In the last decade, the KU English Department has developed four new international programs that support the University’s stated goal of providing its students a more global education. English faculty members have developed courses of study that include 1-3 weeks in South Africa, Northern Ireland, Costa Rica, or England. Either by teaming with foreign universities or by employing innovative scheduling, enterprising English scholars have found ways to offer unique international – and often interdisciplinary – opportunities to a broad range of KU students. In so doing, they have also increased the Department and the University’s name recognition and good will around the world.

Grahamstown, South Africa

Associate Professor of English Byron Caminero-Santangelo has been the driving force in developing the most recent new study abroad opportunity offered through the department. Since concluding work on his first book, Re-reading Postcolonial Cultural Hybridity: African Fiction and Joseph Conrad, in 2005, he has been researching and publishing on ecocriticism and African literature. In Fall 2006, Caminero-Santangelo attended a colloquium on ecology and literature at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. Impressed by the rigorous study abroad programs offered at the school, he met with the Director of International Studies to discuss bringing KU students to Grahamstown. After teaching a Fall 2007 class entitled South African Fiction and Culture, he became convinced there was sufficient interest to begin taking small groups of students to Rhodes. Caminero-Santangelo recruited five students who signed up to take six hours of courses (three in English, three in African Studies) at Rhodes during the summer of 2008. The English course included works by well-known South African writers such as Nadine Gordimer, J. M. Coetzee, Sindiwe Magona, and Zakes Mda. In 2009, Dr. Garth Myers, who holds a joint appointment in African/African American Studies and Geography, led the program, which included six students.

The program takes students to the Eastern Cape region of South Africa, a spectacularly beautiful locale. The program integrates excursions into the curriculum. The first four days are spent at a game reserve. The students also do field work in a rural village. The program dovetails with the compelling South African Arts Festival. In class, the students learn about South African political, social, cultural, and environmental history. Furthermore, Rhodes has the largest concentration of African students from outside South Africa in the country, affording program participants the opportunity to make friends with students of many nationalities. Finally, Grahamstown itself is not large. Unlike many study abroad programs, the overall milieu is not urban. Students repeatedly stress that they learn most while engaged in service learning during the excursions to the small coastal village of Hamburg, where they learn about and work toward environmental sustainability. They are astonished at how much they absorb in a month. Caminero-Santangelo sees the Grahamstown program as a work-in-progress that will eventually operate on a team-teaching model. Nevertheless, KU English has already established a presence in a distant part of the world through this ambitious undertaking—and KU students are benefiting from this effort.

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Associate Professor of English Kathryn Conrad specializes in twentieth-century British, Irish, and Northern Irish literature and culture. Much of the research for her book, Locked in the Family Cell: Gender, Sexuality and Political Agency in Irish National Discourse, was conducted in
Message From the Chair

As I end my two three-year terms as Chair of the English Department, I can’t help reflecting on all that has happened in the last six years. The most tangible change is that the faculty, administrators, and staff are all in permanent—if anything is ever permanent—offices on the refurbished third floor of Wescoe Hall. After four years of moving, we are all delighted and relieved to be “home” again. Posters of Shakespeare, Faulkner, Virginia Woolf, and Zora Neale Hurston, Australian Aboriginal artworks, New Yorker cartoons, plants, teapots, and unique coffee mugs are back in place. We look and feel more like an English department again.

Besides reorganizing our space, we have also rewritten and restructured many of our Department policies, creating a strategic plan, by-laws, and new promotion and tenure procedures. We’ve also “mediated” (added audio-visual and computer equipment to) our conference room, alongside 50+ years of dissertations, Honors theses, and faculty-authored books—a collection that grows steadily, by the way.

Less tangibly, though, we’ve managed not only to survive, but to thrive in the midst of economic reverses, cutbacks, even layoffs. Our students are generally enthusiastic about our classes and programs. We instituted an exit survey so that seniors about to graduate could give us their assessment of their experience in the department. Their feedback indicated they had learned “a significant amount” about the content and skills we’re trying to teach them. They made comments like “I am very happy and satisfied with my KU English education”; “I enjoyed nearly every moment and class”; and “It was a good decision to be an English major.” Whatever else happens in higher education, as long as we can continue to interact with talented and engaged students and receive responses like these, we are succeeding in our work.

Along with teaching their assigned classes, our faculty have also been sharing their knowledge, insights, and enthusiasm with those beyond the formal university classroom. Professor Edgar Tidwell, for instance, has been a regular speaker on African-American literature for audiences around Kansas. Professor Maryemma Graham produced a stirring operatic reading of Margaret Walker’s works with a reader and a singer from New York for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences CLAS Acts series. Five professors from the Department taught courses at the College’s first annual Mini-College, where alumni and friends of the University returned to campus for a week of classes, field trips, and activities.

Although our state funding has gradually dwindled over the past six years, continuing generous support from our donors has made it possible for us to continue to sponsor outstanding visiting speakers. This year we heard from Keith Gilyard, professor at Pennsylvania State University, who spoke on African-American rhetoric; Bill Brown, distinguished professor at the University of Chicago who studies the intersection of literary, visual, and material cultures, who ruminated on Philip K. Dick; and award-winning and critically-acclaimed author Luis Alberto Urrea, who discussed and read from his work on immigrants and border crossing. Along with a series of editors and creative writers sponsored by the MFA Program, these speakers enriched and expanded our knowledge, keeping us up-to-date with developments in the field of literary and language study and creative writing.

Serving as Chair of this large and energetic department has been at times very challenging, but also extremely rewarding. One of the most rewarding parts has been my interactions with the many former students and friends of the Department who have contributed so generously, even in hard times, to promote growth and innovation. Besides the speakers and readers we were able to invite to campus, wholly through donor support, we’ve been able to add to graduate student support, assist faculty with research expenses, purchase new furniture, honor outstanding teaching, buy new books and databases, and do countless smaller things we wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise. It’s hard, in fact, for me not to get sentimental about the outpouring of support you’ve given us in many ways. I’ll say it in the shortest and most conventional, but deeply heartfelt way—thank you!

—Dorice Williams Elliott, Chair, July, 2003-June, 2009

Northern Ireland. Her interest in that embattled state continues with her current focus on representations of space, surveillance, sexuality, and gender in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. Capitalizing on contacts made during her frequent visits to Belfast, Conrad, in 2006, established the Irish Studies at Queens University study abroad program for KU students. Students earn three credits in English, European Studies, Humanities and Western Civilization, or History by enrolling in a three-week class taught by Queen’s faculty as part of an institute held in late July. If they choose English for their course of study, they usually also have the opportunity to spend time at the Seamus Heaney Center for Poetry, as well as participate in five days of literary discussions and writing workshops with established Northern Irish writers and critics.

The overall program provides a unique interdisciplinary experience for participants. Scholars lecture on history, politics, anthropology, film and theatre, as well as language and literature. Students take field trips to sites such as the Giant’s Causeway on the Antrim Coast, Derry/Londonderry, and the Centre for Migration Studies and Ulster American Folk Park.

Irish Studies students at The Giant’s Causeway, Antrim Coast, Northern Ireland

They spend time at the Linen Hill Library, which features collections on Northern Ireland’s literary contributions to the Irish Renaissance of the early twentieth century. A highlight of the program is a visit to Stormont, the Northern Irish Parliament, that culminates in meetings with representatives of the major political parties. Most years, the study abroad overlaps with the West Belfast “Féile,” a festival of arts, culture, and politics in that Nationalist part of the city. Belfast’s famous wall murals provide a backdrop for the students’ immersion in a state still riven by factionalism. Participants frequently mention the insights they’ve gained about the difficulties of the Northern Irish peace process.

Travel Writing and the Costa Rican Experience

KU English has not produced a more honored teacher and advisor than Honors Lecturer Mary Klayder. Dr. Klayder capped a career full of awards and recognition in Fall 2008 by becoming the first non-tenure-track faculty member to win the prestigious H.O.P.E (Honor for Outstanding Progressive Educator) Award, the only honor given exclusively by students at KU for teaching excellence. Klayder has been a finalist for the
The London Review

Mary Klayder’s Travel Writing and the Costa Rican Experience is modeled to a degree on a short-term Study Abroad course she initiated in 1998 entitled HNRS 492/ENGL 492 Travel Writing and the Costa Rican Experience. The 2009 class organized a public reading to share their final work.

Mary Klayder and her 2006 Travel Writing and the Costa Rican Experience group at Poas Volcano National Park

H.O.P.E. four other times, has earned six Mortar Board Awards and a Del Shankel Award, and won the 2008 Outstanding Woman Educator Award presented by KU’s Commission of the Status of Women and the Emily Taylor Women’s Resource Center. Part of Klayder’s success grows out of her tireless contributions to the University’s Study Abroad program. Every year, she leads two innovative short-term international academic expeditions that inspire some of KU’s best and brightest students.

Since 2006, Klayder’s annual spring semester course HNRS 492/ENGL 360 Travel Writing and the Costa Rican Experience has begun enrolling the previous fall through Study Abroad. Enrollment is complete by October 1. Honors students are automatically eligible for the course, but others can be admitted by instructor permission. Then, for the final eight weeks before winter break, the class meets weekly to study and discuss, first, the travel writing genre (everything from botanical collection and cartography to adventure account and personal reflection) and then Costa Rican politics, culture, ecology, and tourism. Among the writers scrutinized are Bill Bryson, Peter Mathiessen, and Pico Iyer. The latter portion of the course includes lectures by and discussions with members of the Lawrence Costa Rican community supplemented by study of articles from the interdisciplinary Costa Rican Reader. On January 2, the group flies to San José, Costa Rica and spends the next twelve days traveling throughout the country. They visit a coffee plantation, the Monteverde Cloud Forest, Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific Coast, Irazu Volcano, as well as a variety of museums and landmarks, many in San José itself. After returning to the U.S., the students have one month to complete a project related to their experience and training. Some leeway is granted. One student wrote a collection of poems based on quotations from naturalists. More frequently, students write essays that link Costa Rica, nature, and the travel experience. The 2009 class organized a public reading to share their final work.

British Summer Institute in the Humanities

For more than 35 years, KU English has co-sponsored the British Summer Institute in the Humanities with the University’s History and History of Art Departments. At one time, the Institute offered eight weeks of classes and travel, led by eminent scholars and teachers from all three departments. English was often represented by George Worth and Thurston (Terry) Moore. In recent years, the Institute has been reduced to a five-week schedule and leadership has rotated between the three departments, with graduate teaching assistants from the other two units completing the three-person staff. The program, however, still takes students to London and Edinburgh for nearly two weeks each and includes travel to York, the Lake District, and the Scottish Highlands, not to mention day trips from London to numerous literary and historic sites, such as Stonehenge and Bath. Honors and travel specialist Mary Klayder frequently leads the group, though Dorice Williams Elliott and Brian Daldorph have also served in this capacity. In 2010, English will play an even bigger role in this venerable undertaking. History has dropped out of the BSI. English will now lead the program and new, the KU English Department is striving to provide international enrichment to its own students as well as others from across the campus.
Further Study Abroads?

In April, 2009, Department faculty members William and Susan Harris spent two weeks in China, lecturing in English departments at Peking University (Beijing) and Xi’an International Studies University (Xi’an). During the course of their time there Susan delivered two lectures at each university: “Mark Twain’s Love Letters” and “Can a Poem Make a Difference?: Kipling’s ‘White Man’s Burden’ and the Anglo-American Alliance.” William’s presentation was to read a selection of his own poems within the context of modern and contemporary American poetry, showing how his poetry utilized his culture’s techniques and ideas, thus creating a view of an individual and a tradition simultaneously. In general, both Harrises were delighted by the students, who were lively, funny, chatty, responsive, and proficient in English. At Xi’an the department chair asked them to talk to a class of freshman English majors, so the students could have the experience of speaking with foreigners. There was no agenda, so William kicked off the hour by asking about popular culture in China. It was the right question—the students jumped right in, giving opinions and then venturing to ask questions themselves. The Harrises were impressed by how well and easily the students spoke in English and how open and friendly they were.

The Harrises can (and will, if you ask them) talk for hours about this trip, but the bottom line is that they had a wonderful time and feel that a whole new area of interest has opened up for them. A large part of their pleasure came from the fact that they were so well cared for by the departments they visited—in each location they were provided with bi-lingual guides (students and faculty), ground transportation, housing, food (incredible!) and tours of local sites. Most importantly, for them, living on-campus for up to a week in each location gave them a peep at academic life in China and a chance for extended conversations with both students and faculty. Both are eager to return, to bring students and faculty to KU for further study and exchange, and generally to continue expanding the conversations between China and the U.S.

Department News Capsules

New Leadership

In Fall 2008, Marta Camino-Santangelo was awarded a Kemper Fellowship for excellence in teaching. In Spring 2009, on the strength of a new book and numerous well-placed articles, she was promoted to full professor. Before the spring was over, she was elected Chair of English for a three-year term by her colleagues. Talk about teaching, research, and service! Her election coincided with equally seismic changes in KU’s upper administration. Camino-Santangelo will report to an interim Dean of the College (CLAS) while a national search for a new dean is conducted (Joseph Steinmetz left for an equivalent position at Ohio State). She will serve on a national search committee to replace Provost Richard Lariviére (named President of the University of Oregon). Next year, she will evaluate former Chancellor Robert Hemenway, who stepped down in May to return to the English Department to pursue teaching and writing. The new Chancellor is Bernadette Gray-Little, former Executive Provost at UNC-Chapel Hill, KU’s first female and African American Chancellor.

Strange Bedfellows

For her Honors Seminar on rags-to-riches literature in Fall 2008, Professor Dorice Elliott decided to order the 2001 Broadview Press edition of Charles Dickens’s David Copperfield. The novel is the semi-autobiographical tale of a good-hearted, naive young man trying to make his way in the world. When she received her desk copy, she found herself satisfied with the content and format of the edition, but vaguely uneasy about the strangely-familiar photograph that dominates the front and back covers. With good reason. Many of you may recognize William Quantrill, who is blithely identified inside, with no additional biographical information. Elliott alerted the Canadian publisher to this unlikely juxtaposition, partly at the urging of numerous outraged students. Duly horrified (the picture had been selected out of context, no one had noticed this oddity in seven years, etc), the editors promised to rectify the situation. But Quantrill continues to gaze moodily out over the title of Dickens’s early masterpiece on the press’s website and other outlets. Thin-skinned Lawrencians!

Together Again

It’s been a long, strange trip but, after eighteen months of moving to facilitate building renovations, KU English has finally been reunited on the second and third floors of Wescoe Hall. The entire Senior Staff and all full-time lecturers now call the third floor “home” (among other things). Strays from the first and fourth floors, as well as from Watson Library, have been gathered in. Spanish and History have been banished to the new half-level suburbs of the building. Only Philosophy lingers with English on Main Street of our beloved pillow. According to office manager Lori Whitten, English occupies 84 offices on the third floor and 17 offices on the second floor, some with 4-8 occupants.

Some alumni have trouble finding the main office. The English suite (3001 Wescoe) is now located immediately to the left as one enters the eastern wing of Wescoe Hall from Wescoe Beach. If you are coming from the Union, Watson Library, or anywhere east of Wescoe, enter the ground floor entrance to the eastern wing and proceed to the last door on your right. Please come visit!
NEW FACULTY

Peter Grund

New Assistant Professor of English Language Studies, Peter Grund, hails from Kopparberg, Sweden (pop. 1200) – a bit more than shouting distance from Lawrence, KS. “Kopparberg” means “copper mountain,” but the copper mines that gave the town its name several centuries ago are long gone. Grunds, though, live on in Kopparberg as they have for many generations. Peter was the first of his family to matriculate at a university. Initially, he attended local schools, but for high school, he commuted 40 km each way.

Grund has always been interested in languages. He recalls that his father, an engineer, had a gift for “absorbing” languages as he traveled throughout Europe. When the family accompanied him, as they often did (Peter remembers going to Austria about ten times, for instance), Grund found he possessed some of that same facility. Education, of course, supplemented his natural abilities. He began studying English in fourth grade, German in seventh grade. By the time he reached high school, he was ready to begin an intensive program in languages, adding Russian and Latin to his repertoire. He notes that Swedish secondary and college educational systems are very different from those in the United States. Specialization begins very early. For instance, Grund took no math classes after tenth grade. Happily, channeled and challenging academics agreed with Peter Grund. He graduated from high school determined and eager to continue his education at Uppsala University, the foremost institution of higher learning in the country.

At Uppsala, Grund focused first on Latin, intent on becoming a high school Latin teacher. Since Swedish universities have no general education requirements, he studied nothing else for three semesters. During that time, however, he discovered that his first love was language research. This new passion converted him, over time, to English Studies. Though he subsequently took a part-time job teaching Latin while still in college (and realized he never wanted to wholly abandon pedagogy), Grund pursued his English language research interests at the university thereafter. He completed his B.A. at Uppsala in English in 1997, then, following Swedish academic custom, began his M.A. and Ph.D. work at the same school. His professors pushed him hard, insisting that he present papers at international conferences during his first semester as a graduate student. He flew to Dublin, Ireland, not even knowing “who to be afraid of.”

In 2001, Grund won a major competitive scholarship from the national government, designed to help promising Swedish scholars gain more international experience. He spent the following year as a graduate fellow at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. There, he met Molly Zahn, a Rhodes Scholar from Wisconsin (via University of Minnesota), precipitating an international experience that transcended the mission statement of his fellowship. Peter and Molly married in 2004. She has just completed her Ph.D. in Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity, Department of Theology, Notre Dame University, and lectures in KU’s Department of Religious Studies.

Grund completed his Ph.D. in English Linguistics at Uppsala in 2004. Since a scholar must have the doctorate in hand to apply for jobs in Sweden, Grund applied for three grants, hoping that one might tide him over during his job search. Instead, he won all three! It took him four years to complete all these projects. With some freedom to do his work wherever he pleased, he found homes as a Visiting Research Scholar at Notre Dame University and the University of Michigan, as well as back at Uppsala. Interestingly, during this period of single-minded research, Grund discovered he missed teaching. Consequently, in 2008, he applied for university positions that would combine teaching and research. KU was delighted to accommodate him.

In his first year, Peter Grund taught ENGL 387, Introduction to the English Language, and ENGL 385, The Development of Modern English. He also taught a course on English as a world language. He is fascinated by the phenomenon of “new Englishes.” Though Swedish and American university systems are very different, he finds the experience of teaching U.S. students very similar. He strives for an interactive process in which student questions and comments drive his lectures. He has also found Lawrence a congenial locale. Having grown up loving the outdoors, he enjoys birding locally (though he wants to go south to spy a roadrunner), as well as camping and kayaking throughout the Midwest. He is also passionate about basketball. Sweden is hardly a hotbed for hoops, but he became a fan and participant after watching the first Dream Team play in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Though he is not tall, he claims his shot is deadly.

Professor Grund’s main area of research is the history of the English language. Under this broad heading, he has done research within several subdisciplines and on material from several periods. Among other topics, his published work explores such widely separate issues as how alchemical texts were translated and reworked from Latin into English in the 15th and 16th centuries, how the recorders of testimony during the Salem witch trials in 1692-1693 manipulated the language that they recorded, and how the subjunctive (“If I be your friend...”) was used in the 19th century. He is one of the associate editors of the 995-page Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt (2009, Cambridge University Press). The book based on his dissertation, “Misticall Wördes and Names Infinite”: An Edition and Study of Humphrey Lock’s Treatise on Alchemy, is projected to come out early next year (published by Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Arizona State University). With two colleagues, he is currently finishing up a major text database of over 900 witness depositions from England covering the period 1560-1760 as well as an accompanying book (English Witness Depositions 1560–1760: An Electronic Text Edition [CD and book]; forthcoming, John Benjamins). Grund’s future research will take him in several directions. He will collaborate with colleagues on a major database of the recorders at work in Salem during the witch trials, and he will continue to explore the nature of witness depositions in earlier periods of English and the status of and attitude toward English among writers of scientific texts in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Laura Moriarty

In Laura Moriarty’s debut novel, her young narrator Evelyn ponders the fact that on every world map she’s ever seen, Kansas has always been the literal center. “I feel so lucky to live here,” she states, “right in the center.” Fortunately for the University of Kansas, the author shares the views of her character. Moriarty returned to the English Department in the fall of 2008 as an assistant professor in the MFA program. Her father was in the military, and Moriarty
spent her childhood moving with her family from base to base. She was born in Hawaii, but soon moved to Florida. Stops in Virginia, Missouri, and Utah followed. In 1988, Moriarty graduated from high school in Bozeman, Montana and came to Lawrence, eager to begin her undergraduate career at the University of Kansas. She decided to major in social work, and worked in that field for three years following her graduation. It was during this time that she turned her hand to writing, pecking away at a novel on her evenings and weekends. She enjoyed this so much that she took a chance, returning to KU in 1996 to do graduate work in creative writing. She reflects, “I’m not sure that my education or how I grew up led to my interest in writing, both probably forestalled my writing, to tell you the truth. I tried to do a bunch of other things, like social work and pre-med. I thought writing fiction was self-indulgent, and I didn’t think I could make a living doing it. But in the end, I just couldn’t help myself. It was the only thing I really wanted to do, so after a while, I was ready to take the risk.” In the spring of 1999 she received her degree, and shortly after won the George Bennett Fellowship for Creative Writing, which awarded her a year as Writer-in-Residence at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. By the spring of 2001, Moriarty had finished her first novel, The Center of Everything, the same novel she had begun almost ten years earlier. With considerable fanfare, Hyperion published Center in 2003.

Flush with both the success of her novel and the realization that she was a working writer, Moriarty came to a startling revelation: she could live wherever she liked! She quickly decided to return to Lawrence, since it really was her favorite of all her past homes. Moriarty wrote full time for five years, publishing The Rest of Her Life in 2007, and beginning work on Novel #3. She had achieved one of her lifetime goals. Laura Moriarty was surviving on her writing. Eventually, though, she experienced another epiphany. While she loved writing, she missed the insights and experiences gained from teaching writing workshops, and the camaraderie of being around fellow writers. The time was right, and when a faculty position opened up at her alma mater, Moriarty won the job.

With her third novel, While I’m Falling, published in August 2009, and two more under contract, Moriarty expresses excitement as she enters her second year of teaching in the MFA program. For her, it’s a great experience to be able to engage students who are as invested in the art as she is, and she aims to encourage students as much as her mentors did her. Moriarty knows that teaching makes her a better writer, and that writing has made her a better teacher. She hopes that this fruitful cycle continues for a long time here in the center of her universe.

— Josh Hart, second-year English MFA student

It’s tempting to imagine that, as a child, future Texas prep track star—and now new KU English assistant professor Misty Schieberle—ran with wolves. Instead, she ran with dachshunds. And they always got to grandma’s house first! Nevertheless, Schieberle credits these family pets with stoking the competitive fire that led to an enviable high school career in distance running, including a state championship in cross-country and state medals in the mile. One suspects that fire also helped out as she assembled the record and prepared the file that bested many other applicants for a tenure-track position in medieval studies at KU.

Misty Schieberle grew up in rural Gonzales, Texas. Her father, a rancher, kept cattle and pigs. Through chores, she learned about hard work at a young age. The principal family business, however, was growing and marketing pecans. Her great-grandfather first produced the Schieberle Pecan, which nut afficionados may have learned is (she recites) “easier to shell” with “much more flavor.” Because her mother was a sixth grade English teacher, she became fascinated with language and pedagogy. The Schieberles didn’t have cable, so she watched her mother grade papers. She also read voraciously and took academics very seriously. Additionally, a large stone monument commemorating the “first shot for Texas independence” stands across the street from the Schieberle ranch. Schieberle claims that this serendipitous proximity to an historical site sparked an early and abiding interest in history.

Afer high school graduation, Schieberle accepted a track scholarship to Texas State University at San Marcos. Unfortunately, as a sophomore, she suffered a stress fracture in her back. The ensuing surgery ended her running days. (Now she stays fit with cycling and yoga.) Consequently, she put all her energy into a double major in English and Spanish. By her senior year she had more than enough hours to graduate, so she enrolled in three graduate courses, one in medieval studies. This field, she found, offered her the prospect of combining her interests in languages, literature, and history. She eventually earned an M.A. at San Marcos and was accepted into the English Ph.D program at the University of Notre Dame.

At Notre Dame, Schieberle earned numerous internal and external fellowships, including a Keck Foundation Fellowship for summer study at the Huntington Library in California and a prestigious Helen Ann Muns Robbins Predoctoral Fellowship for one year in residence at the University of Rochester. She delivered seven presentations at conferences, published an article in The Chaucer Review, and earned an Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award. For a year, she served as managing editor of Notre Dame’s Religion and Literature. She also complemented her bilingual background by mastering Old and Middle English, Latin, Medieval French and Spanish, and Modern French.

She also served for one year as President of the Graduate Student Union during Notre Dame’s debates over what would constitute academic freedom on its campus. She oversaw the drafting of a letter to the administration that sought and received assurances that no limits would be placed on graduate research in areas such as scientific research, the creative arts, and gay and lesbian studies. Stepping down from her post, Schieberle recruited chemical engineering graduate student, Michael Lundin, to follow her. He interpreted her encouragement liberally. After serving his own term as head of the NDGSU, he completed his degree, secured a postdoc at KU, and moved to Lawrence. Misty and Mike married in July 2009.

Professor Schieberle has enjoyed her first year at Kansas, finding the English Department, as advertised, a warm and friendly place to work. She has taught an Honors course, two pre-1800 literature surveys, and Chaucer. On the research front, she is refining her dissertation into a book. Feminized Counsel: Women in Middle English Advice to Princes Literature analyzes the role of women as advisors in works that teach young men how to govern themselves and their households or realms. It began from the question of why, in a supposedly misogynist culture, do the leading male poets give women characters all the good lines? Schieberle argues that, far from using women’s voices as an “opposite” against which to define masculine authority, Geoffrey Chaucer, John Gower, and other poets embraced the feminine as a representation of their own subordination to powerful patrons, and as a position from which to criticize and influence those in power. She hopes to publish this work well before her mandatory promotion and tenure year. She is also looking forward to her next project, an exploration of the exchange of early texts between England and the Continent, especially the Spanish and Portuguese translations of works by John Gower that only recently have received critical attention from scholars. A portion of her study will explore Gower’s influence in Iberia and analyze how the text was adapted for new cultural contexts, including both political circumstances and gender roles.
Giselle Anatol was proud to be named a semifinalist in KU’s 2008 H.O.P.E. (Honor for Outstanding Progressive Educator) Award; she tips her hat to winner Mary Klaider, also a member of our department. Anatol’s Reading Harry Potter Again: New Critical Essays has been released by Praeger Press. This edited collection is an extension of her previous work on J.K. Rowling’s series (Reading Harry Potter: Critical Essays [Praeger/Greenwood 2003]). Anatol’s chapter on African-American children’s and young adult literature has been accepted for publication in The Cambridge History of African American Literature, edited by Maryemma Graham and Jerry Ward, and her chapter on the use of film in her Introduction to Caribbean Literature class has also been accepted for publication in the MLA Options for Teaching Series: Teaching Anglophone Caribbean Literatures, edited by Supriya Nair. Entries on Caribbean women writers Nalo Hopkinson, Audre Lorde, and Paule Marshall were recently published in The Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture, edited by Carole Boyce Davies (ABC-CLIO, 2008).


Marta Caminero-Santangelo was thrilled to receive a Kemper Fellowship in recognition of her teaching in Fall 2008. That semester, she also took full advantage of her Hall Center Research Fellowship to work on her book, ‘Illegal’ Narrating the Non-Nation, which examines undocumented immigration, border enforcement, and Latino/a literature from the post-Gatekeeper era. She has received a Smithsonian Institution Research Fellowship to work on the manuscript in summer of 2010. Meanwhile, her article “Central Americans in the City: Goldman, Tobar, and the Question of Panethnicity” appeared in Summer 2009 in LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory, as did the special issue of the journal Antipodes which she co-edited on literature about Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo, and which featured several essays by current and former KU graduate students from Marta’s class in Latino/a testimonial literature. Finally, Marta began her new duties as Chair of the English Department in July!

Jim Carothers gave papers in 2008 at the exotic international conference venues of Kansas City (Hemingway) and Oxford, Mississippi (Faulkner). He took his 16-year-old grandson to London, where they walked from the Tower to the London Eye, saw King Lear at the Globe and Spamalot somewhere else, and visited Stonehenge, Windsor, and Baaaath. He taught a course in “Reading Hemingway” to 38 lively senior Osher Institute students, one of whom remembered joining with the other high school girls to read the sleeping-bag scenes from For Whom the Bell Tolls at the time of the novel’s publication. Other teaching included Shakespeare, Freshman Honors, a tutorial on Short Story Masterpieces, and the Modern American Novel. He will also remember 2008-09 as the year he moved offices for the sixth and seventh times since 2005.

Katie Conrad has enjoyed a productive year of writing, research, and teaching. She taught a new graduate course on queer theory in the spring as well as an Honors freshman-sophomore seminar on women’s autobiography and bildungsroman. In the fall, she taught a course on James Joyce, a course on Northern Ireland, and an Honors tutorial on Finnegans Wake. She continues to write and research in the field of surveillance studies, an interest which emerged out of her interest in Northern Ireland and in sexuality studies. After writing several articles and conference papers in the field over the last two years, you can now find her huddled in the corner of her office with a tinfoil hat.

In the fall, Iris Smith Fischer taught two sections of the new English 308, an introduction to literary theory and criticism that will soon be required of English majors. Fischer has completed two years of her three-year term as editor of the Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism. She has two articles forthcoming this year and her co-edited volume Interrogating America through Theatre and Performance appeared in paperback in September. On sabbatical this fall, Fischer plans to begin a new research project on the relation of philosopher Charles Peirce’s theory of semiotic to his theatre activities from 1886-1894. She has not, however, given up her interest in the avant garde, the topic of a combined graduate/undergraduate course she taught in the spring semester.

Stephanie Fitzgerald spent 2008-2009 on a postdoctoral fellowship from the American Association of University Women to work on her book project, Land Narratives: Native Women’s Histories of Land and Law. In addition, she presented on the work of Louise Erdrich and translation at the Modern Language Association Conference, and continues to serve on the MLA Executive Committee on American Indian Literatures. Her essay “The Cultural Work of a Mohegan Basket” was published in Native Literacies in New England: A Documentary and Critical Anthology. She is looking forward to being back in the classroom in the fall.

Maryemma Graham writes: “Teaching and traveling seemed to occupy the bulk of my time in 2008. Life Writing, the more accepted term for autobiography, centers much of my teaching practice, involving students from all three areas of our program (literature, composition & rhetoric, and creative writing) as well as from other fields, especially American Studies and Education. I have enjoyed the challenges associated with keeping abreast of one of the most influential discourses in contemporary literature and language study. The traveling during the year was associated primarily with the continued observance of the centennial of Richard Wright (1908-1960) (see HBW below). This year was also filled with several important firsts for me: I taught on the Edwards campus, getting to know a different KU population, generally with more life experience and maturity; published “Negotiating Memory: Nationalism, Globalization and the New World Novel” (Transcultural Visions of Identities in Images and Texts, Universitätsverlag, 2008), my first essay in the area of transnational studies; and..."
published my first piece of creative non fiction, an essay for Shaping Memories: Reflections of African American Women Writers (Mississippi 2009). The finished manuscript for the History of African American Literature, the first such history to be prepared in the twenty-first century, was submitted to Cambridge and is expected to appear in two volumes in 2010. For the 2009-10 year, I have accepted a Senior Research Fellowship at the University of Texas, which will permit time to complete the required revisions for the Margaret Walker biography, The House Where My Soul Lives, expected to appear later next year from Oxford.

KU’s Project on the History of Black Writing, now in its 27th year, spearheaded observation of the Richard Wright Centennial. As a consequence, Maryemma Graham attended eight of the many conferences and events held in the US, Europe, and Japan, as well as the historic stamp unveiling at the Chicago Post Office, April 9 (where Wright had worked upon his arrival from Mississippi in the 1920s). In addition to several professional development workshops in several cities, HBW has moved on other fronts as well: completing one NEH proposal and putting in place the Project’s Digital Initiative (PDI). The KU English Department’s visibility continues to increase through the outreach initiatives developed by the Project. We have provided supplementary books and teacher training for Lawrence and other public school districts; and we have facilitated the work of key literacy programs locally: the NAACP Youth Council, headed by Reta Cosby, and VIVA (Visual Voices Alliance), a verbal and visual literacy development effort founded by textile artist and quilter Marla Jackson.

Richard Hardin writes: “Virginia and I traveled to England this summer for a pleasant visit to Canterbury, where I gave a paper at the International Marlowe Conference in the setting of the bad-boy dramatist’s hometown. Well, not exactly, since the site of the University of Kent would probably have been a meadow in the sixteenth century. On the way home we stopped in London to see Merry Wives of Windsor at the Globe Theatre, a performance that convinced me it’s as good a comedy as was ever written (take that, Harold Bloom!).”

Joseph Harrington has completed his first year as Graduate Director for the Department. Portions of his book manuscript, Things Come On (an amneoir) appear this year in Hotel Amerika, P-Queue, and Cricket Online Review. This book is part of an ongoing four-volume project about the life and times of his mother. His poems have recently been published in Fact-Simile, With + Stand, and Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment. In fall of last year, Harrington organized the visit of Lyn Hejinian, one of the major poets in the US. He continues to teach both literature courses and poetry workshops. Harrington recently saw both the Colima and Swainson’s warblers, leaving only one nesting wood-warbler in North America not on his list, viz., the Connecticut.

Susan Harris was on sabbatical in 2008-09, working on a study of the role that religious rhetoric played in the debates over annexation of the Philippines in 1899. The majority of her time has focused on the project, but she has also pursued a related interest, learning Spanish. During the year she delivered papers at the American Studies Association Convention and at the American Literature Association Convention, and has guest-lecture at Trinity College (Hartford, CT), Peking University (Beijing, China), and Xi’an International Studies University (Xi’an, China).

Paul Stephen Lim was given the “Outstanding Playwriting Teacher” award by the Playwrights Unit of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference held in August 2008 in Denver. After that, it was “business as usual” with the 20th season of English Alternative Theatre, starting with a Labor Day staged reading of August: Osage County, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Tracy Letts; followed by staged readings of new full-length plays by graduate students Nick Medved and Ben Smith; culminating with the revival of the “Final Four Competition of Student One-Acts” during March Madness. Additionally, the regional festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) was held at the University of Kansas in late January, and EAT hosted a banquet for 75 VIP’s at the Alvamar Country Club during the event. Several VIP’s said afterwards that it was the best meal they had in Lawrence all week. And so, with EAT, they at least ATE well.


In spring 2009, she was delighted to have a small but lively group of gifted graduate students in her seminar on “The Place of Drama and Oratory in Nineteenth-Century American Literature,” as well as an inspiring bunch of undergraduates in American Literature 1. Finally, Prof. Mielke had a ball giving a presentation on Twain’s Adventures of Huckleberry Finn at the Waldo Branch of the Kansas City Public Library in the spring, and then again discussing Poe’s detective fiction in the fall.

Anna Neill served her final year as Undergraduate Director, overseeing some key changes to the curriculum, including a new required course for majors on literary critical methodology. If approved by the College, the major will also see a new track in Language, Rhetoric and Writing and more rigorous standards in the Creative Writing track. Anna published an article in ELH this year, and had two accepted at Victorian Literature and Culture and Studies in English Literature. She was also awarded a Keeler Fellowship, which will enable her to take courses and work with faculty in the Department of Anthropology. She plans to improve her literary research in evolutionary science to enhance her research and her teaching of evolutionary topics in nineteenth-century literature.

Janet Sharistanian reviewed Elizabeth Samet’s Soldier’s Heart: Reading Literature through Peace and War at West Point in the Journal of Military History and gave a paper at the MLA in San Francisco entitled “European Culture, Peace-Loving Musicians, and the War Books of Fritz Kreisler, Vera Brittain, and Willa Cather.” She is beginning a new book on American literary representations of the Great War.
Dick Hardin retired at the end of the spring semester after teaching for forty-three years at KU. His curriculum vitae show that he wasted not a minute of those years. Scanning the list of the dozens and dozens of publications, conference presentations, and invited lectures, I reflected on how little he speaks about his own scholarly work and never in a way that would draw attention to his achievement rather than a general interest in the subject. As a teacher he drew on his extensive knowledge of the literature and history of the period, but the focus in classes was never his own contributions to scholarly knowledge. As an administrator he was recognized as a person who promoted agendas for the good of everyone and gave honest opinions without fear or favor. Three years ago, he was awarded the Frances Stiefel Professorship of English, a fitting tribute acknowledging, as it does, excellence in teaching, scholarship, and administration. As anyone knows who has tried to wear those hats simultaneously, to be recognized for achievement in all three is a great accomplishment.

I didn’t come to KU expecting to specialize in the Renaissance and if it weren’t for Dick Hardin I wouldn’t have. This is how it happened: In the fall of 1986 I enrolled in his English 800 class. Newly arrived in the country, juggling many demands and feeling pretty overwhelmed, I decided to drop the course, get acclimatized, and try again (perhaps) the following year. I called Dick and told him my plans: “Just come in and take the test,” he said. I was astonished, and completely wrong-footed. As he wouldn’t take “no” for an answer, I took the test, stayed in the class (and many later ones), and am now that person who says to students in my turn: “You can do it; stay in the class.” He directed my dissertation and gave me the best advice on writing I’ve ever had. I smiled at one sentence of over twenty words that he felicitously pruned to five, and squirmed at terse comments he made on particularly cloudy passages. What I really appreciated was that he would consider my ideas, some (very) wild and woolly, and ask the kind of questions that would make me see their possibilities or shortcomings rather than tell me they were rubbish. Of course, he’s not a saint, and can be curmudgeonly at times, a trait very much in evidence in seminars when he encountered a lack of preparedness in students. I remember an occasion in a Milton seminar when a fellow student who had not read the assignment thought that the best way to respond to Dick’s increasingly incisive questioning (of a topic particularly reserved for suspected malefactors), was to insert a little levity, a little debonair humor. We students took from this incident the object lesson that if you haven’t done the work, it’s a bad idea to smile.

Perhaps Dick’s greatest contribution to the life of the university has been in offering a model of conduct that has integrity at the core. In some ways he’s the kind of person those humanists wanted to “fashion,” someone who works not for the good(s) for himself, but for the common good, who works hard not for the rewards it brings, but because hard work is a duty, and a pleasure, and the right thing to do. Hard work requires “speaking the truth to power,” demanding high standards of intellectual activity both of himself and students, and resisting the temptation to compromise on those standards; in all those aspects he’s been utterly dependable and a role model for all of us, students, colleagues, and friends, who have admired and learned from him. We’ve also loved him for his sprezzatura, his “naturalness,” his soft spot for the underdog, and his wicked sense of humor that delights in and sympathizes with the frailties of the human condition. Best of all, he’s not going anywhere. He’s planning on spending some time in the garden and making a few trips, but in his so-called “retirement” he will still be working in the library, reading voraciously and making perspicacious comments, as usual, at the doorways of his colleagues’ offices in Wescoe.

— Mo Godman (M.A. 1990, Ph.D. 1997)
they rolled down the table.” Yet what he carried with him from all of this was not just rough-and-tumble: when the family moved to Winfield, Kansas, he reported that he was shocked at its provinciality compared with the cosmopolitan ethnic richness of Trinidad, its miners from all over Europe.

He told me once that when he decided to study English at Southwestern College in Winfield, it was because he believed it would make him into a 19th-century English gentleman. Well, it did that, only better: it made him into what 19th-century English gentlemen wished they were, but without the posing and the artificiality. Rather, there was intelligence, humanity, kindness, good humor, honesty, and unfailing courteously manners, and all of it there all the time. On the issue of manners, I will always remember that whenever I visited Carroll in his tenth decade, as he greeted me he would apologize for not rising.

Carroll Edwards was always there for you. When you were with him, you always had his full attention, whatever the occasion. This is not only a matter of courtesy (though it is that), but an indication of the way he lived his life: with a highly elevated level of consciousness and an appreciation for the possibilities present in every moment. I remember once when two students who had missed an exam came to request a make-up, and he asked them what sort of make-up they thought would be appropriate. One of them said that they would like an exam that was “a pleasant aesthetic experience.” He didn’t roll his eyes—though he asked me later, “What kind of world do they think they are living in?” But he had asked their opinion, and he honored it, designing a make-up exam that was in some way “a pleasant aesthetic experience.” How many professors would do this?

Like many others, I scanned the schedule of courses every semester to see what subjects Dr. Edwards would be teaching, and I signed up for as many as I could fit in. Whatever the subject, he always made me want to do as much as I could. His teaching of Chaucer—in Middle English—was so fascinating that I wrote my term paper in rhyning Middle English couplets. And this didn’t stop with my undergraduate degree; when I returned to graduate school after a few years with the Army, I once again looked for courses I could take from him. Carroll wanted to be a 19th-century English gentleman; I think I wanted to be Carroll Edwards. So it was not surprising that my freshman English teacher ultimately became my dissertation advisor. He suggested a dissertation topic, a concordance of Shaw’s plays, which I seized upon and with the help of the then-new university computation center, I completed. When I would get personally discouraged with graduate study, I could always stop by his office, where he produced Modern Drama quarterly, which he founded in 1958, and which he and Virgie made into an internationally-renowned publication. He could always make me feel better, with an entertaining story, maybe about his friendship with Sean O’Casey, or maybe about his travels. Once in a Spanish tavern, he professed to find the bullfights too “brutal,” and mischievously asked if the locals didn’t think the bloodless Portuguese fights were better. Or on occasion he might open a drawer, produce a bottle, and propose a drink.

Not only that, but in the nicely-furnished basement of their fine old stone house, he had a magnificent full-sized straight-rail billiards table. And once a month there would be an evening of billiards with luminaries like Bob Cobh, Gerhard Zuther, Roy Gridley—and a dazzling feast from Virgie’s kitchen. And, mirabile dictu, I was included, though I felt like an impostor both as a scholar and a billiards player. The warmth and thoughtfulness of this man, to invite a graduate student drudge to a relaxing evening where no one talked about literature, is unequaled. He and Virgie were humane to animals as well as people. Scout, the horse who came to dinner and stayed for twenty years, comes to mind, as does a procession of pampered cats who could be seen dozing on a sunny window-seat with a bowl of cream nearby.

There is no good place to stop when trying to convey the all-round excellence of this lovable man. I’ll just stop now, with two lines from the Shakespeare that he taught so well, which seem to me to describe Carroll Edwards: “...the elements So mix’d in him that Nature might stand up And say to all the world, ‘This was a man!’”

— Dean Bevan (B.A. 1960, M.A. 1965, M. Phil. 1968, Ph.D. 1971)

SAGE News

2009-2010 SAGE Executive Board: Jana Tighelaar (holding Sam Tighelaar), Secretary; Kristen Lillvis and Ann Martinez, Co-Presidents, Rob Topinka, Treasurer; Colin Christopher and Audrey McDonald, First-Year Liaisons

FSE Update

The Freshman-Sophomore English (FSE) Program embarked on several exciting projects this past year. The FSE committee took to the 200-level courses’ “statement of goals” and revised it with a vengeance. Holding no statement safe, they also adjusted the “statement of goals” for 101 and 102 to bring all the goals into coherent sequential alignment, a necessary step for the assessment of the FSE program underway. The subcommittee on assessment forged on through dense and often uncharted assessment territory, completing the student and instructor surveys for English 101 and 102. With some funding, the surveys, and two graduate students in tow, we will spend the summer compiling survey results and drafting rubrics for English 101, 102, and 200-level outcomes. In another venture, the textbook subcommittee spent countless hours mining the fathomless depths of possible new texts for English 101. Their recommendations (Scenes of Writing; Compose, Design, Advocate; and The Concise Harbrace Guide to Writing) were approved for use in Fall 2009. Looking forward to next year’s exploits, we will undertake a review of English 102 texts and continue on the path towards a full-blown assessment of the FSE program.

—Heather Bastian, FSE Intern

First-Year Liaisons

Treasurer; Colin Christopher and Audrey McDonald, Secretary; Kristen Lillvis and Ann Martinez, Co-Presidents, Rob Topinka, Treasurer; Colin Christopher and Audrey McDonald, First-Year Liaisons
Alumni News

English Department Website

The English Department website, http://www.english.ku.edu, has been rebuilt and now provides more information and more convenient linkage than before. Significant events, like major awards or grants, are highlighted, along with announcements for the week ahead. Update, the Department News Bulletin, and the electronic calendar all have links of their own. Faculty listings have been subdivided for greater convenience. Prospective graduate students can now more easily scan the listings of graduate faculty with whom they might work, and a separate link groups faculty by research interests. Other faculty, lecturers, and GTAs also have pages. A list of all instructors at all ranks—and their office hours—is a click away from the home page for use by current students and, of course, visiting alumni. Yet another page features recent books published by faculty members.

Information about several programs and subgroups within the English Department can be accessed through individual links. The fledgling M.F.A. program has a page that provides basic information about the degree plus further links to areas of specific interest to creative writers, including information about Cottonwood and a listing of published KU creative writing alumni and their works (new additions welcome). Those interested in the Department’s new emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition can readily access a site with details. English Alternative Theatre, the Center for the Study of Science Fiction, AHAA (Ad-hoc African Americanists), the Project on the History of Black Writing, Technical Communication, and SAGE all have sites that can be reached through the English web page.

One new link on the English Department website is devoted exclusively to alumni. Dubbed “English Channels,” this link offers KU English graduate and undergraduate alumni an opportunity to channel their life experiences and memories into a cybergarden that will inform and entertain their peers. “English Channels” welcomes submissions of updates about alumni and their families, pictures of one or all, and stories or anecdotes from their Lawrence years which participants would like to share, as long as they are in reasonably good taste and not libelous. Individual update capsules, tales, and anecdotes should not exceed 150 words, but you may submit several if you wish. They should be sent as Word documents via e-mail to english@ku.edu (subject line: English Channels). They will be reviewed and then posted. Some capsules from previous Update submissions have been placed there already.

The website also provides an electronic conduit for making financial contributions to the English Department. State support for higher education continues to dwindle in Kansas, a trend that has been exacerbated by the current recession. If you would like to make a donation to support KU English in general, or assist some specific program, access the link next to “English Channels” entitled “Giving.” We have listed six possible categories for which funds may be earmarked: the “innovation fund” (unrestricted usage); “undergraduate awards and scholarships”; “graduate awards and scholarships”; “creative writing awards and guest writers”; “faculty teaching and research support”; and “library and media materials.” However, the KU Endowment gift information site, to which a click on any one of these categories forwards a potential donor, has a box that allows for specific instructions regarding the use of the funds contributed. KU English scrupulously abides by contributor wishes in the disbursement of donated funds. As always, donations may also be mailed to LaRisa Lochner, Development Officer, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Kansas University Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928. You may also contact LaRisa by phone at 785-832-7471.

1960s

Joe Hatcher (M.A. 1967, Ph.D. 1968) has completed almost a year as interim president of Pulaski Academy, a pre-school-12 independent college preparatory school in Little Rock. This was his first foray into administration of pre-college education. It has been interesting and, for the most part, enjoyable. He will soon go back to occasional consulting, walking the dog twice a day, and watching his grandchildren as they perform in various sports. He is a little shocked to have a granddaughter old enough to be playing college basketball.

David Leon Higdon (M.A. 1964, Ph.D. 1968) had an exciting year with his work on Aldous Huxley. His book, Wandering into Brave New World, will be published this winter, and he delivered a paper, “Huxley Encounters the Hopi,” at the Fourth International Aldous Huxley Symposium held at the Huntington Library, surely the place where scholars go instead of Heaven. The MLA’s Approaches to Teaching Mrs. Dalloway, also out this winter, contains his essay on Virginia Woolf’s use of carpe diem conventions in her novel.

1950s

Bill Sollner (M.S. Education 1953; M.A. English 1954) writes that he is still doing business at the same old stand—but that he has expanded operations to include video. His current project is a documentary titled “Dying on the Vine,” an in-depth look at the decline of small-town Kansas. Bravely, many hamlets still mount a “homecoming.” His own village of Arma (population 2500) is celebrating its 100th anniversary, but the festivities are being played out before too many empty storefronts. What happened? Why the blight on what were once thriving communities? Stay tuned to find out. Also, his book Hawaiian Games, Second Edition, is soon to hit the Amazon lists. Don’t book a vacation in Hawaii before reading the 357-page picaresque novel. It is based on events surrounding an Outer Island political campaign and follows the Truman Capote In Cold Blood format.

Terry Williams (A.B. 1953; M.A. 1956) is alive, reasonably vigorous, and as well as might be expected. His address is 286 Laurel Avenue, Saint Paul, MN, 55102. His email address is terrence@umn.edu.

Ann Drummond Hughes (M.A. 1962) recently published So Ends This Voyage: The Sailing Vessels of Trufant & Drummond, of Bath, Maine, described by a reviewer as “exhaustively researched and well-written,” and by a founder of the Maine Maritime Museum as “one of the best maritime histories ever published of a single shipyard . . . a work superbly done.”

Margaret A. Joseph (M.A. 1966) was wed to Lucy Norton in a religious ceremony at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio on May 2, 2009.

Mary Duhamel Kramer (Ph.D. 1969) is retiring this summer after teaching Medieval & Renaissance Lit for forty years at UMASS.

Patrick Miller (M.A. 1964) has lived in North Carolina for five years, after retiring from a
business career in Florida, with his wife and two children. He is currently active in his church, involved in video production and computer work and is planning a new web site and podcast in the early Fall. Memories of Mount Oread are vivid and warm. He would love to hear from old classmates at plnmillercmc@gmail.com.

1970s

Tom Averill (M.A. 1974) continues as Writer-in-residence/Professor of English at Washburn University. Stories this year have appeared in North American Review, Blue Earth Review, Coal City Review, Flint Hills Review and Little Balkans Review. He has begun the process of donating his extensive collection of Kansas books to Mabee Library, at Washburn University, where it will eventually become the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Collection.

Barry Baddock (M.A. 1972) found Spring of 2009 was a season of reunions. First, in Portsmouth, UK, he teamed up with old traveling companion Wayne Pounds (PhD 1976), for some enjoyable and leisurely days of drinking and feasting in Hampshire villages, ostensibly for WP to research the life and poetic endeavors of one Thomas Pounds. Then, in May, four ex-AIs from the long-ago converged on Lawrence for a highly nostalgic reunion and tour of the campus. They were Barry Baddock from the UK, Bob White (Ph.D. 1981) from South Carolina, and Gerry Wilson (Ph.D. 1981) from Kansas City—recent retirees all. Every man is a veteran of the mighty force hired in August 1970 to teach Freshman-Sophomore English. In that far-off time, when the Department was located in Carruth-O’Leary, AIs’ desks were to be found in a now-demolished leaking shack called Lindley Hall Annex. Many readers will remember its crotchety mimeograph machine, the vintage cork dartboard and the toilet that must, in all fairness, be termed eccentric. Thanks to Gerry and Di Wilson for hosting the banquet at the end of a wonderful day. Here’s to the next time!

James Bogan (Ph.D. 1979) continues to teach and to search at the Missouri University of Science & Technology. He completed NAKED BRONZE: Louis Smart Sculptor in the Ozarks, a half hour documentary that elucidates the lost wax method of casting and ends with a quotation from William Blake: “Art can never exist without Naked Beauty displayed.” On a research leave in the spring semester, he spent time in Brazil fitting out the documentary with Portuguese subtitiles and working on a book to be called Bound to Brazil, which will now include an essay about the miserable descent of the River of Thorns in a canoe.

Rachel Crown (Ph.D. 1975) died 31 December 2008. Rachel, who had studied poetry with Theodore Roethke at the University of Washington, came later in life to the KU English graduate program as a poet and meticulous reader of poetry. She wrote an outstanding dissertation on Sir Philip Sidney’s translation of the first 43 Psalms, and taught freshman English for several years before her retirement. (Source: Richard Hardin)

Dave Eastwood (Ph.D. 1971), who apparently had his expiration date extended yet once more with a valve repair and double bypass in December 2008, continues to read, write, and publish fiction of all sorts, occasionally adding new entries to his Taxonomy of Literary Forms manuscript.

Richard Harp (Ph.D. 1975) will begin a 3-year term as English department chair at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on July 1. He is continuing to co-edit Ben Jonson Journal (Edinburgh University Press), editorial offices at UNLV. His fourth grandchild is due May 30; his younger children are completing 5th and 1st grades, respectively.

Keeping in Touch

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

Raylene Hinz-Penner (M.A. 1972) was an English professor at Bethel College, North Newton, KS for two decades; Washburn University, Topeka, KS since 2003. Her specialties are creative writing, contemporary American literature, and Toni Morrison. She celebrated her 40-year marriage to husband Douglas Penner in Oaxaca, Mexico, June 2009.

Wayne Pounds (Ph.D. 1976) has edited and published Poudre’s Challenge: A Recusant Poem of 1582, in the series Renaissance Monographs from Sophia University in Japan. Wayne, a specialist in modern literature, came across mention of the poem in a book by the Victorian scholar Richard Simpson. For the first time, the poem is made available in its surviving Elizabethan fragment joined with a nineteenth-century transcript of the missing parts. Wayne teaches in Tokyo, at Aoyama Gakuin University.

Frank Kelly (Ph.D. Theater & Drama 1978) continues to write poetry and to enjoy his proximity to NYC and its theatrical, dance and art treasures. www.facebook.com/bockharn

Jack Lundy (M.A. 1970, Ph.D. 1978) and Linda are enjoying retirement. A recent 45th wedding anniversary celebration gave the couple the opportunity to visit Italy and Switzerland. From the ruins of Pompeii and the breathtaking scenery of the Amalfi Coast, the Lundys charted an art course through Assisi with its beautiful paintings by Giotto and Cimabue to Florence and Michelangelo. From there, it was on to Da Vinci, “The Last Supper” and the magnificent Duomo. The highlight was an evening at La Scala—and the ticket agent recognized a Jayhawk credit card because he graduated from KU. It was a different kind of beauty in Switzerland, a land of mountains, waterfalls, and lakes. The home of Einstein and the city of Bern charmed the Lundys and Lucerne’s great lion brought tears. It was good to be home in Kentucky.

Pete Mirakian (M.A. 1976) returned to his undergraduate alma mater, West Point Military Academy, to teach English and Philosophy there from 1976 to 1980. Following departure from his military service commitment, which culminated in that four-year teaching assignment, he joined Hallmark Cards in Kansas City at the end of 1980. After twelve years at Hallmark in progressive product development and Human Resources positions, he accepted a position in the HR department at Seaboard Corporation in 1992 where he is the Director of Human Resources. Seaboard is a Fortune 1000 international agribusiness company, headquartered in Kansas City. On the personal side, he has been married to wife Patty 40 years this June, and their two sons and their wives have given them four beautiful grandchildren to enjoy in their growing-up years. Patty has an undergraduate degree, also in English lit, from the “other” major Kansas institution of higher learning, KSU. Their older son is also a KU alum, with an undergraduate degree in English and Economics, and a JD degree from KU Law School. He practices law as a Partner at Spencer Fane Britt and Brown in KC. The younger son graduated from William Jewell College and completed his Master of Divinity at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary before being ordained in the Evangelical Covenant denomination. He is currently Senior Pastor at a Covenant Church in Springfield, MA.
Paul W. Nisly (Ph.D. 1974) continues to do some adjunct teaching. His major project over the last year—and more—has been the writing of an updated history of his school, Messiah College, in preparation for the Centennial celebration in 2009-2010. He has conducted over 80 interviews, as well as spending considerable time in the archives, in research for the work. He reports seeing glimmers of light in the distance and hopes to complete the writing this summer. On a personal note, he was married July 19, 2008 after losing his wife of 42 years to cancer in 2005. More glimmers of light after the darkness.

David Norlin (M.A.T. 1970) took early retirement from Cloud County Community College in January of 2005, after serving as English Dept Chair and co-Chair for most of the years following his KU sabbatical in 1994-95. He moved to Salina with spouse Janice, who works as an attorney with Marietta, Kellogg, and Price. He presently serves as board chairman for Salina Community Access Television and the Salina Human Relations Department. He ran unsuccessfully for the 71st District House of Representatives in 2004, with experience gained from the 21st District Senate race in 2000. He recently worked with Denise Low, Poet Laureate of Kansas, to create a program for Salina’s Access TV audience based on 3 Voices, a multi-media work by Low and Paul Hotvedt, painter, which aired for the first time in May. He writes occasional columns for the Salina Journal, and pursues beautification projects for both outer and inner life. And oh, yes, there are the grandkids, now numbering 11, with upside potential in a down market.

The publishing company that Ron Pullins (MA 1970) founded has published, as part of its New Kittredge Shakespeare series, a new edition of The Merchant of Venice, edited by his former KU professor, Kenneth Rothwell. An edition of King Lear by Dr. Rothwell will be forthcoming this fall. Pullins took 16th-Century Literature from Dr. Rothwell, and Shakespeare courses from both Carroll Edwards and Natalie Calderwood at the University of Kansas. Dr. Rothwell later taught for many years at the University of Vermont before retiring. He is one of the most recognized authorities on Shakespeare and film.

After 25 years of teaching at Eastern Illinois University, David Radavich (Ph.D. 1979) will retire in December and join his wife in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he plans to enjoy twin granddaughters and more time to travel, write, and stay involved in public service. His latest poetry collection is Canonicals: Love’s Hours (Finishing Line, 2009).

After receiving her degree, Lora K. Reiter (Ph.D. 1975) studied in France the following year, then taught at St. Louis University, Kalamazoo College, and Ottawa University before retiring in 2004. She is now writing and collecting earlier work. Her historical novel, One Was Annie, appeared in 2006, followed by Animals Galore and Love Unconditional, Essays Glad, Sad, and Mad About Creatures Who Share the Earth, 2008, (a benefit for the Ottawa animal shelter), Snake in the Cradle, poetry, 2008, and Teaching Fences, poetry, 2009. She is currently finishing two manuscripts: The Sail Buggy, short stories, and From Ash Creek to China and Back, personal essays which reflect her life as a first grade drop-out from a tiny country school to her professional and personal travels around the world, and her return to Kansas. She projects writing two other books and “lots of short stories and poems.” She lives in Ottawa, KS, and her website is: http://www.lorakreiter.com.

Thomas L. Warren (Ph.D. 1974) Tom has now retired after 31 years at Oklahoma State University. He will, however, continue his teaching each year at the University of Paderborn in Germany. His publications this year include three chapters in two books. For a book on technical editing, he wrote a chapter tracing the origins and development of technical editing. He also co-authored an annotated bibliography on technical editing. His other chapter was on using ISO Standards to teach cross-cultural communication for a book on that subject. After his wife retires in September, they plan to spend a lot of time with their great-granddaughter and travel.


1980s

Holly Franking (Ph.D. 1988) found time to create a new feature for her company’s online multimedia satire of tabloid magazines, Celebri-tylnk.com. This new feature is “Ask Sarah Palin.” As we know, Palin is the governor of Alaska who can field dress a moose that she has killed. We read recipes from a 1939 Sears, Roebuck and Company cookbook, such as the following: Hamburger Eel Soup, Sweet & Sour Tongue, Liver Cake, Suckling Pig (with head and tail optional), Opossum with liver dressing, etc. Who would know how to get suckling pigs, opossum, and elk, etc. better than Sarah? Please also check our web-site, diskotech.com, for updates on another work: L’autobiocritique. It’s a new theory of literary criticism. She is dedicating it to Kirk Ireland.

1990s

Brad S. Born (Ph.D. 1993) continues to serve as the chief academic officer at Bethel College, in North Newton, Kansas. His recent projects include leading the institution’s self-study process for re-accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission, which culminated in a successful site visit in March, 2009. When possible Brad still teaches in the English department, most recently a War Literature class that meets the college’s general education requirement in Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies.

Virginia (Ginger) Brackett (Ph.D. 1998) continues teaching in the Park University, Parkville, MO, English Department as a tenured Associate Professor. She also directs the Honors Program and the Missouri Arts Council grant-supported Ethnic Voices Poetry Series. Her The Facts on File Companion to 16th and 17th-Century British Poetry (2008) was named a Booklist “Editor’s Choice, Reference Sources, 2008”. Her most recent publications include “Things We Do in the Dark: Woolf and the New Biography” in Selected Papers from the Eighteenth Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf (2009) and How to Write About the Brontës (Chelsea House, 2008). She is presently under contract to Facts on File writing a study companion for Mary Shelley. Ginger lives in Kansas City with her husband Edmund who works as Director of Sponsored Programs for Park. They welcomed their first grandchild in May and expect the second in September.

Jim Campbell (Ph.D. 1990) last taught full-time at Oklahoma State University and is now retired in Saint Augustine, Florida. He is maintaining his status as a scholar in Dickens studies. To further this goal, he is visiting London and Kent in September to conduct research at the Dickens Museum library and at the British Library.

Marlon L. Fick (Ph.D. 1992) is Chair of Literature at Colegio Columbia in Mexico City. His most recent publications are in The Café Review.

Jack Healy (Ph.D. 1997) has been promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri. Twenty-four years after his wonderful V-6 experience under Dr. Patricia Hagen’s tutelage, Jack steps out of the classroom to focus on curricular development, faculty development, scheduling, and countless other administrative duties. He remains moderator of the Missouri London Consortium’s study abroad program in London as well as champion for all CMU’s study abroad experiences. This fall, Jack begins the L.L.M. in Dispute Resolution at the University of Missouri’s School of Law. He and Kathy still enjoy living in Columbia; Kathy continues working at the University of Missouri
in University Affairs, a branch of the chancellor’s office. They share their home with Kerry, their sassy and verbose tortoise shell tabby.

Greg Jackson (M.A. 1992) is Assistant Professor in the departments of English and American Studies at Rutgers University. He has just published *The Word and Its Witness: The Spiritualization of American Realism* (University of Chicago Press).

After fifteen years as a freelance writer, non-fiction book author and occasional novelist, Jennifer Lawler (Ph.D. 1996) accepted an offer to become a literary agent with Studio B Productions/The Salkind Agency. She does not, however, consider this “going over to the Dark Side” as a few colleagues have suggested. While she plans to continue writing books, she is looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities that working as an agent will afford. She can be reached at Jennifer@studiotb.com for professional purposes and at Jennifer@jenniferlawler.com for personal reasons. Earlier this year, Jennifer was finally forced to accept that it is now the twenty-first century. To that end, she can be found blogging at www.jenniferlawler.com/wordpress/ and on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/in/jenniferlawler and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/JenniferLawler

Amy Lerman (Ph.D. 1997) has lived and worked in Illinois and Arizona. Currently, she is Developmental Coordinator/Residential Faculty at Mesa Community College in Phoenix, AZ. She has served as Area Chair for Chick Lit at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association Conference for the last several years, has published in *MLA Approaches to A Farewell to Arms, Kansas English*, and *Facts on File*, and will have an upcoming article in a book called *Foodsumptions*. She and her husband, Mike Mader, just celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. Contact email: alerman@mesacc.edu.

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

Todd Marshall’s (Ph.D. 1996) newest collection of poems, *The Tangled Line*, appeared in April, 2009. He is on sabbatical from Gonzaga University during the 2009-10 academic year. He plans to fish, hike, and write new poems during this respite.

Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg (Ph.D. 1996) was named Poet Laureate of Kansas, beginning her two-year term in July of 2009. She also has three books forthcoming in 2009: *The Sky Begins At Your Feet*, a memoir (Ice Cube Press); *Landed*, her fourth collection of poetry (Mammoth Publications); and *My Tree Called Life: Writing and Living Through Serious Illness*, an anthology she’s editing for Turning Point of Kansas, drawing on writing by participants in her writing workshops there. Her personal essay, “Dragonflies and Inky Blackness: Raising a Child With A Hidden Disability,” is coming out in the anthology *My Baby Rides the Short Bus*. Caryn continues to teach at Goddard College and develop Transformative Language Arts as a field, and she continues to co-write music and do collaborative workshops and performances with rhythm and blues singer Kelley Hunt. Her websites: www.CarynMirriamGoldberg.com and www.BraveVoice.com.

2000s

Troy Bassett (M.A. 1997, Ph.D. 2002) reports that his classes at Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne are going well and he has many research iron in the fire. He has just completed the first stage of a database of three-volume novels (www.victorianresearch.org/atcl) with over 5200 titles.

Sarah Blythe (M.A. 2007) has been biding her time administrating for the Philosophy Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In August, she will be joining the English Department at Carolina to finish her Ph.D.

John Bruni (Ph.D. 2003) is an assistant professor of English at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. He recently has published an article on Jack London’s dog novels and has forthcoming articles on Henry Adams’s *The Education of Henry Adams* and thermodynamics and literature. He is a delegate for the MLA literature and science division and is the international arts representative on the committee to set up a research and teaching chair in scientific and technological literacy in the Canadian university system.

Emily Donnelly (Ph.D. 2008) is assistant professor of English at Park University in Parkville, Missouri, where she teaches courses in writing and rhetoric. In fall 2009, she will add to her duties a new role as Program Coordinator for Writing.

This summer, Crystal Gorham Doss (Ph.D. 2003) will be finishing her dissertation, which examines addiction in 20th century American literature, and is planning to defend her dissertation and go on the job market this fall. She is also very proud to announce the birth of her daughter, Wilhelmina, in February. Her email address is crgorham@buffalo.edu.

Paivi Giannios (M.A. 2001) (maiden name Hongisto) is currently living in Olathe, Kansas, with her husband Dino and two children, Michael (4) and Anna (1). After having left KU in 2004 to go to Finland for the birth of her son, Paivi mainly focused on taking care of and spending time with her immediate and extended family. In 2004, after Michael’s birth, Paivi’s family also spent time in Greece with her husband’s family. They returned to the U.S. in 2005, and have since established a home in Olathe, Kansas. In 2005, in order to combine work and spending time with her son, Paivi started working at a daycare center. She took care of children of all ages from infancy to preschool kids for three years. The experience was entirely different from her previous work experience, but it was rewarding and fascinating, and her favorite thing to do was reading children’s books to and with little people eager to learn! In 2008, Paivi’s daughter Anna was born, and she stopped working at the daycare center to stay home with her children for the time being. Although currently happy to stay home with her kids, Paivi continues to love reading and sharing her reading experiences with her friends, and she still misses the intellectually stimulating literary environment that she learned to appreciate and enjoy during her years at KU as a student and a GTA.

Angela L. Glover (Ph.D 2008) accepted a position as a visiting assistant professor at Simpson College, in Indianola, Iowa, where she also serves as the Writing Tutor Consultant.

Daniel A. Hoyt’s (Ph.D. 2004) short story collection, *Then We Saw the Flames*, was published in May 2009 by the University of Massachusetts Press. Hoyt is an assistant professor at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio.

Jenny Noyce (M.A. 2006) is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in English at the University of Oregon in Eugene. She is narrowing down her areas of interest, and hopes to eventually do her research and teaching in the fields of Postcolonial Studies and 20th century British and Irish literature.

William Pitsenberger (B.A., 1969, M.A. 2001) retired as senior vice-president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. He is now associated with the law firm Newbery, Ungerer & Hickert in Topeka, and continues to teach health law and policy at Washburn Law School and to seek the always-elusive goals of improving his flycasting and curing his slice.

Nedra Rogers (M.A. 2008) has learned that her poetry manuscript (and thesis project), *Soul’s Night Out* has been accepted for publication by Woodley Press. Her essay, *Mammalian*, originally published in *Fourth Genre*, received honorable mention in *Best American Essays 2008*.

Kimma Jean Sheldon (Ph.D. 2001) (formerly Dirks) is a Medical Editor in Lenexa, Kansas. She lives in Overland Park with her little terrier and best friend, Dewey.

Doug Steward (Ph.D. 2000) is Associate Director of MLA Programs and the Association of
Deborahs 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 in English departments. His article “Taking Liberties: Academic Freedom and the Humanities” appeared in Profession 2008. He has also published in journals such as Academe, ADE Bulletin, ADFL Bulletin, African American Review, Callaloo, and Literature and Psychology. Doug lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

Shawn Thomson (Ph.D. 2006) has forthcoming from Fairleigh Dickinson University Press the scholarly study Fortress of American Solitude: Robinson Crusoe in Antebellum Culture. An Assistant Professor of English at the University of Texas Pan American, Shawn is married to Amy Cummins (PhD 2004), Assistant Professor of English at Fort Hays State University.

Thomas F. Veale (M.A. 2003, Ph.D. 2007) reported to the Third US Army/Army Central Command in April 2009, where he serves as the commanding general’s speechwriter and as the deputy executive officer of the operational command post in Kuwait. The military abbreviation for Kuwait is, appropriately enough, “KU.” He misses his wife, his sons, and Kansas (among many other things). He may be reached at thomas.f.veale@arcent.army.mil.

Carmaletta Williams (Ph.D. 2001) has been named one of the Kansas City Globe’s 100 Most Influential African Americans in Greater Kansas City in 2009.

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