



# Departmental News Bulletin

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## Luis Alberto Urrea to Deliver American and British Lecture

Award-winning and critically acclaimed author **Luis Alberto Urrea** will deliver **The 2009 American and British Lecture**, the final English Lecturers & Readers event of the academic year, on Wednesday, 15 April, at 7:00 pm, in Alderson Auditorium of the Kansas Union. Urrea has written eleven books, including the national bestsellers *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, a novel, and *The Devil's Highway*, a non-fictional account of fourteen undocumented border crossers who died in the Arizona desert in 2001. A 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist for *The Devil's Highway*, Urrea has also won the Kiriyaama Prize for fiction, a Lannan Literary Award, an American Book Award, a Christopher Award, and a Western States Book Award.



Luis Alberto Urrea

## Lecturer Awarded Summer Literary Seminar Fellowship

**Megan Kaminski**, lecturer in English, will venture to Vilnius, Lithuania for two weeks this summer courtesy of the **Summer Literary Seminar** program. Kaminski was a finalist in the Summer Literary Seminars 2009 Unified Fiction and Poetry Contest. Though she did not win, the committee was so impressed with her work that they awarded her this fellowship which "brings the best contemporary writers of the moment together." Kaminski will take poetry seminars from highly-regarded poets Erin Mouré and Peter Cole during her two weeks abroad, but the program also serves as a writing retreat. For the past ten years, SLS has been held in St. Petersburg, Russia. This is the first year it has been held in Vilnius. Kaminski teaches Introduction to Poetry and Poetry Writing courses in the Department. Her work appears regularly in poetry journals and she recently published a chapbook, *Across Soft Ruins*.



Megan Kaminski

## Publications

### Ellis, Iain

"Art Brut(ally) Funny" (essay). *PopMatters* (located at popmatters.com). 3 April.

### Barnard, Philip (with Stephen Shapiro)

Charles Brockden Brown, *Wieland: or the Transformation, with Related Texts*. Edited, with an Introduction and Notes. Cambridge: Hackett Publishing, 2009. (This is the third in a four-volume series of Brown's "major" novels.)

## Calendar

- F 10 New Faculty Workshop**, "Promotion and Tenure," **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, English and Tara Welch, Classics, 12:00-1:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- Louise Stauffer, MFA Defense**, 1:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe (Johnson, Lorenz, *Unferth*)
- Judy Lofflin, Ph.D. Defense**, 4:00 pm, 1016 Wescoe (*Butler*, Carothers, Sullivan, Valk, McCluskey-Fawcett)
- M 13 Jesse B. Semple Brownbag Series**, "The Replication of Victorian Racial Ideology in *Harry Potter*," **Giselle Anatol**, English, 11:30 am, Alcove D, Kansas Union. Sponsored by Langston Hughes Center.
- British Seminar**, "The Roundtable: New Directions in Faculty Research," **Peter Grund**, English; **Misty Schieberle**, English; Katherine Clark, History, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room. Reception to follow.
- T 14 Senior Staff Meeting**, full-time lecturers should also attend, 4:00 pm, 4019 Wescoe. Agenda: 1) discuss and vote on new multi-term contract lecturer appointment.
- W 15 Jennie Joiner, Ph.D. Defense**, 12:00 pm, 1016 Wescoe (*Carothers*, Elliott, *Fowler*, Graham, McCluskey-Fawcett).
- The 2009 American and British Lecture**, "The Devil's Highway: Stories from the Border and Beyond," **Luis Alberto Urrea**, author, 7:00-8:30 pm, Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union. Book signing to follow.
- R 16 Open Meeting on Sabbatical Leave Policies and Procedures**, with University Committee, 7:00 pm, Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union.
- Lecture**, "Against the Odds: Writers Growing Up Black in Kansas," **John Edgar Tidwell**, English, 6:30 pm, Kansas City, Kansas Public Library.
- Jessica Isaac, M.A. Defense**, 1:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe (*Barnard*, Farmer, Mielke).
- F 17 Justin Sevenker, M.A. Exam**, 9:00 am, 3001A Wescoe (M. Caminero-Santangelo, Devitt, *Farmer*).
- Brigitte Bernagozzi, M.A. Defense**, 9:00 am, 1016 Wescoe (*Atkins*, Jenkins, McKnight).
- Karla Knutson, Ph.D. Defense**, 2:30 pm, 1016 Wescoe (*Davidson*, *Hardin*, Rowland, Schieberle, Jewers).

## ***Presentations***

### **Bell, Samantha**

“Definitions: A Historical Approach: The Fragmented Essay,” Obliteration: The Art of Creative Destruction, Truman State University, Kirksville, MO, 4 April.

## ***Accepted for Publication***

### **Stevens, Elliott**

“Five Simple Sentence Forms” (story). *Birkensnake*.

## ***Announcements, Notes, & News***

• The English Department’s graduate students have selected **Amy Devitt** to be honored at the annual **Celebration of Teaching Reception** sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence. The reception is scheduled for 6 May.

• English graduate students **Susan Thomas** and **Andrew Kuhn** have been selected as finalists for the **Snyder Book Collecting Contest** this year. Final judging will take place on 10 April, with winners announced at 5:30 pm in Watson Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor West. All finalists’ collections will be on display there that afternoon.

## ***KU and Regional Events***

• **University Theatre** continues *Anna in the Tropics*, by Nilo Cruz, 10 April, 7:30 pm, 11 April, 5:00 pm, Inge Theatre, Murphy Hall.

• **Nature & Culture Seminar**, “The Long Walk of the Northern Cheyennes in History and Memory,” History, JCCC, 10 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **TGIF**, 10 April, 4:00-5:30 pm, Adams Alumni Center.

• **Riverfront Reading**, Michelle Boisseau, UMKC, and Wayne Miller, Central Missouri, 10 April, 8:00 pm, The Writer’s Place, 3607 Pennsylvania, Kansas City, MO.

• **Philosophy Spring Lecture Series**, “As Happy As Can Be: How the Philosophers in Plato’s *Republic* Fare Best by Ruling,” Cathal Woods, Virginia Wesleyan, 13 April, 5:15 pm, McCook Room, Burge Union.

• **Before 1500 Seminar**, “The Corrupting Sea? Old French, Literary Studies, and the Medieval Mediterranean,” Sharon Kinoshita, Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz, 14 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Hall Center Lecture**, “Beyond *Messiah*: The Life and Music of George Frederic Handel (1685-1759),” Paul Laird, Music & Dance, 14 April, 7:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **American Seminar**, “The Roots of U.S. State Activism on Immigration: Explaining the Adoption of Restrictive versus Accommodating Policies,” Gary Reich, Political Science, 15 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Globalization(s) Seminar**, “Islam in the Age of Globalization: Perspectives on Changing Dynamics,” Elif Andac, Sociology; Ebenezer Obadare, Sociology; Argun Saatcioglu, Education, 16 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Conference**, “The Opening of Western China: Problems and Prospects,” 17-18 April, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

## ***Calls for Papers, Symposia, Conferences, Etc. (Posted)***

• **The Interrobang Literary Journal** solicits well-written, fun literature “that conveys attitude, intrigue, and excitement.” (Ed. note: HURRY, idiots, or else . . . !) Deadline: 10 July.

## ***Fellowships, Scholarships, Awards, Contests, Etc. (Posted)***

• **Nimrod International Journal Literary Awards: Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry and Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction**, cash prizes plus trip to Tulsa to receive award and attend annual writing conference. Deadline: 30 April.

• **2009 Barbara Schowen Undergraduate Research Mentor Award**, for a tenured or tenure-track faculty member. Nominations may come from students, staff, or faculty members. Nomination deadline: 17 April.