

UPDATE

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No. 42

2007

KU ENGLISH ALUMNI POETS HONORED

B. H. (Pete) Fairchild (B.A. 1964, M.A. 1968) has given readings twice in the last three years at the University of Kansas, most recently in conjunction with receiving a 2006-2007 **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Achievement Award**. Both times he has featured signature poems like “Beauty” and “Rave On” that recount the experiences of small-town Kansas youth who later look back on their lives in maturity. KU students have found Fairchild’s sophisticated yet accessible poems mesmerizing, clearly identifying in many cases with the poet’s or the narrator’s thoughts and emotions, despite any generation gap.

Fairchild grew up in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, graduating from high school in Liberal, Kansas. The landscapes and denizens of the southern plains consistently inform his work, as evidenced by the title of his most recent collection of poems, *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest* (2003). He attended the University of Tulsa as well as the University of Kansas and worked his way through college as a movie usher, technical writer for a nitroglycerin plant, English tutor to the KU basketball team, and, memorably (as he relates in one of his poems), egg-deliverer to the freshman girls’ dorms.

In his Alumni Award acceptance speech, Fairchild reflected with wonder on his KU experience. He vividly recalls studying at the Andrew Carnegie library on Ninth Street while an undergraduate, not realizing that, just a few decades before, “little Langston Hughes, arguably the greatest poet to emerge from the state of

Kansas, would read [there] for hours every day after school.” He remembers how effectively the University fulfilled his intellectual needs. He recalls thinking, during a philosophy class studying Plato, “The *Republic* isn’t the ideal state; this class is.” He was “transfixed” listening to **George Wedge** reading Robert Penn Warren (“beautiful American prose read the way it should be read”) and relished the instruction of numerous other “legendary” English professors, among them **Dennis Quinn**, **Arvid Schulenberger**, and **George Worth**.

After completing his Ph.D. at Tulsa in 1975, Fairchild was hired as an associate

collection of poetry, *The Arrival of the Future*, in 1986. Soon a regular winner of poetry competitions and fellowships, he published his second collection, *Local Knowledge*, in 1991, the same year that he was named Outstanding Professor at CSUSB. With the publication of his third book, *The Art of the Lathe*, in 1998, his national reputation spiked. *Lathe* was a finalist for the National Book Award and won a host of lesser prizes, including the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and the William Carlos Williams Award. Fellowships (Guggenheim, Rockefeller Foundation) and visiting professorships followed. In 2001 the American Academy of Arts

and Letters awarded him the Arthur Rense Poetry Prize for “consistent excellence over a long career.”

Lest anyone think “Pete” Fairchild was planning to rest on his laurels, he published his fourth book of poetry, *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest*, through W. W. Norton in 2003. Even greater acclaim ensued. This collection won the Gold Medal in Poetry from the California Book Awards, the Texas Institute of Letters Award, and two national blockbusters,

the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Bobbitt Award from the Library of Congress, the latter presented “in behalf of the nation for the most distinguished book of poems published in the previous two years.” Rumor has it that, following Fairchild’s typically hypnotic reading of “Rave On” from the collection, Bobbitt selection committee members looked at each other and mouthed, “That’s the one!” A Kansas voice had spoken eloquently to and for the country.



B. H. “Pete” Fairchild earned a 2006-2007 KU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Distinguished Achievement Award



Denise Low will serve as Poet Laureate of Kansas 2007-2009

professor at Texas Woman’s University (1976-1983), during which time he published his principal research work, *Such Holy Song: Music as Idea, Form, and Image in the Poetry of William Blake* (Kent State University Press, 1980). He then moved on to teach at California State University, San Bernardino from 1983-2005. It was in the mid-1980s that his work and reputation as a poet took flight. After publishing two chapbooks and winning two national awards between 1983 and 1985, he published his first

Message from the Chair



If I had to come up with one word to describe the past year, it would be “moving.” In a literal sense, the English Department offices moved into a new space, a suite formerly occupied by the History Department. The new offices are right off the main hallway of Wescoe, so we have much more visibility, and the space in the suite is organized more efficiently. We’d be very happy—except that in May we will have to move again, as the building’s heating and ventilation system must be entirely redone. So if you come to visit us in the next year, we may be in the midst of chaos. By the Fall of 2009, all of us should have landed permanently—if anything is ever permanent.

In a metaphorical sense, we’ve been moving in a number of new directions. We miss the three old friends who retired and one who passed

away, as well as two newer colleagues who responded to tempting offers elsewhere. In the next year, we will be conducting three searches for new colleagues, who will no doubt bring fresh ideas as well as new faces to the Department. If you add it up, though, you’ll notice that we are still going to be a smaller department, in terms of faculty, and we have had to define our priorities and readjust our thinking about just what our Department needs to do. Nonetheless, we remain committed to a broad vision of English studies and we are dedicated to fulfilling that mission, though we will all have to work hard to do it.

One person who has worked especially hard is Associate Professor **Tom Lorenz**, who is not only our Scheduling Officer, but also the Director of the MFA Program. In spite of all the administrative work that he does, however, Tom finds plenty of time to devote to his students, and he was recognized this year with a Kemper Fellowship, a \$5000 award sponsored by the William T. Kemper Foundation (Commerce Bank, trustee) and the KU Endowment Association. The late Professor **Bernard (Bud) Hirsch** also received a Kemper Fellowship before he passed away last September (see story on p. 13). Another especially hard worker in the Department is full-time lecturer **Mary Klayder**, who has directed three Study Abroad Programs: the long-standing British Summer Institute, the spring break London Review program, and the new Costa Rica Program that focuses on travel writing. In addition, the Department is sponsoring two other new Study Abroad programs: Professor **Katie Conrad** has developed Irish Studies in Belfast, Northern

Ireland and Professor **Byron Caminero-Santangelo** is the leader of the Society, Politics, and Culture Program in South Africa. These are only a few of the many outstanding teachers in our Department who are dedicated not only to classroom and one-on-one teaching, but also to developing new opportunities for student growth.

Some other people who were willing to move this past year were our two visiting professors, fiction writers **Bob Day** and **Gary Lutz**. Bob, the author of *The Last Cattle Drive* and many other works, taught fiction writing and an innovative modern American novels class in the Fall of 2006. Experimental writer Gary Lutz came in the Spring of 2007 and taught two fiction writing workshops. Lutz went away with a special bonus after teaching at KU—he married Professor **Deb Olin Unferth** of the Department in July.

I’m sure that most of you have moved, in one sense or another, during the past year. If you’ve moved physically, we hope you’ll let us know. If you’ve changed direction, started something new, or had a moving experience, we hope you’ll share that with us, too, when next year’s call for *Update* capsules comes around. Thank you for the support you provide us—our students, former and present, are the reason we keep moving.

—Dorice Williams Elliott

Now the Lorraine Sherley Professor of American Literature at Texas Christian University, B. H. Fairchild continues to teach, write, read, inspire – and make the University of Kansas proud. The feeling is mutual. Fairchild concluded his acceptance speech for the CLAS Award by declaring, “And so, I continued to be the child of learning that I began as [at KU] and remained all my years. And what could be more meaningful to the child forty-five years later than to return to his intellectual parents and receive, with this award, their approval.”



In November of 2006, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius announced that **Denise Low** (B.A. 1971, M.A. 1974, Ph.D. 1998), Interim Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts at Haskell Indian Nations University, had been selected to serve as **Poet Laureate of Kansas** from 1 July 2007-1 July 2009. Low has now assumed her post and plans to be an active advocate for poetry specifically and literacy in general during her term of office.

Low is a lifelong resident of Kansas with

deep roots in the state. Her ancestors settled in Emporia, KS in the 1870s. She attended public schools in Emporia, where she early began dabbling in poetry – she was particularly intrigued by the Beat Poets. Upon graduation from high school, Low, like the young B. H. Fairchild, made her way to Lawrence. KU in the late ‘60s, she acknowledges, was an intimidating place for a reticent, small-town Kansas girl. Though she was anxious to explore creative writing in an academic setting, she lacked the “push” to elbow her way past aggressive St. Louis, Chicago, and other big-city students to register for the English Department’s wildly popular fiction- and poetry-writing courses. Instead, she pursued a literature track, emphasizing American literature, while she wrote poetry on the side. She has fond memories of classes from **Max Sutton**, **Beth Schultz**, and **Kemp Houck**. During her years as an undergraduate and M.A. student, she slowly gained greater confidence and became involved in activist causes. But it was taking non-degree poetry courses from KU English’s **Victor Contoski** in the late 1970s that set her on the path to a regional focus and prolific publication.

One of Denise Low’s initiatives as Kansas

Poet Laureate is her Ad Astra blog, in which she offers commentary on literary events in Kansas. Her 3 January 2007 entry, devoted to the retirement of Vic Contoski (see related article on p. 11), reminisces about class meetings at the home of this “. . . Santa Claus figure . . . a happy Taurus with a small orchard around his house.” Contoski, she writes, “encouraged his students almost unconditionally; he instructed; he insisted we purchase copies of literary magazines and imagine ourselves in their pages.” Furthermore, “he taught me to look at Midwestern writers closely. . . . He imparted a sense of excitement about creating a literature for a part of the country that was most often overlooked by outsiders – and also misunderstood as flyover country.” Though she had already begun publishing occasional poems by this time, and had become associated with the “West of Kansas City” group of poets, her productivity mushroomed thereafter.

In 1981, Low published her first chapbook of poetry, *Dragon Kite* in *Mid-America Trio* from the Bookmark Press at UMKC. 1984 saw a fine-press edition of *Quilting*, published by Holiseventh in Lawrence, and *Spring Geese and other Poems*, her first book-length collection of

poetry, a University of Kansas Natural History Museum publication. That same year she completed an M.F.A. degree at Wichita State University and was hired to teach writing and literature at Haskell. In the years since, she has published several more volumes of poetry, including *Starwater* (1988), *New and Selected Poems* (1999), and *Thailand Journal: Poems* (2003). She has also, however, published (and edited) important work in other genres: fiction, creative nonfiction/personal essays, biography, literary criticism, scholarly research, reviews – almost any kind of expression that her fertile mind can imagine and formulate. Her 2007 publication, *Words of a Prairie Alchemist: The Art of Prairie Literature*, combines many of these forms. It was named a Kansas Notable Book, the most recent of many awards and grants Low has received from organizations such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Lannan Foundation, Poetry Society of America Foundation, and The Newberry Library, as well as local bodies, such as the Kansas and Lawrence Arts Commissions. *Natural Theologies: Literature of the Prairielands*, a book of critical essays, is forthcoming.

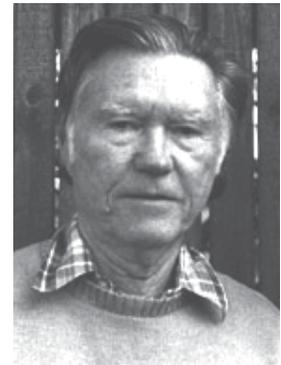
In the late 1990s, Low returned to the University of Kansas to earn a Ph.D. in American literature. Although she wrote a creative mixed-genre dissertation, under the direction of **Carolyn Doty**, much of her work focused on Native American literature and culture. She hoped, among other goals, to

broaden and deepen her understanding of the formative influences on her students at Haskell. Working with KU's specialist in Native American literature, **Bud Hirsch**, she discovered that non-western artistic and literary forms "fit with her inner landscape." Linking this new interest with her ongoing commitment to preserve the environment and ease oppression, she has become active in exploring and illuminating issues related to Native American lands and peoples. Professionally, she has become fascinated by depictions of warrior women in Cheyenne ledger art, and in the form generally as literature. As further testament to her sense that art is best created in a community, she has recently written prose poems linked to the paintings of Lawrence artist Paul Hotvedt, and is presently engaged in translating the poetry of Matai poet Muhammad Afifi Matar from Egyptian with the help of KU professor of Economics, Mohamed El-Hodiri. She is also proud that, in her administrative work at Haskell, she has overseen the creation of an art gallery. Next, she hopes to find space and funds for a theatre.

Besides posting to her online blog regularly, Low intends to create a bi-weekly electronic poetry broadside consisting of work by Kansas poets. She will also carry out the traditional duties of a poet laureate by addressing the legislature and attending state- and locally-sponsored literary and artistic events. In 2008, she will judge the Kansas portion of the NEH

and Poetry Foundation's "Poetry Out Loud contest." During her term, she wants to emphasize that poetry is a part of literacy, that literacy is crucial to an informed citizenry, and that an informed citizenry is vital to a democracy."

B. H. Fairchild and Denise Low have never met, but the time may be coming. Both have expressed a desire to attend a gathering that will celebrate the life and work of yet another great Kansas poet and KU English alumnus, William Stafford (B.A. 1937). The William Stafford Memorial Rendezvous will be held at the Flying W. Ranch in Clements, KS, on 12 April 2008. There, the community of Kansas poets, many groomed in the University of Kansas English Department, will be further united.



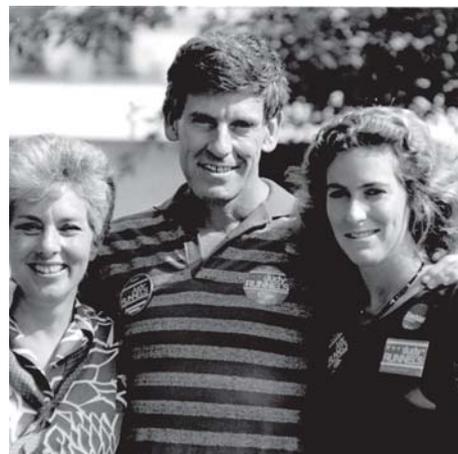
William Stafford (1914-1993)

GENEROUS DONATIONS WELCOMED

The Runnels Family Endowment

Dr. **John B. Runnels**, a California neurologist, believes he "benefited immensely" from the education he received in the University of Kansas English Department. He was one of the first Honors in English graduates at KU, earning his B.A. in 1957. He especially treasures his past and present friendships with "talented and intellectually vigorous" faculty members **Frank Nelick**, **Carroll Edwards**, **Bill Paden**, and **Ed Grier**, though, he notes wryly, they may not have been "particularly friendly with one another."

Dr. Runnels's \$100,000 unrestricted donation to KU English, the Runnels Family Endowment, honors his late wife, his stepfather, and his father-in-law. Judith "Judy" Cotton Runnels completed nursing school at KUMC in 1958, the same year she and John Runnels were married. She worked as a nurse and homemaker and, along with John, began raising their three children in California, Florida, and Virginia, while



Judy Cotton Runnels, Dr. John B. Runnels, and daughter, Laura Runnels in 1986

John first trained and then served as a Naval Flight Surgeon, including a hitch on the USS Independence in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War. In 1972, the family returned to Kansas where Judy became active in local and state politics, first as president of the Topeka League of Women Voters, then as a lobbyist for

the Kansas State Nurses Association. She then won two terms in the Kansas legislature and, in 1986, lost a "spirited" race for Secretary of State to eventual-Governor Bill Graves. After the Runnels's move to Palo Alto, CA in 1990, she volunteered and eventually helped administrate volunteer associations at the medical center and hospital on the campus of Stanford University. According to John, her *joie de vivre* was "legendary." She died of cancer in 2003.

Runnels's stepfather, Louie J. Beyer, was born and reared in rural Inman, Kansas, graduated from KU in 1906, and earned an M.D. from the KU School of Medicine in 1910. He practiced general medicine in Little River and Lyons, Kansas for 55 years and served a term on the Kansas Board of Regents. Judy Runnels's father, Corlett J. Cotton, came to KU from Arkansas City and earned his B.A. in 1929. He worked as a life insurance district agent and served as a leader in the Episcopal Church in Lawrence for 63 years.

John Runnels hopes that the funds he has donated "will be used to inspire, even sustain, the creative spirit of an English major or two."

The Frewin L. and Dorothy K. Craven Graduate Scholarship in English

Alan Craven, Professor Emeritus of English at University of Texas at San Antonio, and his wife, **Janice Craven**, have donated \$30,000 to establish the first graduate scholarship in the University of Kansas English Department, the **Frewin L. and Dorothy K. Craven Graduate Scholarship in English**. Terms of the endowment note that the fund shall be used to support “an outstanding graduate student in English based on academic merit and financial need.”



Alan and Jan Craven

Alan’s parents, Frewin (“who disliked his name”) and Dorothy Craven were unable to seek higher education because of economic circumstances. Obtaining a college degree became a priority in their family. Alan responded by earning an A.B. in 1958, an M.A. in 1963, and a Ph.D. in 1965, all from KU English. Alan claims that some (among many) of his fondest memories of the University involve studying analytical bibliography and Shakespeare with **Charlton “Kadi” Hinman**, learning the collator, working as a research assistant on the mammoth Hinman-edited Oxford Shakespeare Quarto Facsimile series, and writing his dissertation on the printing of Shakespeare’s *Richard II*. He also vividly recalls taking his first KU course (from **George Worth**) in Old Fraser Hall.

Craven taught at Arizona and Brandeis before being hired at University of Texas at San Antonio. At UTSA, he served for 21 years as Director of the Division of English, Classics, and Philosophy, researching and teaching bibliography, Renaissance literature, and Shakespeare. For eight years, he served as Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts. Now retired, he continues to work on the Shakespeare quartos printed by Valentine Simmes.

In 2000, he married Jan, an Administrative Services Officer in the College. Since then, Jan has showcased once again the brilliance and talents of many non-traditional students by completing a UTSA B.A. *summa cum laude* in 2002, thirty years after life took her away from

Duke University after four semesters. Alan and Jan note, with some wonder at the world’s strange coincidences, that Jan’s father, John H. Fisher, John Hodges Professor, Emeritus, University of Tennessee, a renowned Chaucer scholar, former executive secretary of the MLA and former editor of PMLA, was offered the chairmanship of KU English in the 1950s. How might their lives – and those of many contributing to, featured in, and reading this newsletter – have been different if her father had decided to accept that position?

The Herbert and Jo Ann Klemmer Fund

Jo Ann Klemmer grew up in Republic County, Kansas, where she attended a one-room country school from second- to seventh grade. She graduated from Belleville High School, moved to Topeka and then on to Lawrence where she enrolled at the University of Kansas and worked at the Sunflower Ordnance Plant. She recalls that writing a paper on the novels of George Eliot in her first and only undergraduate year at KU was “a liberal education” in itself! Jo Ann completed her undergraduate work at Washburn University, worked for several years at Menninger Clinic, moved to Chicago, where she started an M.A. in English, then returned to KU to complete work for that degree, which she earned in 1963. She has kind words for several of her professors, **Ed Grier**, **George Wedge**, **Arvid Schulenberger**, and her chair, **Ed Ruhe**, who supervised her thesis work on the “grotesques” in Sherwood Anderson and Maxwell Bodenheim.



Dr. Herbert Klemmer and Jo Ann Klemmer

In 1963, Jo Ann married **Dr. Herbert Klemmer**. In 1940, Herb Klemmer, boasting an internship and OBGYN residency, joined a VA hospital in Illinois, intending to specialize in internal medicine. With war coming, however, hospital officials were desperate for psychiatrists. Suspecting that anyone who *wanted* to specialize in psychiatry must have mental problems, they rejected those requests and, instead, required all their internal medicine

applicants to train in psychiatry. After the war, Klemmer received further training in psychoanalysis and became Associate Dean of the Menninger School of Psychiatry in 1958. He then became Director of the school in 1962 and continued a nationally and internationally distinguished career in the field (including efforts as lecturer and Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at KUMC) until his retirement in 1990. Herbert Klemmer died in 2000.

During her married years and since, besides serving twenty years as executive secretary of the Kansas Psychiatry Association, Jo Ann Klemmer has enjoyed being active in the community artistic and literary life of Topeka. Having written poems as early as her undergraduate years, she assisted in founding *Inscape*, a “little” arts journal of the 1970s, that eventually morphed into the literary magazine of Washburn University. Later, she edited *Selections from Inscape, 1972-1976*. A small volume of her own poetry saw print in 2002 and her memoir, *Leaving*, was published in 2006.

The Herbert and Jo Ann Klemmer Fund consists of an initial unrestricted \$30,000 gift to the University of Kansas English Department, with an option to increase the donation in the future. Jo Ann hopes these funds can somehow provide KU English students with the kinds of “eye-opening” and horizon-expanding experiences she relished throughout college. She remains excited about learning and hopes her gift will contribute to the “zest” of the unit as a whole.

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 Lisa 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

A Moving Experience



Within days after the end of the Spring 2007 semester, KU English participated in a mass redistribution of office space in Wescoe Hall. Professor **Richard Hardin**, a denizen of Wescoe's first floor for thirty-three years and an eyewitness to the present chaos, filed this dispatch from the front:

"The original departmental administrative offices in Wescoe Hall are now matter for nostalgia. In June, the offices of the chair, the various directors, and their attendant functionaries moved into space formerly occupied by History on the same floor of Wescoe, but in the northwest quadrant. History and Spanish & Portuguese secured new windowed offices (and new furniture) in the newly enclosed south porch of the building. Several of the older English faculty, who have resided windowless in Wescoe since 1974, expressed delight in applauding the good fortune of those much-deserving units. At the same time English and other faculty vacated all the basement offices in Wescoe; wall partitions are coming down, and the floor will be replaced. Recent graduates may recall that the first floor of Wescoe has gone lopsided, creating an amusing effect in the ceiling tiles. The new first floor will chiefly contain classrooms."

The College graciously agreed to History's request that the locks in their new offices be duplicates of the old. Thus, History's faculty would not need new keys. Eventually apprized of this strategy, English office manager, **Lori Whitten**, pointed out that either many History and English faculty members would soon have keys to each other's offices or all the old offices would need to be re-keyed. A race against time is now underway. Will English faculty be able to open their office doors by the start of fall semester? Stay tuned. Next summer, all third floor offices will be vacated for 6-8 months to further a simultaneous overhaul of Wescoe's ventilation system. The second floor will be similarly evacuated in December 2008.

New Conger-Gabel Teaching Professors



Frank Farmer



Philip Barnard



Byron Caminero-Santangelo



Marjorie Swann

Four more English faculty members have been named Conger-Gabel Teaching Professors. **Philip Barnard**, **Byron Caminero-Santangelo**, **Frank Farmer**, and **Marjorie Swann** will hold this title beginning this fall through the spring semester of 2010. The Conger-Gabel Teaching Professorships were endowed in 2001 through a gift from KU graduates **Wren Gabel** and **Esther Conger Gabel**. Conger-Gabel professors receive \$5,000 per year for a three-year term in recognition of their outstanding teaching.

Grand Master



Banquet in New York City. The title is bestowed on a living author for a lifetime's achievement in science fiction or fantasy. Previous Grand Masters include Robert A Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, and Ursula K. Le Guin.

In May 2007, Professor Emeritus **James Gunn** was named **Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master of Science Fiction** by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writer's Association of America at the Nebula Awards

Norton Scholar's Prize to KU English Undergrad

Garth Kimbrell, a senior KU English major from Wichita, won the 2006 Norton Scholar's Prize awarded by the New York publisher, W. W. Norton, for the best undergraduate essay on a literary topic. The nationwide competition received more than 200 entries. Kimbrell's essay, "'Directitude? What's That?': A Verbal Blunder and Unstable Identity in *Coriolanus*" was written for **David Bergeron's** 627 Shakespeare class in Spring 2006.

Pitts Talk Highlights Strong Year of Visitors

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Leonard Pitts Jr.** delivered the English Department's annual **John F. Eberhardt Memorial Lecture** on 5 October 2006.



Originally scheduled to be held at the Dole Institute, the lecture had to be moved to the Lied Center when it became apparent that public interest in the event was so strong. Over 2000 spectators filled the Lied auditorium while hundreds more stayed to listen outside. Introduced by Professor **Janet Sharistanian**, Pitts addressed the topic "Civil Rights after 9/11." In his remarks, he expounded on the writing process as well as the substance of the issues. Lecturers and Readers Chair **William J. Harris** noted how Pitts's style and voice aid in creating civic discourse: "His fairness and great good humor appeal to all segments of our society. He has attracted readers of widely diverse backgrounds and opinions, and made them fans of his column." Pitts also met with English and Journalism students during his stay. Distinguished literary critic and theorist **J. Hillis Miller** delivered the 2007 **Richard W. Gunn Memorial Lecture**, "A Defense of Literary Study in a Time of Globalization." UCLA professor and KU English alumnus **Eric Sundquist** and African novelist **Nurrudin Farah** also spoke at events sponsored or co-sponsored by the English Department.

Keepers by the Dozen II

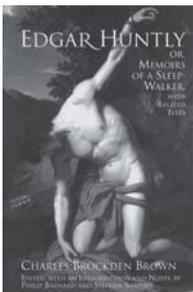
In the 2002 *Update*, we reported on twelve recent major publications by KU English faculty. 2006 and 2007 saw a similar explosion of new monographs and editions by active and retired English Department professors.



Atkins, G. Douglas. *Tracing the Essay: Through Experience to Truth*. The University of Georgia Press.

Drawing from the work of Montaigne and Bacon and recent practitioners such as E. B. White and Cynthia Ozick, G.

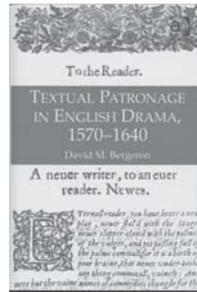
Douglas Atkins shows what the essay means – and how it comes to mean. He notes that “the essay was, historically, the first form to take the experience of the individual and make it the stuff of literature.” In *Tracing the Essay*, Atkins embraces the very qualities that have moved others to accord the essay second-class citizenship in the world of letters. Responding to influential critiques of the essay’s supposed self-indulgence, lack of irony, and absence of form, Atkins argues that the essay exhibits a certain “sneakiness” as it proceeds in, through, and by means of the small and the mundane toward the spiritual and the revelatory. (Taken from cover notes to *Tracing the Essay*) Professor G. Douglas Atkins teaches, among other related subjects, the writing and study of creative non-fiction. For many years, he served as Director of Graduate Studies in the English Department.



Charles Brockden Brown. *Edgar Huntly; or, Memoirs of a Sleep-Walker, with Related Texts*. Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Philip Barnard and Stephen Shapiro. Hackett.

Because it is the first U.S. novel to explore settler-Indian violence, and because of growing interest in Brown generally, *Edgar Huntly* (1799) has been the focus of a tremendous amount of scholarship in the last twenty-five years. This is the first new edition since 1988. It draws together and extends the insights of recent work on Brown and this novel, generally presenting the text as an anti-imperialist fiction of the revolutionary 1790s and highlighting three areas of interest: 1) racialist categories and ethno-racial conflict in expansionism; 2) imperialism and commercial empire; 3) new categories of same-

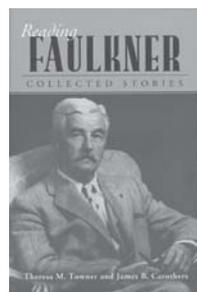
sex and other-sex identity and companionship as the revolutionary era leaves the old regime behind and opens up new models of personhood and collectivity. (Taken from comments by Philip Barnard, KU English *DNB*, 9/22/06) Philip Barnard is Associate Professor of pre-1900 American literature and culture. He has just been named a 2007-2010 Conger-Gabel Teaching Professor in the English Department.



Bergeron, David M. *Textual Patronage in English Drama, 1570-1640*. Ashgate.

English Renaissance playwrights, printers and publishers looked in two directions, toward aristocrats and toward a reading public, in order to secure status for and

dissemination of dramatic texts. David Bergeron points out that dedications and addresses to readers constitute obvious signs that printers, publishers and playwrights in the period increasingly saw these dramatic texts as occupying a rightful place in the humanistic and commercial endeavor of book production. This book compels literary scholars, cultural historians, and historians of the book to take seriously the intersection of patronage, book production, and playwrights’ textual frames. (Taken from cover notes to *Textual Patronage*) David M. Bergeron is Professor of Renaissance Studies in the English Department.

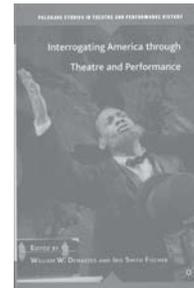


Carothers, James B. and Theresa M. Towner. *Reading Faulkner: Collected Stories*. University Press of Mississippi.

Jim Carothers states that “providing introductions, glossary, and commentary for

each of the 42 stories in Faulkner’s *Collected Stories* sometimes felt a little like paving a six-lane highway with ceramic tiles: there were a lot of pieces to the project.” After identifying the words, phrases, names, and historical, mythic, literary, folklore, and popular culture allusions to be researched, Carothers and Towner turned to the *OED*, a plethora of specialist dictionaries and glossaries, facsimiles of Faulkner’s manuscripts and typescripts, and to the myriad conference volumes, monographs, and journal articles that directly or indirectly illuminate Faulkner’s texts. The introduction to each story

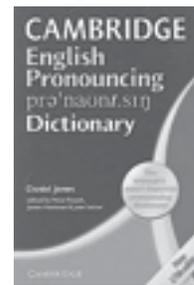
provides history of composition, publication, and critical reception, “which required sifting more than fifty years’ worth of bibliographical scholarship and interpretive criticism.” With characteristic wit, Carothers notes, “All in all, it was an absorbing project.” (Taken from comments by Jim Carothers, KU English *DNB*, 10/20/06) Professor James Carothers is Professor of twentieth-century American literature in the English Department.



Interrogating America Through Theatre and Performance. Edited by Iris Smith Fischer and William W. Demastes. Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History.

Interrogating America looks at American culture and politics from the lens

of American theatre and drama, drawing from specialists in the field of theatre to reflect upon the role of theatre in the creation of the American cultural and political milieu. Together, the essays create a portrait of the dynamic give-and-take that is central to the idea of Americanness and America itself. (Taken from cover notes to *Interrogating America*) Iris Smith Fischer is Associate Professor of American literature, specializing in modern and contemporary U.S. and comparative drama, performance studies, and literary theory.

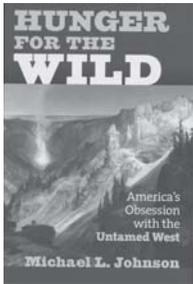


Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary. 17th Edition. Edited by Daniel Jones, Peter Roach, James Hartman, and Jane Setter. Cambridge University Press.

Jim Hartman notes that “this edition added

American pronunciations of all words in the dictionary. The speakers (who were American, of course,) followed my transcriptions. I then reviewed their pronunciation for accuracy. The word list was revised, dropping some more obscure place names but adding people and places of more current interest along with some “new” words. We also wrote short informative items about pronunciation that are scattered throughout the dictionary and we beefed up the exercises. It seems to be evolving towards being a ‘teaching dictionary’. The text contains more than 80,000 entries. Hardback, paperback, and paperback with CD-ROM. James Hartman is

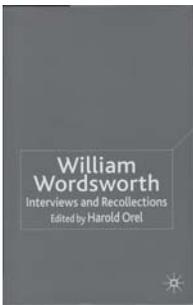
Professor of English language and a former chair of the English Department. He has been awarded both a Kemper Fellowship and a Conger-Gabel teaching professorship for teaching excellence.



Johnson, Michael L. *Hunger for the Wild: America's Obsession with the Untamed West*. University Press of Kansas.

Just what was so wild about the Wild West? Americans have had an enduring yet ambivalent

obsession with the West as both a place and a state of mind. Michael L. Johnson's *Hunger for the Wild* offers a monumental cultural and historical analysis of how ideas of wildness have shaped the ways Euro-Americans have perceived, reacted to, and acted upon the West for nearly five hundred years. Bringing the sensibility of a poet to a sweeping discussion of place, Johnson considers how that obsession originated, how it has determined attitudes toward and activities in the West, and how it has changed over the centuries. Brimming with word-play, personal anecdotes, and telling vignettes, *Hunger for the Wild* also provocatively addresses a cornucopia of Western personalities, phenomena, and events. (Taken from cover notes to *Hunger for the Wild*) Professor Michael L. Johnson directs poetry instruction in the new KU English M.F.A. program and serves as Director of Freshman-Sophomore English.



William Wordsworth: Interviews and Recollections. Edited by Harold Orel. Palgrave.

William Wordsworth: Interviews and Recollections collects and reprints generous extracts from the texts that record opinions and characterizations by 22 of

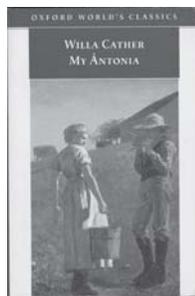
England's most important writers, of their interactions with Wordsworth. Lively and perceptive commentary, none claimed as neutral or objective, is provided by, among others: William Godwin, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Sir Humphrey Davy, Charles Lamb, Thomas de Quincey, William Hazlitt, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats, Lord Byron, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, John Stuart Mill, Matthew Arnold, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. (Taken from cover notes to *Interviews and Recollections*). Harold (Hal) Orel is Professor Emeritus of English. He has published nearly thirty books over the course of his career, including three previous *Interviews and Recollections* series volumes.



Melville and Women. Edited by Elizabeth Schultz and Haskell Springer. The Kent State University Press.

The twelve new essays in this collection extend the interest in Melville and women evident in recent scholarship, biography, art, and drama. Throughout his

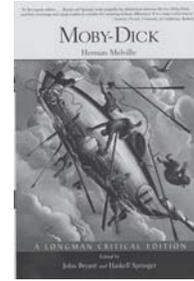
life, Melville lived surrounded by women, and he wove women's experiences into most of his literary work, early and late. Treating his poetry and prose and using a variety of theoretical approaches from biographical to ecocritical, the essays focus not only on Melville's female characters, but also on gender roles, colonialism, intertextuality, legal issues, and concepts of the female and feminine. Several of them demonstrate his sensitive response to the work of nineteenth-century women authors. Collectively, they open new understandings of a writer too often seen almost wholly in masculine contexts. (Taken from cover notes to *Melville and Women*) Elizabeth Schultz and Haskell Springer are Professor Emeriti in the Department of English.



Willa Cather. *My Antonia*. Edited by Janet Sharistanian. Oxford University Press.

Why another edition of *My Antonia*? "First, although there have been many editions of this novel, very few provide extensive editorial material,

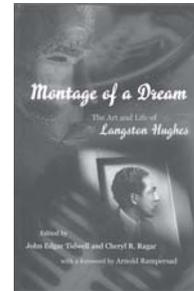
including a full introduction, both Cather's original and revised introduction to her text, a chronology of the author's life, a selected bibliography, and extensive notes. Second, it was time for Oxford to publish an edition of the book in its World's Classics Series. When Oxford began publishing the series a hundred years ago, Thoreau's *Walden* was one of the first titles, but the representation of texts by women writers, British as well as American, has historically been very limited. Given that *My Antonia* has been widely recognized since its publication in 1918 as a major American novel, and that it has a world-wide audience, its appearance in the Oxford line-up is hardly precipitous." (Comments by Janet Sharistanian, *KU English DNB*, 4/21/06). Professor Janet Sharistanian is Associate Professor of modern British and American literature, specializing in women's writing and feminist theory.



Herman Melville. *Moby-Dick*. Edited by Haskell Springer and John Bryant. Pearson Longman.

This innovative, scholarly edition of *Moby-Dick* offers unprecedented access to the revisions that Herman Melville, his

editors, and modern scholars have made to the original 1851 American text of the novel, to create the version that readers know today. The "fluid text" features illuminate the personal, social and cultural context of Melville's writing process, while fresh contextual notes, illustrations, and other apparatus make this the most reader-friendly – and therefore most teachable – edition available today. Revision sites appear on the page (in an alternative gray typeface) to indicate text that was later revised. Revision narratives tell the stories of major textual changes. Illustrations include a beautiful new map of the *Pequod's* voyage and ship diagrams, as well as relevant film stills and comic-book art. Excellent notes and glossary. (Taken from cover notes to *Moby-Dick*). Haskell Springer is Professor Emeritus of English.



Montage of a Dream: The Art and Life of Langston Hughes. Edited by John Edgar Tidwell and Cheryl R. Ragar. University of Missouri Press.

Montage of a Dream, the first wholesale reconsideration of Langston Hughes's life

and work since 1971, extends and deepens Hughes scholarship, multiplying the ways in which his diverse body of writing can be explored. Twenty contributors ponder Hughes's relevance to American, African American, and diasporic literatures and cultures. Probing anew among Hughes's fiction, biographies, poetry, drama, essays, and other writings, the contributors assert fresh perspectives on often overlooked work and insightful rereadings of many familiar pieces. In addition to analyzing specific works, the contributors also astutely consider subjects either lightly explored by or unavailable to earlier scholars, including dance, queer studies, black masculinity, and children's literature. (Taken from cover notes to *Montage of a Dream*). John Edgar Tidwell is Associate Professor of American and African American literature in the English Department.

New Faculty



Professor Stephanie Fitzgerald

Assistant Professor **Stephanie Fitzgerald** arrived at KU in the fall of 2006 armed with a Ph.D. in English from Claremont Graduate University and an M.A. in American Indian Studies from UCLA. Her appointment calls for her to spend half of her time researching and teaching in the English Department, the other half in KU's Center for Indigenous Nations Studies (CINS). Fitzgerald says that, from the moment she saw this interdisciplinary position advertised, she knew it was her "dream job." She is delighted and excited that this dream came true.

Professor Fitzgerald spent her early years in Minneapolis. Her mother, a member of the Cree Tribe from the Norway House Reserve in Northern Manitoba, immigrated to the U.S., married, and began raising a family in Minnesota. Fitzgerald, the oldest of five children, recalls occasional visits to her mother's family on the remote Reserve, accessible only by bush plane. On a freezing New Year's Day when she was twelve, her father, watching the Rose Bowl, had an epiphany. Noting the sun-washed shirt-sleeved California football fans, he announced, "we don't have to live like this!" They moved to Los Angeles later that year. In LA, Fitzgerald notes, their family became part of one of the largest urban Indian communities in the nation.

Her chief interest in high school was history, but she began gravitating toward literature at Antioch College. Her eventual B.A. was in Liberal Studies (Creative Writing). Along the way to her degree, she worked at various jobs, most engrossingly and fruitfully as an insurance investigator. At one point, she had met all the qualifications for a PI license and briefly considered entering the world of the iconic big-city private detective. But the work was more tedious than that described by Raymond Chandler and she opted for the adventure and glamor of academe.

At UCLA, Professor Fitzgerald worked with noted American Indian scholar and author Paula Gunn Allen. She became active in coordinating Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL) sessions at American Literature Association conferences, co-edited an anthology of Native American women's plays, *Keepers of the Morning Star*, and wrote her thesis on the poetry of nila northSun. Committed to the idea that American Indian literature must be studied in the broader context of American literature, she then pursued her doctorate at Claremont, maintaining a specialization in AIL, but also strengthening her background in canonical and other ethnic American literatures. Her dissertation, completed in 2005, is entitled *Mapping the Textual Terrain: Land, Law and Gender in American Indian Women's Writing*. She plans to shape the dissertation into a book.

At KU, Professor Fitzgerald has taught Intro to Fiction, the early American literature survey, and an advanced American Indian literature course in the English Department. She will teach the Introduction to Graduate Study in Indigenous Studies for CINS this fall. Her chief research interest is American Indian autobiography, evidenced by her co-editing a special issue of *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* on this topic in 2006. She has enjoyed her classes and students and finds Lawrence pleasantly like some neighborhoods of Los Angeles. In her spare time, she enjoys powwow dancing – she has traveled with relatives to powwows in Nebraska and Oklahoma in the last year.



Professor Ann Wierda Rowland

Despite growing to maturity (third to twelfth grades) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, new Assistant Professor **Ann Wierda Rowland** thinks of herself as an Iowan. She was born in Iowa, summers past and present have been spent at a cottage on Okoboji Lake, part of the Iowa Great Lakes, and Sioux Falls is right on the border of the Hawkeye state. As a child and teen, she was a voracious reader. A devoted pianist, she accompanied her school

choir. She was also a formidable debater, a skill that prepared her well for some non-academic aspects of her university experience. She and her sisters are proud to be the first women in their family to obtain advanced degrees – and with no half measures. Rowland's B.A., M. Phil. and Ph.D are bracketed by her sisters' twin M.D.s. She credits her high-school American Studies teacher, KU English alumnus **Bill Thompson** (M.A. 1973) – and other fine secondary teachers – with motivating her to believe in herself and dare to apply to the best colleges in the country. Her family encouraged her to look West. She recalls, in fact, wishing/resolving/dreaming of two things on New Year's Eve 1984 – winning a state debate championship and getting accepted to Stanford. The championship and Stanford both eluded her, but Yale College beckoned and she shocked everyone by braving the alien Northeast. Later, in graduate school, she discovered that her husband-to-be, Joshua Rowland, had yearned to attend Yale, but had settled for Stanford.

On the surface, New Haven instantly proved to be all that her parents had feared. Embroiled in a clerical and technical workers' strike during her first semester, Yale was forced to close its dining halls. Students had to forage and be reimbursed. The campus was dirty and unkept. But Rowland believes this experience was valuable to her. She immediately grasped how the academy works, the interrelationships and indispensability of all university occupations. She tucked this recognition away with her debate training for later use.

At first, Professor Rowland considered pursuing law, but by her sophomore year she was leaning toward literature. In 1988, she graduated *summa cum laude* in English and won a Keasbey Scholarship to Oxford where she studied Victorian Literature and earned her M.Phil. in 1990. She then spent a year in publishing, a surefire spur (for her) to return to graduate school. The prospect of teaching, which she loved, was also an effective lure. Back at Yale, she began a Ph.D., but found labor issues enveloping her again. Now a GTA, she joined Yale's Graduate Employee and Student Organization (GESO) that was engaged in a much-publicized and scrutinized struggle with university administration. Convinced that graduate instructors deserved greater recognition and benefits as a crucial part of the academic economy, she served as a grassroots organizer for GESO and found herself in the midst of the maelstrom whipped up by the 1995 GESO grade strike, a landmark in the history of graduate student/university negotiations of the past twenty years. When GTAs refused to grade papers, relations between faculty and graduate students became strained as well, and Rowland was at odds with her mentors. Though it was a harrowing experience – and though now she's on the other side – she urges graduate students to stand up to their professors when they believe it is necessary.

FACULTY NEWS

The cure for all this ill will, in her case, was excellence. Impressed by her research and teaching, Harvard offered Rowland an assistant professorship in 1999, a feather in the cap of all who had taught and advised her. Tensions eased. The timing was also good. Her husband, Josh (they married in 1996), completed his Ph.D. in American Literature at Yale in 1999 as well. With their first child, Alice, they ventured to Boston where Josh attended law school, then joined a local practice, and Ann took up junior faculty duties. A second child, Wilfred (Wil) was born in 2000. Life in Beantown was colorful and exciting, but both Rowlands began to wonder if a move back to the Midwest (Josh grew up in Kansas City) might, in the long run, be better for both their family and their careers. Ann began to watch KU's MLA joblist ads. In 2005, her patience was rewarded and, in the ensuing search, both she and KU English hit the jackpot. It took an extra year to wrap up obligations in Boston, but Josh is now employed at Bryan Cave in Kansas City and Ann has completed a satisfying first year in Lawrence. Her students and colleagues have exceeded all expectations and she has especially enjoyed the great discussions and "intellectual vitality" of Hall Center events.

Professor Rowland is a specialist in eighteenth and nineteenth-century British literature. She has more specific interests in Romanticism, Scottish literature and the Scottish Enlightenment, gender and postcolonial theory, children in literary culture, and the emergence of popular and national literary culture in late 18th-century Britain. She has published articles on William Wordsworth, Walter Scott, and the Romantic ballad revival. Essays on "Sentimental Fiction" and "Poetry and the Novel" are forthcoming in *Cambridge Companion to Romantic Fiction* and *Cambridge Companion to Romantic Poetry* respectively. A book manuscript, tentatively titled *Literature and Childhood in British Romantic Culture*, is in progress. In 2006-2007, she taught a freshman honors course called "The Literature of Childhood," a post-1800 British literature survey, an upper-division course in Gothic literature, and a graduate course entitled "Poetry and the Novel in the Romantic Period."

Professor Rowland and her family are avid equestrians. Her own horse is called "A Winter's Tale" – "Winnie" for short, "winner" on occasion. Her husband and children also ride American Saddlebreds and all help organize and compete in the American Royal Horse Show in Kansas City.

Professor **Laura Mielke**, a specialist in nineteenth-century American literature and culture, joined the KU English Department in Fall 2007. She taught at Iowa State University for five years after receiving her Ph.D. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Mielke will be profiled in the next edition of *Update*.

Professor **Giselle Anatol** has just returned from the Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference, held this year in Salvador da Bahia—the oldest city in Brazil. She presented a paper entitled "Water Imagery in Angie Cruz's *Soledad*," exploring Yoruba influences and references to indigenous Taíno culture in the novel. Professor Anatol was delighted to be able to visit the historic town of Cachoeira, Brazil, and interview a member of the Sisters of the Good Death—a women's spiritual organization founded during the slavery era. The conversation provided excellent material for Anatol's teaching of *Paradise* in her Toni Morrison course. During the Spring of 2007, Professor Anatol was on sabbatical leave, working on her manuscript, *The Things That Fly in the Night: Images of Female Vampirism in Literature of the African Americas*.

G. Douglas Atkins reports a splendid, productive year, back from a sabbatical leave in the spring semester 2006. During the year, his tenth book was formally accepted for publication, following rave reviews, by the University of Georgia Press and is scheduled to appear late 2007 or very early 2008: *Reading Essays: An Invitation*. His previous book, *Tracing the Essay*, continues to garner highly favorable attention, and Georgia is bringing back into print *Estranging the Familiar*. Doug is completing a book tentatively titled *Moonlight Is Gentle: Reading as "Gen'rous Converse"—Essays in, through, and by means of Eliot's "Four Quartets."* On the personal front, he reports that a second grandchild is due this summer: a son, to be born to Christopher and wife Sharon. Doug spends as much time as possible in Boise with daughter Leslie (a KU PhD in theatre, now tenured at Boise State, winners of the last Fiesta Bowl [!]), son-in-law Craig, a lawyer, who was a KU English major, and granddaughter Kate, with whom he is thoroughly taken ("Papa," she calls him, perhaps thinking he looks like Hemingway, formerly of nearby Ketchum and Sun Valley).

Philip Barnard published a new edition of C.B. Brown's *Edgar Huntly; or, Memoirs of a Sleep-Walker* in fall 2006, and in spring 2007 began work on an edition of Brown's *Arthur Mervyn; or, Memoirs of the Year 1793*. He also agreed, perhaps unwisely, to begin work as Textual Editor of the Charles Brockden Brown Scholarly Edition, a long-term project to produce a scholarly edition of Brown's non-novelistic writings. Along with papers on Brown at two conferences, and helping with job-interviewing for the department's new 19th-century Americanist position at this year's MLA meeting, he also gave a first paper on a new project: an English translation and edition of Victor Séjour's 1872 serial novel, *Le Compte de Haag*. Séjour was an African American dramatist from New Orleans who enjoyed a successful

career in Second Empire Paris, and this, his only novel, concerns the Franco-Prussian war and the scapegoating of the First International by Thiers and his cronies; thus the project brings Barnard back to his comparatist-nomadic roots.

David Bergeron reports that in October 2006 he gave a paper on "Invariant Paratexts in English Dramatic Texts" at the Southeastern Renaissance Conference. In April 2007, he attended the Shakespeare Association of America meetings in San Diego, CA, and presented a paper on the prefatory material in the quarto texts of Francis Beaumont's play *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*. In early June, Bergeron participated on the program of the Mediterranean Studies Association meeting in Evora, Portugal; he spoke on why the title *Two Gentlemen of Verona* is an inappropriate title for that early Shakespeare play. The time in Portugal also included considerable travel through various parts of Portugal and a wonderful excursion to Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.

In teaching, Bergeron particularly enjoyed a graduate Shakespeare Seminar in Fall 06, which focused on the classical plays, a topic Bergeron had not explored before.



Professor Byron Caminero-Santangelo, recipient of the 2007 Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award

Byron Caminero-Santangelo was honored to receive the Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award from the Graduate School and to be named a Conger-Gabel Teaching Professor for a three-year term. In addition, Dr. Caminero-Santangelo published two articles this year. The first, "Of Freedom and Oil: Nation, Globalization, and Civil Liberties in the Writing of Ken Saro-Wiwa," was published in *REAL: Research in English and American Literature*. The second article, "Different Shades of Green: Ecocriticism and African Literature," is part of *An Anthology of African Literary Theory and Criticism* (Blackwell) which also includes selections by such writers and critics as Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Wole Soyinka, Anthony Kwame Appiah, and Nadine Gordimer. The forthcoming year will be Dr. Caminero-Santangelo's fourth and final year serving as Director of Graduate Studies.

Marta Caminero-Santangelo has been busy with the planning of a major national

conference on US Latino/a Studies, to be held at KU in February 2008. Marta has also founded a US Latino/a Studies initiative at KU; this group of faculty will be proposing a new Latino/a Studies minor in the fall. In Spring 2007 Marta was delighted to teach a graduate class on US Latino/a and Latin American literature of dictatorship, repression, and testimony; the class dovetailed nicely with a new project, in which she will be co-editing a special issue of *Antipodas*, the Journal of Hispanic and Galician Studies of Australia and New Zealand, on writers representing the Trujillo dictatorship of the Dominican Republic. She hopes to see her graduate students submit their excellent papers for the issue! Meanwhile, Marta has been working on seeing her book, *On Latinidad: U.S. Latino Literature and the Construction of Ethnicity*, through the printing process—it will appear in September 2007. She will be traveling to the Dominican Republic with her family in summer 2007.

Jim Carothers celebrated the publication of his book, *Reading Faulkner: Collected Stories* (Univ. Press of Mississippi) with co-author **Theresa M. Towner** (B.A. '80, now Professor of Humanities at the University of Texas at Dallas) with a party at Spencer Research Library in November. He finished his third term as Presiding Officer of the University Council in June, and served on the Task Force on Promotion and Tenure Policies and Procedures. Teaching assignments included ENGL 334: Faulkner and Hemingway (Edwards Campus), ENGL 105 and 205, and Modern American Novel. In April he gave a lecture, "Reading Hemingway," at the Edwards Campus, drawing on his first encounter with Hemingway's fiction in "The Snows of Kilimanjaro."



Professor Kathryn Conrad, recipient of the Chancellor's 2007 Byron Shutz Award for Outstanding Classroom Teaching

Kathryn Conrad returned to Belfast in the summer of 2006 to launch the new KU Study Abroad program in Irish studies at the Queen's University. In the fall, she also joined the Honors Program as a Faculty Fellow, and revelled in the Nunemaker building's plentiful windows, excellent view, and seemingly endless supply of cookies. In the spring, she taught her first Honors

tutorial, "Saints and Scholars, Poets and Politicians: An Introduction to the KU Irish Collections," at the Spencer Research Library. At the end of the semester, she was honored to learn that she had received the Chancellor's 2007 Byron Shutz Award for Outstanding Classroom Teaching. Over 60 faculty were nominated for the award across the Lawrence campus, and the English department was proud to have 5 finalists. The award requires the recipient to deliver a public lecture, after which a reception will be given in her honor. Finally, Katie is excited to be expecting her first child this July. She will return to teaching in the spring of 2008.

Brian Daldorph taught creative writing and poetry classes at KU, and he is now in his sixth year of teaching a creative writing class at Douglas County Jail. *Poet's Market 2008* will include a feature on his class at the jail. Brian published poetry and short fiction this year, and he is working on three manuscripts: *Jail Time*, *From the Inside Out: Sonnets*, and *Zambia Poems*. On 31 March, 2007, he ran the Olathe Marathon in 3 hours, 19 minutes.

Amy Devitt spent the past academic year on sabbatical, studying and writing about the formal aspects of everyday genres and how those forms connect with their contexts. Learning about blogs was one favorite. She took time from her sabbatical to serve on the Executive Committee of the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Her year ended with the good news that graduate students had awarded her the Mabel S. Fry Award for Teaching Excellence.

Iris Smith Fischer co-edited *Interrogating America through Theatre and Performance* with William W. Demastes (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) and published an article, "The Discipline of Word and Body: Mabou Mines Stage Beckett, 1965-1975," in *Text and Presentation 2006* (McFarland, 2007). In May the article appeared in Italian translation. She also presented a paper on "Semiotics as a Foundation for Performance Studies" at the September 2006 meeting of the Semiotic Society of America. Her 2006-2007 courses included "Modern Drama: The Avant Garde" and an honors proseminar on "Beckett and American Absurdist Drama." After a year as co-editor of *The Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, Fischer became editor in July 2007.

In 2006, **Doreen Fowler** was elected to the Executive committee of the Faulkner Society. As an officer of the society, she organized and chaired a panel, "New Directions in Faulkner Scholarship," at the American Literature Association conference in Boston (May 2007). Also at the meeting in Boston, she presented an essay, "Flannery O'Connor and the Racial Uncanny," which is taken from the chapter on O'Connor in her work-in-progress, "Identity and Identification: Faulkner, Wright, O'Connor, and Morrison." Another piece from this same book project, this one entitled "Beyond Oedipus:

Lucas Beauchamp, Ned Barnett, and Faulkner's *Intruder in the Dust*," will be published in *Modern Fiction Studies* in the fall of 2007. In the spring of 2007, she taught a Senior Honors Seminar and a graduate seminar, and, in both, attempted to read modern American fiction intertextually with postmodern theories of identity. She is very proud to report that **Greg Brister** and **Masami Sugimori**, both of whom are working with her on their doctoral dissertations, published articles in the most recent issue of the *Faulkner Journal*, "Faulkner and Whiteness."

At the annual Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, **Richard Hardin** gave a paper on the fifteenth-century Northern European reception of Plautus. He had an offer to publish a version of this if he could come up with \$50.

Michael L. Johnson continued as Director of FSE during 2006-2007. In the fall semester he taught the first section of English 803: Practicum in the Teaching of Creative Writing, the pedagogical centerpiece course for the Department's new M.F.A. He did poetry readings in several venues and read a chapter from *Hunger for the Wild: America's Obsession with the Untamed West* (which cultural history was published in March 2007 by the University Press of Kansas) at the meeting of the Western Literature Association in Boise, Idaho.



Four more Paul Lim-tutored playwrights honored and EAT receives national recognition

Paul Stephen Lim's days and nights continue to be monopolized by English Alternative Theatre whenever he is not playacting in the classroom. On Labor Day he directed EAT's staged reading of *This Is How It Goes* by Neil LaBute; followed by a full production in October of *Leaves of Words* by MFA candidate Tim Macy; then a full production of *Antigone* by Sophocles (the Brecht adaptation) in April, seen by over 900 KU students in English and Western Civ who were studying the play. It also turned out to be a banner year for EAT playwrights. Four original plays received recognition by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Best news of all for EAT this past year is the publication by Southern Illinois University Press of *Angels in the American Theater: Patrons, Patronage, and Philanthropy* (edited and with an introduction by Robert A. Schanke).

Chapter 7 of the book is devoted entirely to a discussion of English Alternative Theatre, the unique role it plays in academic theatre, and how it has been funded primarily by Grant Goodman since its founding in 1989. Amidst all this joy, there was also a great deal of sadness. Two members of the EAT family succumbed to brain tumors—**Bud Hirsch** on 3 Sept 2006, and Kaye Miller on 1 May 2007.

John Edgar Tidwell concluded a successful school year by signing a contract with Oxford University Press to bring out *After Winter: Writings on the Art and Life of Sterling A. Brown*. It is a book that collects some of the best previously-published and new critical essays on Brown, interviews with Brown and with his former students, a comprehensive bibliography of his writings, and a discography of his poetry. Brown (1901-1989) was a renowned poet, literary critic, folklorist, teacher, and raconteur, whose significance to the study and teaching of African American literature and culture is currently being reassessed. This project comes on the heels of the three edited books Tidwell produced last year: *A Negro Looks at the South* (with Mark Sanders), *Montage of a Dream: The Art and Life of Langston Hughes* (with Cheryl Ragar), and *Writings of Frank Marshall Davis: A Voice of the Black Press*. In addition to this work, he also presented a paper for the first time at the American Literature Association, which met in Boston in late May.

Deb Olin Unferth's collection of very short stories was accepted for publication by McSweeney's. The book will appear as one volume of three small-sized volumes in September 2007. Unferth's volume is titled *Minor Robberies* and the entire set is titled *The Small Box of Short Stories*. Her stories appeared this year in *The Notre Dame Review*, *Crowd*, *Black Warrior Review*, *McSweeney's*, *NOON*, and in the anthologies *New Sudden Fiction* and *Encyclopedia*. The short films for which she wrote the text, *The Theory of Time Here* and *Something That Happened Only Once*, ran for two months at the Klein Gallery in Philadelphia and are scheduled to appear at other venues. She gave six readings in New York, most notably at The Mercantile Library, and she gave readings elsewhere as well. For the first year of the MFA program, she organized the KU visits of Sam Lipsyte, Gary Lutz, and Clancy Martin.

Transition

Professors Beverly Boyd, Victor Contoski, and Dennis Quinn all officially retired in May 2007. They taught in the KU English Department for a combined 134 years. Below, a former graduate student of each reflects on the career of his/her teacher, advisor, and mentor.

Professor **Beverly Boyd** published her first article on Geoffrey Chaucer in 1950. In May 2007, she received a contract from the University of Florida Press for a book on Chaucer and his family. In the interim, she has researched, published, and taught for over fifty years at the university level. In 2006, in her forty-fourth year at KU, she won the annual Mabel S. Fry award for Excellence in Teaching. Also in 2006, her alma mater, Brooklyn College – City University of New York, recognized her with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

We all know Professor Boyd as a devoted life-long scholar who will now have more time to pursue her scholarly work. What may not always be as obvious is the degree to which she inspires her students with her approach to her career. Her obvious enjoyment of academic life, with all of its accompanying challenges and rewards, stands as an example for us all.

When I enrolled in a small graduate seminar that met in Prof. Boyd's home, little did I know, as she served up coffee along with conversation about Chaucer and the French tradition, that she was modeling behaviors I would soon need to emulate. In fact, as I write this reflection, I am in the middle of ordering supplies for a weekend orientation course with a group of first-year students, where we will share meals along with class discussion. In discussing Professor Boyd's seminar with another alum, we both agreed that what we most value about it was the model of academic conversation, in a setting outside the traditional classroom, that it provided to us. She made us feel at home, not only literally, in her house, but also figuratively, in the world of the profession.

Professor Boyd's mentorship extends beyond the classes she teaches. For example, she not only encouraged me to present my first paper for a regional conference, she attended that presentation and offered a frank and helpful critique of it. Then, she did the exact same thing with my first national conference, and with each step of my professional development. The informal mentorship provided by professors like Beverly Boyd is at least as valuable, if not more so, than any of the formal mechanisms developed by KU and its English Department for preparing students to move from graduate school to career.



Professor Beverly Boyd in 1979

Perhaps most of all, Professor Boyd makes real to her students the tremendous richness of academic life for those who are fortunate enough to be able to pursue it. I am sure I am not the only student whose imagination was sparked by stories of a Christmas spent in Bruges, for example. I have attended two summer institutes at which speakers have pointed out the difficulty of the juggling acts we are all forced to do in this profession. While I don't wish to gloss over the difficult truth in that "juggling act" metaphor, its flip side suggests a life in which it is possible to pursue a variety of interests and talents, things that we both enjoy and are good at. Professor Boyd demonstrates to us all that such an approach to academic life is possible.

—Jennifer Palmgren (M.A. 1994, Ph.D. 2000)

Jennifer Palmgren is Director of General Studies and Associate Professor of Humanities at Saint Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA.

Immediately after earning his Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin in 1969, Professor **Victor Contoski** began a thirty-eight-year-career at the University of Kansas. Though he taught American literature to great acclaim, winning the H.O.P.E. Award in 2000, he made an even greater mark as a poet—he wrote, edited, or translated ten volumes of poetry—and teacher of creative writing. Since 2002, the Paul Ross Charitable Foundation has provided funding for the Victor Contoski Fiction and Poetry Awards presented annually to gifted KU English creative writers, a fitting legacy for a unique artist and educator.

I came to know Vic Contoski the poet before I encountered either the man or the teacher. I had returned to KU from Canada as a graduate student in English—having earned my B.A. in psychology with a minor in chemistry—in 1973. Not long after, I chanced upon *Broken Treaties*, Vic's remarkable book, perhaps his best overall. Published by New Rivers Press, this volume exhibited Vic's signature blend of sometimes violent seriousness and quirky humor and fantasy. This paradox marks Slavic writing—mercurial turns from tragedy to comedy, or the two twined inextricably together. Yet Vic had his own personal voice.

In a poem called "Money," for instance: "like an amoeba / it makes love / in secret / only to itself." The quiet violence comes at the end: "Then one day when you think / you are its master / it will turn its head / as if for a kiss / and bite you gently / on the hand." Eventually, "the poison will reach your heart."

Vic's next volume was entitled *Names*. By the time it came out, I had finished my Ph.D., Vic had served as my dissertation advisor, and I came to possess a copy given me and signed by the author. This book is graced by beautiful



Professor Victor Contoski in 1980

University Archives, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas

reproductions of African masks, perfectly suited to the more political vein of poems about the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War and the now-haunting “The Tall Buildings of Manhattan,” which, years before 9/11/2001, ends with the lines: “And the long, long shadows / of the tall buildings of Manhattan / fall on their backs like whips.”

I didn’t realize, at the time I worked with him in the late 1970s, that Vic was relatively new to KU. He seemed so accomplished, so much a fixture. I also assumed that he grew up speaking Polish, given his sterling record of publishing translations and anthologies of contemporary Polish poetry. But in a striking interview with Erleen Christensen in the Winter 1982 issue of *Cottonwood*, Contoski states that he learned the language only on his first visit, when he went to bookstores to “talk to people about poetry.”

I don’t know much about Vic in the classroom, but I worked with him closely while writing the dissertation. He was an unfailingly kind mentor with a sometimes startling sense of humor. He never prodded or ranted, like some KU professors I knew; instead, he quietly suggested, “Have you thought about X, or Y?” Invariably, he was right.

We corresponded repeatedly over the years. When I taught as a Fulbright Junior Lecturer in West Germany, when I worked in Minneapolis and taught again at Iowa State University, we exchanged poems and comments, interlaced with personal news and reflections. These are delightful missives—at least his were—and when I recently opened the folder labeled “Poetic Correspondence I,” his was the very first letter, still fresh with sparkling energy.

I have not kept up with Vic’s most recent poetic successes. But I loved the idiosyncratic take on his adopted region in *A Kansas Sequence* (Cottonwood Review Press, 1983), where the “poor cold ghost” of the Rookery in Fort Leavenworth endures: “little old lady / trying to get into bed. / Move over. / Move over.”

The last letter I recall receiving from Vic came after he received a copy of my book, *By the*

Way: Poems over the Years, in 1998 and wrote back saying his beloved Dzidka, wife and helpmate, devoted partner in poetry and journeying, had passed away. He was bereft, as of course he would be; a deep and lasting hole had been blasted through.

But the honors kept coming, which I heard about through various grapevines: In 2000, the prestigious H.O.P.E. Award; in 2002, writing awards named for him. For me, Vic was a constant, an *ostinato*, in the English Department at KU: unassuming, persistent, substantive. Lawrence has nurtured a number of fine poets over the decades, but certainly none better than Vic Contoski. I value the sharpness of his vision, his gentle, quirky, deeply felt insights into the human condition. His contributions to teaching and writing can’t be separated, and they can’t be removed now from KU. They have become part of its DNA, and many of us carry those special genes.

—David Radavich (M.A. 1974, M.Ph. 1977, Ph.D. 1979)

David A. Radavich is Professor of English at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL.

Professor **Dennis Quinn** began his career in teaching at the University of Kansas in 1956. A John Donne specialist, he taught courses in Renaissance literature throughout his long career, winning a Fink Award in 1965, a H.O.P.E. Award in 1969, and a Kemper Award in 1997. He is most proud, though, of his work with the Integrated Humanities Program, a four-semester freshman-sophomore general education cycle that he taught in for twenty-four years and directed from 1971-1979. His principal research contribution to literary study is the interdisciplinary *Iris Exiled: A Synoptic History of Wonder* (2002).

Dennis Quinn is retiring after fifty-five years as a professor of English at the University of Kansas. It is surely one of the longest and finest tenures of any professor at KU. I first heard about Dennis while a sophomore at KU in 1964 from my Lawrence friend and fraternity brother, Bob Shenk, then an English major and later a riverboat captain in Vietnam, before becoming an English professor at the University of New Orleans. Bob frequently talked about this “outstanding English professor,” Dennis Quinn, with whom he was studying seventeenth-century poetry. Now it was not all that common around the fraternity house to hear excited dinner table talk about humanities professors—most there were studying business or pre-med—but since my academic bent was toward history at the time, I did pay some passing attention, especially since I respected Bob’s opinion. I quickly enrolled in the old English 9 course (in the quaint days when courses were denominated in single digits), “Introduction to the Novel,”

and after reading Joyce Cary’s *The Horse’s Mouth* and Hemingway’s *A Farewell to Arms*, my vocational direction was set for the next forty-two years. The novels were great and Dennis had a knack for stimulating class discussion that was provocative and interesting.

Since then I have known Dennis in many different capacities: as a graduate advisor and mentor of my undergraduate teaching, as a team teacher during a memorable one-year term as a Faculty Exchange professor at KU, as a colleague on several panels at academic conferences, and as a friend. His oldest daughter babysat some of my children and his wife Eva, who died not long ago, I always greatly admired for her steadfast loyalty and good spirit. Some of my deepest memories, though, will always be those of Dennis as a teacher; he achieved fame for a number of different aspects of his teaching career but excelled most, I would say, in the simple exchange between teacher and student in the classroom where there was an element of unpredictability about where the discussion would go. Dennis was very good at keeping such conversations germane to the text at hand, and was especially adept at raising larger issues that engaged what was sometimes called at the time “existential” matters; in the case of Gully Jimson, for example, the hero of *The Horse’s Mouth*, what is the relationship between art and life, or, in regards to Frederick Henry and Catherine Barkley, when is it permissible to leave responsibilities and duties and pursue love for its own sake. It was the first time that I could see a real relationship between what one studied in school and what the outside world was really about (I don’t deny that I was pretty dense) and I was grateful for that.

An advantage of knowing one’s teachers over nearly a lifetime is that one discovers aspects of their lives that come as a great surprise. In the case of Dennis I pretty much thought that



Professor Dennis Quinn in 1979

University Archives, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas

he spent all of his time reading and talking about literature. And he really did do a lot of this; he was extremely well read in fields far removed from the English Renaissance and was often seen in the Kansas Union talking with students. He notoriously did not have a television in his home—I don't believe he ever did at any time in his life, although I did hear rumors later that he was seen renting one for KU basketball tournament play—and this contributed to our idea of his love of books. But when I eventually received an academic appointment at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, Dennis told me that his father, Burt Quinn, ran the Club Bingo in Vegas, had also an interest in the downtown hotel El Cortez—run then by the still-influential Gaughan family—and would be glad to put me up there for my first few nights in town. Burt had come to Vegas from Omaha a very long time ago, was quite charming (he still featured penny slots in the Club Bingo in 1975), but I don't think had the interest in books that his son had. And then one of Dennis' brothers turned out to be quite a successful novelist, winning Ted Turner's \$50,000 literary prize for a first novel.

Dennis' fidelity to the Catholic Church I also always admired and then, in the 1970's and '80's I saw what a talented administrator he was as well, as he, and his fast friends **Frank Nelick** and **John Senior**, founded and grew the Pearson Integrated Humanities Program into a formidable academic program. I learned also that Dennis, to no one's surprise, continued to win teaching awards and also continued to attract the admiration of new generations of students. My debt to him is many-faceted but it will always revolve around Gully Jimson and *The Horse's Mouth*, a teacher and a book, and the difference that can make.

—Richard L. Harp (B.A. 1967, M.Ph. 1971, Ph.D. 1974)

Richard L. Harp is Graduate Coordinator and Professor of English at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In Memoriam

One of a Kind: Professor Bud Hirsch, 1944-2006

On the afternoon of 23 October 2006, family members and hundreds of students, friends, and colleagues from across the University and country filled Woodruff Auditorium to celebrate the life of Professor Bernard A. "Bud" Hirsch (Ph.D., Illinois). The previous April, Bud—otherwise in the best physical condition of his life, ironically, and at the height of his career as an

educator and scholar—was diagnosed with brain cancer. During the course of an exceedingly hot Kansas summer, Bud battled the disease with grace, courage, even humor in the constant company of loved ones. Last October, set against a backdrop of deep blue drapery and vibrant sprays of Kansas sunflowers, Bud's memorial service unfolded exactly as he had wanted (no poetry, no classical music), conducted by close friend **Jim Carothers** and leading off with a playing of "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" (Bud was a Chicagoan to the core). After moving tributes from Jim, Bud's brother Arnold Hirsch (History Department, University of New Orleans), Michael Yellow Bird (Center for Indigenous Nations Studies), and former student Gwen Griffin (English Department, Minnesota State University), a steady stream of students, colleagues, and friends expressed their love and admiration for a man whose teaching, guidance, and friendship has shaped their lives. Bud surely would have liked the fact that a number of speakers couched their reflections on his life in terms of "gains and losses," an insistent theme in all of his literature courses. Needless to say, the emotional balancing of those terms proved exceedingly difficult that afternoon.

Bud's thirty-year stint as an educator—and only a brief summary can be given here—was rich, dynamic, and always focused on his dedication to teaching. Early in his career he co-authored four successful texts for college writers, including *The Essay: Readings for the Writing Process*, written in tandem with the late **Stephen Goldman**. Bud joined the Department in 1976 as a scholar in the Romantic period, and over the years published important work on Byron, Shelley, and Wordsworth; his most recent endeavor in that field was a valuable essay on the teaching of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (MLA, 1991). In 1978 Bud's scholarly interest in American Indian literatures, to which he passionately devoted the rest of his life, led to his pioneering work in the teaching of English 571, and important articles on Native authors N. Scott Momaday, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Thomas King soon established Bud as an authority in the field. For the last decade or so, Bud became a regular presenter at the Western Literature Association conference, in what became an annual "road-trip" with **Michael L. Johnson**. Throughout his career Bud performed tireless service in many capacities for the University and Department, and during the last decade of his life served as Director of Undergraduate Studies, providing guidance to virtually thousands of English majors and students in the Indigenous Nations Studies program.

The list of awards and achievements honoring Bud's scholarship, teaching, and service is astonishing, among them the Edward F. Grier Award for excellence in the integration of research into teaching (1992); a Vice-Chancellor's



Bernard L. "Bud" Hirsch, August 2006

Fellowship (1997-98); the inaugural University of Kansas Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award (2003); and the Outstanding Advising Certificate of Merit (faculty advisor) from the National Academic Advising Association (2004).

On the passing of his colleague and close friend, Mike Johnson wrote in the Fall 2006 issue of *Western American Literature* that Bud "had a fine ride through WLA country, but it didn't last near long enough. The end of his trail, despite its surreal difficulties, availed him both a good deal of joy and a rich self-understanding." Indeed, the last week of July 2006 brought Bud unprecedented happiness at the end of his struggle: on July 25 Provost Richard Lariviere awarded him the W. T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, and three days later a delegation from the Indigenous Nations Studies program presented him with their highest honor, the American Indian Leadership Award, or "Crystal Eagle," given "For courage and service to American Indian people." Mike concluded his tribute to Bud by remarking that "[w]e'll all miss his generosity, his feistiness, his sense of humor, his unique and acumenous contributions to the study of Native American literature and culture, even the quick and righteous anger he could bring to bear on any of the world's pettiness and insanity. He was one of a kind." Amen. While we miss Bud Hirsch daily, the healing period of one year has helped us to balance that very considerable loss with the inestimable gains that he brought us.

—Stephen F. Evans (B.A. 1971, M.A. 1976, Ph.D. 2000)

Stephen F. Evans is a Full-time Lecturer in the University of Kansas Department of English.

Alumni News

1940s

Jim Chandler (M.A. 1949) writes, “Sorry we haven’t much to report, our survival aside. I’m still doing some lectures on how diplomacy works, and what we get out of it for what it costs. Unfortunately our only projected travel to Kansas is to Conway Springs to spruce up the graves of my father and mother for Memorial Day. At least it gives me a chance to wear my WW II medals!”

1950s

Patricia H. (Pasha) Buck, (MA 1958) has “retired” from pastoring St. John UMC in Rio Grande City, Texas, and moved back to Iowa with her husband John. Both are active in the Band-Aides at their retirement community, where Pasha has also begun a stint as volunteer chaplain.

Bill Sollner (M.S. Ed. 1953; M.A. 1954), impresario of Pied Piper Puppets, Arma, KS, writes that he’s still on the road with “Bandwagon Bob.”

1960s

Upon graduation, **Harold Ackerman** (M.A. 1967) returned to his home state of PA to teach at the college level for more than thirty-three years. During that time he completed coursework for the Ph.D. in 19th/20th century British and American literature at the State University of New York at Binghamton. He started, but did not finish, a dissertation on the prose of Ezra Pound. In 1991, while teaching, he entered another Ph.D. program at Indiana University of PA (IUP), with a major in rhetoric and linguistics. His dissertation focused on reading of metaphor by students whose native language is not English. He received the Ph.D. in 1998. He retired from teaching in 2003 and now spends most of his time with his wife, Jane, and his Olympus Digital SLR, having taken up photography as a second career. The difference between his reading now and his reading in 1967 is that he now reads what he likes and when he likes. Recent interests include Garrison Keillor, the linguistics of metaphor, Jamaica Kincaid, Joy Kogawa, Amelia Nothomb, and Charles Simic.

Bob Bataille (M.A. 1965; Ph.D. 1970) continues to enjoy his retirement from Iowa State and this June travelled with his wife, the novelist Mary Howard, to England where they hiked through parts of Cornwall. In April, Bob and Mary spent an evening in Des Moines with old friend **Mitch Kalpakgian** (M.A. 1966)

where they reminisced about their graduate-school days in Lawrence.

After 30 years writing, editing, and managing projects for an in-house industrial advertising group, preceded by 11 years writing and editing maintenance articles for private and military aviation, **John Ival Blair** (M.A. 1966) retired in April, 2007. Chief interests remain reading, writing poetry (viewable on websites such as *Prairie Poetry*, *Red River Review*, *Pencil Stubs*), raising flowers in the harsh and fickle North Texas climate, participating in the local UU Church, and being with his family. Married to Clara Franz Blair (also a poet) for 40 years and enjoying his first grandchild, a 1-1/2-year-old girl named Caitlyn Chuen-Jie Blair (born to son Joseph and daughter-in-law Chyi), John lives at 1206 Britt Drive, Arlington, TX 76013. Send e-mail to him at <blairbards@sbcglobal.net>.

Alan E. Craven (Ph.D. 1965) is Professor Emeritus in English at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He continues to teach Shakespeare courses on a part-time basis. When not traveling with the Flying Jayhawks, he and his wife, Jan, enjoy their home and garden on the edge of the Texas Hill Country.

Bill Holm (M.A. 1967) is about to retire next Christmas after 42 years of (among other pleasures) grading freshman English papers and, for the last 26 years, teaching at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, MN. Two new books came out this year: *Cabins of Minnesota* from Minnesota Historical Society Press, a curmudgeonly essay with beautiful photographs, available now, and a longer one to appear in the fall, *The Windows of Brimnes*, from Milkweed Editions, a rumination over 40 years of his adult life, looking west through the windows of his little house on a fjord in north Iceland. Holm plans to reteach himself to write poetry this summer in Iceland. No prose. Come see him for a drink and a fresh fish. Holm remarried last year to Marcy Brekken, his treasured companion for the last 18 years. Hooray for retirement!

Cecily Johns, (B.A. 1961; M.A. 1968) recently retired from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where, since 1985, she held the position of Deputy University Librarian. During the three years prior to her retirement, she administered a University-wide Mellon grant through the UC Office of the President. She was also Senior Associate with the California Digital Library, a systemwide agency that oversees the acquisition and management of UC’s digital resources.

For **Dave** (Ph.D. 1972) and **Mary Jo** (M.A. 1969) **Holden**, it’s been a quiet year in Knoxville, Tennessee, their home for most of the last three decades. The highlight of the year was an automobile tour around Ireland in November with their KU friends, **Jim and Anne Welsh**. Literary sites were high on our must-see list - from the Rock of Cashel to Dublin to Galway - with the amazing Newgrange Neolithic passage-tomb along the way.

Leslie Freeze Johnson (B.A. 1963; M.A. 1964) has never written to *Update*, so she apologizes for this first gabby entry. Leslie loved KU so much that she decided to stay an extra year to get her M.A. While doing so, she was recruited by the CIA, when, back in 1963, the CIA recruiter came to the campus driving a red Cadillac convertible. Honestly. When she finished her M.A. in 1964, guided by the brilliant Dr. **Arvid Schulenberger**, she headed for DC and worked until 1969 as an Intelligence Analyst at CIA headquarters in Langley, VA. She worked in counterintelligence on the Clandestine Services “side” of the Agency. In those days, women’s careers weren’t so important, so she left her CIA position to live where her husband’s career took them: New York, Baltimore, Memphis, and, finally, Tulsa. (Thirty years later, she was “traded in” for a newer, Russian model.) While in Memphis, she earned a B.S. and M.S. in biology from Memphis State University. Her field work took her to an Alabama fish hatchery, where she collected large numbers of cottonmouths (yes, big, venomous snakes) and to the banks of the Mississippi River in Memphis, where she collected smaller, friendlier lizards. Her work was published in two “herp” journals. In 1989, she entered Oklahoma State University’s School of Veterinary Medicine at the ripe old age of 47—the oldest student ever admitted—but decided she didn’t have the patience for four more years of school. Instead, she founded a non-profit animal shelter, taught biology and nutrition at Tulsa Community College, coordinated clinical trials for a neurologist, and, in January 2007, retired from Cancer Treatment Centers of America, where she wrote clinical research protocols for various types of cancer, and also coordinated clinical trials in oncology. A cancer survivor herself, she was gratified by the opportunity to offer hope and encouragement to cancer patients in the clinical setting. In September 2007, Leslie will begin training as a volunteer “Gillie” with Tulsa’s renowned Gilcrease Museum.

Mary Duhamel Kramer (Ph.D. 1969. NDEA Title IV Fellowship) has just completed her thirty-eighth year of teaching at UMASS. She has done freelance and academic writing but

prefers the classroom experience. Her fields are Shakespeare and Chaucer, with forays into Journalism and Renaissance Lit. She does considerable mentoring and volunteer work for public libraries and the Honors program.

Charles Linck, Jr. (Ph.D. 1962), 83 on June 6, 2007, has been honored with an inscribed brick in "Author's Park," downtown Commerce, Bois d'Arc Capitol of Texas, and subjected to oral history interviews regarding his Navy career (1943-1946) for a DVD for the Library of Congress.

Patrick Miller (M.A. 1964) retired in 2002 from being Director of Leadership Development and Strategic Planning at a major utility in Florida. He and his wife, Jackie, and their two small children moved in 2004 to the mountains of North Carolina, where Patrick keeps busy working on photography, video production, church work and keeping up with two young children. His older son teaches English and video production in an Ocala, Florida high school and his older daughter teaches pre-schoolers in Sweden. Greetings from the land of waterfalls to old friends and associates...would love to hear from you (plmiller1@citcom.net)!

Sherry Anne Newell (M.A. 1964) continues to serve her community by completing her twenty-fifth year with the Magic Lantern Film Society at Cameron University (Lawton, OK), editing her parish newsletter, and serving on the boards of various artistic, social welfare, and charitable organizations.

After ten years of teaching university-level English in Oklahoma, Kansas, and New York, **Wanda J. (Peltier) Stapleton** (M.A. 1965) owned and operated a technical writing business for eleven years. While in business, she wrote a textbook for displaced homemaker programs in vocational-technical schools. Acclaimed for its "precision and sensitivity," the book was distributed nationwide by the U.S. Department of Education. After serving ten years as a state legislator in Oklahoma, she has published a book of her weekly columns. Her third publication, a textbook, is currently listed on the internet as www.vowelpatternsandsounds.com.

David Till (M.A. 1964) is Emeritus Professor of English at Austin Peay St. Univ. in Clarksville, TN. Named Alumni Distinguished Professor in 2002, Till retired in 2004, but continues to teach in the university's post-retirement program. He was a founding editor of *Zone 3*, a literary journal published by Austin Peay. *Zone 3 Press* published Till's first book of poetry, *Oval*, in 2006.

Jim Thomas (B.S. Ed. 1952; M.A. 1962) plugged away 40 years teaching and writing, never mastered either. Damn. But he found it

fun, anyway. Rita and he have 6 children now scattered in Texas, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee and even Missouri. He published several hundred poems and a book, all highly forgettable. A Professor Emeritus of English from Truman State, he and Rita retired to Hermann, Mo. They're slowly re-doing a stone house built in 1852. He ties trout flies, fishes for bluegills. So it goes.

Jim Welsh (M.A. 1965, Ph.D. 1996) Emeritus Professor of English, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD, writes, "Yes, my wife and I went to Ireland with **Dave and MaryJo Holden** when they asked us to and we said "Yes," and we reJoyced at the Writers Museum up O'Connell Street and we found the Joyce Museum round the corner, as if we were paying our respects to **Hal Orel**, and we went to a pub that bore the name of Oliver St John Gogarty and hoisted a pint to stately, plump Buck Mulligan. Yes! Yes, Indeed! What better a place for Thanksgiving? But beyond the blab-blog, I should also like to request a boon from the Department in Wescoe Hall. In October, the Literature/Film Association, an organization which I founded circa 1989, is sponsoring a conference at KU, in conjunction with the Theatre and Film Department and the Hall Foundation, and my heart would swell with pride if some of the KU English faculty and graduate students might be persuaded to participate.

1970s

Eva Allen (M.A. 1976) retired from her Senior Writer position with Hallmark Cards in 2002 after twenty-four years with the company. She currently spends her time volunteering, travelling, and working on her house. Eva serves as secretary of the board of directors of the Humane Society of Greater Kansas City and as president of the KC Cactus and Succulent Society.

Dean Bevan (Ph.D. 1971) continues his unplanned retirement career in theater, most recently as Norman Thayer in *On Golden Pond* at Lawrence Community Theatre, where he also played a singing cowboy in *Chaps* last September. He also played an American hostage in Beirut at Ottawa University's theater last November, plus appearing as James Naismith at halftime of the Chicago Bulls/Seattle Supersonics game at Allen Fieldhouse in October. His own most recent play, *Missy*, was performed under his direction at the Lawrence Arts Center this June. When not on stage, Dean and Judy continue to enjoy traveling, sailing, and cross-country skiing, and invite their friends to stop and see them when in Lawrence.

James Bogan (M.A. 1968; Ph.D. 1979) continues his stint at the University of Missouri-Rolla as a Curators' Teaching Professor. On a

research leave during the 2006 spring semester he went around Cape Horn then zigzagged his way back up from Tierra del Fuego to the Amazon, screening his *Brazilology* documentaries along the way, including at the river town of Abaetetuba where key sequences of *The Adventures of the Amazon Queen* were filmed ten years ago. Back in the Ozarks, in addition to running the UMR Film Festival and teaching film classes, he initiated a course called "Artists at Work," which precipitated startling art productions from students and professor. He managed an unscheduled guerilla residency at the Cill Rialaig Artists Retreat in County Kerry, Ireland, in March, which resulted in a four-foot by six-foot, eighty-pound collage mural entitled: *The Poet Wakes Up in Cill Rialaig in a Stone Cabin Two Years Later with the Future in Front of Him and the Past Close Behind. William Blake Appears on a Bicycle Spiraling His Way Down Towards London.*

Marsha Dutton (A.B. 1964, M.A.T. 1974), is a professor of English at Ohio University, teaching medieval literature and the History of the English Language. She does research into the works of twelfth-century English Cistercians, especially Gilbert of Hoyland and Aelred of Rievaulx. She also welcomes the opportunity to recommend her students for graduate work in the English department at KU.

Steven Hind's (M.A. 1970) latest collection of poetry, *The Loose Change of Wonder* (Woodley Press/Washburn University Center for Kansas Studies, 2006) has been chosen as "a 2007 Kansas Notable Book." He will be among the featured authors at the Kansas Book Festival in Wichita on October 5 and 6, 2007.

After thirty-three years, **Frank Kelly** (Ph.D., 1978) has retired from his position of Professor in the Department of English and Humanities at Farmingdale (NY) State College. The musical *Pageant*, which he co-authored and which received a KU production in the summer of 2007, continues to be performed throughout the USA.

Dr. **Jack Lundy** (M.A. 1970) is enjoying retirement at home in Kentucky. He continues to write poetry and is working on an anthology of verse entitled "Images of the Church." He enjoys gardening and working with youth. In June, he will be going with a church youth group to Biloxi, Mississippi to help build a home in the area destroyed by Katrina. He is also assisting less financially abled colleges to write grants such as Title III. To those colleges, he donates his services. Dr. Lundy and his wife toured England and Europe in the Fall 2006 and are planning to tour the Northeast in the fall of this year with a possible Tall Ships Cruise in Maine. Happy Retirement!

Patricia Cleary Miller (Ph.D. 1979) has been elected chair of the Humanities Division at Rockhurst University, where she is Past Chair and Professor in the Department of English. For many years she has taught seven courses a year, including Composition, Creative Writing, Americans in Paris, Faulkner, Modern Drama, Modern Poetry, and Greek & Roman Poetry. She continues to edit the *Rockhurst Review*, which accepts manuscripts from 15 September to 15 January, for late spring publication. Her recent works include poems commissioned by the Harvard Alumni Association in her capacity as its poet laureate; "The Maori Never Age" in K.U.'s *I-70 Review*; and a group of poems read in Ireland at the Gerard Manley Hopkins Summer School. She presents talks on "The Poetry of Ecstasy" whenever asked.

Paul W. Nisly (Ph.D. 1974) has retired from full-time teaching at Messiah College after thirty-five years. Actually, he prefers the terms "redirection" or "refocusing" to "retirement!" The college has asked him to write a history of the last thirty years, updating an earlier history. This history is being planned in preparation for the centennial celebration in 2009-2010. Currently, Paul is interviewing past and current members of the college community and finding it mostly an enjoyable part of the project. At the spring meeting of the Board of Trustees, Paul was given their Distinguished Service Award.

David Radavich (Ph.D., 1979) continues to teach poetry and drama at Eastern Illinois University. His latest book is *America Bound: An Epic for Our Time* (Plain View Press, 2007), featuring interlocking dramatic voices narrating our nation's experience from World War II to the present. He recently gave readings in Greece and Germany and continues to be active in union leadership as chair of the state-wide University Professionals of Illinois Board of Trustees.

In June, at the 21st Pacific Science Congress in Okinawa, **Eiki Senaha** (Ph.D. 1977) was nominated an Honorary Life Fellow of the Association for his contribution as secretary general for the 7th Pacific Intercongress held in 1993 as well as for his service as a council member for 14 years. He was also invited to address the Foreign Literatures Association of Okinawa on "Wordsworth: His Life Experience and Creativity."

Kathi Spaeth (M.A. 1978) celebrated the eighth anniversary of her used book business, Fireside Books, by moving to an 1886 brick freight depot in Monroe, Wisconsin. She's planning space for a fiber studio/workshop devoted to hooked, braided, and penny rugs as well. Prior to this, Kathi worked as a graphic designer for Newell/Rubbermaid and then as a fifth-grade teacher. She lives in a farmhouse in the northwest corner

of Illinois with her daughter, Calla, 20, who attends SIU. "A Yard of Eppllyanna" featured twenty-one of her quilts (work of a decade) in 2000 at the Freeport Art Museum. Special hello to old AI friends: Kevin, Tom, Mark, Susan, Phillip.

Jon-Christian (Chris) Suggs (Ph.D. 1978) is just finishing his tour of duty as chair of the English Department at John Jay College/City University of New York. After a bit of a vacation to Copenhagen and then Wales, he moves on in mid-summer to be "of counsel" to the Provost. During the past three years, Chris oversaw a renaissance of sorts of the department, hiring twenty-one new faculty, preparing for a move to new digs for the entire department, and guiding the writing of the department's new major which features a concentration in literature and the law. Chris has made visits to Lawrence over the years to visit his folks and drop by the department, but with the death of his mother last October, he doubts he'll get out that way very much from here on out. He hopes to see you all at MLA and similar fetes, nevertheless.

John Vanderhorst (M.A. 1977) and **Dotty (Adams) Vanderhorst** (M.A. 1977) are one of the marriages which came out of an enormous influx of new assistant instructors in the fall of 1974. They write, "Now, after many years of silence due to no professional achievements to report, having followed the humbler paths of technical writer (seventeen years) and now full-time pastor (since 2002), and homemaker and home educator of eight kids, respectively, we have something to crow about. One of our clan, Daniel Vanderhorst, has made it to KU as an English major. He enjoyed **Dick Hardin's** Major British Writers survey and, remarkably, his last name rang a bell in Professor Hardin's mind. For **Doug Atkins's** T.S. Eliot course, he wrote a paper "From *The Waste Land* to *The Rock*: a Changed Vision," very reminiscent of our graduate school days. Thank you for still shining forth, you two! We only wish he could experience other of the greats of days gone by: **Peter Casagrande, Max Sutton, Beth Schultz, John Bush Jones, Joel Gold**, and others fondly remembered. You can always find us at johnarie@earthlink.net. We still live in Lenexa, enjoying the cultural life of Kansas City."

Tom Warren (M. Phil. 1972; Ph.D. 1974) continues as Professor of English at Oklahoma State University and Director of the Technical Writing Program. This past year he taught an information design seminar and graduate courses in styles and editing, and research methods. He is under contract to write a technical writing textbook that takes a non-conventional approach to writing reports, and is writing anthology chapters on cross-cultural communication in ISO standards development and historical trends in technical editing. He once again was a summer

Guest Professor at the University of Paderborn (Germany) teaching German students in computer science and engineering how to communicate technical information in reports and at professional conferences.

1980s

Sylvia Bryant (M.A. 1988) currently is Interim Vice President for University Relations at Alfred University. She lives in the Village of Alfred with her two sons, Parker (age 9) and Duncan (age 6).

Andrea Broomfield's (M.A. 1989) book, *Food and Cooking in Victorian England: A History* was published in April, 2007 by Praeger-Greenwood Press. While on sabbatical from Johnson County Community College this past year, Andrea worked at Pioneer Trail Jr. High School in Olathe, Kansas where she organized and ran a writer's workshop for ninth graders, and where she also taught ninth-grade English. She returns full-time to Johnson County Community College in the fall.

Angela Hoffman Falk (M.A. 1988) was visiting senior lecturer in the English language at Uppsala University, Sweden, during Fall 2006. She has now accepted a tenured position there in the English department, where she teaches undergraduates as well as students in the newly-launched M.A. program in English Linguistics. She has also been appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies for Teacher Education. Her e-mail is angela.falk@engelska.uu.se.

Scott C. Gyllenberg (B.A. English 1979; J.D. 1988) just finished a one-year term as president of the fourteen-hundred-member Johnson County Bar Association. Scott and his wife, Christina Dunn (B.A. Business, 1991; J.D. 1994), live in Leawood, Kansas with their four children, Grace (6), Caroline (4), John Michael (4) and Catherine (1). He is a member of Gyllenberg & Dunn, P.A., a criminal defense law firm in Olathe, Kansas. Scott also is a member of the Tenth Judicial District Nominating Commission, and an adjunct professor at the KU School of Law.

John Kessel (Ph.D. 1981) just finished his twenty-fifth year of teaching in the North Carolina State University Department of English, where he is director of the creative writing program and heavily involved in the new M.F.A. in Creative Writing. 2006 saw the publication of an anthology John co-edited with James Patrick Kelly, *Feeling Very Strange: The Slipstream Anthology*. An episode of a forthcoming ABC TV series *Masters of Science Fiction* was filmed based on John's 1985 short story "A Clean Escape"; it stars Judy Davis and Sam Waterston and should be broadcast sometime in 2007. He just sold a collection of his short fiction, *Invisible Empires*, to be published in

May 2008. In May 2007, John was one of the speakers honoring KU professor **James Gunn** in New York (see p. 5). In recent years John has taken up, very rudimentarily, playing the piano. If any of his old cronies from the basement of Wescoe Hall should ever happen to be in Raleigh, John urges them to look him up and he will demonstrate just how bad at it he is.

Cynthia Pederson's (M.A. 1983) *Caught by Currents*, a chapbook of poems mixed with memoir, recipes and original nature prints, will be published in 2007 by Pudding House ("the largest small press in America"). A recent comment by a friend struck her as a succinct synopsis of her chapbook. She said, "Volunteerism sucks." In *Currents*, Pederson weaves together various volunteer projects she's undertaken in the past several years—most of them connected in some way with prairies and/or protesting a coal-fired power plant proposed for her rural county in NW Missouri. In the past year she has had a poem nominated for the Pushcart Prize and researched and written a booklet entitled *Mound City Fact and Folklore* which was published in conjunction with Mound City's 2007 Sesquicentennial. On a less serious artistic note, she participated in the 8th International Edible Book Festival in Topeka, KS with an entry entitled *Yankee Noodle* (an original lasagna songbook). Looking for a social life beyond volunteering, she and her husband have taken up square dancing. Currently she is working as Program Coordinator for The Mound City Public Library's Summer Reading Program. She also helps manage her family farm in Doniphan County, Kansas.

1990s

Jesse Alemán (Ph.D. 1999) has completed a two-year term as the Director of Graduate Studies in English at the University of New Mexico and will be enjoying his first sabbatical throughout Fall 2007. In March, Alemán and his research on Loretta Janeta Velazquez, the cross-dressing Cuban Confederate, were featured on the History Channel's *Full Metal Corset: Secret Soldier of the Civil War*, while his co-edited anthology, *Empire and the Literature of Sensation* (Rutgers UP), is due out in August 2007. This summer, Alemán is again living in Santa Fe and teaching for the Bread Loaf School of English at St. John's College.

Brad S. Born (Ph.D. 1993) has been appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bethel College, Kansas. Brad reports that this appointment moves him from the "interim" role he had held since November 2006 to the "permanently tenuous" status of a college administrator. He plans to slip away from the dark side once per year to teach an English class, preferably a general education literature course for non-majors.

Virginia (Ginger) Brackett (Ph.D. 1998) continues teaching in the Park University, Parkville, MO, English Department. Part of her service as Assistant Director of the Honors Program was development of a service learning initiative supported by a 2007 Missouri Campus Compact Grant. She participated in the 2007 Kansas City Literary Festival and presented a paper as chair of a Park University panel at the 17th Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf. Under contract to Facts on File for a book about the Brontës, she's also writing a University grant-supported creative nonfiction book about her father who was killed during military service in Korea. Her article, "Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as Secular Scripture" is scheduled for publication in the January, 2008, edition of *The Wildean*. She lives in Kansas City with her husband, Edmund, who works as Director of Sponsored Programs for Park.

After finishing his obligations as a Fellow of The National Endowment for the Arts (2005 to 2006), **Marlon Fick** (Ph.D. 1992) traveled to Pakistan where he was posted as foreign faculty at an all-Muslim women's university. While on a trip to advise the faculty of letters at The University of Punjab, Fick was hurt in a Taliban bombing that killed twenty-five children and students and wounded forty-two others. He was able to travel home to the United States in February, 2007 and now teaches for Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. His latest publication is "Reading Palms in the Morgue" (in Russian translation), available on the web.

Mike K. Johnson (Ph.D. 1997) continues to teach as an associate professor at the University of Maine at Farmington. He recently published an article on contemporary African American writer Percival Everett in *Western American Literature*. He spent much of the past summer in Helena, Montana, doing primary research for a biography of singer Taylor Gordon (and when he wasn't in the archives, enjoying hiking in Big Sky country).

Since receiving her Ph.D. from KU in 1997, **Amy Lerman** has worked at Kishwaukee College (Malta, IL), Arizona State University (Tempe) and, for the past two years, at Mesa Community College (Mesa, AZ), where she is residential and lead developmental faculty. She has an article on *A Farewell to Arms* coming out in an MLA Approaches to . . . volume, scheduled to be published fall of 2007, and she serves as Area Chair for the "Chick Lit" area of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association. She and her husband, Mike Mader, and their two cats, Lloyd and Lucy, enjoy living in the Southwest. Her email is: <alerman@mail.mc.maricopa.edu>.

Jeanette Lugo (M.A. 1996) is a Lecturer in English at Valdosta State University.

Tod Marshall (Ph.D. 1996) continues to teach at Gonzaga University where he was promoted to associate professor in 2007.

Daniel J. Martin (Ph.D. 1997) continues as an associate professor of English at Rockhurst University, where he also directs the Honors Program. This year he published a critical essay entitled "Lynching Sites: Where Trauma and Pastoral Collide" in *Coming into Contact: New Essays on Ecocritical Theory and Practice* (University of Georgia Press, 2007). Dan is in his second year serving on the MLA Committee of the Division of Nonfiction Prose Studies Excluding Biography and Autobiography. As a member of that committee he is organizing a paper session entitled "Consuming Ideas: Food in Nonfiction" for the 2007 MLA Convention.

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg (Ph.D. 1995) is the co-editor (with Janet Tallman) of the just-published *The Power of Words: A Transformative Language Arts Reader* published by the Transformative Language Arts Press (www.TLANetwork.org). She continues to coordinate the Transformative Language Arts concentration at Goddard College where she teaches, and she facilitated writing workshops for people living with cancer in the area. Four of the songs she co-wrote with rhythm and blues singer-songwriter Kelley Hunt are slated for Hunt's upcoming CD. Hunt and Mirriam-Goldberg regularly offer writing and singing workshops (www.bravevoice.com).

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 KUA via kualumni@kualumni.org; fax: 785/864-5397.

Following are relevant websites and addresses:

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

Aaron Rosenberg (B.A. 1992; M.A. 1994; Ph.D. coursework until 1997) has been keeping busy. August will see the publication of his fifth novel, with his thirteenth educational book, fourth anthology, and sixth novel right behind it.

When he isn't writing, Aaron works at his day job in publishing or spends time with his wife Jenifer and their two kids. Aaron and his family live in New York City.

2000s

Rachel Hile-Bassett (B.A. 1993; M.A. 1995; Ph. D. 2004) became an assistant professor of English at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne in 2006, where she teaches courses in early modern English literature. In July, she will be taking over as editor-in-chief of *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History, and Philosophy*. Her edited collection of essays, *Parenting and Professing: Balancing Family Work with an Academic Career*, appeared in 2005. Her husband, **Troy J. Bassett** (M.A. 1996, Ph. D. 2002), will join her as an assistant professor of English at IPFW beginning this fall, where he will teach Victorian and Native American literature. His most recent article, "The Production of Three-Volume Novels, 1863–1897," will appear in *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* next spring. Their two children, Joseph (age 7) and Helen (age 4), remain steadfast Jayhawks in a sea of Hoosiers.

John Bruni (Ph.D. 2003) is an Assistant Professor of English at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. In 2007, he was elected as a delegate to the MLA Division on Literature and Science. Bruni has published an article, "Becoming American: Evolution and Performance in Edith Wharton's *The Custom of the Country*" in *Intertexts* 9.1. He has a forthcoming article, "Furry Logic: Biological Kinship and Empire In Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*" in *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment (ISLE)* 14.1.

Carol Curt Enos (M.A. 2000) has a new publication, *Shakespeare Settings: Stratford/Park Hall, Lancashire/Cheshire/the Catholic Mission, and London*, published by Wheatmark in March 2007. The book correlates with Enos's *Shakespeare Encyclopedia*, <<http://www.sunflower.com/~cenos/website>>, which came online in March also. Enos presented "Shakespeare and the Fulke Guillim Connection" in Miami, FL, at the Renaissance Society of America, March 22-24, 2007.

William C. Ferleman (B.A. 2002; M.A. 2006) has completed his first semester of doctoral studies at Oklahoma State University. His area is British Renaissance Literature. He worked as a writing consultant in the OSU Writing Center, and also was a teaching associate. He is a contributor to *PopMatters*, an international magazine of cultural criticism (popmatters.com). His recent publications in that magazine include concert reviews of Red Hot Chili Peppers and Albert Hammond, Jr., and a features essay

entitled "Ave Anna: Anna Nicole Smith and Celebrity Culture." A book review, which would be published in a peer-reviewed journal, also is in the works. He plans on participating in several conferences in the upcoming academic year. For jollies he enjoys late night skinny-dipping in Lake Carl Blackwell. He happily welcomes correspondence from friends within the department <william.ferleman@okstate.edu>.

Karen Hellekson (Ph.D. 2000), based in Jay, Maine, is still a full-time copyediting freelancer in the scientific, technical, and medical market. Her most recent book, with Kristina Busse, is a coedited volume of contributed essays entitled *Fan Fiction and Fan Communities in the Age of the Internet* (McFarland, 2005).

Stephanie Bingman Kice (B.A. 1999; M.A. 2001) is currently an attorney in Las Vegas, NV. She has published articles for the *Nevada Legal Update* and is employed at the law firm founded by current Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid. She and her husband have a 3-year-old son and they are expecting their second child in late October. Stephanie misses K.U. and is grateful every day for the outstanding education she received in Lawrence.

Dominic Kim (M.A. 1990; Ph.D. 2000) presented a paper on comic elements in *Under Western Eyes* at the 2006 MLA Convention, in a session on "Conrad and Laughter." He is still expecting promotion to associate professor at the University of Pusan in Korea and especially enjoys teaching English composition.

Janet Majure (M.A. 2001) wrote *Not by Bread Alone*, a book created for Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' 2007 inauguration, about Kansas food, arts and culture. She also got her first short story published (finally!), in the latest edition of *13th Moon*. Meanwhile, she has left writing "Come Into My Kitchen" for the Kansas City Star and is writing a food blog, foodperson.com.

Jan Prewitt (Ph.D. 2004) finished her first year as Assistant Professor of Humanities at Kendall College of Art and Design (Grand Rapids, MI) in May. She co-authored and edited the document "Guide to Teaching Rhetoric" to serve as the authority on policy and requirements for Kendall's two required writing courses: Written Rhetoric and Advanced Rhetoric. She was recently appointed to the committee re-defining the general education curriculum at the college in order to adjust to the enrollment demands (the school has more than doubled its enrollment in the last five years). Her article "Heroic Matriculation: The Academies of Spenser, Lewis, and Rowling" was recently published in the 53rd volume of *Philological Papers* (May 2007).

Kevin Rabas's (Ph.D. 2007) first book of poetry, *Bird's Horn & Other Poems*, will be

released in June 2007 by Coal City Review Press. The collection captures his travels over the past ten years. A jazz poetry CD entitled *Last Road Trip* featuring poems Rabas wrote and performed with saxophonist Josh Sclar is also available. Selections can be accessed at <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/rabas>.

Joy Raser (M.A. 1990; Ph.D. 2000) just completed her seventh year at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth, Kansas, where she is an associate professor of English. This January she was one of twelve participants selected to attend a three-week program for college professors, "Teaching about Islam and Islamic Culture," in Amman, Jordan. The conference comprised travel, lectures on topics ranging from art and archeology to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and women's rights (by speakers including Prince Hassan and the American ambassador), and small group discussions with students from the University of Jordan, all accompanied by fantastic Jordanian food. In addition to her courses at USM, in the fall she team-taught with her husband a graduate seminar entitled "Women in Church and Culture." She's looking forward to her first grandchild (and of course his parents) moving to Kansas City from Los Angeles this summer.

Alice J. Robison (B.A., 1996; M.A. 2000) recently completed her Ph.D. in English (Composition and Rhetoric) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While at UW-Madison, Alice worked primarily with James Paul Gee in the School of Education to pioneer research in the areas of literacy, learning, and videogames. Her dissertation, titled "Inventing Fun: Videogame Design as a Writing Process," is the basis for four in-progress pieces she's contracted to publish over the next two years, including an article for a special issue of *Computers and Composition*. Alice is currently working as a postdoctoral research fellow in the Comparative Media Studies program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she teaches courses on videogames and media literacy and consults with the MacArthur Foundation's Digital Learning Initiative. For more, see <http://alicerobison.org> for contact information and details of her work.

Doug Steward (Ph.D. 2000) is associate director of MLA English Programs and the Association of Departments of English at the Modern Language Association in New York City where he studies trends in the profession of language and literature, gathers and analyzes data about it, works with MLA and ADE committees, and organizes summer seminars for chairs and directors of graduate study of English departments. He delivered a keynote address on academic freedom at the 2006 South Central MLA convention and will deliver another at the 2007 Rocky Mountain MLA convention. He

has published in journals such as *Profession*, *ADE Bulletin*, *ADFL Bulletin*, *Academe*, *Callaloo*, *African American Review*, and *Literature and Psychology*. Doug has lived in Park Slope, Brooklyn, since 2002.

Carmaletta M. Williams (Ph. D. 2001), Professor of English and African American Studies at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas, has been successful in combining a 5-5 teaching load with her outside research, writing, and lecturing. She received

several invitations that were important catalysts to her productivity. The National Council of Teachers of English invited her to participate in their high school literature series by writing a study guide for high school teachers. That book *Langston Hughes in the Classroom: Do Nothin' Till You Hear from Me* (May 2006) has been a significant resource, especially for those teachers unfamiliar with African American literature, particularly the Harlem Renaissance and Langston Hughes. It was Williams's privilege

to be the keynote speaker at Southwest Missouri State University's Langston Hughes celebration. In collaboration with Regennia Williams at Ohio State University, Williams authored, "Mother to Son: The Letters of Carrie Hughes Clark to Langston Hughes." This essay is published in *Montage of a Dream: The Life and Art of Langston Hughes* (Missouri 2007), which was edited by Dr. **John Edgar Tidwell** of the KU English Department and Cheryl Ragar of Drury University.

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 Mr. Robert L. Zimmerman

From the Director of Graduate Studies

In Fall 2006, the department welcomed an excellent class of twenty-one new graduate students. Of these, three are doctoral students, twelve M.A., and six MFA. In Fall 2007, we look forward to another impressive group of twenty-three: nine Ph.D. students, five M.A. candidates, and nine M.F.A.s.

In what has become a department tradition, our graduate students landed some impressive awards. **Karla Knutson** and **Joe Sommers** won Carlin Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards. **Jennifer Balke** was honored as the Outstanding Ally Staff/Faculty Member by KU Queers and Allies. **Ann Martinez** received an Excellence in Education Award from KU's Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council, while **Jennie Joiner** was given the John W. Hunt Memorial Scholarship by the William Faulkner Society.

The Holmes Institute for summer '07 was taught by Karma Lochrie, Professor of English at Indiana University-Bloomington. The goals of her course, entitled "Medieval Sexuality: From

Normal to Queer," were "to think outside the modern sexual categories, use the medieval to interrogate the contemporary, and, of course, most importantly, to transform the ways we read medieval texts." Among Professor Lochrie's publications are *Covert Operations: the Medieval Uses of Secrecy* (1999), A Choice selection for outstanding academic book, and *Heterosyncrasies: Female Sexuality When Normal Wasn't* (2005).

The Multicultural Literary Institute was taught by Professor Jean Wyatt. Entitled "Twisted Time in the Novels of Toni Morrison, Louise Erdrich, and Leslie Marmon Silko," her course explored "the nonlinear temporality and narrative structures of Toni Morrison's, Louise Erdrich's, and Leslie Marmon Silko's novels." Professor Wyatt is professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies at Occidental College, where in 2003 she received the Sterling Award for outstanding teaching and scholarship. She is the author of two books—most recently,

Risking Difference: Identification, Race and Community in Contemporary Fiction and Feminism (2004).

In the past year, the Graduate Committee revised the design of English 800 to better ensure that this crucial introductory course will prepare all of our graduate students for work in the many and multiplying disciplinary subfields of English Studies. We also completely overhauled the program's webpage in order to more fully represent the department's many strengths to prospective graduate students. Finally, the Graduate Committee implemented a graduate recruiting visit for our top prospects. We have found that when students visit our program they tend to be so impressed that they decide to study with us. As always, the Graduate Committee continues to seek out ways to improve the graduate program, even as we remain very proud of what we have already accomplished.

—Byron Caminero-Santangelo

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