



Memoirist Alum Returns as Eberhardt Speaker



Lacy Johnson

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

Walker, Terry, and Peter J. Grund. "speaking base approbious words": Speech Representation in Early Modern Witness Depositions," *Journal of Historical Pragmatics*.

Kaminski, Megan

Sigil and Sigh (chapbook) w/Anne Yoder. Chicago: Dusie Press, 2015. "The Cities" (broadside). Atlanta: Coconut Books, 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

Thesis Poster Presentation, "Constructing a 'Culture of Life': Legislation, Rhetoric, and Public Discourse," Graduate Research Competition, University of Kansas, 9 April.

Kaminski, Megan

Poetry Reading. Bloof, Coconut, and Saturnalia AWP Reading, New Century Theatre, Minneapolis, MN, 8 April.

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 Wilikens**, 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.

John F. Eberhardt Memorial Lecture, "Speaking Truth to Power: on *The Other Side*, Courage, and Voice," **Lacy M. Johnson**, University of Houston, 7:00 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union. A book signing will follow.

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..

“The Future Is Now: How 2015 Stacks Up Against Predictions,” KCUR Public Radio’s “Central Standard” Radio Show. 5 January.

“Science Fiction and Science Fact in *Interstellar*,” KCUR Public Radio’s “Central Standard” Radio Show, 16 December 2014.

“Science Fiction and Philosophy,” Opening plenary talk framing keynote address by Professor Ryan Nichols, Southwest Philosophical Society Conference 2014, Lawrence, KS, 25 October 2014.

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 France 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

“The Quiet” (short story). *Loveliest Magazine*, May 2015. Web.

Accepted for Publication

McKitterick, Chris

The Science Fiction, Scholarship, and Teaching of James Gunn (book)., with Michael Page. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Co, Summer 2016.

“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, Keraia, India, 2015.

Porter, Caroline

“The Illegible Pan: Racial Formation, Hybridity, and Chinatown in Sui Sin Far’s *Its Wavering Image*,” *Asian American Literature: Discourses and Pedagogies*, forthcoming.

“On Gender, Cross-dressing, and Constraint in Emily Dickinson’s Poetry,” *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*, forthcoming.

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 *AYLI*’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.