Learning to Hear the Stories X

It has been ten years since KU English’s Maryemma Graham and others inaugurated the annual “Learning to Hear the Stories” Oral History Workshop at the University of Kansas. This year’s program, a ten-year retrospective, features keynote speaker Alessandro Portelli, one of the world’s leading scholars and practitioners of oral history. His lunchtime address is scheduled for 12:00-1:15 pm on Friday, 13 March, in the Ballroom of the Kansas Union. His topic is “Globalization and Democracy: The Terni (Umbria, Italy) Steel Strikes of 2004-5.” Portelli will also speak the afternoon before the workshop at a Hall Center Special Event. His lecture for that gathering will be entitled “Working Class Sublime: The Factory and the City.” Portelli, a Distinguished Professor of American Literature at the Faculty of Human Sciences at the University La Sapienza, was “loaned” to the city of Rome to serve as Managing Director for the Program for Protection and Enhancement of the Historical Memory. He also founded and chairs the Circle Gianni Bosio for the critical knowledge and presence of alternative popular culture. He is the author of numerous articles and books, most recently The Order Has Been Carried Out: History, Memory and Meaning of a Nazi Massacre in Rome (2007). His acclaimed study, The Voice and the Text (1994), is one of the most important for understanding the ways in which the oral and the written have shaped the foundations of American literature and identity. Others speaking at the workshop include Moya Peterson, KU Medical Center and Tami Albin, KU librarian. Creative writing students may be especially interested in the presentation by Stephanie Stokes Oliver, author of the memoir, Song of My Father. To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the workshop, a special breakout session, “Are We There Yet: An Undergraduate Rite of Passage,” will feature KU and Haskell students who have conducted oral history interviews and ethnographic research. Registration for this event is encouraged but not mandatory. The event is free and open to the public as well as the University community. (Portions of this article are taken from the KU Hall Center for the Humanities website."

Publications

Bell, Samantha

Farmer, Frank

Kaminski, Megan

Ohle, David

Presentations

Boyd, Beverly
“Medieval Ipswich,” Mid-America Medieval Association, UMKC, Kansas City, MO, 28 February (also presented paper on Chaucer at Hawaii Conference on Arts and Humanities in January 2009).

Kaminski, Megan
Reading, What’s New in Poetry Series, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 24 February.

Calendar

N 8 Twain and His Times Series, “Twain and the Idea of the Great American Novel,” Laura Mielke, English, 2:00 pm, Waldo Branch, Kansas City Public Library, 201 East 75th Street, Kansas City, MO.

Creative Writers’ Reading, featuring Adam Desnoyers, Maria Polonchek, and Katie Savage, English, 5:00 pm, Mirth Café (8th and New Hampshire Streets)

M 9 Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshop, “Thank God for Dead Soldiers: Heteronationalism and Religious Protest at the Funerals of U.S. Soldiers,” Rebecca Barrett-Fox, 12:30-2:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

T 10 Senior Staff Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4019 Wescoe. Agenda: 1) Faculty Evaluation Plan (continued).

R 12 Hall Center Special Event, “Working Class Sublime: The Factory and the City,” Alessandro Portelli, Distinguished Professor of American Literature, University La Sapienza, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

Reading by Emily Bobo (Ph.D. 2008), from her new book of poetry, Fugue, 7:30 pm, Pine Room, Kansas Union.

F 13 Oral History Workshop: Learning to Hear the Stories X: A Ten-Year Retrospective, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Kansas Union Ballroom. Free. Registration requested by 6 March (see above for details).
Accepted for Publication

Sevenker, Justin

Announcements, Notes, & News

• Remind Students: The deadline for submitting English Awards application materials is Tuesday, 10 March.
• Jason Barrett-Fox has been awarded a 2009 Professional Equity Partnership Grant by the National Council of Teachers of English for the Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Francisco.
• Paul Stephen Lim was a reviewer and panelist on the 2009 literary awards program of the Kansas Arts Commission. He was also an adjudicator for the 2009 Paula Vogel Playwriting Award, for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

KU and Regional Events

• Peace, War & Global Change Seminar, “Westmoreland and Strategy in Vietnam,” Paul Miles, History, Princeton University, 6 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
• An Actual Kansas 2009, readings by C.A. Conrad, Aaron Kunin, and Maggie Zurawski, 6 March, 7:00 pm, 6 Gallery, 716.5 Massachusetts.
• University Theatre continues How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, 6 March, 7:30 pm, 8 March, 2:30 pm.
• Top City Poetry, Tim Volpert, with UMKC guests, Piper Abernathy, Philip Estes, and Katie Galvin Clark, 7 March, 7:07 pm, Lola’s Café Espresso, 10th and Gage (inside Fleming Place), Topeka, KS.
• CLAS ACT, “The Symbolic DNA of Terrorism,” Robert Rowland, Communications, 8 March, 2:00-4:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.
• Jewish Studies Event, “Israeli Documentary Marathon,” 8 March, 12-5 pm, Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium.
• British Seminar, “Gladstone and the Ulster Question,” Neil Fleming, British History, Westminster College, 9 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

• Freud after Derrida, an international interdisciplinary conference hosted by Mosaic, 6-9 October, The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. Deadline: 8 September.

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

• Dissertation Prizes: The Dorothy Haglund Prize and The Argersinger Prize, Office of Graduate Studies accepting nominations. Nomination deadline: 3 April.
• Louise Byrd Graduate Educator Award, for a faculty member who demonstrates the quality of concern for graduate students as scholars and individuals. Nomination deadline: 3 April.