



President Outka!



Associate Professor of Science and Literature **Paul Outka** has been elected Vice President of the **Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE)** for the 2012 calendar year. In 2013 he will become President of the organization, with responsibility for running the 2013 biennial conference that generally draws roughly 750 participants from a range of countries. ASLE is the leading national and international organization for the study of environmental humanities. It has about 1500 members and 9 international affiliates, publishes a print and online journal: *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*, and sponsors standing panels at MLA, ASA, ALA and elsewhere. Paul's election to this prestigious post is both a milestone in his academic career and a public relations coup for the English Department, both inside and outside the university. The timing is particularly apt in the wake of KU's November "summit" devoted to the first of the institution's new strategic initiatives, "Sustaining the Planet, Powering the World," offering clear evidence of the humanities' – and KU English's – relevance as the university pursues its "bold aspirations." Congratulations, Paul!

Visiting Writer: Robert Glick



Short fiction and poetry specialist, **Robert Glick**, will teach two classes in KU English's graduate creative writing program this spring. Glick, who will receive his Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Utah in May, has published prose and poetry in *Black Warrior Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, and numerous other journals. Stories from his short fiction collection-in-manuscript, *Transcendent Wake*, won the 2010 *Copper Nickel Fiction Prize* and the 2010 *The Normal School Normal Prize for Fiction*.

Glick has also begun work on a novel and a hybrid non-fiction book. He is Fiction Editor for the Amsterdam-based literary journal, *Versal*. Glick will teach both advanced fiction writing and advanced poetry

writing this semester. His fiction course "will consider fiction as an often cantankerous set of possibilities, anchored down by narrative constraints, designed to provoke, transform, and give pleasure to the reader." Besides workshopping their prose, students will read and consider short novels by Vladimir Nabokov, Jeanette Winterson, and Michael Ondaatje. In the poetry course, students will complement their poetry writing by study of the anthology *American Hybrid* and Anne Carson's mixed media collage *Nox* "to explore how contemporary poets are erasing and reconfiguring the (always already illusory?) divide between narrative and 'experimental' poetry."

Service-Learning Success



Associate Professor **Cheryl Lester** recently received the **2011 Kansas Excellence in Community-Based Teaching and Scholarship of the Year Award** at the Campus Compact Heartland Conference in Kansas City for her service-learning work with Audio Reader, a reading and information service for the blind, visually impaired, and print disabled citizens of Kansas and Western Missouri. A letter from Campus Compact Heartland to Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little noted that, since 2006, students

in Professor Lester's Jewish-American Studies course have volunteered to "read and record class-related content for Audio Reader, helping to create its more than 160 hours of weekly aired content, full of printed matter and special information. This partnership exposes students to the diverse reasons that cause people to lack access to print information, such as a lack of immigrant resources or help with learning disabilities, both of which provide a significant cause for illiteracy." Congratulations on this well-deserved award, Cheryl!

Calendar

- T 17 Voting Department Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4019 Wescoe. Agenda: 1) proposal for renaming English 800; 2) proposal regarding promotion/tenure voting by the department; 3) proposal for Advisory Board; 4) proposals based on the report of the Study Group on Associate Professor Mentoring; 5) bylaws related to Advisory Committee meeting time; 6) brief report on preliminary assessment findings; 7) as in Genesis, rest.
- F 20 Strategic Initiative Summit #3: Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities**, co-chaired by **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, 8:30 am-5:00 pm, The Commons.

Job Candidate Visits

Following interviews held at MLA in Seattle last weekend, three candidates for an assistant professorship in fiction writing have been invited to come to KU in the near future. Information about the candidates and the events connected to each visit will be forthcoming electronically very soon. We will host two candidates during the week beginning 23 January and one candidate the following Monday and Tuesday. The meetings to discuss and vote on these three candidacies will be held on 31 January at 4 pm. Electronic and print files for each candidate will be available by Wednesday, 18 January.

Announcements, Notes, and News

- Many of you may have seen **Marta Caminero-Santangelo's** essay, "Tell a Story, Change a Life," that appeared in the KU Endowment magazine last fall (and was posted on the copy room door for awhile). She has just been informed that this piece earned a bronze award for excellence in writing (Opinion/Column/Editorial) at the CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) District VI conference in Denver last weekend.

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

- **NeoVox**, the online magazine at SUNY Cortland, seeks submissions for its two 2012 editions. No deadline given.
- **Art and Accident**, 2012 Southland Conference, sponsored by the UCLA Friends of English, 1 June, UCLA Campus. Deadline: 1 February.

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

- **The New England Regional Fellowship Consortium**, a collaboration of 17 major cultural agencies, offers 12+ awards for 2012-2013. Deadline: 1 February.
- **2012-2013 Research Fellowships at the Massachusetts Historical Society**, short-term and long-term fellowships. Deadlines vary.