Ohio State Press publicity for Anna Neill’s new monograph begins, “For twenty-first-century veterans of the evolution culture wars, *Primitive Minds: Evolution and Spiritual Experience in the Victorian Novel* . . . makes unlikely bedfellows of two Victorian ‘discoveries’: evolutionary theory and spiritualism.” The copy goes on to note, “Victorian science did much to uncover the physical substratum of mystical or dreamy experience, tracing spiritual states to a lower, reflex, or more evolutionarily primitive stage of consciousness. Yet science’s pursuit of knowledge beyond sense-based evidence uncannily evoked powers associated with this primitive mind: the capacity to link events across space and time, to anticipate the future, to uncover elements of the forgotten past, and to see into the minds of others. Neill does not ask how the Victorians explained away spiritual experience through physiological psychology, but instead explores how physical explanation interacted with dreamy content in Victorian accounts of the mind’s most exotic productions. This synthesis, she argues, was particularly acute in realist fiction, where, despite novelists’ willingness to trace the nervous origins of individual behavior and its social consequences, activity in hidden regions of the mind enabled levels of perception inaccessible to ordinary waking thought. The authors in her study include Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Thomas Hardy.” Neill’s book, somehow written during her years of professional practice, somehow written during her years of teaching prowess — was released on Wednesday.

Anna Neill

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The focus will be on poetry and East Asia as the first Department of English MFA Visiting Writer Series event of the academic year takes place on Thursday, 6 September, at 7:30 pm in the International Room of the Kansas Union. **Jonathan Stalling**, poet, translator, critic, and an associate professor of English at the University of Oklahoma, will showcase his unique approach to poetry for a KU audience. Stalling is the co-founder and editor of *Chinese Literature Today* magazine and book series. His book, *Yingelishi*, is based upon an English-language phrase book, popular in China, which uses Chinese characters to simulate the sound of English words: Stalling translates those Chinese sounds, creating new poems in English. In performance, he chants them, according to a traditional method of singing; speakers of English and Chinese each hear completely different meanings. He then reads the translations. His presentation will also feature new video poems consisting of one English poem which is also written, via translation and transliteration, in Korean, Japanese, Arabic, and Chinese. **Joe Harrington** notes, “If there is a poetry of the era of globalization, this has got to be it.” Recent KU PhD graduate and current lecturer **Benjamin Cartwright** will also read from his work, *Tea & Gin*. The title itself is an ingenious transliteration of the name of the Chinese city of Tianjin and Cartwright’s poems deal with the foreign concession era there. The event is co-sponsored by East Asian Languages and Cultures.

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**Calendar**

**R 5**  **Digital Humanities Seminar**, “The Light Commodity of Words: Digitizing the Material Book,” **Jonathan Lamb**, English, 3:30 pm, Hall Center.

**Poetry and Hybrid Work Reading and Performance** featuring **Jonathan Stalling**, English, University of Oklahoma, and **Benjamin Cartwright** (PhD `13), 7:30 pm, International Room, Kansas Union. Sponsored by English MFA Program and East Asian Languages and Cultures.

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**Publications**

**Johnson, Kij**


**Mckitterick, Chris**

“James Gunn: The Man Who Taught Us All Science Fiction” (biographic essay), James Gunn’s Ad Astra #2. July.

“Science Fiction Studies at the University of Kansas” (article), SFRA Review 305 (Summer 2013).

Neill, Anna


**Presentations**

Brown, Creighton

“Ka huri”: Mega-Tourism and the Outsider in *Potiki and A Small Place,*” ASLE Conference, 28 May-1 June, Lawrence, KS.

Evans, Stephen F.


Graham, Maryemma

“Reading Without Oprah,” University of Kansas Mini College 2013. 5 June.

McKitterick, Chris

ConQuest 44 Writer’s Workshop (instructor), ConQuest Convention, Kansas City, MO. 25 May.

Fiction Reading, ConQuest Convention, Kansas City, MO. 26 May.

Campbell Conference and Awards Ceremony (emcee, presenter, and discussion leader), Lawrence, KS. 13-16 June.

“Science Fiction: Mythologies for a Changing Age,” Science on Tap Series, Kansas City Art Institute, 6 September, 6:30 pm, Central Library, Kansas City, MO.

Masinton, Jerry

“How to Read and Write Poetry.” University of Kansas Mini College 2013. 4 June.

**Accepted for Publication**

Brown, Creighton


Johnson, Kij


McKitterick, Chris

“James Gunn: Science Fiction’s Mentor” (biographic essay), 2013 *WorldCon Souvenir Book.* September 2013.

“Combat scenarios between H.G. Wells’ *War of the Worlds* Martians and prehistoric titanoboa, for “Godzilla vs T. Rex” (article), *Discovery Channel Magazine.* September 2013.

**Announcements, Notes, & News**

**New Graduate Students:** The Department welcomes the following new M.A. students: Maryellen Diotte (B.A. California State University-Fullerton), Cody Dye (B.A. University of Missouri-St. Louis), Melissa Gilstrop (B.A. University of Missouri-Columbia), Aron Muci (B.A. University of Oklahoma), Charles Smith (B.A. William Jewell College; M.A. Wake Forest University).

The Department also welcomes the following new M.A. students: Jason Goodvin (B.A. KU), Harmony Hanson (B.A. University of Wisconsin-River Falls), Cam Lay (B.A. University of Pennsylvania), John Quinn (B.A. Kansas State University), Tyler Sherman (B.A. School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Satarah Wheeler (B.A., M.A., Missouri State University).

The Department also welcomes the following new Ph.D. Students: Alyse Bensel (B.A. Washington College; M.A., Pennsylvania State University), Clare Echterling (B.A. Truman State University; M.A. KU), Meghara Eichhorn-Hicks (B.A. St. Catherine University; M.A., KU), Scott Jones (B.A. University of Texas-Austin, M.A. University of Montana), Meeyoung Kang (B.A., M.A., Sookmyung Women’s University), Tim Lantz (B.A. Central Michigan University; M.A. Illinois State University); Adam Mills (B.A. Missouri State University, M.A. University of Southern Maine), Angela Murphy (B.A. University of Missouri-Kansas City, M.A. Northwest Missouri State University), Kathryn Nygren (B.A. Wichita State University, M.A. Kansas State University), Jonathan Patterson (B.A., M.A., Southern Illinois University-Carbondale), Kate Russell (B.A. University of Maine, M.A. Indiana University), Stefanie Torres (B.A. St. Edward’s University, M.A. KU), Meredith Wiggins (Birmingham Southern College, M.A. University of Alabama).

**Fellows, Contests, Awards, Scholarships, Etc. (Posted)**

• College Language Association Creative Writing Contest and Margaret Walker Memorial Prizes in Creative Writing, poetry, short story, play. Deadline: 15 January 2014.

• 2014 College Language Association Carol Mills Young Study Abroad Scholarship, open to any college student at a CLA University. Deadline: 7 February 2014.