Memoirist Alum Returns as Eberhardt Speaker

Lacy M. Johnson (MA ‘04) will deliver this year’s John F. Eberhardt Memorial Lecture on Thursday, 23 April, at 7:00 pm, in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union. She will also visit with graduate students and attend a graduate class as part of her visit. Johnson is currently a Visiting Associate Professor in the Interdisciplinary Art Program at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at the University of Houston. She has garnered much attention and numerous plaudits for her work as a memoirist in the last four years. Her first memoir, Trespasses (Iowa, 2012), received a 2013 Orion Book Award Honorable Mention. But it was her second memoir, The Other Side (Tin House, 2014), that opened the floodgates of critical and popular acclaim. The Other Side is a 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, an Edgar Award finalist, and a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writer Selection. One’s fingers tire scrolling down the collection of rave review excerpts on the book’s Amazon page. The work is a true crime story that explores sexual abuse and assault. Press publicity states that, “In language both stark and poetic, Johnson weaves together a richly personal narrative with police and FBI reports, psychological records, and neurological experiments, delivering a raw and unforgettable story of trauma and transformation.” Johnson’s Eberhardt presentation will be a reading/lecture hybrid growing out of this memoir. The title is “Speaking Truth to Power; on The Other Side, Courage, and Voice.” Following her MA work at KU, Johnson earned a Ph.D. from the University of Houston in English Literature and Creative Writing. She came back to Lawrence from 2008-2011 as Assistant Director of Graduate Writing at KU, then returned to Houston to continue her career in teaching and writing. The John F. Eberhardt Memorial Lecture commemorates prominent Wichita lawyer and Kansas Board of Regents member John F. Eberhardt, who was a lifelong promoter of excellence in writing.

Publications

Grund, Peter

Kaminski, Megan
Sigil and Sigh (chapbook) w/Anne Yoder. Chicago: Dusie Press, 2015.

Presentations

Bensel, Alyse
Poetry Reading, “Mid-American Review 35th Anniversary Reading,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 10 April.
“Why Reviewing Matters: Diversity in Reviews,” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 11 April.

Catanzarite, Alexis

Kaminski, Megan

Calendar

F 17 Red Hot Research, five KU professors, including Kij Johnson, English, will do short presentations, followed by interaction with the audience, 4:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.
M 20 Sara Leavens, MFA Defense, 1:00 pm, 3025 Wescoe (K. Johnson, Kaminski, Moriarty).
W 22 Digital Humanities Seminar, “Literary Geography of the Twentieth Century: Computational and Statistical Models,” Matthew Wilkens, English, Notre Dame University, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
R 23 Eberhardt Memorial Excellence in Writing Event, graduate student meet-n-greet with Lacy M. Johnson, University of Houston, 3:30 pm, 3001A Wescoe.

Poetry Reading and Talk, Poetry of the Plains, Prairie, and High Desert, Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, 11 April.

McKitterick, Chris
“Viewing the Past,” three-hour discussion for Professor Philip Baringer’s Honors 310 course, on The Physics of Time Travel, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 31 March.
Fiction Reading (from Ad Astra Road Trip), with Don Allmon and Ben Cartwright, Raven Book Store, Lawrence, KS, 25 October 2014.
“Science Fiction in Your Life,” Free State Festival, Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence, KS, 28 June 2014.
“International Science Fiction,” two-hour presentation for Professor Paul Scott’s Frence 900 graduate seminar on French Science Fiction and Fantasy, 17th-21st Centuries, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 25 March.

Sousa, Geraldo
“Atmospheric Phenomena and In-Between Space in The Tempest,” Shakespeare Association of America, Vancouver, Canada, 2 April.

Turner, Lance

Accepted for Publication

McKitterick, Chris
“Saving the World Through Science Fiction: The Gunn Center at the University of Kansas” (article). Science Fiction (collected articles). Indian Association of Science Fiction Studies (IASFS) Publications. Ernakulam, Kerala, India, 2015.

Porter, Caroline

Announcements, Notes, & News

• Please make special note of the following end-of-the-year English Department events that will take place in May: 5/5 Voting Department (regular), 4 pm, 4019 Wescoe; 5/7 Voting Department (pre-retreat discussion with refreshments), 4 pm, Pine Room, Kansas Union; 5/15 Honors and Awards Banquet, 6:30 pm, Ballroom of the Kansas Union.

• The Jayhawk Initiative for Student Theatre will present Merely Players, a play written by English graduating senior Katherine Gwynn for her honors thesis. The play, directed by Lynn Deboeck, will be presented 26-28 April, at 7:30 pm, in the Inge Theatre, Murphy Hall. The play, written under the supervision of Darren Canady, is a continuation of Shakespeare’s As You Like It. The play begins in the middle of AYL’s epilogue and continues through dawn the next day. It follows Shakespeare’s shepherd girl Phebe as she “encounters lovers, courtiers, dead deer, and sheep skeletons while probing questions of gender, performance, love, and what it means to escape.” Three female actors play Phebe/Orlando; Rosalind/Silvius; and Celia/Jaques.

• Chris McKitterick has been appointed Academic Program Director for the 74th Annual World Science Fiction Convention to be held in Kansas City, MO, on August 17-21, 2016. People interested in presenting should contact him now! McKitterick has also been accepted into “The Schrödinger Sessions: Science for Science Fiction,” hosted by the Joint Quantum Institute (a combined initiative of the University of Maryland, College Park and NIST in Gaithersburg, MD). This grant-funded workshop provides a “crash course” in quantum physics for science fiction writers, three days of lectures and discussions with JQI scientists and visits to JQI’s labs, 30 July-August 1, 2015.

KU and Regional Events

• Bold Aspirations Visitor and Lecture Series, “Fixing the Past or Inventing the Future?” Yong Zhao, Education, University of Oregon, 22 April, 3:30 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

• Disability Studies Seminar, “Crip Skins,” Alison Kafer, Feminist Studies, Southwestern University, 23 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Ethics, Science and Psychology in Aristotle’s Philosophy, KU conference with presentations by six visiting scholars, 24 April (1:00 pm-6:00 pm, at Hall Center for the Humanities) and 25 April (9:30 am-6:15 pm, at the Max Kade Center).

• See/Saw Film Festival, “What Does It Mean to Grow Up in the Twenty-First Century?” film screenings and discussions related to the expression, representation, and experience of childhood and adolescence. 24-26 April, Lawrence Public Library. See LPL website for details.

• University Theatre presents The Marriage of Figaro, by Wolfgang Mozart and Lorenzo Da Ponte, 24, 30 April, 2 May, 7:30 pm; 26 April, 2:30 pm, Crafton-Preyer Theatre, Murphy Hall.

• Latin America & Its Diasporas Seminar, “A Most Modern Death: Youth Suicide in Early Twentieth Century Mexico,” Kathryn A. Sloan, History, 27 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

• 2015-2016 Big XII Faculty Fellowships, scholarly initiative to create an academic community within the institutions in the Big XII Athletic Conference. Deadline: 1 June.