



## NEH to Iris Fischer

After checking their lists considerably more than twice, The National Endowment for the Humanities has brightened Iris Fischer's holiday season by awarding her a **2014 NEH Fellowship** to work on her current research project, "Charles Peirce and the Role of Aesthetic Expression in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century U.S. Philosophy and Semiotics." Fischer will be released from teaching and service obligations for the next calendar year as a result of the fellowship. The Hall Center for the Humanities Research Fellowship which she was previously awarded (for the same project) for Spring 2014 has been deferred to Spring 2015. She notes that she has never before been afforded such extended research leave in her career and she hopes to make the most of it.



Iris Fischer

Here is a description of her project: "How did the modern discipline of semiotics--the study of how phenomena come to have meaning--appear in U.S. philosophy at the end of the 19th century? Which cultural contexts made it possible? This project is the first to present evidence that theatre practices putting the actor's craft on a scientific basis contributed crucially to early investigations in semiotic method. Philosopher Charles Peirce noted these practices' intellectual similarities to his own system of modern scientific inquiry. His semiotics might not have developed, though, if he had not engaged in theatrical activities that demonstrated the operations of performance in human cognition. Semiotic method assumes a material reality out of which meaning emerges in mediated forms. This study's significance lies in revealing the role of performance in 19th-century models of inquiry and demonstrating that current work in the humanities on cognition is grounded in semiotic conceptions of embodied experience." Congratulations, Iris!

## Holiday Party

Jump on an iron horse anywhere in Lawrence and make your way to the English Department Holiday Party on Sunday, 15 December, 7-9 pm, at the Union Pacific Depot (Lawrence Visitors Center). If you prefer a more conventional approach to the festivities, cross the Kaw at Massachusetts, turn right on Locust, and pick a parking lot on your right or left. English faculty, staff, graduate students, friends, spouses, partners, and children (if you can keep them from drinking) are invited. Food and beverages will be provided and SAGE will hold its annual silent auction. The Midday Ramblers had a conflict, but The Grey Eagles will provide live music from 7:30-8:30. They're working on back-up for the "Must Be Santa" community sing. Come join the trains in letting off steam as the semester comes to an end.

## Publications

### Anatol, Giselle

"The Sea-People of Nalo Hopkinson's *The New Moon's Arms*: Reconceptualizing Gilroy's *The Black Atlantic* through Considerations of Myth and Motherhood" in *Diasporic Women's Writing of the Black Atlantic: (En)Gendering Literature and Performance*. Eds. Emilia María Durán-Almarza and Esther Álvarez-López. (Routledge 2013): 202-17.

### Atkins, G. Douglas

*T.S. Eliot, Lancelot Andrewes, and the Word: Intersections of Literature and Religion*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

*Swift, Joyce, and the Flight from Home: Quests of Transcendence and the Sin of Separation*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

### Jessee, Jessica

"Angels" in Wendy Martin, ed., *All Things Dickinson: An Encyclopedia of Emily Dickinson's World*, ABC-CLIO, December 2013. 7 pp.

### Johnson, Kij

Rpt. "Spar" (story), *Mammoth Book of Best New Erotica* 12, ed. Maxim Jakubowski, Running Press, January 2014.

### Ohle, David

*Motorman* (Spanish Edition), Editorial Periférica, May 2013, trans. Juan Sebastián Cárdenas, Madrid. 160 pgs.

Performance of *Motorman* excerpts, Ekmeles Vocal Ensemble, Dimenna Center for Classical Music, NYC, 15 November.

## Presentations

### Johnson, Kij

"One Campus, One Book" Invitee, University of Alaska Southeast (UAS), Juneau, AK, 6-8 November (see "Announcements, Notes, & News")

Fiction Reading (and class visits), Emporia State University, 4 November.

Fiction Workshop, Clarion West Creative Writing Program, Seattle, WA, 17 November.

Fiction Reading, Wayward Coffeehouse, Seattle, WA, 23 November

## Calendar

**N 8 Graduate Reading Series** featuring **Stefanie Torres, Adam Mills, Tyler David Sherman, and Kate Russell**, 6:00 pm, Genovese, 941 Massachusetts.

**F 13 Stop Day**

**N 15 Department of English Holiday Party**, 7:00-9:00 pm, Union Pacific Depot (Lawrence Visitors Center), 402 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, North Lawrence.

**T 17 Meaghan Varieur, M.A. Exam**, 10:00 am, 3025 Wescoe (Farmer, Reiff, Tell).

**F 20 Chancellor's Annual Holiday Reception**, 3:30-5:00 pm, Adams Alumni Center.

**M 30 Grades Due**, 11:59 pm.

**Kaminski, Megan**

Poetry Workshop, "Writing From Strengths," Writers Place, Kansas City, MO, 23 November.

Class Visit and Poetry Workshop, English Department, University of Maine, 4 December.

Poetry Reading (with Sara Wintz), New Writing Series, English Department and National Poetry Foundation, University of Maine, 5 December.

***Accepted for Publication*****Grund Peter** (and Erik Smitterberg)

"Conjuncts in Nineteenth-Century English: Diachronic Development and Genre Diversity." *English Language and Linguistics*.

**Jessee, Jessica**

"an orator of feather unto an audience of fuzz": Emily Dickinson and Performance," *The Emily Dickinson Journal*. Fall 2014.

**Krug, Louise**

"ESFJ" (essay). *Paragraphiti*, 2014.

**Lamb, Jonathan**

"The Stylistic Self in *Richard II*," *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England (MaRDiE)*.

***Announcements, Notes, & News***

• **Kij Johnson's** short story collection, *At the Mouth of the River of Bees*, was this year's selection for the University of Alaska Southeast's "One Campus, One Book" program. Johnson visited the Juneau campus (UAS also has branch campuses in Ketchikan and Sitka) from 6-8 November for a series of events, including a reading, newspaper-radio-television interviews, numerous class visits (from remedial English, to a freshman humanities seminar, to seniors preparing MFA application packets), and dramatic renditions of four of her stories by the UAS Dramatic Society. She also read at the public library. The One Campus, One Book program is, of course, similar to KU's two-year-old Common Book program.

• **Important!** As the end of the semester approaches, the Office Staff reminds full-and part-time faculty that **it is inappropriate—and unwise—to have students turn in final exams or papers to the English office.** In the past, papers and examinations have been lost because they have been misplaced by students, turned in without names or names of teachers, etc, to the great inconvenience of students, faculty, and staff. During faculty, lecturer, and GTA orientation, this rule is emphasized, but it is difficult to enforce, particularly when instructions to students have already been given. This semester, please collect papers or take-home exams in class or during office hours. The staff understands that some students will turn papers in late because of illness or procrastination, and is prepared to accommodate them. Problems arise when the mailboxes are used as the depository for entire classes.

***KU and Regional Events***

- **Idea Café: Shifting Viewpoints**, "Is Western Science an Indigenous Knowledge?" George Soberon, Senior Research Analyst, KU Biodiversity Institute, 6 December, 10:00 am, The Commons, Spooner Hall.
  - **Human Migration 2013 Lecture Series**, "Creole Languages and Migration," Anita Herzfeld, Latin American Studies, 6 December, 12:00-1:00 pm, 633 Fraser.
  - **Peace, War, & Global Change Seminar**, "Combat Leadership in the AEF," Richard Spaulding, Military History, US Army Command & General Staff College, 6 December, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
  - **University Theatre** presents *The Maderati*, by Richard Greenberg, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12 December, 7:30 pm, 8 December, 2:30 pm, Inge Memorial Theatre, Murphy Hall.
  - **Reimagining the City Seminar**, "Suburban Opposition to District Reorganization: The 1968 Spainhower Commission and Metropolitan Kansas City and St. Louis," Donna Gardner, William Jewell College; John Rury, Education, 9 December, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
  - **Nature & Culture Seminar**, "New Zealand's Agricultural Utopia," Paul Stock, Sociology, 13 December, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
  - **TGIF**, 13 December, 4:00-5:30 pm, Adams Alumni Center.
  - **Gender Seminar**, "Sanitary Imperialism on the Global Trash Frontier: Gendered Waste Picking in a Time of Waste Commodity," Rachel Vaughan, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, 16 December, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- Calls for Papers, Conferences, Symposia,  
Etc. (Posted)***
- **17<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Kansas Film and Media Studies Graduate Symposium**, 31 January-1 February 2014. Deadline: 13 December.
  - **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Literary Festival and Scholars Day**, "Zombiefest," 3-5 April, Newman University, Wichita, KS.