*, on which he collaborated with Theresa M. Towner (B.A. 1980). He gave a paper on *The Sun Also Rises* at the International Hemingway Conference in Ronda, Spain, where he helped announce the awarding of the 2008 Conference to Kansas City.

In the fall of 2005, **Kathryn Conrad** both revisited James Joyce and launched a new interdisciplinary course on Northern Ireland. This spring, she was awarded a sabbatical and

spent some time in Belfast. While there, she served as a parade monitor and photographer for St. Patrick's Day in association with Queen's University Belfast and, in keeping with the theme, participated in the Irish Anthropology Association's conference on the topic of St. Patrick's Day. This summer, she is excited to return to Belfast with KU students in tow for the first KU Irish Studies summer study abroad program at Queen's. In the meantime, she is working on articles on Joyce and on surveillance in Northern Ireland and continuing to research her next book.

**Brian Daldorph** edited the new *Coal City Review* (#22), and a first collection of poems by KU graduate Matthew Porubsky, *voyeur poems*. He is working on a collection of poems about his five years of experience teaching a creative writing class at Douglas County Jail, and hopes also to edit an anthology of jail-inmate writing. He contributed a poem to the *Chance of a Ghost* anthology, and his poems and stories were published in *Ambit* (London), *North American Review*, and *White Pelican Review*, among others. He spent a splendid afternoon with U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser when Kooser visited campus in November 2005.

**Amy Devitt** especially enjoyed developing a new course on Scholarly Writing for Publication for Spring 2006. The course, designed to help advanced graduate students turn their scholarly papers into scholarly conference presentations and articles, involved a dedicated and lively group of graduate students in studying exemplars, reviewing others' drafts, and revising their own works extensively. In another course, English 101 Composition, she began a research project (funded by a grant from the Center for Teaching Excellence) to discover how first-year students use the kinds of writing (genres) that they already know when learning how to write new genres. She also enjoyed the surprise of Cambridge University Press reprinting in paperback her first book on *Standardizing Written English*. Almost as surprising (and perhaps slightly less enjoyable) was her election to the Executive Committee of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, her field's primary national organization.

**Doreen Fowler's** work-in-progress is a booklength manuscript entitled "Theorizing Difference: William Faulkner, Richard Wright, Flannery O'Connor, and Toni Morrison." The texts of these authors, she argues, look for a different kind of difference, a difference not based in binary oppositions that define by exclusionary or repressive tactics. In search of time to complete this project, in the spring of 2006, she participated in an interdisciplinary proposal writing workshop, and, in May, submitted a fellowship application to NEH. Also in May, at the American Literature Association meeting in San Francisco, she read

"Go Slow, Now': Faulkner, Gavin Stevens, and the Rhetoric of Race," an essay from her work-in-progress. On the service front, in addition to working on the Graduate Studies and the GTAL committees, she chaired a search for three full-time lecturers.

In 2005-2006 **Iris Smith Fischer** taught a variety of courses, among them a graduate survey in performance theory and a new version of ENGL 327 on "20th-Century Drama: Authors and Authority." She edited six papers presented at the 2005 New Literacies conference for the December issue of *The Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*. Her performance edition of Susan Glaspell's play, *Inheritors*, based on two staged readings, is now available on the Susan Glaspell Society website at <http://academic.shu.edu/glaspell/inheritors.html>. In Spring 2006 she presented a paper on Mabou Mines' early productions of plays by Samuel Beckett at the Comparative Drama Conference. She was selected as a KU Senior Administrative Fellow for 2005-2006 and continues to co-direct the Performance and Culture Seminar at the Hall Center for the Humanities.

**Maryemma Graham** happily began her sabbatical by setting off to North Carolina and the National Humanities Center as the 2005-2006 John Hope Franklin Fellow. Almost as soon as she arrived, Hurricane Katrina hit, affecting many close friends and family. Her task for the year was to complete *The House Where My Soul Lives: The Life of Margaret Walker*, and because the story is in part set in New Orleans, she found a natural connection to what she was writing. Throughout the year, hearing and seeing the Katrina aftermath, she encountered experiences that were alternately inspiring and repulsive. This was the major factor in her decision to create a voice in the text that spoke beyond the academic community. Pleased that her college-age children gave up their holidays to help with the restoration efforts, she packed clothes and books for them to take, but pressed ahead with the book project. Their efforts were so well received that it inspired her to work even harder to finish the book, whose chapters are now with the publisher she hopes will accept the manuscript. In addition, during the year she managed to continue her service as president of the Toni Morrison Society. In that capacity she oversees numerous projects. One favorite is the "Bench by the Road Project," conceived as a public literacy initiative for the Morrison Society. To kick it off, the society commissioned a handcrafted bench by student artists from Lawrence's own Van Go Mobile Arts and presented the first bench on the occasion of the Nobel Laureate's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Benches soon will be placed throughout the U.S. in significant historic sites that mark "sites of memory" for African Americans and Americans alike.

**Richard Hardin** reports the following: "Travel Facts: Driving to Chicago, once you get on the Ronald Reagan Highway, there's no place to go to the bathroom. There's no place to eat breakfast in Booneville MO except fast-food restaurants. It takes just as long to get from our house to Shawnee Mission by K-10 as by I-70, but K-10 is .7 mi. shorter. Personal fact: our youngest daughter, Julia, got married in March. Professional fact: I read a paper on Plautus at Columbia MO in September; there were no questions."

**Susan K. Harris** was on study leave during the Fall 2005 semester. During that time she focused on launching her new project, a study of Christianity, Imperialism, and the Annexation of the Philippines in 1899. During the Spring 2006 semester, she attended a Hall Center Workshop in grantwriting, which she found immensely helpful. In the Spring 2006 semester she taught the second half of the American literature survey, a course that she designs around the theme "Who Gets to 'Speak' America"? At the end of the semester, she was touched to be honored with the Mabel S. Fry Award for graduate teaching. This summer she headed to Barcelona, Spain, as a student with KU's Spanish-language summer immersion program, to upgrade her Spanish language skills. While there, she did research for her project in the Barcelona city and university archives.

During the Spring 2006 semester, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Director **Bud Hirsch** was diagnosed with brain cancer. Treatments have proven ineffective and, at press time, he was at home receiving hospice care. In late July, Provost Richard Lariviere visited Hirsch's home and presented him with a 2006-2007 Kemper Fellowship, an award for which he was nominated prior to the discovery of his illness. Representatives of the Center for Indigenous Nations Studies also presented him with the Crystal Eagle, a national award given each year by CINS to an individual with a distinguished record of scholarship and service on behalf of Indigenous Peoples.

**Ken Irby** had new poetry published in the last year in the journals *First Intensity*, *No*, and *Black Spring*, the last — a special issue featuring Lawrence writers — also including three critical discussions of his work. A biographical and critical entry on him appeared in *The Facts on File Companion to 20th-Century American Poetry*, published by Checkmark Books in New York. One of the poems brought out in *First Intensity* was then chosen for *The Gertrude Stein Awards in Innovative American Poetry: 2005*. In May, 2006, he took part in the Olson Now events in Cambridge (at MIT) and Gloucester, MA, celebrating the accomplishments of the American poet, critic, government member, and educator,

Charles Olson (1910-1970). And he was also a participant in April in a one-day multi-disciplinary workshop/conference on the cultural impact of the life and work of Alexander von Humboldt, the great German naturalist, traveller, and statesman, sponsored by the Department of German at KU.

**Michael L. Johnson** continued as director of Freshman-Sophomore English during a year of significant changes in the Department's basic courses. He read from his poetry in numerous venues during 2005. His book *Hunger for the Wild: A Cultural History of America's Obsession with the Untamed West* will be published by the University Press of Kansas in February 2007.

**Paul Stephen Lim** was in the Philippines in June 2005, offering a playwriting seminar at De La Salle University, his old alma mater, when he wasn't being pampered by his family. Back in the states, Paul resumed work with **English Alternative Theatre** and his many student playwrights. In August, EAT sponsored Kevin Frost's trip to the Association of Theatre in Higher Education convention in San Francisco, where "Class War," Kevin's ten-minute play, was being workshopped. Paul was a playwriting respondent at the same ATHE convention. On Labor Day, Paul directed staged readings of a double-bill of student one-acts. On October 1, Paul appeared onstage with John Younger (of the Classics Department) in a theatrical event billed as "An Evening of Reminiscences and Revelations: On the Yellow Brick Road with Salman Rushdie and Paul Stephen Lim." In November, EAT and University Theatre joined forces to produce "An Army of One" by Zacory Boatright, who wrote the play in directed studies with Paul. Paul was on sabbatical leave during Spring 2006. He is writing a new play which he hopes to share with audiences before the current Year of the Dog is over.

**Janet Sharistianian's** edition of Willa Cather's *My Antonia* (1918) was published by Oxford University Press as part of their World's Classics Series in Spring 2006. Besides providing explanatory and textual notes, Sharistianian also wrote an introduction, a biography, a chronology, and an appendix. At the 2005 New Literacies Conference, she delivered a paper entitled, "Processes of Music-Making in Willa Cather's *The Song of the Lark*" and also organized a session on opera as a performance of America in the early twentieth century. In 2005-2006, she taught courses on Cather and Edith Wharton, as well as on the First World War and the American Literary Imagination.

In 2005-06, **Geraldo de Sousa** attended and gave papers at the international congresses of the Mediterranean Studies Association, which were held at Università di Messina, Sicily and at the Università de Genova, Italy, in May 2005 and May 2006, respectively. In addition to helping organize these congresses, Sousa

continued his work as editor of *Mediterranean Studies*, a prestigious annual international, multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed journal, published in the United Kingdom, in the fields of history, art history, architecture, literature, theater, music, performing arts, political science, cultural studies, and philosophy. In 2005, Manchester University Press, the third largest academic press in the U.K., became the publisher of the journal. Sousa also published an essay, "Unhoused in *Othello*," in the MLA series *Approaches to Teaching Shakespeare's 'Othello'*. He is currently working on a new book on Shakespeare's major tragedies and the representation of space on the stage.

**Marjorie Swann's** work took a biographical turn this past year. With coauthor William Tsutsui (History Department), she published the essay "John Steuart Curry: A Portrait of the Author as a Kansan" in *John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History*, ed. Virgil W. Dean (University Press of Kansas, 2006). In March, Marjorie presented a conference paper entitled "Sex and the Single Queen: The Erotic Lives of Elizabeth I in Seventeenth-Century England," and in June, she presented a public lecture at the West Wyandotte branch of the Kansas City Kansas Public Library entitled "England's Elizabeth: Queenship and Culture." The highlight of her Elizabethan spring was serving as a guest on "The Walt Bodine Show" on Kansas City's NPR station to discuss Elizabeth I.

**John Edgar Tidwell** has been on leave this past school year. In the fall, he enjoyed a sabbatical to organize and begin writing his biography of Sterling A. Brown, the late poet, folklorist, anthologist, raconteur, and teacher extraordinaire. He spent the spring semester as a Humanities Research Fellow at the Hall Center for the Humanities to continue his biographical study. Into this rarely experienced time off from classroom and committee responsibilities came the most delightful interruptions: three book-length projects that he either edited or co-edited came back from publishers with contracts. *A Negro Looks at the South*, the first project, is being published by Oxford University Press. This book is largely a travelogue written by Sterling A. Brown, who, in the 1940s, recorded his observations of southern African Americans with the express intent of showing their cultural diversity. The second project is *Writings by Frank Marshall Davis, A Voice of the Black Press*. Davis (1905-87) was born in south central Kansas, fifty miles below Wichita. After two stints at Kansas State, he emerged as one of the nation's leading journalists and poets. This book compiles a representative share of his journalism and demonstrates how his work actually helped to redefine the meaning of the Black press.

The last project turns to another figure with Kansas ties: Langston Hughes. Named *Montage*

*of a Dream: Essays on the Art and Life of Langston Hughes*, this volume explores new dimensions of the writer. Among the nineteen essays is Tidwell's own: "The Sounds of Silence: Langston Hughes as a 'Down Low' Brother?". The University of Missouri Press was eager to accept this collection, which is the first one since 1971 to offer mainly new essays that reconsider Hughes's importance to American and African American literature and culture.

**Deb Olin Unferth** taught a senior honors seminar on the short short story this year, in addition to graduate and undergraduate workshops. Her own short shorts appeared in literary journals including *McSweeney's*, *Denver Quarterly*, and the *Boston Review*. Her longer stories appeared in *Conjunctions*, *NOON*, and *Willow Springs*. She also had work appear in two anthologies: *The Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses 2005* (she won the award for a story that appeared the year before in *NOON*) and *Rules of Thumb: An Anthology of Writers*. She also is the editor of the second issue of the literary journal *Parakeet* which appeared in Spring 2006. She gave readings at the University of Chicago, the Back Room in New York City, the Kansas City Art Institute, and several other places. She led a workshop at Northwestern University's Summer Writers' Conference, and sat on panels at both the AWP Conference in Austin and the &NOW Innovative Writers' Conference in Lake Forest, Illinois. In addition, she was a Visiting Scholar at New York University for the academic year. She also wrote the text for a short film by Roderick Coover called "The Theory of Time Here" which is scheduled for gallery exhibition in January 2007.

## SAGE Update

Many graduate students have participated in the various social activities of SAGE this past year. Through the efforts of co-presidents **Kristin Bovaird-Abbo** and **John Wiehl**, Secretary **Leslee Friedman**, and Treasurer **Heather Bastian**, the SAGE picnic went off very successfully—it even required a trip to Dillon's halfway through the event for more supplies! The SAGE social committee (please visit <http://www.ku.edu/~sage/> for names of the officers, pictures, etc) also coordinated several well-attended graduate student outings in addition to their usual tasks of running the end-of-the-year party and the Halloween party.

Joining the executive committee after the start of the academic year, first-year liaison **Angela Glover** helped coordinate two of the other major functions of SAGE: the book sale and the awarding of the Mabel S. Fry Award for Teaching Excellence. The successful book sale

allowed SAGE to splurge on Rudy's pizza for the end-of-the-year party. The elated recipient of the Mabel S. Fry award, Distinguished Professor **Susan K. Harris**, will continue her commitment to graduate excellence by teaching a seminar about Mark Twain this fall. We very much appreciate her support of graduate students and the support of the many other amazing Mabel S. Fry award nominees.

Two workshops coordinated by SAGE, Academics Anonymous and the Professionalization Workshop, continued successfully this year. Professors **Dick Hardin** and **Doreen Fowler** gave interesting presentations to Academics Anonymous.

**John Wiehl** will continue as co-president of the organization next year and will be joined by **Heather Bastian**.

■—Kristin Bovaird-Abbo

## FSE Report

The Freshman-Sophomore English program had an exceptionally busy year, with **Michael Johnson** (Director) and **Sonya Lancaster** (Associate Director) continuing in their positions, and **Lisa King** returning for another year as the administrative intern.

The preparations for the revised version of English 102 continued apace. The new 102 is an inquiry-based course where students work with demanding readings to practice critical thinking and pose questions for inquiry. Then they propose, plan, and undertake research processes, learning to use secondary sources effectively. They also collaborate on research, invention and writing.

The year began with the evaluation of the three new 102 textbooks tentatively approved for pilot courses the previous year, and then searching for and approving two additional texts. The textbooks adopted for the inquiry and research-based English 102 are as follows: *Ways of Reading*, by Bartholomae and Petrosky; *Writing With Consequence*, by Tinberg; *Community Voices*, by Muth; *The Curious Reader*, by Ballenger and Payne; and *The Conscious Reader*, by Shrodes, Shugrue, Di Paolo, and Matuschek. As with the other textbooks in the program, these texts will be evaluated over a three year period.

With the text choices solidified, the FSE program sponsored a number of workshops to better prepare instructors for the changes in the 102 course, which will completely take the place of the old version of 102 in the Fall 2006 semester.

■—Lisa King

## From the Director of Graduate Studies

In the past two years, the graduate program has gone through a period of significant transition. In Fall 2004, **Katie Conrad** took over as Job Placement Advisor, and, in January 2005, I began my term as Director of Graduate Studies, replacing **Philip Barnard**. Thanks are due to both Katie and Philip for their important service to our program.

The department has also approved a number of significant policy changes. First, the course distribution requirements for M.A. students have been reduced, enabling more flexibility and focus. Second, the former "Field Exam" has been changed to a "Dissertation Proposal Review," which serves as both an advising session based on the proposal and as an assessment of the student's readiness to begin writing the dissertation itself. Third, the department has approved a written component for the Ph.D. comprehensive exam. Students will now write substantial rationales for each of their three areas of study, the goal being to encourage students to develop a stronger, more synthesized understanding of these areas. Fourth, for students pursuing a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition, the areas of study for the comprehensive exam have changed. The hope is that this change will focus these students' exams on their specific needs and goals. For example, their required area is no longer a literary period or movement, but "the literature of modern composition studies."

The most significant change for the graduate program, however, is the replacement of the M.A. in creative writing with an M.F.A. program. The curriculum for the new program consists of a three-year, 48-credit-hour course of study that requires students to complete course work in writing workshops and literature courses and to complete and defend a book-length thesis of publishable quality. The M.F.A. is the standard terminal degree in the field and, with an M.F.A., our master's-level creative writing students will be more fully prepared for jobs and other professional opportunities. More generally, this new degree will help make the University of Kansas even better known as a center for writing excellence within the state and the region. Given our impressive staff, a well respected national literary review, and an award-winning department theater company, our ultimate goal is to make the KU M.F.A. a top-25 program within seven to ten years.

In Fall 2005, the department welcomed an excellent class of 24 new graduate students. Of these, 10 are doctoral students, while 14 are M.A. students. In Fall 2006, we look forward to

another impressive group of 24: 2 Ph.D. students, 13 M.A. candidates, and 9 M.F.A.s.

As always, our graduate students landed some impressive awards. **Julie Sorge** won the Carlin Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, while **Karla Knutson** was a finalist for an Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award.

The Holmes Institute this past summer was taught by Professor Priscilla Wald from Duke University, who focused on the issues of contagion and anxiety. The class was, by all accounts, a tremendous success, with one student claiming "it was one of the most fulfilling academic experiences I have ever had." Among Professor Wald's publications are *Constituting Americans: Cultural Anxiety and Narrative Form* (Duke UP) and *Contagion: Cultures, Carriers and the Epidemiology of Belonging* (forthcoming Duke UP).

In the coming year, the Graduate Committee will be revisiting the design of English 800. As a result of changes both in the department and in the field of English as a whole, we need to find ways to ensure that this crucial introductory course prepares all of our graduate students for work in the many disciplinary subfields. The Graduate Committee will also be working on finding ways to build on our already successful recruiting efforts. More generally, using feedback from both graduate students and faculty, the Graduate Committee continues to seek out ways to improve the graduate program. We are proud of our program and hope to see it become even stronger in the years to come.

■—Byron Caminero-Santangelo

### Keeping in Touch

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

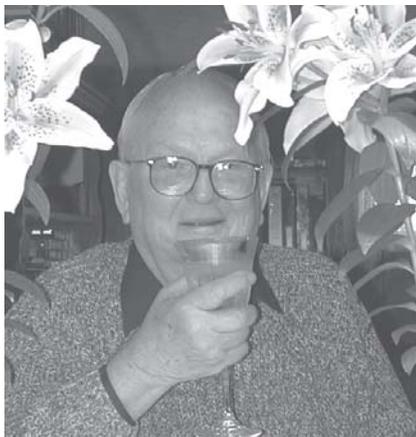
Following are relevant websites and addresses:

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

## In Memoriam

### John R. Willingham 1919-2006

*The following remarks by Assistant Professor Emeritus Donald F. Warders were selected from a eulogy for John Willingham given on 4 February 2006, Trinity Episcopal Church, Lawrence.*



John R. Willingham

John was born July 15, 1919, in Quinlan, Texas, and grew up in Greenville, Texas. He never lost his Southern accent, which remained as pronounced at the end of his life as it was when I first knew him in the early Sixties. His father died when he was just a boy of eight, but his mother managed to raise her three boys and a girl by taking jobs outside the home, and she even played an active role in local politics. His liberal and progressive political views undoubtedly owed something to his mother's interests and activities and to growing up in the Great Depression. Even though he found it possible through talent and effort to succeed, he always retained his compassion for those who needed help.

John was graduated from East Texas State College with a B.A. in English. Then followed a B.S. in Library Science and an M.A. in English, both from North Texas State College. He was called into the U.S. Army in the early Forties. After his basic training in the Signal Corps he earned a commission through Officers Candidate School and spent several years as an administrative officer at an Army center in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He and Yvonne, who was also from Texas, were married in 1942. One of their first homes was in Santa Fe, which he loved and visited many times in later years.

John did his work for the Ph.D. in English at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, and he received his doctorate in American literature in 1953. He told me that he kept carbon copies of all of his essays and papers from those years, including his written Ph.D. comprehensives. He

was a very gifted student! He then spent eight years teaching heavy loads at Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana, and distinguishing himself as a classroom instructor. While there, he became acquainted with a group of superb teachers, with whom he later collaborated on *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, which has gone through five editions and is still widely used. Trained in the New Criticism of Brooks and Warren, John was one of the best readers of literature I have ever known, and he had the ability to show his students how to find the richness of the text and the great pleasure and knowledge to be had from close analysis. At KU he was a brilliant teacher, especially in his courses on American Literary Modernism, on Imagism, and on Pound and Eliot. He taught hundreds and hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students, and he never lost his zest for teaching, continuing even past retirement to speak to teachers and students.

One of John's characteristics that delighted and endeared him to his friends was his hyperbolic and ironic conversation. It's impossible adequately to describe his manner, but, for instance: he would express astonishment that I knew so little about figures like Saint Cuthbert and the poet Arthur Hugh Clough; he would often say when I hadn't seen him for a while that my face looked somewhat familiar but he just couldn't remember my name; and when he was in the hospital for short stays, he claimed he had been abandoned by everyone, including me as I stood there listening—all the while enjoying the effect he was having. He was often in high spirits and displayed a sheer joy in life—not always, of course, but much of the time—and undoubtedly this trait, along with his intelligence, kindness, and wide-ranging interests, drew people to him. He was as lively in old age as he was when I first met him nearly forty-five years ago. It was difficult to remember that he was indeed in his late eighties, for his vitality was contagious and energizing.

John truly was a model for many of us. He was perceptive about the life around him and about his own life; he was compassionate and generous to others, particularly those who needed the most help; he was loyal to friends and family; and he made the most of his many talents. I could never repay him for all that he did for me, and I know that many others would echo this thought. I can't of course know if the John I am remembering and celebrating is the person you knew and loved being with, but I hope so.

John knew the writings of the New England Transcendentalists, admired them, and taught them often, and so I'd like to close by recalling what Ralph Waldo Emerson said about Henry David Thoreau upon the latter's death: "His soul was made for the noblest society; . . . wherever there is knowledge, wherever there is virtue, wherever there is beauty, he will find a home." I think of John this way.

### Richard H. Colyer 1931-2006



Richard H. Colyer

Assistant Professor Emeritus Richard H. Colyer died April 19, 2006 in a sea-diving accident near Port Hardy, British Columbia.

Richard Colyer received a B.A. in Zoology and English from Wayne State University in 1954. After doing coursework for an M.A. in English Literature from Wayne State, he served as a Naval Intelligence Officer from 1956-1960. He then completed his M.A. thesis and moved on to pursue a Ph.D. from the Center of Modern Letters at the University of Iowa. By the time he had finished his dissertation (on George Meredith) in 1972, he had been employed as an Acting Assistant Professor of English at the University of Kansas for four years. He was promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor and taught for thirty more years at KU.

A specialist in modernism, he became a mainstay in the Department's development of a contemporary literature curriculum. He created and regularly taught the Recent Popular Literature course that eventually became a Principal Course in English. He was very interested in the use of technology in the humanities, and wrote and spoke frequently on the subject as the computer revolution progressed in the 1970s and 1980s. He was also interested in film. Possessed of a deep, resonant voice, he performed in numerous educational films between 1969 and 1982. At KU, he pioneered the field of film studies, founding and directing the fledgling Film Studies Program from 1973-1979. He also directed the KU-Warsaw University Exchange Program and taught American Literature at the Polish institution. For ten years he served as an editor for *Cottonwood Review* (now *Cottonwood*). He also maintained a strong interest and involvement in social issues, especially penology and the environment. In later years, he was engaged in the burgeoning field of nature writing and environmental literature. His last book project (not completed as far as we know) was entitled *Saving the Common Ground: Nature Writing in a Time of Crisis*.

# Alumni News

## 1940s

**Wilma N. Brooks** (M.A. 1949) received a B.S. in Education from KU in 1940, and taught school for three years before going to Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego, where she hauled out nuts and bolts to the men and women building the B24 and PB2Y3 for the Army and Navy. Early in WWII, she enlisted in the Navy (W.A.V.E.S) and was stationed at the Anacostia Naval Air Station in Washington, D.C. Upon her discharge, she took advantage of the G.I. Bill and returned to KU for a master's degree in English and then went on to Emporia State's Library Science School. She was a librarian for the next 35 years, first at Kansas City (Missouri) Public and the last 30 years at Wichita Public, where she retired as Director of Art and Music. She is now living at the Presbyterian Manor in Emporia, Kansas.

## 1950s

**Rev. Patricia (Pasha) H. Buck** (M.A. 1958) will return to Rio Grande City, TX, after a summer sabbatical, to continue her work as pastor of St. John United Methodist Church.

## 1960s

**John I. Blair** (M.A. 1966) and Clara (Franz) Blair, Arlington, Texas, are proud first-time grandparents of Caitlyn Chuen-Jie Blair, born September 29, 2005. John is in his 30th year as advertising project manager in the North American Chemicals division of NCH Corporation. He continues to be active as an amateur poet, publishing on several Internet e-zines including *Red River Review* and *Prairie Poetry*. He recently won first prize (adult division) in a citywide poetry contest in Arlington. Clara, though retired from business life, keeps very busy with church publications, publicity, and programming and is still working on her first novel. They would love to hear from friends at <blairbards@sbcglobal.net.>

**David Leon Higdon** (Ph.D. 1968) continues to research and write. His planned note on Aldous Huxley's 1925-26 trip around the world and its influence on *Brave New World* has grown into a book. He and William Moore married last July in a beautiful Vancouver rose garden and together sponsor a wolf in the Wild Spirits Wolf Sanctuary.

The KU English Department prepared **Bob Hobbs** (M.A. 1969) for "the best job I had in my life." He attended KU after retiring from the US Navy. While he was at KU, he began working

with a new Navy program, PACE (Program for College Education Afloat) and "it was a sheer delight." He taught college economics and business courses aboard US Navy ships all across the world for the next twenty years. In the process, he spent far more time at sea than he had during twenty-two years in the Navy. He now lives in Gulfport, MS, and was there the night Katrina came ashore. He watched as the storm surge brought sea water into his house to a depth of four and a half feet (he lives three blocks from the Gulf). Most of the houses just south of his were washed away. His home has been repaired—the work began in late October and finished only in early May. He lost his library, piano, organ, and furniture, but he is sure that, one day soon, his situation will be close to normal.

**James Hoggard** (M.A. 1965) was given the Lon Tinkle Award for Excellence Sustained Throughout a Career by the Texas Institute of Letters at its awards banquet in April. The author of 17 books, Hoggard is the Perkins-Prothro Distinguished Professor of English at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas.

**Kenneth Boswell "Bud" Innis** (Ph.D. 1965) died April 6, 2006. Born of Creole and Chinese heritage in Trinidad, he moved to the United States and received a B.A. and M.A. from Indiana University in the 1950s before going on to do doctoral work at KU. He married Barbara Naomi Abegg in Lawrence in 1958. Their three sons, Stephen, Michael, and Andrew were born in three different university towns where Ken taught. In 1966, Ken was appointed a professor at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA, where he taught until his retirement in 1992. His major scholarly work, *D. H. Lawrence's Bestiary* was published by Mouton in 1971. Stricken with a heart infection and ensuing complications in 1982, he was left nearly blind, and impaired in some other abilities of body and mind. His doctors told him that he should not expect to return to the classroom. Despite that, he strove to regain, re-learn, and compensate for what he had lost, and in the end he was able to resume teaching half-time. He traveled widely with his wife and, in recent years, was blessed with two grandchildren. (Excerpted from a memorial program)

*Leaving*, memoirs by **Jo Ann Johnson Klemmer** (M.A. 1963) will be published in summer 2006.

**Mary Duhamel Kramer** (Ph.D. 1969, NDEA Title IV Fellowship) has just finished up her

37<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She's never regretted the career choice. She teaches and mentors in the Honors Program as well as in regular classes. She does freelance writing, publishes reviews, and pens local magazine and newspaper columns. She volunteers with the Boy Scouts and the public library, reads, travels, and works on puzzles for relaxation.

**James F. La Valley** received his M.A. in English in 1966. His trilogy, *Freedom Quest*, consisting of *Freedom Voyage*, *Freedom Venture* and *Freedom Valor*, promoted by Denlingers Publishers at *thebookden.com*, illustrates the conflicts between ideals of freedom and geopolitical currents, resulting in the French and Indian Wars, the Acadian exile, and the fall of the Iroquois Nation in the Revolution seen through the eyes of La Valley French traders in the Caribbean, New England and Acadia.

**Charles Edward Linck, Jr.**, (Ph.D. 1962) participated quite "lively" in the Owens Centennial last fall (Bill Owens, *This Stubborn Soil*, that is). His return to good health continues, thankfully. Where are the snows of yesteryear, he wonders? Paul Bates, Ed Groff, Dale Hesser, John Reardon, etc. ? All those listed in the *Alumni News Bulletin*, No. 1, 1966 . . .

**Nadia S. Medina** (M.A. 1968) passed away Feb. 8, 2006. She had been employed for over twenty years at Tufts University where she directed the Academic Resource Center and established a Writing Center. Her Writing Fellows Program was also very successful.

**Gary "Scott" Nunley** (M.A. 1967) entered KU as a grad student in English in the fall of 1965. After completing his degree (with Honors), he accepted a full-time teaching position at Marshall University. Returning to his hometown of Ashland, KY in 1984, Scott accepted an English teaching position in the Humanities Division of Ashland Community College. He took over the College's Journalism program and served as Faculty Adviser to its "tabloid" student-published newspaper. At the request of the College's president, Scott initiated the College's Honors Seminar program. Today, promoted to professor and nearing retirement, Scott is busy with his own novel writing.

**James F. Scott** (Ph.D. 1960) continues his career at Saint Louis University as teacher, scholar, and documentary filmmaker. His most recent production, "Confluence: The River Heritage of

St. Louis,” was showcased in the St. Louis International Film Festival (2004) and later won two national awards, a silver Telly Award and a gold Aurora Award. This summer at the Edinburgh Arts Festival, he delivered a scholarly paper on “Assimilation and its Discontents: Ethno-Racial Conflict in the Films of Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese, and Spike Lee.” This piece is the first chapter of a forthcoming book.

**Mark Vinz** (M.A. 1966) will retire in the spring of 2007 from Minnesota State University, Moorhead after teaching in the English department there since 1968 and acting as the first chair of its Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program (1995-98). His seventh book of poems, *Long Distance*, was published this spring by MWPB Books.

## 1970s

**Thomas Fox Averill** (M.A. 1974) is the recipient of the 2006 Kansas Arts Commission Fellowship in Fiction and continues to write and teach at Washburn University in Topeka.

**Dean Bevan** (Ph.D. 1971) and wife, Judy, continue to enjoy retirement in Lawrence. Dean occupies his time with acting, writing, and directing for local theater, as well as reviewing the performance arts for the *Lawrence Journal-World*. Dean and Judy also sail—most recently a 400-mile cruise to Key West—and ski in winter.

**Lisa Browar** (M.A. 1976) is beginning her fourth year as University Librarian at The New School in New York City where she oversees the operations of libraries devoted to the humanities, social sciences, art and design, and music. Having completed requirements in 2005 for the Executive M.A. in Philanthropic Studies at Indiana University, she has put this knowledge to good use by obtaining more than \$200,000 in grants in support of various projects at The New School Libraries. Lisa is currently co-editing a book on the future of Special Collections Libraries and teaching workshops devoted to library fundraising. In her spare time, Lisa tries to stay current with Broadway and Off-Broadway theatre as well as the vocal music scene.

**Al Devlin** (M.A. 1966, Ph.D. 1970) will begin the next academic year with a joint appointment in English and Theatre at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His research interest in Tennessee Williams led inevitably to Elia Kazan, whose correspondence he plans to edit in the next few years. He will find added research support in holding the Catherine Paine Middlebush Chair in the Humanities. The important local news is that his wife, Molly, teacher of French at Hickman High School, will

retire in June after a distinguished career—many admiring students to her credit.

**Steven Hind**'s (M.A. 1970) fourth collection of poems, *The Loose Change of Wonder*, has recently been published by Washburn University's Center for Kansas Studies/Woodley Press.

For **David Holden** (Ph.D. 1972), the past year included three wonderful re-connections to his KU days. In December, he enjoyed a day in Lawrence with **Carroll and Virgie Edwards** and **George and Carol Worth**. At home in Knoxville, TN, Holden and his wife **Mary Jo** (M.A., 1970) were visited by fellow grad students from the good-ol' sixties, **Tom Welch** and **Jim and Anne Welsh**. Also in keeping with his experiences at KU, Holden recently joined a group of peaceful protesters on Sunday mornings, carrying anti-war signs. Professionally, the past year has shown Holden, once again, the value of skills he honed in graduate school -- especially research and communication skills. As head of the Affordable Medicine Options for Seniors program at the Knoxville Office on Aging, Holden found himself last May in great demand by local media as an expert on the new Medicare Part D.

Since leaving Lawrence, **Stuart Wallace Hubbard** (M.A. 1976), has pursued a career in the software industry, first in The Research Triangle Park, NC, then in Boulder, CO, and Athens, GA. He now works for Cataphora, Inc., a Palo Alto, CA company specializing in natural language processing (NLP) and computational linguistics. While these may not have been defined fields of study when Stuart was grappling with modern grammar and rhetorical theory under the direction of **Jim Hartman**, they were nevertheless foreseeable. A less foreseeable outcome of his time in Lawrence is Stuart's obsession with compiling a complete collection of the first editions of William Faulkner. He suggests it may be attributable to his time as an instructor in the Freshman-Sophomore English Program under the guidance of **Jim Carothers**. In any case, Stuart and his wife, Jenni, live in Broomfield, CO and ski whenever possible. Their son, Ben, is a sophomore at The Colorado School of Mines, and daughter, Molly, is a freshman at Colorado State University.

**Dr. Jack T. Lundy** (M.A. 1970) announced his retirement after 45 years of teaching and serving as an administrator in Kentucky, Wisconsin and Kansas. Dr. Lundy taught English and served as Dean of Academic Affairs for 30 years in various community colleges. He serves as a Special Assistant to the President for Accreditation at Gateway Community and Technical College. Dr. Lundy was one of the attendees of the famed 1967 National Summer English Institute held at

the University of Kansas designed by Drs. **Haugh, Willingham, and Gowen**.

**Jim Martin** (M.A. 1971) retired from the KU Endowment Association in 2002 after twenty-eight years, the last eleven as president. Jim and Kathy's son, Grant, and his wife, Ginger (Blevins) Martin, are the parents of Georgia Elizabeth Martin, five months old.

**James Mersmann** (Ph.D. 1972) continues to live on a small farm in central Alabama after causing the Y2K panic by retiring from teaching on the last day of 1999. He spends his time feeding animals and grandchildren, traveling abroad, and hoping all his acquaintances from KU will buy his recent book of poems, *Straying Toward Home*.

**Patricia Cleary Miller** (Ph.D. 1979) continues to teach seven courses a year at Rockhurst University, Kansas City's Jesuit University, to direct senior theses, to judge poetry contests, and to edit the *Rockhurst Review*, now in its twentieth year. Special accomplishments this year include having her poem “The Maori Never Age” published in KU's *I – 70 Review*. “Photographs of Ghosts” was published in Helicon Nine's anthology, *Chance of a Ghost*. As Poet Laureate of the Harvard Alumni Association, she read a poem celebrating the arts and the future at the opening of that university's arts festival in May. In July 2006, she is presenting her “poems written in the spirit of Gerard Manley Hopkins” at the Hopkins Summer School in Monesterevin, Ireland.

**Jan Moore** (M.A. 1976) works as a health services researcher at KU, where her current projects include helping evaluate a \$16 million CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid) demonstration grant on disability prevention. Though far from her roots in English literature, she remains grateful for its humanistic grounding and the opportunity to develop writing skills that have proven invaluable throughout her career.

**Dr. John Neibling** (M.A. 1974) was recently named president of Clovis Community College in Clovis, New Mexico.

**Paul W. Nisly** (Ph.D. 1974) writes that he experienced a great personal loss this past September when his wife of 42 years lost her struggle with the recurrence of cancer from over 20 years earlier. The house, he says, seems far too empty, and the silence is almost a presence. In September of 1987, he and his wife experienced the devastating loss of their oldest child and only daughter in a vehicular accident. He has written about that loss in the book *Sweeping Up the Heart: A Father's Lament for His Daughter* (Good Books). September has been the cruelest month.

**Lora K. Reiter** (Ph. D. 1975) taught English at St. Louis University, Kalamazoo College, and Ottawa University, retired in 2004, and is now writing fulltime. Her first novel, *One Was Annie*, was released in March of this year, and she is currently working on a collection of poetry, *Snake in the Cradle*, and two collections of essays. Her poems and short stories have been published regionally and nationally. Contact information is available on her website: [publishedauthors.net](http://publishedauthors.net)—Lora K. Reiter.

**Eiki Senaha** (Ph.D. 1977) was appointed President of Meio University in Nago City, Okinawa, Japan, on 17 February 2006. The term of office is three years. He continues to teach a graduate course in English Romantics.

**Paul Smith** (M.A. 1977) is currently Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of Allyn and Bacon Publishing Company. Paul reports that his daughter, Elizabeth, will graduate from KU this summer with a B.A. in Film, and, since her two older brothers, Matt (B.A. English/Film, 1997) and Lucas (B.A. Film, 2001) preceded her contiguously, this will end a string of 13 straight years of Paul having to pay at least one KU tuition. He does feel he dodged a bullet though: Elizabeth recently took **Jim Carothers'** time-honored seminar in Faulkner and Hemingway, and she confessed to crying during the last class meeting when she realized that she'd never again take another KU English class. Paul, at first, sympathized since Jim was his old friend and mentor back in the day some 30 years ago. However, she threw a scare into her father when she arrived at this thought: "Hey, maybe instead of working I'll go to graduate school!" For now, though, she's still planning to follow her brothers to Hollywood.

**Jon-Christian (Chris) Suggs** (Ph.D. 1978) was saddened by the death of his friend and dissertation advisor, **John Willingham**, last winter. John had been an inspiration to and model for many of his students. As Chair of the English Department at John Jay College of the City University of New York, Chris presided over the search for and hiring of eleven tenure-track faculty for the staffing of a new major in literature and the law. He also published two lengthy essays on African American literature in Oxford University Press's *Encyclopedia of African American History* and signed on to write an essay on law and literature for Austin Sarat's annual volume, *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*. He has also just issued a call for essays for a collection he will edit for the University Press of Mississippi devoted to the many-faceted life of Walter White.

**Bill Thompson** (M.A. 1973) is running for a third term in the South Dakota House of Representatives. This year's legislative session, dominated by abortion and abstinence-only sex

education, was so extreme that a local newspaper editor—a former Kansan—said, "Things are so bad in South Dakota that even Kansas is laughing at us!" He adds, "My four years at KU were a wonderful experience and a great training ground for my teaching career and my life as a politician. Perhaps my greatest contribution to the department is Professor **Ann Wierda Rowland**, soon to be a faculty member. Ann was one of my best American Studies students at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, and I look forward to visiting her at KU and sitting in on one of her classes."

**Thomas L. Warren** (Ph.D. 1974) continues as Professor of English at Oklahoma State University and Director of the Technical Writing Program. He has been invited to submit a chapter on cross-cultural communication and ISO standards development. He once again was a Guest Professor during the summer term at the University of Paderborn (Germany).

## 1980s

**Andrea Broomfield** (M.A. 1989) guest-edited and wrote the introduction to a special issue of *Victorian Periodicals Review* entitled "Interdisciplinary Work and Periodicals Connections: An Issue in Honor of Sally H. Mitchell." She presented a paper on the origin and context of the restaurant review at the Research Society of Victorian Periodicals Conference, and at the Midwest Victorian Association Conference she gave a paper on the makings of a Victorian middle-class breakfast. She is nearing completion of her history of food and cooking in Victorian England (forthcoming, Praeger Press).

**Keith Coplin** (Ph.D. 1989) still teaches at Colby Community College in Colby, Kansas, where he is slowly ending his forty-year teaching career and beginning his belated writing career which began with the publication of his novel, *Crofton's Fire*, by Putnam and Sons. That novel was recently issued in paperback by Berkley Press. Coplin has finished a second novel, *A Prince of the Game*, which is currently in his agent's hands in New York.

**Clare Cross** (M.A. 1988) still lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she copyedits medical research for the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. She practices yoga and tai chi and is currently writing a novel on the Katherine Anne Porter schedule (over 20 years for *Ship of Fools*). Her daughter, Erin, lives in Salt Lake City, where she is a happily married stay-at-home mom to Emily, age 2. Son Kevin recently graduated with a film degree from the University of Michigan and is living in Los Angeles. Clare was recently diagnosed with multiple brain tumors, but the prognosis is good, and she expects to finish her

novel. Her e-mail address is [<cdcross58@hotmail.com>](mailto:cdcross58@hotmail.com).

**Philip Egan** (Ph.D. 1980) has returned from six years in administration to the regular English faculty at Western Michigan University—and he's enjoying it. He has taught a range of students and courses in this last year, including "Quest for Self" to Honors College freshmen and "Studies in the Novel" for advanced graduate students. He also read a paper at the College English Association conference in San Antonio, where he reconnected with many colleagues, including **Colby Kullman**. He was saddened to hear of the death of **John Willingham**, who served as his dissertation director.

After 22 years in the McNeese State University Department of Speech and Theatre Arts and now the Department of Performing Arts, **Susan E. Kelso** (Ph.D. 1980) is retiring from academics. She has shape-shifted into a yoga teacher (RYT 500), meditation instructor, online teacher, and river sage. She shares her home on the Calcasieu River with her always-fascinating spouse Peter Dart (former KU instructor in Journalism), and their miniature schnauzer, Shadow, and toy poodle, Pierre. At McNeese, she served as Director of Theatre for 17 years and as department head for 9 years. She, Peter, and dogs stayed at home for Hurricane Rita. University locations that housed Katrina evacuees still are undergoing repairs. Her parish, Calcasieu, lost 2/3 of its tree canopy and Cameron Parish on the Gulf, forty miles south, is mud and debris. As you think of Louisiana's New Orleans, please remember those who experienced Rita, since recovery will continue for years.

## 1990s

After earning tenure in 2004, **Jesse Alemán** (Ph.D. 1999) finds himself serving time as the Graduate Director of the University of New Mexico's English Department. His most recent article, "On Finding Santa Ana's Wooden Leg," earned "Best Essay" in *MELUS* 29.3-4, while another article, "The Other Country: Mexico, the U.S., and the Gothic History of Conquest," is slated for *American Literary History* 18.3. An anthology of nineteenth-century American pulp fiction Alemán co-edited with Shelley Streeby, *Empire and the Literature of Sensation*, is due out from Rutgers UP in Fall 2006. This summer he will teach at the Bread Loaf in English program at St. John's College in Santa Fe.

**Lori Askeland** (Ph.D. 1997) was awarded tenure and promoted last year at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, and during her first sabbatical produced a reference volume for Greenwood Press entitled *Children and Youth in Adoption, Orphanages, and Foster Care*, which came off the presses in January of this year.

Askeland's spouse and partner-in-crime, **Frank Doden** (Ph.D. 1995) continues as a senior teacher in the Upper School of the Columbus School for Girls (Bexley, OH). Frank and Lori just this year sent both of their adopted daughters/nieces Gwen and Alex off to college (Oberlin College and U of Michigan respectively). In the past year they became co-owners (with two other friends) of a wine store/cafe/bakery/purveyor of fine liquors (etc!) in downtown Yellow Springs, Ohio—the village where they and their family currently reside (in a house extensively remodeled by Frank), along with two dogs, a cat, and Frank's tank of saltwater fish.

**Cynthia Bachofer** (M.A. 1992) is working on a Ph.D. in Special Education, Program for Visual Disabilities, at Vanderbilt University.

**Brad S. Born** (Ph.D. 1993) completed his first year as Interim Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Bethel College, Kansas in June 2006, and will serve in that same role for the 2006-07 academic year. He expects to resume his normal teaching duties as Associate Professor of English in Fall 2007.

In June, **Ginger Brackett** (Ph.D. 1998) departed the Chicago area and Triton College where she had taught for seven years. She received the 2006 outstanding instructor award from Triton. She has relocated to Parkville, MO where she will teach at Park University with a half-time appointment in the English Department and a half-time appointment with the freshman orientation program and the honors program. In 2005, her book, *Restless Genius: The Story of Virginia Woolf*, was one of only 30 books for young readers selected for the Ameilia Bloomer list by the American Library Association. Her most recent book, Volume I of the *Facts on File Companion to British Novel* was published in 2005. She's presently at work on the *Facts on File Companion to Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-century British Poetry*.

**Mark Browning** (Ph.D. 1996) continues professing English at Johnson County Community College, where he has recently begun offering "Drama as Literature" online. In concert with this course, he has expanded his embryonic acting career, recently appearing in Neil Simon's *Proposals*, *The Man of La Mancha*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Browning persists in his research on the intersection of race and religion in literature.

**Theresa Duran** (Ph.D. 1999) has been employed in the publishing industry for the past seven years. She recently left her position as an in-house editor for a San Francisco Bay Area publisher to establish her own freelance editorial business, offering copyediting, proofreading, and indexing services. She and her husband, Paul

Miller (also a KU alum), live in the small, scenic town of Fairfax in Marin County, enjoying the many local hiking trails.

**Jim Elmborg** (Ph.D. 1995) continues to teach in the School of Library and Information Science at The University of Iowa, where he was promoted to associate professor this year. He will serve as Director of the school for 2006-07. He has published numerous articles in the past year related to the library's role in student learning and how libraries can help students learn to conduct research. His co-edited collection of essays on writing centers in libraries (*Centers for Learning: Libraries and Writing Centers in Collaboration*) was nominated for the outstanding book of 2005 by the International Writing Center Association. Elmborg is affiliated faculty with the Language Literacy and Culture program at Iowa and is the chair of the University of Iowa's "Virtual Writing University Advisory Board," a group of writers and scholars devoted to moving the work of Iowa's writing programs into digital spaces.

**Traude Gomez** graduated from KU with an M.A. in English in 1993. She currently is the staff writer at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Ca. She lives in Pasadena with her daughter Ramona, 8, and her husband, Michael.

**Gwen N. Griffin** (Ph.D. 1994) is a full professor in the English department at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She will take her second sabbatical during 2006-2007 to work on several Dakota language and culture projects with Dakota Wicohan in Minnesota, and will also direct the seventh annual Native American Literature and Studies Symposium.

**Erin Ivy (Chan)** received an M.A. in English in 1998. She currently resides in Brooklyn and enjoys a view of the Verrazano Bridge from her sixth floor apartment. She has worked for the academic publisher, Palgrave Macmillan (located in the historic Flatiron building), for five years. As a production manager, Erin oversees the copyediting, typesetting, and printing of monographs on history, politics, literature, economics, business, and a variety of subjects in the humanities and social sciences.

**Mike K. Johnson** (Ph.D. 1997) was recently granted tenure and promoted to associate professor at the University of Maine at Farmington. He continues to write about African American experience in the American West and has been traveling regularly to Montana for a research project on Harlem Renaissance-era singer (and Montana native) Taylor Gordon. The winters in Maine are still long, but he and his wife **Karen Hellekson** find plenty of winter amusement in the antics of their two cats, Keats

(who isn't very fond of melancholy but does like nightingales) and Archie Goodwin.

Since completing her doctorate in 1997, **Amy Lerman** has lived and taught in Illinois and Arizona. After four years at Arizona State University, Amy started at Mesa Community College in Fall 2005, where she teaches developmental, composition, and literature classes. She also continues to present and publish. She and her husband, Mike Mader, have been married for twelve years, and they enjoy traveling, films, their cats (Lloyd and Lucy), and spending time with family and friends. Amy's email is: <alerman@mail.maricopa.edu>.

**Jennifer Lawler** (Ph.D. 1996) continues her career as a freelance writer, mostly writing how-to and self-help books. This year, she co-authored two books, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Sleep Training Your Child* (with Melissa Burnham) and *Training Women in the Martial Arts* (with Laura Kamienski), which will be her 26th and 27th published non-fiction books. Her first novel, *Then Will Come Night and Darkness*, was published this spring by a small literary publisher. The novel is a contemporary re-envisioning of "The Seafarer," an Anglo-Saxon poem that **Dr. Michael Cherniss** introduced to Jennifer many years ago. (With intense effort, Jennifer is still able to decline her nouns.) Jennifer's beloved malamute, Dakota, died late last summer. Her other dog, Jasmine, remains as lazy and unmotivated as ever. Jennifer lives in Eudora with her daughter, Jessica, now nine and almost as tall as she is.

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

**Amber Reagan** (M.A. 1992, Ph.D. American Studies 2004) is dean of Students and Community Services at Donnelly College, a Catholic college in Kansas City, Kansas.

**Jim Welsh** (M.A. 1965, Ph.D. 1996) wanted to know "What IS a Shakespeare Adaptation, Anyway?" and attended the Utah Shakespeare Festival's Wooden O Symposium in August of 2005 in order to pose that question. His paper was published in the *Journal of the Wooden O Symposium* (Vol.5, 2005) and Jim's write-up of the Utah Festival was also published in *The Shakespeare Newsletter* (Vol.55:2). Welsh, Professor Emeritus at Salisbury University in Maryland, was also invited to lecture at Baskent University in Ankara, Turkey. While conferencing in New Mexico, Jim found a copy of an amusing little book on Eccentric Islands by KU alum **Bill Holm**. Jim snatched that book off the sale table, read it, then hand-delivered it five months later to **David F. Holden** (Ph.D. 1972) and **Mary Jo Holden** (M.A., 1970) in Knoxville, TN. Why? Because he knew Holden and Holm were KU classmates during the mid-

1960s, and because both came to Lawrence from Minnesota.

## 2000s

In 2003, Mercer University Press published **Amy Blackmarr's** (Ph.D. 2000) third collection of nature essays, along with new editions of her first two books. In 2004, she published a fourth collection and was named Georgia Author of the

Year (Essay Division) by the Georgia Writers Association. In 2005 her first book, *Going to Ground*, was named to the Georgia Center for the Book's Top-25 List of Books All Georgians Should Read. This year, she was one of only a handful of students accepted to the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. In Fall 2006, Blackmarr will start the Masters of Divinity degree program at Yale and begin studying for ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal church.

**Amy Cummins** (Ph.D. 2004), an Assistant Professor at Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, announces that *Lines*, the annual FHSU literary and arts journal she advises, earned the National Literary Journal Award from Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, for its 2005 edition.

**Tracy Floreani**, (Ph.D. 2000) was recently granted tenure and promotion to the rank of

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

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Associate Professor of English at Baker University in Baldwin City, KS.

**Kristin Knight** (M.A. 2000) dabbles in composition by working as a freelance editor and writing consultant, as a writing instructor in literature and composition for Brighton Academy, a once-a-week homeschooling co-op academy, and as an occasionally published writer now featured in the Faith section of the *Kansas City Star* on a rotating basis. She somehow squeezes all of these projects in around her full-time vocation as a wife and mother, parenting and homeschooling four young children under the age of six in Olathe, KS.

**Shelley Manis** (M.A. 2005) just finished her first year of doctoral studies in the Performance as Public Practice program in UT Austin's Department of Theatre and Dance. She kept busy dramaturging two productions, one of them UT Theatre's production of Maxim Gorky's *Summerfolk*. She has two forthcoming publications: a book review of *Scorsese's Men: Melancholia and the Mob*, by Mark Nicholls for *The Quarterly Review of Film and Video*; and an article called "'These are [our] Stories': Engaging Cultural Debate and Performing Contradictions

in *Law & Order*" for the same journal. She is also slowly overcoming her irrational terror of scorpions—an Austin inhabitant with which she was NOT prepared to share her apartment. Note: Even the *OED*, jumped upon repeatedly and with great zeal by a 120 pound woman, will not kill a scorpion on a carpeted surface.

After earning his degree in Early Childhood Education from UMKC in 2004, **Ryan Murray** (M.A. 2000) was a special-needs preschool teacher until he realized that an ability to pay the bills was a good thing, and therefore, unfortunately, he had to get out of the teaching business. He now happily works in the editorial department at the American Academy of Family Physicians and has reached the home stretch of the research stage for his first novel. He would like to send a warm 'shout-out' to all his former classmates and professors.

**Mark Scoggins** (M.A. 2003) received his Juris Doctorate from Temple University's Beasley School of Law in May of 2006, and has recently accepted an offer to become an associate at a small law firm on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. He invites you all to come for a visit.

**Doug Steward** (Ph.D. 2000) is Associate Director of English Programs and the Association of Departments of English at the Modern Language Association in New York City.

**Thomas Veale** (M.A. 2002, PhD (ABD: prospectus approved April-May 2006) recently departed West Point, New York, where he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. He is now stationed in Colorado Springs, where he serves as an Army public affairs officer in a joint assignment with the Air Force.

**Jill Zasadny** earned her Ph.D. in May 2005 and since then has worked to further develop her topic of doctoral research: a study of Mother Benedicta Riepp, a nineteenth-century German Benedictine nun who founded that Order in the United States. Jill has been awarded a Lilly Grant for summer study, 2006. In that time she will put the finishing touches on a play she wrote about Riepp; it will be performed in March 2007 on the campus of the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. She has also written an original score of music in Mother Benedicta's honor. Jill is currently teaching at both the College of St. Benedict and St. Cloud State University.

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