



Graham, Devitt Awarded Prestigious Professorships

Over the summer, two professors in the KU English Department received word that they had earned further high distinctions at the University. In June, **Maryemma Graham** was named one of three new **University Distinguished Professors**, effective Fall 2012. Provost Jeffrey Vitter stated, "The title is a very significant honor. . . . Appointment as a University Distinguished Professor is a reflection of many valued accomplishments and contributions to KU that range from excellence in the classroom to ground-breaking research." Until this year, University Distinguished Professors were appointed only when a position became vacant. Nominations for these positions will now be accepted on a bi-annual basis. Publicity regarding these three professorships cited Graham's work as founder and director of the Project on the History of Black Writing, her ten books, and her numerous achievements in public outreach in the humanities, including the Langston Hughes Poetry Project; Language Matters (an international teaching initiative); and the recent Haiti Research Initiative. Also in June, **Amy Devitt** was named the second **Frances L. Stiefel Professor of English** by a selection committee comprised of members of the KU English Faculty Evaluation Committee and two faculty members from other departments. The three-year professorship honors a Depart-



Maryemma Graham



Amy Devitt

ment of English full professor who has generated a distinguished record of research, teaching, and service. Devitt has published several pioneering works in rhetoric and composition and her name is almost synonymous with the influential study of genre in that field. She has won Grier, Fry, Conger-Gabel, and Kemper Awards for her teaching, and has held a Chancellor's Club Teaching Professorship since 2007. She currently serves as Director of First- and Second-Year English – AGAIN! Devitt previously held the same demanding position from 1994-2000. From 2005-2008, she was a member of the Executive Committee of 4Cs (Conference on College Composition and Communication). Congratulations, Maryemma and Amy!

New Faculty

Kij Johnson and **Tony Bolden** were formally welcomed as members of the KU English faculty at the annual Kick-Off/New Faculty Welcome Reception held on Tuesday, 21 August, in the Jayhawk Room of the Kansas Union. Johnson's hire as Assistant Professor of Fiction Writing followed a national search that concluded last spring. Since that time, she has completed her MFA at North Carolina State, published a collection of stories that was favorably reviewed on NPR, and won an astounding third straight prestigious Nebula Award for science fiction writing (for her novella, "The Man Who Bridged the Mist"). We're impressed! Be sure to stop Professor Johnson in the corridors or clothesline her on Jayhawk Boulevard as she zips by on her moped to congratulate her on her new appointment and accomplishments. Tony Bolden joins the Department as a courtesy professor. An associate professor of African and African American Studies at KU, Bolden's research interests in African and African American literature, music, and popular culture have already brought him into contact with many students in English. This appointment will facilitate cross-listing his courses and make him more readily available to serve on student committees in English. Welcome, Kij and Tony.



Kij Johnson



Tony Bolden

Calendar

- N 26 Taproom Poetry Series**, featuring **Michelle Naka Pierce**, Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poets at Naropa University, and **Chris Pusateri**, 5:00 pm, The Eighth Street Taproom, downtown Lawrence.
- W 29 Beecher's** organizational meeting, 6:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe (see "Announcements")
- F 31 Nature and Culture Seminar**, "Re-Imagining Environmental Justice Globally and Locally: A View from Nigeria," **Dustin Crowley**, English, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Job Placement Workshop, "Introduction to the Job Search/Writing Your CV," **Susan K. Harris**, Job Placement Advisor, 4:00-5:30 pm, 4012 Wescoe.

Publications

Elliott, Dorice Williams

"Charles Reade: The British 'Harriet Beecher Stowe' and the Affect of Sensation." *Transatlantic Sensations*, eds. Jennifer Phegley, John Barton, and Kristen N. Huston. Farnham, Surrey, England: Ashgate 2012. 119-36.

Gunn, James

“Look to the Fringes of Fiction,” Room for Debate, *New York Times* (online). 6 June.

Hardin, Richard F.

“The Reception of Plautus in Northern Europe: The Earlier Sixteenth Century,” *Viator* 43.2 (2012): 333-56.

“Robert Wild’s *The Benefice* as Country Dramatic Satire.” *Ben Jonson Journal* 19.1 (2012): 23-44.

Hill, DaMaris

“Stewing” (poem). *Split This Rock*, 10 August.

Levine, Stuart

“The Craftsman’s Memory/*Billy Budd* in the Context of the Earlier Novels,” *KU Scholarworks*, 2012.

Mielke, Laura

Rev. of *Love’s Whipping Boy: Violence and Sentimentality in the American Imagination*, by Elizabeth Barnes. *Journal of American History* 99.2 (2012): 587.

Rev. of *Grief and Genre in American Literature, 1790-1870*, by Desirée Henderson. *Journal of American Studies* 46.2 (2012): 494-95.

Thonus, Terese (with Rebecca Babcock)

Researching the Writing Center: Towards an Evidence-Based Practice. New York, Peter Lang. 2012.

Presentations

Elliott, Dorice Williams

“Poor Relations and Landed Gentry: *Mansfield Park* in the Context of Gift Theory,” 18th- and 19th Century British Women Writers Conference, Boulder, CO, June 2012.

Lamb, Jonathan

“Shakespeare’s Giant Head,” Society for Textual Studies Conference, Austin, TX, 1 June.

Torres, Stefanie

“*Hide*: A Nonfiction Account of Trauma and its Aftermath,” Aftermaths: Revolution and Recovery Conference, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, 12 May.

Accepted for Publication

Evans, Stephen F.

Rev. of *Sex Acts in Early Modern Italy: Practice, Performance, Perversion, Punishment*, edited by Allison Levy. Farnham, Surrey, England: Ashgate, 2010. *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching*, Forthcoming.

Neill, Anna

“Primitive Minds: Evolution and Spiritual Experience in the Victorian Novel.” Ohio State University Press, 2013.

Announcements, Notes, & News

• **New Students:** Welcome to the 31 new KU English graduate students who arrived and received orientation over the last two weeks. Next week’s issue will provide information about who they are and where they’re from, but please extend (or lend) a hand to anyone you don’t recognize this week and throughout the semester.

• Beginning Monday, check out the **display** of scholarly books by KU English faculty members, all published in the last year. The display case is located across from the front desk next to **Katie Rockety’s** advising

office in 3001 Wescoe. Recent creative writing works by faculty members will be displayed after Fall Break.

• *Beecher’s*, the graduate student-run literary journal, will hold its first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, August 29th, at 6 pm in the large conference room (3001A Wescoe). All graduate students interested in working on the journal are encouraged to attend.

KU and Regional Events

• **Latin American Seminar**, “Illegal Soybeans and the Making of Brazil’s *Cerrado* Biome,” J. Christopher Brown, Geography/Environmental Studies, 24 August, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Gender Seminar**, “Punk in the Shadow of War,” Fiona Ngo, Asian American Studies/Gender & Women’s Studies, University of Illinois, 27 August, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Resident Fellows Seminar**, “Stalking the Primordial Vampire,” Maria Carlson, Slavic Languages and Literatures, 29 August, 12:00-1:30 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall. [Paging Giselle Anatol]

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

• **2013 Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Conference**, 6-8 January 2013, Hawaii University, Honolulu, HI. Deadline: 30 September.

• **On Madness**, a conference organized by The Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups and The Saint Louis Lacan Study Group, 5-7 October, Saint Louis University. [Paging Doreen Fowler]

About the DNB

Frequency: The *DNB* is distributed to Department mailboxes every Friday during the academic year, except for holiday and semester breaks. Each weekly issue is also available online at <<http://www.english.ku.edu>>.

Deadline: The Calendar lists important events (e.g. exams, meetings, presentations by Department members) for the upcoming week: other happenings of interest for that period usually are noted under KU and Regional Events. Information on any events to be publicized must be received by noon Thursday for inclusion in that Friday’s issue.

Publications/Presentations: Publication information for the *DNB* should be submitted to Bob Elliott (e-mail [relliott@ku.edu] or hard copy welcome). Please provide a complete written-out citation (including pagination and genre—e.g. “article,” “poem,” “short story,” “essay.”) For inclusion under “Presentations,” please provide the date, place, title of conference, and title of paper. **The *DNB* encourages submissions of publication and presentation information from both full-time and part-time faculty and graduate students.**

Dates: Unless given otherwise, assume that the year of publications, events, deadlines, and so forth is the present one.

Bob Elliott, Editor