National Playwriting Award Named for Lim

Starting this year, at its national festival in Washington, D.C., The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival will give an annual Paul Stephen Lim Asian-American Playwriting Award, to be governed by KCACTF rules and regulations, and administered by the KU Endowment Association. Lim is being flown in by KCACTF to present the $2500 prize to the first awardee at ceremonies to be held at the Kennedy Center on April 17. Other playwriting awards which are given annually by KCACTF include the Lorraine Hansberry Playwriting Award for plays by African-American playwrights, the Latino/Latina Playwriting Award, the Mark Twain Award, and the Paula Vogel Award. Congratulations, Paul, for fashioning an illustrious KU career that will now include a national legacy.

Promotion and Tenure

The English Department has received official notice that Geraldo U. de Sousa has been promoted to the rank of full professor and Laura L. Mielke has been promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure, both effective 2010-2011. Congratulations, Geraldo and Laura! Additional note: Professor Sousa’s new book, instrumental to his rank advancement, is now being advertised at http://ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&calcTitle=1&title_id=9687&edition_id=12345.

Rolf Potts Visit

Travel writer Rolf Potts will read from his work on Tuesday, 30 March, at 7:00 pm, in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union. Promotional materials for this visit note that “...Potts has reported from over fifty countries for dozens of major venues, including National Geographic Traveler, The New York Times Magazine, Outside, Slate.com, NPR, and the Travel Channel. Rolf is perhaps best known for promoting the ethic of independent travel, and his book on the subject, Vagabonding, has been through eleven printings and translated into several foreign languages. His newest book is Marco Polo Didn’t Go There.”

Publications


Calendar

M 29 Brian Harries, Ph.D. Defense, 12:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe (Bergeron, Hardin, Schieberle, Sousa, Welch).

Philosophy and Literature Seminar, “Poetry, Myth, and Meaning,” Jerry Masinton, English Emeritus, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Humanities Lecture Series, “Afghanistan: Rhetoric and Reality,” Rory Stewart, Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, author, The Places in Between, 7:30 pm, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union; “A Conversation with Rory Stewart,” before the public lecture, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

T 30 SAGE Professionalization Event, for MFA/PhD students in creative writing. Will address publishing, Ph.D. opportunities, and securing a tenure-track position in creative writing. Panel: Tom Lorenz, English, Michael L. Johnson, English, Lacy Johnson, Graduate Studies. 4:00 pm-5:00 pm, 4023 Wescoe.

Reading by Rolf Potts, travel writer, 7:00 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.

R 1 2Cs, 5:30 pm, Johnny’s West (corner of 6th and Wakarusa).

Bathtub Writers’ Collective Benefit, 7:00 pm, Genovese, 941 Massachusetts Street.

S 3 Mid-America Humanities Conference, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, keynote address, “Creating Crises,” Tom Lutz, Chair, Creative Writing, University of California, Riverside, 1:00 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union. Other speakers include Margaux Deroux and Audrey McDonald, English. Conference and keynote address free and open to the public (luncheon extra).

Top City Poetry Festival, featuring numerous past and present KU poets (see “Announcements,” 2:00 pm-7:00 pm, Blackbird (formerly Lola’s Café), Topeka, KS.
Presentations

Graham, Maryemma (with Carmen Tofolla)  
“Stories, Peoples, and Nations: Hearing and Reading America,” Institute of Texan Cultures, University of Texas - San Antonio, 26 March (in conjunction with Graham’s work as the first Senior Research Fellow in UTSA’s College of Education and Human Development).

Kaminski, Megan  
Women & Words Poetry Reading. Women’s History Month Event.
Ethnic and Gender Studies Program, Creative Writing Program, and Performing Arts Board, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS. 24 March.

Accepted for Publication

Ash, Amy  
“Still, Life” (poem). Blood Orange Review.
“Scar” (poem). Rio Grande Review.

McKitterick, Chris  

Announcements, Notes, & News

- The Provost’s office has received a signed contract from Mary Jo Reiff, who will join the KU English faculty in August 2010. Professor Reiff will be featured in a fall edition of the DNB. Thanks again to the search committee, Amy Devitt (chair), Frank Farmer, Jim Hartman, and Cedric Burrows, that orchestrated this successful hire. Thanks also to all those who participated in related hospitality and other events.

- Applications for next fall’s Faculty Research Colloquium on “War and Culture,” directed by Janet Sharistanian, are due Monday, 29 March. See: http://hallcenter.ku.edu/~hallcenter/research/colloquia.

- Dennis Etzel, Jr. reports that The Top City Poetry Festival (see “Calendar”) will feature numerous past and present KU poets: Matt Porubsky, 2:00 pm, Brian Daldorph, 2:30 pm, Amy Ash, 3:15 pm, Amanda Frost, 3:30 pm, Kevin Rabas, 4:00 pm, Joe Harrington, 4:20 pm, Judith Roitman, 4:35 pm, Tom Averill, 6:30 pm.

- Hiring Announcements: We have received word that Anjali Nerlekar (Ph.D. 2007), Jennie Joiner (Ph.D. 2009), and Brian Harries (Ph.D. expected 2010) have been appointed to tenure-track positions at Rutgers University, Keuka College, and Concordia University Wisconsin respectively.

- Big Tent Series: Big Tent has been holding readings on the FOURTH THURSDAY of each month, at 7 p.m., for over a year, at the Raven Bookstore, and features many writers who are current and former Department members. Future Big Tent events include:

- APRIL 22: MFA student Nate Barbarick, fiction + U. of Tulsa faculty Grant Jenkins and Cheryl Pallant, reading from their collaborative poetic work Morphs (Cracked Slab 2009).

- MAY 27: Langston Hughes Award winners: MFA student Amanda Frost; former grad student Amy Stuber; English grad-student spouse Jeff Tigchelaar; and Amy Haake.

KU and Regional Events

- University Theatre continues “4.48 Psychosis,” by Sarah Kane, and “Bedside” by Tosin Morohunfola (original play by KU student), 26, 31 March, 1, 2 April, 7:30 pm, 27 March, 2:30 and 7:30 pm, 28 March, 2:30 pm, Inge Theatre, Murphy Hall.

- Town & Gown Forum: The Long Shadow of the “Great War.” Steven Goddard, Spencer Museum of Art, moderator, 26 March, 10:00-11:30 am, Kress Gallery, Spencer Museum of Art.

- Latin American Seminar, “A Latin American Syphilography: Literary, Medical and Political Discourses,” Juan Carlos Gonzalez Espetia, Spanish, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 26 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

- The Revival of the Renaissance in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, a symposium at the Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, University of Kansas, 26-28 March.

- CTE Event: Teaching Today’s Students #4: “Questions About Grading in an Age of Entitlement: What’s a Teacher to Do?” 29 March, 12-1 pm, 135 Budig.

- Hall Center Special Event, “Charles Crane and the Slavic Lectureship at the University of Chicago (1900-1905),” Pavel Tribunsky, Dean, College of Fine Arts, Ryazan, Russia, 29 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.

- Identities, Cultures, Nations, “Gender, Power, Family, and Fiction: The Question of the Father in Contemporary Québec Literature,” Lori Saint-Martin, Université du Québec à Montréal, 29 March, 4:00 pm, English Room, Kansas Union.

- Latin American/Nature and Culture Seminars, “Gulf of Disease: Public Health in Caribbean Ports in the Early Twentieth Century and the Invention of a Trans-Caribbean Identity,” Heather McCrea, History, Kansas State University, 2 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.