When’s the last time you read or studied a novel by Anthony Trollope? The Trollope Prize was established by an avid (but anonymous) Trollopian specifically to decrease that gap. Originally housed at Harvard University, the Prize is now administered by the University of Kansas English Department, with support from the Hall Center for the Humanities. It is awarded annually to the best undergraduate and graduate essays in English on the works of Anthony Trollope.

Anthony Trollope, the son of novelist Fanny Trollope, lived from 1815-1882. He began writing a first novel in 1843. By the time of his death, he had published 47 novels (and was researching two more). Along the way, he also wrote criticism, short fiction, travel writing, and biography. For 24 of his most productive years, he also occupied a position as a postal official stationed at various places in the United Kingdom. He is best known for his Palliser and Barsetshire novels (six of each), though stand-alone works, such as the masterful The Way We Live Now, were equally popular and esteemed. Though he wrote in several genres, he is most often considered a quintessential realist. Nathaniel Hawthorne found his novels “just as real as if some giant had hewn a great lump out of the earth and put it under a glass case, with all its inhabitants going about their daily business and not suspecting that they were being made a show of.”

Henry James stated, “His [Trollope’s] great, his incontestable merit, was a complete appreciation of the usual...he felt all daily and immediate things as well as saw them; felt them in a simple, direct, salubrious way, with their sadness, their gladness, their charm, their comicality, all their obvious and measurable meanings...Trollope will remain one of the most trustworthy...writers who have helped the heart of man to know itself....” George Eliot credited Trollope’s monumental vision in creating the fictional Barsetshire with giving her the ambition and courage to attempt Middlemarch.

It’s a propitious time to begin offering the Trollope Prize. Though reading and study of this popular Victorian writer’s works never dissipated entirely, his reputation did decline rapidly after his death in 1882. His autobiography, published posthumously, frankly detailed a writing and marketing regimen very much at odds with conventional notions of artistic genius. Trollope revealed a creative process systematically designed to generate a certain number of words per hour toward a rigidly predetermined final product. Where was the inspiration and spontaneity? His style and subjects also seemed antiquated. Intricate realistic depictions of clerical life in cathedral towns? The twentieth century, especially the academy, mostly ignored Trollope. The 2011 publication of The Cambridge Companion to Anthony Trollope is a key step in Trollope’s long climb back to literary prominence. The editors point out that Trollope has never gone out of print. Pockets of loyalists, reading for pleasure and more, kept his flame alive despite the critics’ disdain or, worse, indifference. Now a group of scholars more comfortable with bald authorial professionalism and the ebb and flow of a writer’s popularity and critical reputation have taken up “the great challenge and opportunity to speak to, and of, the insights enabled by Trollope’s persistently bimodal reception.” They argue, indeed, that bimodality is at the heart Trollope’s works themselves. Thus, they paradoxically assert that “Britain’s greatest domestic novelist is gloriously cosmopolitan; that the author behind some of the Victorian period’s most memorable, and conventionally realistic, marriage plots is drawn to their queer, polymorphous, and sensational undertones; that this most familiar and even cozy of novelists is experimental in form and in theme; that the biographer of the Home Counties is acutely aware of modernity’s creeping advent.” Their conclusion? “In a modern world of Ponzi schemes and financial (continued on page 2)
**Message From the Chair**

The University of Kansas is an exciting place right now. Whatever one’s personal reaction to phrases like “Strategic Planning,” there is no denying that every aspect of the university is being examined and reevaluated, and that we are thinking seriously as an academic community about our mission and how we might best pursue it. This kind of process of self-reflection—of revision—is always potentially energizing. We continually strive to be inspiring teachers; to produce scholarship that is meaningful and has an impact; to make the KU campus a stimulating place for our students to be. It is worth taking some time every once in a while to have a conversation about our core goals and aspirations and how we might best get there.

This is exactly what we did last year at the Department level, by going through our external review process. The process began, as I reported in last year’s Update, with our first-ever departmental retreat. We thought seriously at the retreat about the English Department’s strengths and the areas we might strategically target for attention. The next step was the writing of a departmental self-study, in which we attempted to capture what makes us special and unique, and what future directions would make the most sense for us. The process culminated with the visit of our external reviewers, a team of distinguished national scholars, in March. The two-day visit was a remarkably pleasant experience; the reviewers engaged department members at every level in conversations about who we are and, as the cliché goes, “where we see ourselves five years from now.”

I will admit that we’re quite proud of the results of this impartial evaluation. The external review team saw the department as a vibrant and attractive place to be, “due to its many research resources, strong sense of community, and continued commitment to building on areas of strengths”—including early modern English, modern British, Victorian, and nineteenth and twentieth-century American literatures, as well as African American, Latino/a, and indigenous nations literary studies, ecocriticism, and postcolonial studies. Not surprisingly, our external reviewers singled out our sweetness in teaching as a “hallmark” of our department: “Every student with whom we spoke expressed a sense of being nourished, cared for and pushed by their faculty mentors. While students often express gratitude for their instructors, there is obviously a tremendous and special mentoring relationship that has been established and nurtured by the English faculty at KU, for which they should be both proud and recognized.”

At a recent meeting for Chairs and Directors, my ears perked up at a phrase that was used to describe the university’s forward momentum: “relentless incrementalism.” I find this a wonderful description of a whole host of things that academics do. For scholars, “relentless incrementalism” might mean that you write just a little bit every day, but the habit of daily writing translates into a draft of a book chapter at the end of two months. In my job as Department Chair, “relentless incrementalism” means that though I might not feel in any given day that I’ve been able to cross many tasks off my “To Do” list, I can look back over a month and see in retrospect how much I’ve accomplished.

Our department, too, has been engaged over the past year in “relentless incrementalism,” from revamping our website so it looks more engaging, to creating a facebook page so that we can stay in closer touch with our alumni, to establishing faculty “research clusters” so we can share our work in progress with each other and benefit from our colleagues’ feedback, to revising MA and PhD requirements—and generating funds for more research fellowships—to help our graduate students move through their programs in a timely manner. One small (but relentless) step at a time, we are building to be the best possible English Department that we can be.

— Marta Caminero-Santangelo

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**Trollope Prize (continued from p. 1)**

bubbles, of a globe that is ever shrinking and yet prolifically diverse, of human identities that flex in response to unprecedented social pressures, and writing technologies that reveal the entanglements of creativity and automation, the Victorians’ Anthony Trollope has never been more valuable in our efforts to explain ourselves to ourselves."

The mission statement of The Trollope Prize is “to help promote the study of Trollope in college classrooms and to encourage student engagement with both Trollope’s work and Victorian literary history through their own extensive research and writing.” Two prizes are awarded: $1000 to the writer of the winning undergraduate essay (as well as $500 to this student’s faculty advisor to support the development of curriculums that include Trollope) and $2000 to the writer of the winning graduate essay. Recently, the editors of the online journal, The Fortnightly Review, a twenty-first century revival and homage to the iconic Victorian literary journal of the same name that Trollope founded, have stepped in to offer a further modest honorarium to the winning graduate student, as well as publication of his/her essay.

This year’s topic was “Trollope and His World.” Winners will be announced in Fall 2011.

To heighten the profile of The Trollope Prize still further as it enters its second year under KU supervision, the English Department’s 2011-2012 American and British Lecture will feature Trollope scholar Deborah Denenholz Morse, Professor of English at William & Mary. She will visit Lawrence April 1-3, 2012 and speak on the evening of April 2. Professor Morse has just completed a new book, Reforming Trollope: History and Englishness in the Novels of Anthony Trollope. She is also the author of Women in Trollope’s Palliser Novels, the first feminist study of Trollope, and the co-editor (with Margaret Markwick and Regenia Gagnier) of The Politics of Gender in the Novels of Anthony Trollope.

2. Ibid.
4. “Anthony Trollope”
5. A note on The Trollope Prize logo. In 1854, Anthony Trollope, as part of his postal system duties, introduced the UK’s famous red pillar post boxes (they were originally green), which greatly facilitated private correspondence. In He Knew He Was Right, Trollope mischievously creates an elderly character who has no use for these “iron stumps.”
Publishing a book is the academic home run. KU English faculty members hit ten academic four-baggers in the last six months or so, authoring or editing major works that cover a breathtakingly diverse array of subjects in a wide variety of genres. Associate Professor Giselle Anatol is intrigued by pop culture literary sensations. She has edited two collections of critical essays on J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series. Now, she has accorded Stephanie Meyer’s Twilight series the same attention. Bringing Light to Twilight: Perspectives on the Pop Culture Phenomenon has just been released by Palgrave Macmillan. Besides Anatol’s introduction, the volume contains sixteen essays divided into three sections: literary contexts, past and present; gender and sexuality; and class, race and green space. Press notes assert that Anatol’s work “reveals how the Twilight series has fundamentally altered our interpretation of vampires. These essays bring together a broad range of perspectives on the vampire series from gender issues to the genre of Gothic fiction to environmental concerns. Ultimately, this compelling collection provides insights on how we can better “read” popular culture and loosen the restrictive boundaries between pleasure and intellectual pursuit along the way.” Bringing Light also strengthens the overall links between Anatol’s interests in children’s, young adult, and popular literature and her research in Caribbean studies, specifically in relation to the “soucoyant,” a female vampire figure in Caribbean folklore and literature.

Professor G. Douglas Atkins publishes books in bunches. The Department displayed two of his 2010 books last fall, but saved this one for future recognition. Published in September 2010, T. S. Eliot and the Essay brings together two of Atkins’s primary interests.

Baylor University Press notes that the book “offers an original consideration of T. S. Eliot’s essay as a form of embodied thinking. A combination of literature and philosophy, the genre of the essay holds within itself a great tension—that between truth and creative prose. And, as Atkins explains, these conflicting forces of truth and creativity exist not only within the literary format itself but also within the writers and their relationships with the genre, making essay writing a wonderfully enriching ‘impure art.’ Exploring the similarities between Eliot’s prose and poetry with the art of essay writing, Atkins discovers remarkably similar patterns of Incarnational thinking that...
emerge in each. In so doing, he establishes for the first time the essayistic nature of the great poem *Four Quartets* and provides an eloquent reflection on how the essay in all its impurity functions as Incarnational art, an embodiment of truth.”

**Douglas County Jail Blues**, edited by Assistant Professor Brian Dal-dorph, is a collection of poems by more than twenty inmates who attended Dal-dorph’s DCJ creative writing class between 2001-2010. The collection contains an introduction by Mike Caron, Programs Director for the correction facility, and a short foreword by Brian entitled “What Truly Matters.” The book is now in its second printing.

**Professor Maryemma Graham** and Distinguished Professor Jerry Ward, Jr. Dillard University, have combined to edit what Cambridge University Press calls “the first major twenty-first century history of four hundred years of black writing...a comprehensive overview of the literary traditions, oral and print, of African-descended peoples in the United States. Expert contributors, drawn from the United States and beyond, emphasize the dual nature of each text discussed as a work of art created by an individual and as a response to unfolding events in American cultural, political, and social history. Unprecedented in scope, sophistication and accessibility, the volume draws together current scholarship in the field. It also looks ahead to suggest new approaches, new areas of study, and as yet undervalued writers and works. *The Cambridge History of African American Literature* is a major achievement both as a work of reference and as a compelling narrative and will remain essential reading for scholars and students in years to come.”

**The Gift that keeps on giving**, Professor Emeritus James Gunn’s *Gift from the Stars* has recently been translated into Chinese and published by Liaoning Children’s Publishing House in Shenyang, China. The work was originally published in *Analog* in six “novella” installments from 1999-2005. It was then printed as a novel in 2005 by Ben Bella Books (and by Easton Press, in full-leather bound form, as an Easton Signed First Edition of Science Fiction). It remains divided into six parts rather than ten or twelve chapters. Jim states that his novel grew out of his

**“Misticall Words and Names Infinite”: An Edition and Study of Humphrey Lock’s Treatise on Alchemy**, by Assistant Professor Peter Grund, was published in March 2011 by ACMRS (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies) at Arizona State University as part of their Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies Series. Back cover copy declares: “Adding to the few edited early English texts on alchemy, this book presents an edition of Humphrey Lock’s treatise on the philosophers’ stone, the miraculous substance that would turn base metals into silver and gold or cure diseases. The substantial introduction weaves together struggles between competing merchant factions in Russia, the Elizabethan court’s fascination with alchemy, and the origins and evolution of Lock’s alchemical treatise. The book offers new insights into the circulation of alchemical texts in early modern England, the reuse and adaptation of alchemical literature, and the emergence of English as a language of science.”
“mixed reaction” to the 1997 film, *Contact*, which was based on the 1985 book by Carl Sagan, who had praised Gunn’s earlier novel, *The Listeners*, also a story of “first contact.” In his preface to the novel, Jim writes, “I enjoyed the film and yet I felt that it was romantic rather than realistic. . . . *That isn’t the way it would happen,* I told myself, and I was “inspired” to write *Gift from the Stars*, a response not only to *Contact* but to every novel of humans encountering the unknown.” One can’t know if alien civilizations will ever read *Gift From the Stars*, but, in its new Chinese translation, it’s accessible to another 1.3 billion earthlings.

**Wesleyan University Press calls Associate Professor Joseph Harrington’s *Things Come On* “a broken and sutured hybrid of forms, combining poetry, prose narration, primary documents, dramatic dialogue, and pictures. The narrative is woven around the exact same concrete occurrence of the Watergate scandal and the dates of the poet’s mother’s illness and death from breast cancer, and weaves together private and public tragedies—showing how the language of illness and of political cover-up powerfully resonate with one another. The resulting *“amneoir” (a blend of “memoir” and “amnesia”)* explores a time for which the author must rely largely on testimony and documentary evidence—not unlike the Congress and the nation did during the same period. Absences, amnesia, and silences count for at least as much as words. As the double tragedy unfolds, it refuses to become part of an overarching system, metaphor, or metanarrative, but rather raises questions of memory and evidence, gender and genre, personal and political, and expert vs. lay language. This haunting experimental biography challenges our assumptions about the distance between individual experience and history.” Professor Harrington’s chapbook, *Earth Day Suite*, was also published online recently.

**Distinquished Professor of American Literature and Culture Susan K. Harris’s God’s Arbiters was released in May 2011. Those who attended her Hall Center for the Humanities Lecture earlier in the spring got a preview of her research. Publicity from Oxford University Press describes the book in this way: “Mark Twain called it “pious hypocries.” President McKinley called it “civilizing and Christianizing.” Both were referring to the U.S. annexation of the Philippines in 1899. Drawing on documents ranging from Noah Webster’s 1832 *History of the United States* through Congressional speeches and newspaper articles, and the anti-imperialist writings of Mark Twain, Harris keenly assesses the attitudes of Americans and the moralistic rhetoric that governed national and international debates over America’s global mission at the turn into the twentieth century. She offers a provocative reading both of the debates’ religious framework and of the evolution of Christian national identity within the U.S. She also moves outside U.S. geopolitical boundaries, reviewing responses to the Americans’ venture into global imperialism among Europeans, Latin Americans, and Filipinos.”**

**Italian publisher Leconte has published a bilingual edition of Associate Professor William J. Harris’s chapbook, *Personal Questions* (*Domande Personali*). The work inaugurates Leconte’s new series, Strophic Notebooks. A four-page interview with Professor Harris, in Italian only, begins, “Dove vivi, Billy Joe?” A preview document, prepared by the press, notes that *Domande Personali* brings the poetry of William J. Harris to Italy for the first time. It continues, “Harris has been called the Miles Davis of poetry. Whether he writes about family, marital love or social warfare, about the past or what interests him in a risky ‘here and now,’ he knows how to combine humor and politics in a tradition that extends from William Carlos Williams and Langston Hughes to Amiri Baraka.”**

**FSE UPDATE**

This year, FSE has continued its commitment to serving the needs of teachers and students. Along with welcoming Dr. Amy Devitt as the new program director, FSE also began the 2010-2011 academic year with a training session for 200-level instructors on teaching writing and literature. The program also continued to work on the whole-program assessment that will culminate in 2013. This year, the workshop sessions focused on how well instructor assignments from 101, 102, and 200-level courses helped achieve our program goals, which led to more revisions of the course goals for better clarity for instructors. The FSE program also reviewed the course textbooks. The *Brief Penguin Handbook* was kept for another year, and two new textbooks were added for 101 and 102. *Scenes of Writing and Compose, Design, and Advocate* will remain on the list for 101 along with a new addition of *Everything’s a Text*. For 102, *Reading the World: Ideas that Matter* will join *The Curious Reader* and *From Inquiry to Academic Writing*. Finally, the program conducted several workshops about cultural influences in the FSE classroom, one detailing the cultural influences when creating an assignment while another focused on civility in the classroom through an interactive workshop with KU’s Interactive Theater Troupe. Cedric Burrows served as the FSE intern for 2010-2011. Jennifer Nish will begin a year as FSE intern in Fall 2011. We anticipate training about twenty new GTAs this year, fifteen of whom will be new to KU.

■ Cedric Burrows
The Great Migration of African Americans to the North in the early twentieth century included what new Assistant Professor of Playwriting Darren Canady calls a late “mini-leg” that brought his maternal grandmother and paternal grandparents (from Arkansas and Oklahoma respectively) to Topeka, KS in the 1940s. As children, his parents attended school in the tumultuous years before, during, and after Brown v, Board of Education of Topeka. When Canady was 25, he visited the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., one of his favorite places. While strolling through a special Brown v. Board exhibit, he was startled and sobered when he recognized his pre-teen father gazing out at him from a picture of a class at a segregated school.

Though he was initially perceived as shy and quiet, Canady was chosen (by default) to play Martin Luther King in a second-grade play. He amazed his peers and teachers with his animated portrayal. The stage suited him. He performed in every way possible—drama, musical theatre, debate, forensics, choir, even—dare we say it—“community organizing” (he headed an anti-violence organization). He was curious, driven to achieve, and academically successful. College scholarship offers abounded. He settled on Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

At Carnegie-Mellon, Canady thought about majoring in History but eventually declared in Creative Writing. He then pursued an official and an unofficial college education. He did well in his general coursework, wrote fiction in the Arts and Humanities School, and crossed over to write plays in the Fine Arts (Drama) School. But he also joined a guerrilla theatre group named Scotch ‘n’ Soda. Thereafter, by night (and much of the day), he engaged in “crazy work with crazy people.” Never a backstage person in high school, he quickly found himself learning on the job about theatre practice—casting, design, set construction, lights, costuming, directing and so on. He accepted projects no sane individual would contemplate. For instance, he blithely agreed to choreograph a Homecoming production of Hair with an all-freshman cast in just four weeks. His dedication and energy bore fruit on several fronts. Student plays were not workshopped or produced in the C-M Drama School, but Scotch ‘n’ Soda mounted several Canady works in an environment with “lower stakes and greater control.” Then, in 2003, as a study abroad intern for Apples and Snakes, a London performance poetry production company, Canady had a chance to attend high-quality plays and readings regularly in the theatre capital of the world. He was enthralled and resolved to do his best to contribute to the tradition of dramatic literature and performance.

Canady was—quite unusually—admitted on his first try into New York University’s MFA Playwriting Program. Over the next two years, he worked with a prestigious group of instructors, including his thesis director, Marsha Norman (Night, Mother), who taught him how to “push ahead” with his work. He wrote a version of his first professionally-produced play, False Creeds, at NYU. The play won the Alliance Theatre of Atlanta’s Kendeda Graduate Playwriting Award and was produced by that company in 2007. False Creeds evokes and meditates on the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. Canady’s grandmother grew up knowing refugees from this catastrophe who generally participated in an eerie “decision of silence” following the destruction of Tulsa’s African American enclave of Greenwood. The incident remains mostly neglected today. Canady’s thesis project at NYU was a version of Brothers of the Dust, a play with its roots in his Arkansas heritage, just produced in June 2011 by the Congo Square Theatre Company of Chicago to strong reviews.

Canady capped his education by winning a coveted one-year fellowship to attend the Juilliard School, where he made contacts that proved beneficial during three years of work in New York City with several organizations, including a residency with Primary Stages’ Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group. He also began considering university positions since, realistically, playwriting does not generate a living for even its brightest young American practitioners. When, with the retirement of Paul Stephen Lim, a playwriting professorship opened at KU, a school with a national playwriting reputation just thirty miles from home and family, he didn’t hesitate to apply.

In his first year, Canady taught three sections of playwriting and one Intro to Drama. He will teach his first graduate course in the MFA program next spring and will serve as an advisor to a new undergraduate organization, CAST, that focuses on dramatic script analysis. He awaits the Chicago awards season hopefully, as Congo Square Theatre considers touring Brothers of the Dust. Meanwhile, he’s hard at work on a libretto for an opera about John Dillinger and numerous other scripts in various stages of development. In his spare time, he reads, enjoys films of all kinds, and runs for health and inspiration. He’s also gregarious and finds invitations to socialize hard to resist.
In 1990, Reiff enrolled in the English Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas, intending to focus on twentieth-century poetry (specifically William Carlos Williams, Wallace Stevens, and Marianne Moore) and modern literature in general. Instead, she became fascinated with the field of Composition and Rhetoric. After she changed her emphasis, she worked with Amy Devitt, who chaired her dissertation, and with Jim Hartman and Sid Dobrin. She feels very fortunate to have received excellent training and professional development in a stimulating atmosphere in the English Department at KU. In addition, the friendships and associations she enjoyed with her fellow graduate students at that time have blossomed into continuing intellectual pursuits and professional collaborations.

Reiff received her doctorate in 1996 and was immediately hired as an assistant professor of English at Youngstown State University in Ohio. She liked the department and gained administrative experience as Director of Composition, but felt compelled to look for another job when YSU’s switch to a 4/4 teaching load left her with little research time. She accepted a position at the University of Tennessee in 2000, advanced to the rank of associate professor in 2004, and served for eight years as UT’s Director of Composition, all the time maintaining an active research agenda. She participated heavily in Tennessee’s policy formations regarding general education and writing across the curriculum. In the meantime, she earned coveted awards for teaching excellence, mentoring, and service. Then, in 2010, following a national search to fill an advanced position in Rhetoric and Composition, KU English offered her an opportunity to return closer to home and family and to her alma mater. She accepted.

Reiff has had terrific students at KU. In 2010-2011, her class in multimedia rhetoric generated numerous ingenious digital portfolios. Her course in public writing, which stimulated blogs, a class website, and even letters to congressional representatives, became a forum for lively discussions of local culture and campus issues. A sophomore-level class entitled “Composing Cultures” required students to prepare mini-ethnographies that examined their participation in various “communities,” i.e. a group of bikers, the KU women’s rowing team, rock climbers, pre-law students, etc. One student traced his integration into the society of Allen Fieldhouse overnight basketball ticket-seekers. Reiff also taught the graduate-level Introduction to Composition Studies and has begun working on exam, thesis, and dissertation committees.

Outside of the classroom, Reiff enjoys outdoor activities, like gardening, hiking with Dan and Gracie (their beloved cocker spaniel), and camping locally and regionally (while she misses the Great Smoky Mountains, she is happy to be nearer to the Rockies).

Reiff’s dissertation focused on audience theory, and this research led to her first book, Approaches to Audience: An Overview of the Major Perspectives (Parlor Press, 2004). The book provides an overview of the multiple locations of audience, from the readers imagined or invented by writers, to the textually inscribed readers, to the culturally-situated “real” readers. Besides synthesizing multiple perspectives on audience—rhetorical, cognitive, textual, and social—the book proposes a more complex view of “multiple audiences” that acknowledges the various and shifting roles of readers.

In addition to articles published on audience theory, rhetorical genre theory, and critical ethnography, Reiff has also co-authored two writing textbooks and recently co-authored a book (with Anis Bawarshi) that provides an overview of rhetorical genre studies and genre research, entitled Genre: An Introduction to History, Theory, Research, and Pedagogy (Parlor Press, 2010).

Reiff’s current research focuses on a public genre, the petition, and traces the historical evolution of this genre, which has been used to seek redress for grievances related to a number of social and economic inequalities—from environmental issues to civil rights issues to labor issues. Her research examines how the rhetorical interventions of petitions enable (and sometimes limit) a space for forging alliances and coalitions within cultures, providing insights into the interaction between discursive action and social change.

FACULTY NEWS

This year, Giselle Anatol published a chapter, “Children’s and Young Adult Literatures,” in The Cambridge History of African American Literature. In addition, Anatol’s newest edited collection of essays has just been released from Palgrave Macmillan: Bringing Light to Twilight: Perspectives on the Pop Culture Phenomenon features writing from scholars from around the world, including current and former KU graduate and undergraduate students. The vampire theme crosses over from Anatol’s study of children’s/young adult literature to her interests in Caribbean and African-American literature, and she continues to work on her booklength manuscript, The Things That Fly in the Night: Images of Female Vampirism in Literature of the African Diaspora. Since the last installment of Update, she presented at two conferences: a paper on the use of technology, especially the virtual world of Second Life, in the English classroom, at Toni Morrison and Circuits of the Imagination (Paris: November 4-7, 2010) and a paper on metaphors of race and ethnicity in the Harry Potter novels at Literary London 2010: Representations of London in Literature (London: July 7-9, 2010). At the
English Department awards celebration, she was delighted to have won the Mabel S. Fry Teaching Award.

G. Douglas Atkins published another book during 2010: *T.S. Eliot and the Essay: From The Sacred Wood to Four Quartets* (Baylor University Press), and it was selected by *Faith and Theology* (Australia) as one of the two best books of the year in literary criticism. He reports also having an excellent teaching year, his 334 in E.B. White turning out to be one of his all-time favorites. Meanwhile, he continued collecting first editions, concentrating on White and Eliot. Daughter Leslie (theatre) served as Interim Associate Dean at Boise State, and son Christopher as graduate director at Queens College and CUNY Graduate Center (art history); his first book has now been accepted, and Leslie is at work on her third. Grandkids Kate and Oliver bring much delight, pleasure, and joy, as does Doug and Rebecca’s beloved Cavvy Millie.

Katie Conrad enjoyed her first full year as Director of English Undergraduate Studies, having been seduced into the position by the power promised by the acronym. This year, she and Dr. Mary Klayder, in cahoots with the advising specialists from the College, Bailey DeReus and David Nickol, piloted the first orientation sessions to the major, where important information about the major, such as the secret English handshake, was passed along to initiates. Katie also gave two well-received lectures this year about the Irish holdings at the Spencer Research Library, and is planning to take it on the road to Boston and Chicago in 2011-12. This summer, Katie plans to work on her new project about technologies of perception and raise chickens in her backyard.

Highlights of the year for Dorice Elliott included receiving a Kemper Award and a Hall Center Research Fellowship. With a sabbatical, this meant a full year to work on “the book,” which has been languishing for far too long. She also took a trip to London (for research) and to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (for fun), as well as many trips to Lincoln, NE to visit her aging mom. She also published two articles in book collections, one on Elizabeth Gaskell and servants, the other on contemporary Native literature in American literatures. This year also saw the publication of her co-written essay on the links between early and contemporary Native literature in American Literary History, and the acceptance for publication of another essay in the edited volume *Native Acts: Indian Performance, 1603-1832* (University of Nebraska Press, 2012). An Angeleno transplant, she presented a paper on the Anishinaabe language texts at the MLA in Los Angeles, and was surprised to find that she couldn’t wait to get back to Lawrence.

Iris Smith Fischer’s book *Mabou Mines: Making Avant-Garde Theatre in the 1970s* appeared from the University of Michigan Press in March. It traces the first ten years of the theatre company celebrated for their creative collaborations with writers, artists, dancers, and musicians. In April she attended the company’s fortieth anniversary, held at the Paula Cooper Gallery in Manhattan where the company performed their first original piece, *The Red Horse Animation*. Fischer is now working on a project that brings together her interests in theatre, semiotics, and performance theory. Tentatively titled “Peirce and Performance” after the founder of U.S. semiotics, Charles Sanders Peirce, the project develops tools for 21st-century theatre analysis by meshing Peirce’s performance-based approach to semiotics with approaches drawing on cognitive studies. Fischer stepped down in July 2010 as editor of the *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*. She continues, though, to teach American drama, the avant garde, semiotics, and literary theory to both graduates and undergraduates. She is always glad to hear from former students!

Highlights of the year for Stephanie Fitzgerald included receiving a Kemper Award and a Hall Center Research Fellowship. With a sabbatical, this meant a full year to work on “the book,” which has been languishing for far too long. She also took a trip to London (for research) and to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (for fun), as well as many trips to Lincoln, NE to visit her aging mom. She also published two articles in book collections, one on Elizabeth Gaskell and servants, the other on Australian settler narratives.

In August of 2010, Stephanie Fitzgerald moved from a joint position with the Global Indigenous Nations Studies Program to a full time appointment with the English Department, where she continues to teach courses in American Indian and American literatures. This year also saw the publication of her co-written essay on the links between early and contemporary Native literature in *American Literary History*, and the acceptance for publication of another essay in the edited volume *Native Acts: Indian Performance, 1603-1832* (University of Nebraska Press, 2012). An Angeleno transplant, she presented a paper on the Anishinaabe language texts at the MLA in Los Angeles, and was surprised to find that she couldn’t wait to get back to Lawrence.

Thanks to a very welcome semester sabbatical in the fall of 2010, Doreen Fowler was able to complete work on a book manuscript and submit it to the University of Virginia Press. The book project, tentatively titled “Fathers at the Border: Race, Gender, and Community in Southern Literature and Culture,” explores the role of liminal, in-between figures in the cultural production of racial, gender, ethnic, and other identities. During the year as well, two of her articles were published. “‘Nobody Could Make It Alone’: Fathers and Boundaries in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*” appeared in *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*; and “Flannery O’Connor’s ‘Productive Violence’” appeared in *Arizona Quarterly*.

On the teaching front, she is looking forward to teaching a new course in the fall of 2011, English 709, a graduate class in race and gender theory.

The academic year 2010–2011 was marked by transition in Peter Grund’s research: two long-term projects came to an end and a new project began. He saw the publication of his book *Misticall Wordes and Names Infinite*: *An Edition and Study of Humphrey Locke’s Treatise on Alchemy* (MRTS, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies), and the finishing touches were put on the co-authored book (with Merja Kyto and Terry Walker) *Testifying to Language and Life in Early Modern England*, including the CD *An Electronic Text Edition of Depositions 1560–1760* (ETED) (John Benjamins). The KU Hall Center awarded him (and his collaborators Margo Burns and Matti Peikola) a competitive seed grant to start up a new project that will chart the recorders of the Salem witch trials. Grund also continued to pursue his interests in the language of alchemical texts and of the Salem witch trial documents, resulting in two articles accepted for publication and four conference presentations.

Joe Harrington’s book *Things Come On (an amneoir)* was released by Wesleyan University Press on its poetry series in April. It is a multi-genre account of his mother’s death, intertwined with the Watergate political scandal, which happened at the same time. *Things Come On* was chosen by poet Camille Dungy as a selection for *The Rumpus* magazine’s Poetry Book Club for March. In February, Harrington read from it as part of the Wesleyan UP poetry panel at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Washington, D.C. Professor Harrington was the Hall Center Creative Work Fellow last fall, when he did work on the other three volumes in a series of books about his mother’s life and times. His serial poem *earth day suite* was published as a chapbook by Beard of Bees Press in Chicago (free download: http://beardofoe.com/harrington.html). Harrington has continued to serve as Director of Graduate Studies. He will take a sabbatical in Spring 2012 during which he hopes to complete several writing projects.
Susan Harris has had a busy service year. Besides working on four University and College committees and task forces, she also began a stint as the Job Placement Officer for the English Department’s graduate students, coaching job applicants on writing letters, constructing vitae, and negotiating phone, conference and on-campus interviews. She also helped host visiting scholars Lawrence Buell and Paul Lauter. Harris gave two Hall Center talks: the first on “Mark Twain’s Love Letters” and the second, the annual Humanities Lecture, on Mark Twain and the Philippine-American War. She also gave papers at the American Literature Association and American Studies Association conventions. She taught two courses that especially interested her: a course in American immigrant literature, and another on Mark Twain and his world. Harris also published one article and two chapters during the year. Her new book, God’s Superstition: Native Acts, was released by Oxford University Press in May. She would be grateful if readers of this entry would go online to the Amazon ad for the book, and to click the “I want to read this on Kindle” box to the left of the title. She thanks you!

Paul Stephen Lim was so impressed by the students in the last playwriting class he taught in Spring 2010, he submitted many of their Ten-Minute Plays to various playwriting competitions, and was thrilled when two were selected for further competition. Two plays were also featured at the annual convention of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education in Chicago. At the ATHE convention, he was also the respondent for the New Play Development Workshop/Showcase. At the KCACTF national festival in Washington D.C. last April, Lauren Yee of UC-San Diego was the second recipient of the annual Paul Stephen Lim Asian-American Playwriting Award. In retirement at last, Lim is now finding more time to work on his own plays, to frolic with his 14-year-old arthritic dog, to catalogue the 7000-plus DVDs in his eclectic collection, and to remember things past in his “memoir in flux” at http://paulstephenlim.com. He says a problem he is having with this memoir is whether or not to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about his 42 years in Lawrence and in the department.

Laura Mielke returned to the classroom this spring after spending the fall at home with her new daughter. Thankfully, the bright, engaging students in English 800: Introduction to Graduate Study in English made that transition a touch easier. In March, Laura joined Stephanie Fitzgerald and Philip Barnard in Philadelphia for the Society of Early Americanists conference, where she chaired a panel on Native Acts and presented a paper on Superstition, an 1824 witch-hunt tragedy by James Nelson Barker. Also in the spring semester she co-taught a Hall Center workshop on “Getting Your First Book Published” with Brian Donovan of KU Sociology. Over the course of the year, Laura and her co-editor, Joshua David Bellin, completed work on Native Acts: Indian Performance, 1603-1832, which will appear January 1, 2012 (or so they’ve been told).

Laura Moriarty spent the fall semester working on her fourth novel, The Chaperone, which will be released by Riverhead Books early next summer. The story is mostly set in the 1920s, with the main characters — including the silent film star Louise Brooks — traveling from Kansas to New York City. Having a semester to research and write was the bee’s knees, but come spring, Laura was excited to get back in the swing of teaching in the current century. She taught two new nonfiction courses, one for undergraduate students and one for graduate students, and she had the privilege of reading the thesis work of several talented MFA students, some working on fiction and some working on nonfiction.

Anna Neill continued to serve as Associate Chair this year. She finished writing her book manuscript, “Primitve Minds: Evolution and Spiritual Experience in the Victorian Novel,” and began a new project. The new work focuses on responses to 19th-century theories of childhood in children’s and speculative fictions. In March, she published a review article, “Soul Shaking Science,” in The Evolutionary Review. She was also honored to begin her three-year tenure as a Conger-Gabel Teaching Professor.

Misty Schieberle spent most of 2010 drafting chapters of her book manuscript, Feminized Counsel: Women Counselors in Late Medieval English Advice Literature, which she hopes to complete in 2011. She presented papers related to the project at such exotic locales as the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and the New Chaucer Society Congress in Siena, Italy. Misty continues to enjoy teaching and working with graduate and undergraduate students at KU. The class of 2010 selected Misty as a finalist for the Honor for Outstanding Progressive Educator (H.O.P.E.) Award, and she taught her first graduate seminar in Fall 2010, an introductory Middle English class called “Getting Medieval: Chaucer and His Contemporaries.” Additionally, Misty and her husband Mike also celebrated their first wedding anniversary and look forward to many more.

With Ted Wilson of the history department, Janet Sharistanian co-directed a 2010 five-week NEH Summer Seminar for School Teachers on America and the Great War. She also published an article on Willa Cather’s use of Joan of Arc in her World War I novel, One of Ours.

Phil Wedge continues to teach courses in 19th-20th Century British Literature and in Sports Literature. He plans to teach a course in Austen and Hardy in the fall. He presented a paper on “Hercule Poirot and the Sport of Crime” at the Sport Literature Association Conference in June 2010 at Penn College of Technology. He also continues to be Poetry Editor of Cottonwood and helped redesign the magazine for issue 68 (Fall 2010). Phil also helped coach his son George’s Central Junior High chess team to the K-9 State Championship this year.

Help Create Opportunities

In this time of financial challenges to the quality of education at KU, please consider supporting a scholarship, award, or some other opportunity for students in English at KU. Tax-deductible donations for these purposes or for discretionary use may be submitted online at kuendowment.org. If you prefer, you may mail your contribution (specify it is for English) to Nancy Jackson, Development Director, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Kansas University Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928.
Morrison Marathon

Professors Giselle Anatol and Maryemma Graham helped the KU Langston Hughes Center organize and carry out a 24-hour reading marathon of the works of novelist Toni Morrison in honor of Morrison’s 80th birthday. Among the readers was Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. The event, held at Anschutz Library, began at noon on Thursday, February 17, and concluded one day later with participants devouring a birthday cake. The Bluest Eye and Sula were read in their entirety, followed by large selections from Song of Solomon, Tar Baby, Beloved, Jazz, Paradise, Love, and A Mercy. The Morrison celebration followed in the tradition of previous marathon readings of Herman Melville and James Joyce.

Visiting Writer

Emerging novelist and story writer, Joshua Cohen, taught three classes in the MFA program in Spring 2011. Cohen is the author of three novels: Witz (2010); A Heaven of Others (2008, second edition 2010); and Cadenza for the Schneidermann Violin (2007). He has also written three story collections. In a review in The New York Times, Stephen Burn described the 800+-page Witz as “a linguistic extravaganza that negates reader expectations” and called the novel “a brave and artful attempt to explore the limits of the sentence.” During his time at KU, Cohen was awarded the 2011 Baltic Writing Residency in Riga, Latvia.

Barnard Promotion

In 2010-11, Associate Professor Philip Barnard applied for and successfully earned advancement to the rank of full professor effective Fall 2011. Barnard has researched and taught in the KU English Department since 1989. He has served as Director of English Graduate Studies twice, once interim and once full-term, and is legendary for the number of graduate students with whom he works. (He has chaired twenty doctoral dissertations in four separate KU units since 2002). He is also an award-winning teacher. Since 2007, he has been engaged in co-editing the principal novels of early American author Charles Brockden Brown (Edgar Huntly, Arthur Mervyn, Wieland, and Ormond). These four works are now available in a handsome collection from Hackett Publishing. He is also the primary organizer and manager of Brown’s online bibliography and served from 2008-2010 as the elected President of the Charles Brockden Brown Society.

New Literary Magazine

Last year, graduate students in the M.F.A. and Creative Writing Ph.D. programs created a brand-new, self-governed literary journal, Beecher’s Magazine, and produced an inaugural issue with a limited-edition, open-stitched binding. That first installment, Beecher’s One, is now for sale online and at bookstores in the New York City area; it contains work by many talented writers, including Joshua Cohen, Lincoln Michel, James Yeh, Rebecca Wadlinger, and Yelena Akhtiorskaya.

Beecher’s mission is to offer graduate students a chance to work within a real-world publishing model, and to continue growing the M.F.A. program at the University of Kansas, which was recently ranked 60th in the nation by Poets & Writers (the U.S. contains roughly 830 M.F.A. programs; this puts KU’s M.F.A. in the top 7% of programs. The English Department is also conducting a national search to add a professor of fiction writing this year.) At Beecher’s, the editors build relationships with authors, solicit work, and manage editorial responsibilities—that is, the students handle everything from production budgets to promotional events.

For more information on Beecher’s Magazine, upcoming events, reviews, and content, please log on to www.BeechersMag.com.
Of Kansas in the early 1990s with energetic but vague plans to study language, writing, and related areas. Since I had been away from academe for a few years—working with my hands and body rather than my head—I had little sense as to what doctoral studies in these areas might entail. But once I walked into Hartman’s seminar, and saw the feast of ideas, fun, and good, hard labor that was offered, I was fully convinced that these areas were where I wanted to dedicate my professional and intellectual energies. By mid-semester that spring, I was hooked on language—and Hartman was the one who convinced me without doubt that this was a field of study worthy of full-time—even a lifetime—commitment.

This first story continued the following year, when several students from that seminar initiated an English Language group that met bi-weekly for the next two years—joined by Hartman, of course. In the group, we read about language history, theory, and use, and discussed, debated, and challenged another to think and learn and teach in fun and exciting ways. Thus, the \textit{World Englishes} seminar continued long after the semester’s end—just as Hartman’s influence on my own thinking and understanding about language has continued for many years.

The second story—an anecdote—comes from near the end of my time at KU. Hartman was a key member of my comprehensive exam committee, and then supervisor of my dissertation. During a meeting to discuss some part of the dissertation, Hartman stated that he “might and well” do something (no memory of what, specifically); when I remarked on having never heard that particular phrase (though I grew up with lots of other regionalisms and familyisms), Hartman responded: “my dialect.” That balance of regional and local identity—whether Ohio Valley or Kansas Midwest—combined with academic and everyday smarts, and nearly continuous joy and play with language stay with me as defining traits of Jim Hartman, teacher and language scholar extraordinaire. I read echoes of this anecdote again and again in the collection of “Hartmanisms” that \textit{Erin Williams} solicited from Jim’s former students: we all have our own Hartman words, encounters, and lessons we hold with us as we move away and onward. (An aside to all former students: I hope that these few words of tribute do some kind of justice to your own experiences with Hartman.)

Finally, four other significant Hartman traits must be briefly noted. The first is his steadfast service to the English Department, the College, and the University. As summarized on his CV, Hartman’s service work could be characterized as “frequent, quiet, and effective.” Anyone who has known Jim as a colleague, or served with him on committees or professional initiatives large or small, would have to agree. No arguments there. The second trait is that Hartman’s scholarship will stand beyond his lifetime (as he phrases this point): his work with the Dictionary of American Regional English and with Cambridge University Press will provide dialect and language scholars with challenges and discoveries for generations to come. And, as many reading this \textit{Update} know, Hartman often took to the stage during EAT performances over the 20 years of the theatre group. (Was his stage work practice for his teaching, or the other way around?) And last, among his many other traits, Hartman is an ardent KU basketball fan, sharing the highs and lows of every Jayhawk season; doesn’t that belong on his CV somehow?

It astounds me to look back on my KU experience and realize that Jim Hartman was my teacher for only one academic course—that \textit{World Englishes} seminar my first year at Kansas. Hartman’s influence on my thinking, intellectual curiosity, and professional development runs much, much deeper than one course would suggest.

My Uncle Fred—an autodidact farmer and lifetime learner/teacher—used to say “parts on hand is the mother of invention.” And, though the two men never met, this often seemed an apt description of Hartman’s teaching—he’d pretty much grab any idea, any bit of information, any cultural reference, and turn the thing into a teachable moment, often a stunning point of clarity, of reference—even reverence. And always fun.

Here’s hoping that Hartman’s language fun and learning continues, long after these few words of praise.

\textit{—Scott Hendrix (Ph.D. 1999)}

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\textbf{Retirements}

Professor James Hartman researched and taught in the KU English Department for 41 years. He specialized in English language studies, particularly American speech. He received numerous teaching awards, including a Kemper Fellowship, directed KU’s Writing Center for close to a decade, and served as Chair of English from 2000-2003. Professor Scott Hendrix, Director of the Writing Center at Albion College, was one of Hartman’s Ph.D. students. He wrote the following appreciation.
who served for many years as Coordinator of Graduate Studies during Mike’s chairmanship, echoes Don’s sentiments: “Mike Johnson is a Renaissance man: the most brilliant person I have ever known, the most efficient manager of time I have ever known, an exemplary administrator, a boon companion, and a steadfast friend.” (Together, Mike, Don, and Doug formed the “Three Amigos” at MLA.) Author of a shelf-full of books of wide-ranging scholarship, criticism, and creative work, as well as numerous articles, reviews, and virtually hundreds of individually-published poems (his fifty-page CV records an amazing number of honors for his work at all levels), the breadth of Mike’s endeavors is astonishing, and distinguishes him as a world-class scholar, author, and teacher. Even his chili recipe wins prizes.

Fresh from his Ph.D. from Rice University (his dissertation on William Empson won the John Gardner Award), Mike began teaching in the department in 1969, and for the next four decades gave tirelessly of himself in service at all levels. His creative, dynamic, and collegial leadership in the positions of Associate Director (1972–81) and Director of First- and Second-Year English (1981–84, 1992–93, 2000–10), as well as a long and incredibly productive tenure as Chair (1984–96), continue to shape and define the identity of the Department. A short list of these contributions must include the following: the creation and implementation of bold hiring plans; continuous revision of the curriculum to meet the changing needs of the University; introduction of courses focusing on current social and cultural issues; establishment of the annual Multicultural Literary Institute; active recruitment of women and minority faculty; successful fundraising for student/faculty awards and scholarships; participation on countless University, College, and departmental committees; service on scores of graduate-level exam and dissertation committees; and more. In brief, Mike’s leadership, vision, and humane wisdom have been instrumental in raising the department’s reputation, one of his goals. Former Chair Jim Hartman, who also retired this year, remarks that “Mike’s contributions as Chair over so many years confound my sense of the doable. A large department places extraordinary demands on that position, yet Mike guided, prodded, cajoled, informed, and managed us with wisdom and patience. He read everything we wrote. He understood what we were up to and couched his reactions in meaningful ways, shaping both individuals’ careers and the nature of the Department as well.”

But Mike’s natural genius in the classroom is what many of us remember most and value best about his years in the Department: his thorough commitment to the teaching of literature and composition, the training of budding scholars and future teachers, and the coaching of creative writing. In this setting Mike was in his true element, obviously joyous, and he brought to the classroom a gifted repertoire of pedagogical skills. Typically, Mike guided his classes rather than dominated them, encouraged us to develop and give the best of ourselves, and heuristically challenged us to pursue creative and rigorous avenues of research in the construction of new knowledges. For Mary Klayder (Ph.D. 2008), Mike validated the synergism she has always brought to the profession: “Mike helped me remember that everything I did for my teaching was also valuable in itself, that the writing, reading, thinking, scholarship, and creative energy had a place in my work and that I should give time to that work as well.”

In January, Mike joined wife Kathleen (MFA 2008) in their new home in Santa Fe, where Kathleen edits the New Mexico Poetry Review. Michael serves as an associate editor and speaks enthusiastically about a special New Mexico state centenary issue that will feature cover art and poems by N. Scott Momaday. At home now in “sky land,” Mike continues to write, of course, but now has more leisure to pursue his longstanding interest in gourmet cooking, spend time with his cousins, and avoid the endless celebrity-spotting that seems to have turned Santa Fe into an annex of Beverly Hills.

In Momaday’s memoir of his New Mexico childhood, The Names, there is a wonderful snapshot of the author as a very young child held by his grandfather as they are being photographed by his father, AI, who was instrumental in teaching “Scotty” about his identity; the caption reads: “My grandfather and I regard my father, who casts a long shadow.” That shadow of influence, itself prominent in the photo composed and framed by its taker, is something of a visual metaphor for the enduring legacy that Michael Johnson has bequeathed to us—herself. In the words of Jim Hartman, “What we are as a department is very much a product of the extensive knowledge, skills, and talent of Mike Johnson.” For all that you are and all that you gave us, Michael, we thank you.

■ Stephen Evans (Ph.D. 2000)

In the mid 1960’s a young Paul Stephen Lim was still living in the Philippines and working as a copywriter for J. Walter Thompson Co. when an international client’s account was assigned to his team. The task? Come up with a new advertising slogan.

In Professor Lim’s recounting of the story, he argues that his submission was obvious given the fact that the marketing plan provided to his team repeatedly referred to the product as a “non-cola” drink. So when that assignment finally came due, Paul’s submission for 7-Up’s new slogan was, “The Un-Cola.” The rest is history.

Professor Lim has a unique perspective on the world; through his eyes 7-Up’s future was obvious. That same ability is reflected in his writing, his career in academia, and most importantly his work with students.

As a writer, Paul Stephen Lim has experienced a great deal of success at both the regional and national level. Most recently, his play Report to the River won the top prize for playwriting at the Edward Albee Theatre Conference. In 1976, his play Compersonas was selected as the best original play at the Kennedy Center American
College Theatre Festival. Fast forward twenty years to 1996 and you would find Paul Stephen Lim standing on that same stage in Washington DC receiving the Kennedy Center gold medal for contribution to theatre in Region V of the KCACFT.

Paul’s dedication to both the University of Kansas and his students has repeatedly been honored by organizations around the country. KU has recognized Professor Lim for his work with students five times. Those awards include everything from an English Department award for excellence in teaching, to being selected for a Chancellors Club Teaching Fellowship. Nationally, Paul has received numerous accolades for his work with students. In 2008, the Playwrights Program of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education honored Paul with their Outstanding Teacher of Playwriting Award. In 2010, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival recognized Paul as an “Outstanding Producer and Mentor.” Most recently the KCACFT has commemorated Paul’s contribution to their organization by naming a national playwriting award in his honor. The Paul Stephen Lim Asian-American Playwriting Award was presented for the first time at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. in 2010.

As a writer and educator, Professor Lim has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to the development of talented young writers. Paul has a talent for seeing things that other people simply overlook. Just as Paul intuitively understood that the obvious slogan for 7-Up was the “Un-Cola,” he similarly recognized the potential in his students’ work. He then challenged them to go further than they thought possible and provided them with opportunities to showcase their talents on a larger stage through the English Alternative Theatre, an organization dedicated to the production of student works.

Paul’s keen sense of perception has resulted in numerous aspiring playwrights in the KU English Department being thrust into the regional and national spotlight. Since 1994 Paul’s English Alternative Theatre has sent thirty-one students to present their work at regional festivals, and has subsequently seen at least nine of those student works selected as national finalists for awards including the David Mark Cohen National Playwriting Award, the Lorraine Hansberry Award, and many others.

I was fortunate enough to be among the thirty-one students that Paul and his English Alternative Theatre Company developed into something more than just a scholar, a writer, or a theatre enthusiast. As a teacher, mentor, and friend Paul Lim has changed my life. He set me on a path that I didn’t realize was in front of me; he opened a door, I walked through it and my life changed.

Due in no small part to my work with Professor Lim, I now work at one of the premiere destinations for up and coming playwrights in the country. Every day when I arrive at the theatre I think of Paul Lim. I think of the English Alternative Theatre and what Paul has done for students with that organization—and though I am saddened to hear of EAT’s demise following Paul’s retirement, I am heartened to know that Paul’s dedication to new works and the next generation of playwrights carries on with his students—myself included.

I take great pleasure knowing that Paul’s commitment to theatre and the arts is now shifting back to the creation of new works. As a playwright, Paul possesses a unique voice and vision that has helped turn many of his students into artists. His ability to weave everyday experience with meaning and purpose leads audiences to places they are not always prepared to venture.

I like to think of Paul’s retirement as the third act in a play. During Act I we saw the upwardly mobile young copy writer innovating simple but brilliant slogans for a soft drink manufacturer. In Act II, we all became bit players in Professor Lim’s meteoric career in academia as he created EAT and won numerous awards from national organizations for the arts. As we open Act III, we find Paul Stephen Lim, the playwright, developing new works to share with world. I am excited to see that play... as a member of his audience, and as someone who is proud to call Paul a friend, I look forward to his next Act I, scene one, curtains rise...

In Memoriam

Associate Professor Emerita of English Edwyna Gilbert died on April 27, 2011. She taught English and English Education at KU from 1965-1993. She also served as CLAS Associate Dean for High School Relations. A renowned teacher, she won several prestigious teaching awards, including the Outstanding Educator Award and the H. Bernard Fink Award. Following her retirement, she remained extremely active in KU organizations, serving at various times as head of the Friends in Council, the KU Friends of the Library, the Endacott Society, and the Hall Center for the Humanities Friends Council. In 2005, she received the Mildred Clodfelter Alumni Award for sustained volunteer service from the KU Alumni Association.

“Bloom Where You’re Planted.” These words are on a framed postcard I received from Edwyna Gilbert once when I was recognized for teaching (I still keep it in my Wescoe office). With it, she attached the small newspaper clipping announcing the news and a note that just said, “Go Klayder!” Over the years I received a number of these notes and any clipping that contained my name for whatever reason. There was always a post-it or a postcard with a direct and encouraging note. No schmaltz. Just direct encouragement. Edwyna Gilbert provided that kind of support for me and for hundreds of other teachers, friends, and colleagues over the course of her career. She paid attention to what happened to other people and recognized their strengths.

Edwyna was there to welcome me in several stages of my career and I am sure I speak for many other people as I recall those moments. When I returned to KU after two years in Colorado to get my teacher certification, I met Edwyna, who had taught junior high English with Earl Reum, the man who nudged me to teach in the first place. At Earl’s encouragement, Edwyna took me under her wing and gave me the courage to do something new with my life. She made me feel like it was the most natural step I could take. When I completed my Masters degree in English Education, Edwyna pulled me aside and told me to go on in English, sending me to chat with John Willingham, another person who encouraged me on my way. And then, in 1985, when I decided finally to leave high school teaching for good, Edwyna was there at my side, teaching an NEH Seminar with Jim Hartman, another huge influence in my life. My path was set. She continued to be there as a supporter as I took on new challenges – for instance, when I applied for my position at the Honors Program, she sent a note to Mike Young, the Director, telling him “Choose Klayder.” That’s all. But Mike always remembered it and shared it with me after I was hired.

Edwyna Gilbert taught me one of the most important things I learned in being a good teacher. She taught me to make connections, to provide those connections to my students, and to delight in the successes of everyone I teach. Every note she sent me over the years
reflected that delight. As an influence on future secondary English teachers, she was masterful at recognizing her students’ particular abilities as teachers. I had the privilege of supervising student teachers with her the year I completed my Masters Degree in Education. We had wonderful conversations about what each student teacher brought to the classroom and she taught me how to nudge them when they needed to toughen up a bit or explore new avenues in the classroom. Those lessons have profoundly affected my teaching in the thirty years since that collaboration as I am sure they affected every student teacher she mentored.

In 1985, the year I returned to KU and the English Department, Edwyna also returned to the English Department and the College. She taught children’s literature and talked often of the fun she had teaching those courses. She retired early to spend time with her husband Bill in his last years. After his death she began what amounted to a new career of community leadership. She brought the same energy and support to the KU retirement community, traveling on the organized excursions, attending countless concerts at the Lied Center, and providing friendship and her own special energy to daily life. Her commitment to the academic community and to her own background in the Humanities was apparent in her work with the Friends of the Hall Center and as Chair of the Board of Advocates for KU Libraries. She was as busy in retirement as in her work as a professor.

The last time I saw Edwyna, we were in the parking lot by Danforth Chapel. I had recently emailed her about the death of Earl Reum, the person who connected us in the first place. We stood for a few minutes in the parking lot, both on the run, and talked about him, about their antics as young idealistic junior-high English teachers and how much those experiences affected her approach to teaching over the years. I was able to say that she had provided that kind of freedom for me as I recounted this memory: One day in a language arts methods class, in the long-ago fall I returned to get my certification, I imagined her jotting a short but encouraging note; we were to listen and think. This was to be no ordinary thing. He built his argument with more words: tiffany, radiance, and gradually Shake- speare’s own words took on light and meaning. In a very real way, I have not yet awakened from that dream of late summer.

The first time I saw Dennis Quinn he was sitting on a stool next to his longtime colleague and friend John Senior. They were perched on a stage in old Bailey Hall above some 200 students attending the first day of their Western Civ. class on the Great Books. I was older than my fellow students, having dropped out of college some thirteen years before to live in a commune in Detroit. I had then taken on a series of jobs: lawn maintenance, driving dump trucks and concrete mixers, roofing, grave-vault making, and so on. Eventually I became a carpenter for eleven years, married, and began to raise a family. One day a friend told me about a class at the University of Kansas that taught the Great Books. I quit my job, took up nighttime newspaper delivery to pay the bills, and headed for KU.

The first thing Dennis Quinn announced to the class that day was that we were not to take notes; we were to listen and think. This was to be no ordinary class. The two professors then launched into a vivid discussion of the wonders of poetry. Quinn said that “poetry gives the emotions a rational form. The poet doesn’t just want to feel emotion, he wants to know it.” But rather than engaging in a long, jargon-filled analysis of poetry, the two professors stopped and said we needed to learn poems “by heart.” Then they proceeded to teach us how to memorize a poem. Right there, 200 of us memorized “O western wind when wilt thou blow? The small rain down can rain;/ O Christ, that my love were in my arms,/And I in my bed again.” I’ve never forgotten that poem and many more poems we were required to memorize over the next four semesters.

The two professors then engaged not in lecture, but in a vivid conversation about Homer’s Odys- sey. It’s a story, they said, about a man’s longing for home, about loyalty and family, and the direct encounter with the physical world. Somehow, the conversation strayed into a brief discussion about the absurdity of 3.2 beer, about the ancient love of ornament and beauty, about the Muses, and the mystery of things. I was hooked. I loved those classes that were a part, but only a part, of the Integrated Humanities Program, that taught thousands of students to love literature, art, astromony, calligraphy, dancing, music, travel, and more. Those classes changed our lives.

That same semester, I took Professor Quinn’s undergraduate Shakespeare class. The weather outside still carried the heat of summer as we read A Midsummer Night’s Dream. I had hated Shakespeare in high school, but here were words I had passed over. He spoke of fancy and told us that during the Renaissance the word held within it a sense of splendor and ornament; he said the poets saw a glory and a freshness in ordinary things. He built his argument with more words: tiffany, radiance, and gradually Shake- speare’s own words took on light and meaning. In a very real way, I have not yet awakened from that dream of late summer.

In following years I took almost every course Doctor Quinn taught: poetry classes, children’s literature classes, four Great Books classes, graduate classes in 17th-century lyric poetry, Medieval and Renaissance poetry. Each time I grew intellectually without losing the direct encounter with the physical world. Somehow, the conversation strayed into a brief discussion about the absurdity of 3.2 beer, about the ancient love of ornament and beauty, about the Muses, and the mystery of things. I was hooked. I loved those classes that were a part, but only a part, of the Integrated Humanities Program, that taught thousands of students to love literature, art, astromony, calligraphy, dancing, music, travel, and more. Those classes changed our lives.

Dr. Mary Klayder is Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies and Honors Lecturer in the KU English Department. She teaches and advises literally hundreds of KU students every year.

Steven Faulkner
Steven Faulkner is Assistant Professor of English at Longwood University. "Watermark: A Passage of Ghosts" (2008), his account of a 1000-mile father-son canoe trip that traced the route of French explorers Joliet and Marquette, has just been made into an independent film.
1950s

Rev. Patricia (Pasha) Hafer Buck (MA '58, MSEd '52, MA English '53) is retiring after 40 years at UALR. She has been a wonderful base for me through the years. I cherish my memories of Carroll Edwards and Ed Wolfe. It was my Kansas farm house that is on the cover of Wolfe’s Cottonwood 40, drawn by ‘my Chinese son’ He Zili while he was at KU.”

John Richard Nold (BA ’51, MA ’57) published 2 books through Xlibris Corporation in late 2010. One was a collection of sketches and stories from the 50s and 60s entitled The Ocean Roars. The second was an interracial love story entitled The Counterfeit Madonna. The latter is dedicated to the Kansas University English Dept. where Mr. Nold was teaching as an Assistant Instructor when the first draft of the novelette was written.

Bill Sollner (MSED ’52, MA English ’53) is SOLDIERING ON for Worthy Causes!

1960s

Jane Aitkens (MA ’63) says, “my MA in English is a distant memory, but two outstanding professors—Dr. Elizabeth Schultz and Dr. Edward Ruhe—remain vivid as influential examples of benevolent intellect. Upon eking out this degree, I was an English instructor for several years at the Univ. of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez but eventually dropped out of teaching. For the last 21 years I have achieved some kind of local fame on the west coast of Puerto Rico as the gringa who sells shaved ice. Providing my community with a cheap treat gives me satisfaction. At the same time, I find it educational to be in contact with customers, I read, usually contemporary fiction. All ages, backgrounds, and classes. In between time teaching, a 3-year term as co-director of the first-year composition program, and many years as undergraduate academic advisor for the department’s majors, she plans to retire in December 2011. Suzann (swbarr@ualr.edu) would love to hear from former KU friends.

Charles Walker Bassett (Ph.D. 1964) passed away on October 19, 2010, after a long illness. After receiving his doctorate at KU, he taught for five years at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1969, he moved to Colby College to teach American literature and American Studies, assuming the directorship of Colby’s American Studies Program in 1971, a post he held for 25 years. He was also Chair of the Colby English Department in the 1980s. He was appointed Dana Professor of American Studies in 1983, then Lee Family Professor of English and American Studies from 1994 until his retirement in 1999. Bassett was a superb teacher, specializing in American fiction, earning the first Senior Class Teaching Award at Colby, an award that was later renamed for him.

Beginning in the fall, B.H. (“Pete”) Fairchild (BA ’64, MA ’68) will be splitting his time between Claremont, California and the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. He has poems forthcoming in Yale Review and Ploughshares and an essay, “A Midwestern Poetcs,” forthcoming in New Letters. “Logophilia,” also an essay that appeared in New Letters, recently received a Pushcart Prize. Finally, and most importantly, his daughter may now be addressed as Dr. Sarah Fairchild.

David Leon Higdon (PhD ’68) is again offering his “History and Theory of Dreams” in the Honors College of the University of New Mexico. After seeing Wandering into Brave New World into press, he is working on “Countertexting Novels,” a study of rewrites of British novels. His main accomplishment during 2010, however, was recovering from three cancer surgeries and more radiation treatments than he cares to remember.

In 2008, Ann Drummond Hughes (MA ’62) published a volume of maritime history, So Ends This Voyage: The Sailing Vessels of Trufant & Drummond of Bath, Maine. The book was praised by a reviewer for the extensive research and the quality of the writing. Ann has been married for 46 years to another former English Professor.

Leslie Freeze Johnson (BA ’63, MA ’64) moved to Topeka in 2008, after retiring from Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Tulsa, where she conducted clinical trials and wrote research protocols using new combinations of chemotherapy drugs for various forms of cancer. With her three Delta Society Pet Partner therapy dogs, she visits Stormont-Vail Cancer Center, the Topeka VA Hospital long-term psych ward, Lawrence Memorial Hospital, and several schools. She says she is rewarded by visiting the cancer patients at Stormont-Vail and the vets who are being treated for PTSD and other disorders at the VA and by helping the cute kids who are trying to improve their reading skills. Leslie enjoys being a Shawnee County Master Gardener, as well. This summer in her home garden she’s trialing new varieties of tomatoes, peppers, and squash for K-State Research and Extension, in addition to growing her own heirloom vegetables and perennials. She serves also as a Stephen Minister at First Presbyterian Church in Topeka.

Frank Kelly (MA, ’69, PhD Theater and Drama ’78) wrote the sketches and lyrics for the satirical revue Xmas! The Xpose! which was performed in December 2010 at The Duplex Cabaret in Manhattan.

This spring, JoAnn Johnson Klemmer (MA ’63) received the honorary degree Doctor of Literature from Washburn University, Topeka, KS. She was also selected as recipient of the 2010-11 President’s Award from Hastings College, Hastings, NE.

Mary Duhamel Kramer (PhD ’69) recently retired after teaching Medieval & Renaissance literature at UMASS for 40 years.

James F. La Valley (MA ’66) published his treatise on Paul Invades Rome this June, available through Amazon.com. He dove-tails Scriptures and historical facts revealing Paul’s implementation of Great Commission principles, where half the New Testament was written from his two year seminary nearby Nero’s palace. Freedom Quest, a trilogy of American revolutionary adventures, should soon be available from Amazon.com.

Alexander D. MacGibbon (PhD ’60) died on March 11, 2010.

Sherry Anne Mowrer Newell (MA ’64) continues to be active in the arts community of Lawton, OK, as participant, performer, and volunteer, serving on various boards and as Faculty Co-Sponsor (30 years) of the Cameron University Magic Lantern Film Society. Sherry is also active in various environmental activities both locally and nationally, as well as various charitable organizations.

Paul A. Parrish (MA ’68) is retiring after 40 years of full-time teaching, 37 of them at Texas A&M University. Effective September 1, 2011, he will be Regents Professor Emeritus of English at Texas A&M and will continue his commitment...
to various writing and editing projects, including his work as Chief Editor of the Commentary for The Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne, published by Indiana University Press.

1970s

Thomas Fox Averill (BA ’71, MA ’74) continues as Writer-in-residence and Professor of English at Washburn University of Topeka. His What Kansas Means to Me: 20th Century Writers on the Sunflower State was the State Library’s Read Across Kansas selection and he visited over 25 libraries in the spring of 2011. His novel, rode, was published by the University of New Mexico Press in July 2011, and in the Spring of 2012, UNM Press will reprint his Secrets of the Tsil Cafe. His short-short stories about gardens—“Garden Plots”—continue to find homes in literary journals. He has one more year as interim chair of his English Department.

At age 67, Barry Baddock (MA ’72) has published his first novel: Nomads’ Rest (Troubador Publishing, UK). Much of the story takes place in a forgotten “rest home for theatrical gentlefolks” in Barry’s East Anglian homeland. The rest is located in the fictitious town of Prairie Flood, Kansas. Yes, Kansas. And the entire load of rubbish has been dedicated to Gerry Wilson (PhD, ’81). After a friendship of 41 years, Gerry is now wondering what he did to deserve this.

Phyllis Bixler (PhD ’76), having retired from Missouri State University in 2002, is moving from Springfield, MO, to a retirement community in Bluffton, OH (location of the college she attended and where she later taught) and closer to her family. New address: 814 Red Maple Court, Bluffton, OH 45817.

Dean Bevan (PhD ’71) enjoyed another year of retirement and his so-called career of theater, including a turn as FDR in Annie, having his latest play, Grim Reaper, performed in five theaters from Florida to Seattle, and serving on the boards of two local theaters. In May 2011, Dean and wife Judy took a 3000-km driving tour through central Europe, finding that his graduate-reading requirement German still worked in Germany and Austria (though less so in the Czech Republic).

James Bogan (PhD ’79), continues to ply the professorial trade at the Missouri University of Science & Technology. In the fall semester, he ran the weekly film festival. (Winters’ Bone is almost as good as the book.) He also taught “Artists at Work,” with special emphasis on Blake and Benton. During spring semester he was on a research leave. As he said to the Chair(man), “My Brazil book—Bound to Belem—needs a conclusion.” “So what is it?” asked the Chair(man). “If I knew that, I would not need to go back to Brazil.”

After six weeks of jungle and city, he found two conclusions. Lord willing and the computers don’t fail, the book should be out in the autumn with a conclusion and a finale.

Lisa Browar’s (MA ’76) third year as president of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering and Technology was a typically busy one filled with travel and fundraising on the Library’s behalf. High points included attendance as a delegate to the International Federation of Library Conferences annual meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden in August, and the receipt of a coveted grant from the NEH’s Save America’s Treasures program to restore a collection of original materials documenting the construction of the Panama Canal. Additionally, she was appointed to her first term on the Board of Directors of the Missouri Center for the Book.

After 13 years at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, David Cicotello (MA ’77) is now Associate Vice Provost for Admissions and Enrollment Services at Middle Tennessee State University. (And yes, he reintroduced himself to Tom Strawman, Chair of English at MTSU, whom he knew as a fellow TA in the KU English department during the late 70’s). He continues to publish on baseball history (Mysteries from Baseball’s Past, McFarland, 2010, with Angelo J. Louisa) and is general co-editor in charge of McFarland’s series on historic ballparks. However, “I consider my greatest accomplishment this year (or any other) is that I spent six days in No Man’s Canyon, Utah, after a rappelling accident killed my brother and left me stranded until rescued 145 hours later.” Interested readers of the Update can google “David Cicotello Utah” to learn more about his story of survival.

Richard Harp (BA ’67, PhD ’75) is Chair of the English Department at UNLV. The state of Nevada has been hit by the worst fiscal crisis in its history but so far the department has not lost any of its members. Richard continues as co-editor of the Ben Jonson Journal, which he started at UNLV and which is now published by Edinburgh University Press. This year, he contributed a chapter to the Oxford Handbook on Ben Jonson and is working on a book chapter for Ashgate on the communal aspects of Jonson’s drama. He has five children (ages 37 to 9) and four grandchildren, scattered from southern California to Chicago, and his wife Margaret is a professor of French at UNLV. His father, Dick Harp, former basketball coach at KU, is scheduled to be inducted posthumously into the Kansas Athletic Hall of Fame in October, 2011.

Patricia Cleary Miller (PhD ’79), is serving her second three-year term as chair of the Humanities Division at Rockhurst University, where she is Past Chair and Professor in the Department of English. As in past years (decades, really), she teaches six courses a year, including Composition, Creative Writing, and surveys of Greek & Roman Poetry and of Medieval & Renaissance Literature. In addition, in three-year rotations, she teaches Americans in Paris, Faulkner, Modern Drama, and Modern Poetry. She continues to edit the Rockhurst Review, which accepts manuscripts from 15 September to 15 January, for late spring publication. She also continues as poet laureate of the Harvard Alumni Association. Her recent work includes a new collection of poems titled The Maori Never Age.

Gary Mitchell (MA ’72), Professor Emeritus from Independence (Kansas) Community College, retired in 2003. He has subsequently written a book (The Convergent Zone) about life during his Peace Corps years in Fiji (1968-70), including family letters, journal entries, and notes to and from Creede (Colorado) Repertory Theatre. He is a free-lance theatre and music critic for the Independence Reporter and still active in theatre. This summer he returns to Creede Rep for the first time since 1972 to act in two productions.

Paul W. Nisly (PhD ’74), continues to teach at Messiah College on a very part-time basis, this year teaching a course for majors, American Literature before 1900, a favorite of his. He and his wife have also enjoyed some travels, including a two-week European Anabaptist history tour in several countries last summer. The trip culminated with the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany. Then, in December, Paul officiated at a wedding in Honolulu for former students. Because they were already “on the way,” Paul and Nancy travelled on to Melbourne, Australia to visit Nancy’s sister for several days. Finally, they spent five lovely days in New Zealand before returning to wintry Pennsylvania.

Wayne Pounds (PhD ’76), on sabbatical leave from April 2011 to March 2012, regrets that the March earthquake forced the cancelation of the Tenth International Milton Symposium, which was to have been held at his university (Aoyama Gakuin U., Tokyo). He had anticipated lulling the assembly with a teaser called “Milton and Methodism.” In April and May, he mined his archives to produce two POD books, an oral history called North of Deep Fork: An Oklahoma Farm Family in Hard Times and a book of poems called Oklahoma Elegies: Chronicles and Family History, a spinoff of the history book. He is giving a presentation on “Ezra Pound and the ‘Cowardly Surrealists’” at the Ezra Pound International Conference in London this July.

Ron Pullins (BA ’67, MA ’70) continues to manage his publishing company, Focus. Forthcoming titles this year include one-time KU authors
Ken Rothwell (King Lear and now-published Merchant of Venice) and Ron Willis (KU Department of Theater, Fragile Magic: The Theatrical Reponent). His plays, long and short, have had readings or productions in Boston and NYC. Two short plays, Pemberton and The Recyclist, will be included in an Association for Theater in Higher Education publication this summer, The Recyclist and Other Plays.

David Radavich (PhD ‘79) has just completed a term as president of The Thomas Wolfe Society, only to assume the presidency of the Charlotte Writers’ Club. He also serves as poetry editor of Deus Loci. His latest book, Middle-East Mezze, was published earlier this year by Plain View Press and focuses on Iraq, Palestine, and Egypt.

This month Eiki Senaha (PhD ’77) visited Keimyong University in South Korea to enhance the international student exchange between Meio and Keimyong universities. It was a great joy to hear that KU is a sister institution of Keimyong University. On July 1, he will deliver a keynote speech on “Recovery from Disasters and International Cultures in Okinawa” at the 19th International Cultural Studies Society of Japan.

Francis and Grace (Hendrickson) Strong (both MPhil ‘74), have retired and continue to live in Ironwood, Michigan, where they have been for the last 20 years. Fran served as a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for 29 years; over the years Grace has taught part-time at several schools and owned and operated a small business. They have three grown children: Andrew (Mika), a teacher in Japan; Phil, an engineer in Ironwood; and Katie an attorney in Alaska. A first grandchild is on the way! Travel, cycling, gardening, rug weaving, catching up on reading (particularly mysteries), skiing, snowshoeing, music (Fran plays cocktail piano), and more time for each other have filled the first months of retired life.

1980s

Virginia (Ginger) Brackett (PhD ‘88), Associate Professor, continues to serve as department chair for English and Modern Languages at Park University, where she also directs the Degree with Honors Program and the Ethnic Voices Poetry Series, a Missouri Arts Council grant-funded initiative. In October, 2010 Brackett was one of four graduates honored by Pittsburg (Kan.) State University with the 2010 Outstanding Alumni Award. She remains active in conference presentations and in publishing; her Facts on File Companion to Mary Shelley will be published in 2012. She and her husband Edmund, who serves as Director of Sponsored Programs at Park, continue to enjoy their three granddaughters and also traveling. They celebrated their 20th anniversary in May, 2011, in Paris.

Andrea Broomfield (BA ‘87, MA ‘89) was honored to be invited to UMKC’s annual Cockefair luncheon last August, where she gave a lecture entitled, “The Night the Good Ship Went Down: Three Fateful Dinners Aboard the Titanic, and What They Tell Us About Class, Power and Nationalism.” This work came from her recently published article in Gastronomica on the same topic. Andrea was also invited to do two series on Victorian literature this past year for the Waldo and the Plaza branches of the Kansas City Public Library. Andrea has worked as a Professor of English at Johnson County Community college since 2001 and is currently developing an honors seminar on food in United States history and literature that she will co-teach next academic year.

Following the success of Keith Coplin’s (PhD ‘89) novel, Crafton’s Fire, published by Putnam & Sons and nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2005, Coplin has been working studiously on his next novel, The Planter’s Daughter, an epic effort set in Louisiana in the years 1845-1875. He’s 90,000 words in with 40,000 to go, but, being retired from a forty year teaching career, he has both time and motivation finally to concentrate on his writing. He misses his friends at KU, particularly Janet Sharistianian, who guided him through his dissertation on Ernest Hemingway.

Clare Cross’s (MA ‘88) book Goodnight Keith Moon, which last year was just a gleam in the eye of the internet, has been published by Word of Mouth Press. The book, co-authored with Bruce Worden, focuses on the death of Who drummer Keith Moon and was described as “morbidly funny” by The New Yorker. Clare has also joined the Ann Arbor Sword Club and fences with modern foil, English rapier, and German long sword. Critics, take note.

Keeping in Touch

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<th>Those interested in locating old KU friends and instructors should contact the University of Kansas Alumni Association at <a href="mailto:kualumni@kualumni.org">kualumni@kualumni.org</a>; fax: 785/864-5397. Please report changes of address here also. Following are relevant websites and addresses:</th>
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<td><strong>General KU Information:</strong> <a href="http://www.ku.edu">http://www.ku.edu</a></td>
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<td><strong>English Department home page:</strong> <a href="http://www.english.ku.edu">http://www.english.ku.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>English Department e-mail:</strong> <a href="mailto:english@ku.edu">english@ku.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Department is now on Facebook at “KU Department of English.”</td>
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Beth Impson (PhD ‘88) continues to teach at Bryan College in Dayton, TN, where she has turned writing center administration over to other colleagues in order to focus on teaching. She has been especially privileged to regularly teach courses in Gerard Manley Hopkins’ poetry and in the writing of the familiar essay, and has been developing an upper-level composition course to be part of the college’s revised core curriculum. She is looking forward to a sabbatical in spring 2012, when she hopes to complete a collection of familiar essays. She would enjoy hearing from KU colleagues at impsonbe@bryan.edu.

Jim Jones (MA ‘87) owns and teaches at Office Careers, a computer/clerical school for adults with disabilities. This year is the school’s 20th anniversary! In 2009 he published Capito Punishment: 1980-1984, A History of Nebraska Punk. He lives in Seattle with his partner of eight years.

In February, Colby H. Kullman (PhD ’81) was awarded the Mississippi Humanities Council’s “Scholar of 2011” at their annual banquet in Jackson, Mississippi. Colby will be retiring in June 2012 after twenty-seven years in the Department of English at The University of Mississippi where he has taught Restoration and Eighteenth-Century English literature, modern drama, and practical approaches to the teaching of writing.

Chuck Marsh (PhD ’85) is the Stauffer Professor of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas. In 2005, KU seniors named him the university’s top professor (HOPE Award). His research focus on the applicability of classical rhetoric to modern strategic communication began when, for his dissertation on Tristram Shandy, he looked up aposiopesis and discovered it wasn’t scandalous. He and his wife, Kris, live in Lawrence with their children Gillian, 15, and Will, a KU junior.

1990s

Kaye Adkins (MA ‘85, PhD ‘98) has been promoted to Professor, effective August 2011, at Missouri Western State University. In October 2010, she was elected as Treasurer for the Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication. Her co-authored textbook Technical Communication Fundamentals was released in spring 2011.

Jesse Aleman (PhD ’99) earned promotion to Professor of English at the University of New Mexico, beginning fall 2011. After serving as an Associate Chair in the department for two years, he is stepping down to focus on two projects, “Wars of Rebellion,” a book on U.S. Hispanic writings about the American Civil Wars, and “The Latino Nineteenth Century,” a co-edited collection of essays. His essay, “The
Invention of Mexican America,” is set to appear in *The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century American Literature* (Oxford UP). He has also enjoyed a series of teaching awards lately at UNM, including the College of Arts and Science’s award for Teaching Excellence; the Outstanding Faculty Member award given by the English graduate students; the Wertheim Award for Outstanding Faculty Member of English given by the faculty of the English Department; and the Outstanding Faculty Member award given by UNM’s Graduate Students of Color.

Patrick Enright (PhD ’95) has been promoted to the rank of full professor at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma.

Chris Haven (MA ‘93) is Associate Professor of Writing at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. This year he had poems in *Ascent*, *Zócalo Public Square*, *Fugue*, *KNOCK*, *Tulane Review*, *Meadowland Review*, *Two Review*, *Linebreak*, *Smartish Pace*, *Grist*, *Juked*, *DMQ*, and *Kansas English*, and a story in *The Huffington Post*. He also collaborated on a photography/poetry exhibit titled “Ghetto Heaven” for ArtPrize in Grand Rapids.

Daniel J. Martin (PhD ’97) continues to teach at Rockhurst University, where he is associate professor and chair of English. In 2010 he received the university’s Teaching Excellence Award. This summer he was awarded a Rockhurst Presidential Grant to write a series of “retold stories,” essays anchored in the telling and retelling of his mother’s and father’s stories. His oldest son, Joey, is completing an accounting degree at Rockhurst, and twins, John and Phil, are attending Saint Louis University.

Jeannie Lugo (MA ’96) is a Lecturer in English at Valdosta State University. She is also the co-founder and chairperson of the Core Matters Conference, an interdisciplinary conference on issues in general education.

Janet Rose (MA English ’94, PhD American Studies ’01), is VP Planning & Insights for Saatchi & Saatchi X. Rose continues her career in advertising and her writing for *American Studies and Business History*. Rose currently is a member of the Saatchi & Saatchi X Worldwide Strategy Board and a member of Paragraph, a writer’s group in New York City. She remains committed to the magical world of words and ideas.

Jim Welsh (MA ’65, PhD ’96) will co-direct a summer program in Ireland along with KU classmate D. Heyward Brock (MA ’65, PhD ’69) for the University of Delaware. They both entered the KU “V-6” program in 1963. Welsh also completed a book in 2010 with Tom Erskine (MA ’63) entitled *The Encyclopedia of Sports Films* for Scarecrow Press. Welsh and Erskine are both emeritus professors who taught for over 30 years for Salisbury University in Maryland, where they created an academic journal, *Literature/Film Quarterly*, in 1973.

David Whalen (PhD ’92), was appointed Provost of Hillsdale College in January of 2011. He had served as Associate Provost for seven years. He still continues to teach, albeit at a reduced load, courses in Victorian and Early Modern literature and to pursue research on the relation of philosophy and literature. As a liberal arts institution, Hillsdale College is known for its independence from government funding and its traditional curriculum. David and his wife, Janet, (KU, ’83) have eleven children. They recently returned to KU to attend the funeral of their friend and professor, Dennis Quinn.

2000s

John Bruni (PhD ’03) is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of American Literature at Grand Valley State University and a book review editor for *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology*.

Christopher Dick (PhD ’09) was the 2011 recipient of the Clarence R. Hiebert Excellence in Teaching Award at Tabor College, where he was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Language and Literature.

Paivi Giannios (maiden name: Hongisto) (MA ’01) currently lives with her family in Olathe, KS. After having stayed home with her two children, Michael (6 years old) and Anna (3 years old), she has now started work as the Writing Coordinator at Rockhurst University Learning Center (KCMO). It has been a great first year at Rockhurst; training writing tutors and working with student writers has been a rewarding experience. Visiting Lawrence and KU is something she’d like to be able to do more often—she is glad she recently had an opportunity to attend one of the English Department’s events honoring professors who were retiring. All in all, Paivi’s year has been a good one, a year including both time spent with her children and working in an inspiring environment.

Jessica Isaac (MA ’09) is beginning her third year of study for the PhD in Critical and Cultural Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. She is working in the fields of childhood studies and composition on eighteenth and nineteenth-century children’s writing and the methods adults developed for representing children’s speech. She is embarking on her project exams this summer and hopes to complete them next spring.

Janet Majure (MA ’01), had two books released in 2010, *Teach Yourself Visually WordPress* (Wiley), and a novel, *Without Ceremony* (Lulu). She currently is teaching copy editing online through the University of California-San Diego Extension and pursuing assorted editing and writing projects as a freelancer in Lawrence.

Marlin Schaich (PhD ’02) just finished his eighth year as Associate Professor in the General Education Department at Nebraska Methodist College (Omaha, NE). As just one of two full-time English faculty members at a college that is devoted to health-care majors, he keeps busy teaching a variety of courses, from developmental English to technical and professional writing. He also directs the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program, a faculty development initiative that continues to receive strong administrative support. Marlin just completed a two-year term as President of Faculty Senate at the College.

Simone Sessolo (MA ’06), a PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature at UT Austin, continues to write his dissertation: “Crime and Narrative: Violence as a Master Narrative in Contemporary Crime Fiction” (Directed by Dr. Katherine Arens). He has been awarded a University Continuing Fellowship for the 2011-2012 academic year. The University Fellowship is one of the highest honors awarded to a graduate student at The University of Texas.

Joe Sommers (PhD ’07) started out as an Assistant Professor in English at the University of Central Arkansas, where he remained with his wife until the birth of their daughter, Maggie, in 2009. Since then, he has moved on to Central Michigan University (same rank) where he is working with other Children’s and Young Adult Literature Scholars on forming a PhD Program in Children’s Literature and Education (or lord only knows what we’re calling it). He is happy to announce that his first book (on the works of Alan Moore) will be coming out in 2012 from McFarland Press! A second book is being looked at by Palgrave right now. In addition, he has published three articles and five book chapters.

LTC Thomas Veale (PhD ’07) returned from a deployment to the Middle East in May 2010, and he has been stationed at the Pentagon since then. He is an Army public affairs officer in a joint assignment.

2010s

Sheryl Craig (PhD ’11) has just published an article, “Northanger Abbey: Money in the Bank,” in *Persuasions*, the journal of the Jane Austen Society of North America. Another article, “Above ‘Vulgar Economy’: Money in Emma” is being reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism* due out in the fall. Sheryl is the editor of the Jane Austen Society of North America’s newsletter and has been invited to
be the Jane Austen Society of North America’s 2012 Traveling Speaker for the Central Region of the U.S. and Canada. Sheryl is still teaching in the English department at the University of Central Missouri.

**Dennis Etzel, Jr.** (MFA ‘10) lives with his beloved and two sons in Topeka, Kansas, where he teaches at Washburn University. He is Co-Managing Editor for Woodley Press, Poetry Editor for *seventyfive*, and hosts the Top City Poetry Reading Series. Poems have recently appeared in *Denver Quarterly, BlazeVOX, and Coal City Review*.

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**DONORS**

Sincere thanks to the following contributors to various Department funds during the last three years:

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