



Junot Diaz Lecture

Dominican-American writer **Junot Díaz** will deliver the last installment of the **Humanites Lecture Series** for the fall semester on Monday, 18 November, at 7:30 pm, in Woodruff Auditorium of the Kansas Union. His topic is “Literature, Diaspora, and Immigration.” Díaz is the author of the genre-spanning, critically acclaimed novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007) and short story collections *Drown* (1996) and *This Is How You Lose Her* (2012). He grew up in the Dominican Republic and emigrated to New Jersey as a child, and this immigration experience serves as the thematic focus of most of his work. He has received the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Critics Circle Award, and the MacArthur Genius Fellowship. Díaz is currently the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he is working on a novel of science fiction entitled *Monstro*. (Information taken from the Hall Center website).



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to understand the underlying complexity in Carrie and Langston’s relationship. By employing Family Systems Theory for the first time in Hughes scholarship, they demonstrate that it is an essential heuristic for analyzing the Hughes family and its influence on his work. The study takes the critical truism about Langston’s reticence to reveal his inner self and shows how his responses to Carrie were usually not in return letters but, instead, in his created art.”

Publications

Grund, Peter

“Editing Alchemical Texts in Middle English: The Final Frontier?” In *Probable Truth: Editing Medieval Texts from Britain in the Twenty-First Century*, Anne Hudson and Vincent Gillespie (eds.). Turnhout: Brepols. 427–442.

Kaminski, Megan

“Distant hill (undulate)” (poem). *Spiral Orb* 8 (2013).

Presentations

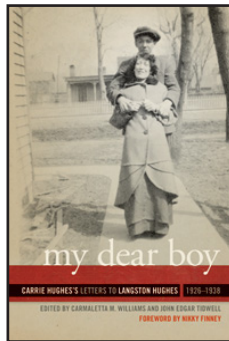
Kelly, Meaghan

“Unintentional Mimesis Through Shared Condition: The Narrative Strategy of Mimetic Distortion in Veteran Writing,” part of a War Studies panel, Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association, Atlantic City, NJ, 7 November.

My Dear Boy



John Edgar Tidwell



Carmaletta Williams

My Dear Boy: Carrie Hughes Letters to Langston Hughes, 1926-1938, co-edited by **John Edgar Tidwell** and **Carmaletta Williams** (Ph.D. '01), with a foreword by Nikki Finney, has just been published by the University of Georgia Press. As part of their work, Tidwell and Williams (now Professor of English at Johnson County Community College), argue that scholars have neglected the vital role that correspondence between Carrie Hughes and her son, Langston, played in his writing. Press publicity asserts that “the more than 120 heretofore unexamined letters presented here are a veritable treasure trove of insights into the relationship between mother Carrie and her renowned son Langston. Until now, a scholarly consensus had begun to emerge, accepting the idea of their lives and his art as simple and transparent. But . . . this correspondence is precisely where scholars should start in order

Calendar

N 17 Taproom Poetry Series, featuring **T.J. Jarrett**, **Gina Myers** (Emory University) and **Alexis Renee Smith** (UC Boulder—former KU English undergraduate), 5:00 pm, Eighth Street Taproom, downtown Lawrence.

M 18 Humanities Lecture Series, “An Evening with Junot Diaz: Literature, Diaspora, Immigration,” **Junot Diaz**, Writing, MIT, 7:30 pm, Woodruff Auditorium.

T 19 Humanities Lecture Series, “A Conversation with Junot Diaz,” 10:00 am, Hall Center Conference Hall.

Webinar with **Ishmael Reed**, Professor Emeritus, UC-Berkeley, 12:00 pm. Follow “Don’t Deny My Voice” links on the web page of **The Project on the History of Black Writing** site for information on how to access the webinars.

Senior Staff Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4019 Wescoe. Agenda: 1) update hiring plan.

R 21 Coffee with Colleagues, 9:00-11:00 am, 3001A Wescoe.

CLAS Staff Appreciation Reception, all CLAS faculty and staff invited, 3:30-5:00 pm, Kansas Room, Kansas Union.

Announcements, Notes, & News

- **Mary Klayder** reports that “**Jenny Curatola**, senior English major, and **Nick Kellum**, who has taken a number of creative writing and English courses, are both national finalists for the **Rhodes Scholarship**. Hooray for our students!”
- **Amanda Sladek**’s conference paper, “From ‘Rented Rooms’ to Global Genres: Rethinking Composition’s Extracurriculum and its Role in the Writing Classroom,” was a recipient of the **Best Graduate Student Paper Award** at the Michigan College English Association conference in Dearborn, MI, 25-26 October.
- Donations for the annual **SAGE Silent Auction**, held at the Department of English holiday party (15 December, 7-9 pm) are being accepted by the SAGE Fundraising Committee. Please contact **Stefanie Torres**, **Charlene Summers**, or **Alex Zimmer** by 30 November with a brief description of what you plan to contribute to the auction.
- Nominations for 2014-15 Lecturers and Readers are due by 12/6. Send to bsantang@ku.edu.
- **Laura Mielke** provides the following information about the upcoming Phi Beta Kappa lecture by economics scholar, Alexander Field (see “KU and Regional Events”): “Since 1956, the Phi Beta Kappa Society’s Visiting Scholar Program has been offering undergraduates the opportunity to spend time with some of America’s most distinguished scholars. The purpose of the program is to contribute to the intellectual life of the institution by making possible an exchange of ideas between the Visiting Scholars and the resident faculty and students. In this lecture Professor Field reprises the surprising hypothesis of his 2011 book that the 1930s were the most technologically progressive epoch of the past century.”

KU and Regional Events

- **Red Hot Research**, presenters from Medicinal Chemistry, Visual Art, Geography, Sociology, American Studies/History, 15 November, 4:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.
- **University Theatre** presents *Adding Machine: A Musical*, based on the play *The Adding Machine*, by Elmer Rice, 15-16, 22-23 November, 7:30 pm, 17, 24, 2:30 pm, Stage Too, Murphy Hall.
- **CTE Workshop**, “How Instructor-Librarian Collaboration Benefits Students (and Instructors), Julie Petr, KU Libraries; Doug Ward, 18 November, 12:00-1:00 pm, 135 Budig.

- **Gender Seminar**, “Septima Clark and Citizenship Education: Black Power for Black Women,” Katherine Mellen Charron, History, North Carolina State University, 20 November, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- **Facing Genocide & Its Aftermath Seminar**, “Competitive Victimhood as a Response to Accusations on Ingroup Harm Doing,” Mark Landau, Psychology, 21 November, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- **Data and Democracy**, “Why Radical Connectivity Means the End of Big,” Nicco Mele, Harvard University, 21 November, 5:30 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall; **Idea Café**, “Can Democracy Survive the Digital Age?” Nicco Mele, Harvard University, 22 November, 10:00 am, The Commons, Spooner Hall.
- **Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Lecture**, “A Great Leap Forward: 1930s Depression and U.S. Economic Growth,” Alexander Field, Economics, Santa Clara University, 21 November, 7:00 pm, Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium.
- **Latin American Seminar**, “Living Laboratories: Combating Tropical Diseases Through Human and Animal Experiments,” Heather McRae, History, Kansas State University, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- **TGIF**, 22 November, 4:00-5:30 pm, Adams Alumni Association.

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

- **Twelfth International Conference on Books, Publishing and Libraries**, 8-9 November 2014, Simmons College, Boston. Deadline: 3 December.

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

- **Lyle Olsen Graduate Student Essay Contest 2014**, open to entries that “celebrate the intersection of literature with the world of play, games, and sport.” Deadline: 1 March 2014.
- **C. P. Cavafy Prize** from *Poetry International*, poetry entries solicited. Deadline extended to 9 December.