



Literary Media



Angela Elam

This year's **Simons Public Humanities Fellow**, KCUR's **Angela Elam**, will deliver a lecture entitled "The Power of Narrative: From Poetry to Podcasts" on Tuesday, 22 September, in the Hall Center Conference Hall. The Kansas City media veteran is producer and host of *New Letters on the Air*, a nationally distributed public radio program and podcast that serves as the on-air companion to the literary journal, *New Letters*. Her specialty is interviewing authors of poetry, fiction, plays, and

creative non-fiction. Elam holds an MFA in dramatic writing from the University of Georgia. A website about her states that she "enjoys using her playwriting skills to shape the dialogue within her interviews." Programs include a combination of conversation and performance. Artists discuss their work, reveal their creative methods, and present material. Over the years, she has hosted luminaries like Allen Ginsberg, Gwendolyn Brooks, James Dickey, and August Wilson, but Elam also interviews emerging writers and introduces them to a broader audience. The program's archives constitute "one of the largest and best collections of recordings of contemporary authors, both from the United States and around the world." During her year as KU's Simons Fellow, Elam "has been interviewing various Kansas and Hall Center authors for the program, while also examining the power of narrative, particularly in public media." Hall Center publicity notes that "her presentation . . . will include audio excerpts of creative writers who demonstrate techniques now commonly used in non-fictional storytelling." She will also "make a case for the impact of poetry on radio."

Additional Dates to Anticipate

English faculty and graduate students, please mark your calendars for two further events this semester. First, we will hold a **New Faculty Reception** to officially welcome Associate Professor **Ayesha Hardison** and Assistant Professor **Phillip Drake** to the Department. This event will take place on Wednesday, 30 September, from 3:30-4:30 pm in the North Gallery of the Spencer Research Library. Light refreshments and beverages will be served. Second, this year's **Department of English Holiday Party** will take place on Friday, 4 December, from 7:00-9:00 pm at the usual den of iniquity, the Union Pacific Depot/Lawrence Visitors Center in North Lawrence. Sometimes the party has been held on or around Stop Day. That is not the case this year. You will still have to teach for a week after the party. Take whatever precautions this may necessitate.

Publications

Devitt, Amy

"Genre Performances: John Swales' Genre Analysis and Rhetorical-Linguistic Genre Studies." *Journal of English for Academic Purposes* 19 (2015): 44-51. <http://authors.elsevier.com/a/1ReYp5FQORlhS0>

Harrington, Joseph

Excerpt from "The Spirit of the Laws." *Truck* 22 April 2015. Web.

Kaminski, Megan

"Quickening" and "Everything is leaf in my empire of the heart" (poems). *Sink Review*, 13 (2015).

"Riot Love Song" and "Your lines are as long and despondent as our own" (poems). *Bombay Gin*, 41 (2015): 121-122. "A Visit," "Weight," "Velvet Lady," "December," "Furred Lady," and "Twenty" (poems). *South Dakota Review*, 51: 3 & 4 (2015): 60-65.

Grund, Peter

Review of *Diachronic Corpus Pragmatics*, ed. by Irma Taavitsainen, Andreas H. Jucker, and Jukka Tuominen, 2014. *Journal of Historical Pragmatics* 16(2): 310-314.

Calendar

- R 17-N20 The Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble** presents *Visions of Right*, by Marcia Cebulska, directed by **Darren Canady**, English, 7:30 pm, 2 pm performances (see the Ad Astra website for a breakdown), Warehouse 414, 414 SE 2nd, Topeka, KS.
- T 22 Simons Public Fellow Lecture**, "The Power of Narrative: From Poetry to Podcasts," **Angela Elam**, Simons Public Fellow, radio producer and host, 12:00-1:30 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.
- R 24 Big Tent Reading** features **Andrew Johnson**, essayist; **Tyler Sherman**, KU English, poet; **Julie Mangan Tollefson**, fiction, 7:00 pm, Raven Book Store, 6 E. 7th St.
- M 28-W 30 SAGE Bookfair**, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Wescoe Beach. Paperbacks \$1, Hardcover \$2.
- T 29 What Can the Hall Center Do for You?** Information sessions for new faculty in their first three years in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. Numerous topics, including "Faculty Seminars," **Jonathan Lamb**, English; "Fall Faculty Colloquium," **Byron Santangelo**, English.
- W 30 New Faculty Reception** to officially welcome **Ayesha Hardison** and **Phillip Drake**, 3:30-4:30 pm, North Gallery, Spencer Research Library.
- R 1 Gender Seminar**, "Gender-Blending the Trickster: Anansi Folklore in Literature of the African Diaspora," **Giselle Anatol**, English, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

Presentations

Harrington, Joseph

“Reimagining the Author: Pedagogies of Collaboration, Chance, and New Media in Poetry Workshops” (panel discussion with Susan Briante, Grant Jenkins, Timothy Bradford, and Cheryl Pallant). AWP Conference, Minneapolis, 9 April.

Class visit and book discussion. Bethel College, North Newton, KS, 17 April.

Kaminski, Megan

Poetry Reading, “Art is an Invitation to Activism,” Kansas League of Women Voters, NOTO Arts Center, Topeka, KS. September 12th.

Announcements, Notes, & News

• English undergraduate **Elli Rao** will present her research on Philip Roth at an **Undergraduate Research Seminar** on 25 September, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Retired English professor **Paul Stephen Lim** is curating a series of three very topical feature films on legal and illegal immigrants, at the Lawrence Arts Center. Remaining films in the series are: 7:00 pm, on September 22 (*The Visitor*, about West Africans in NYC), and September 29 (*A Better Life*, about Mexicans in LA). The films will be introduced by KU faculty members Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka and **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**. Check out the Lawrence Arts Center website for more information about the films, which are free and open to the public.

• Professor Emeritus **Vic Contoski** has found the online *DNB* more accessible. He sent in this report of his activities: “Here’s an update on what I’ve been doing since retirement in 2006. I’ve been running a dream study group on the Internet since 2003. . . and been giving lectures on Remote Viewing and Dream Analysis at various gatherings in the Lawrence/Kansas City area. I’ve also been giving poetry readings. I’ve been elected to the Board of Directors of the Psychical Research Society of Kansas City. I will be giving a lecture on “Dream Analysis” at

the PRS Psychic Fair on Oct. 17th from noon to 2:00. I’ve been writing steadily since I retired. My two-volume sequence of dream poems, *The Blue Vase*, was published in 2014. . . It traces my spiritual progress in 8 “books” of approximately 75 pages each. Fortunately all the poems are short. But there are **a lot** of them! It’s my *Moby Dick*! My *Adventures at the Monroe Institute* has been published this year by Western Hills, the same company that published *The Blue Vase*. And my friend Jo Andersen and I have written the first of a sequence of books about the classes we’ve held in my home since 2004—*Spiritual Awakenings* (Outskirts, 2015). A lady by the name of Mira Mataric has translated several of my poems into Serbian.”

KU and Regional Events

• **Digital Humanities Seminar**, “What Is Digital Humanities Doing in the Classroom? Toward a Digital Pedagogy,” Pamela Lach, KU Libraries, 21 September, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **The Art of Improvisation: An East-West Musical Dialogue**, with Bangere Purnaprajna, Amit Kavthekar, and Jeff Harshberger, 24 September, 7:00-9:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

• **Latin America & Its Diasporas Seminar**, “Path to Citizenship, Path to Deportation: The Political Economy of Local Immigration Policies in the U.S.,” Gary Reich, Political Science, 28 September, 3:30-5:00 pm.

• **Conflict & International Change Seminar**, “Radical Kinetics: The Dynamics of Conflict in Nazi Europe,” Andrew Denning, History, 1 October, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

• **2015 Nimrod Conference for Readers and Writers**, 16-17 October, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK.