



BATTLEGROUND MIDWEST

The Department of English is co-sponsoring **Battleground Midwest**, the Mid-America American Studies Association's 2016 conference, which will be held at the Kansas Union on 4-5 March. According to Jennifer Hamer, Chair of KU's Department of American Studies, which is hosting the conference, the provocative title was chosen because "as recent events continue to demonstrate . . . this region plays a decisive role in setting the political, social and cultural pace for America." Scholars from around the country will present research at the conference. One plenary will feature KU Foundation Professor **David Roediger** and newly-appointed KU Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture **Robert Warrior** in a conversation on the conference theme. This session will begin with MAASA awards presentations at 5:00 pm and run until 6:30 pm on Friday, 4 March, in the Kansas Room of the Kansas Union. A reception will follow in the Traditions Area. Other conference presenters from KU English or with KU English ties include **Cheryl Lester**, **Phillip Drake**, **Ayesha Hardison**, **Martha Baldwin**, **Matthew Smalley**, and **Rebecca Barrett-Fox**. To see the full program, visit the KU Department of American Studies website: <http://americanstudies.ku.edu/>

Meet the Dean

New College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean **Carl Lejuez** will visit the English Voting Department on Tuesday, 1 March, at 4:00 pm in 4051 Wescoe, as part of his plan to meet with all CLAS units in the first few months of his appointment. Lejuez (he suggests the best phonetic pronunciation is "Leshway") began his tenure as Dean on 1 February. Background information on Dean Lejuez can be found at: <http://blog.college.ku.edu/faculty/carl-lejuez-named-14th-dean-of-the-college/> and <https://college.ku.edu/people/administration/lejuez>. During his visit to the Voting Department, Dean Lejuez will ask everyone present to introduce themselves. Be prepared.



Carl Lejuez

Publications

Atkins, G. Douglas

Strategy and Purpose in T.S. Eliot's Major Poems: Language, Hermeneutics, and Ancient Truth in "New Verse." New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Fowler, Doreen

Review of *Faulkner and Film*. Ed. Peter Laurie and Ann J. Abadie. *South Atlantic Review* 80.3-4 (February 2016): 272-275.

Calendar

- N 28 Graduate Creative Writing Reading Series**, featuring **Katie DuBois** (fiction), **Kate Russell** (fiction), and **Rachel Brown** (poetry), 7:00 pm, Decade.
- M 29 Latin America & Its Diasporas Seminar**, "Rights Discourse and the Problem of Recognition: Black and Latino Intersections," **Sharada Balachandran Orihuela**, English, University of Maryland College Park, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- T 1 Voting Department Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe. Meet new CLAS Dean **Carl Lejuez**.
- W 2 CTE Conversation**, "Making the Classroom an Inclusive Space," ways to build diversity and inclusion into our teaching practices, **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, English; **Andrea Greenhoot**, Psychology/CTE, 12:00-1:00 pm, 135 Budig. Register by 3/1.
- R 3 Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshop**, "Circulating Affect: Reading Distributed Cognition in British Romanticism," **Renee Harris**, English, 12:30-2:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- Book Launch**, *Hurt People*, a novel by **Cote Smith**, English, 7:30 pm-8:30 pm, Lawrence Public Library Auditorium.
- F4-S5 Battleground Midwest: Defining Who and What Matters in the U.S. and Beyond**, Mid-America American Studies Association 2016 Conference, includes presentations by English Department faculty, graduate students, and alumni **Robert Warrior**, **Cheryl Lester**, **Philip Drake**, **Ayesha Hardison**, **Martha Baldwin**, **Matthew Smalley**, and **Rebecca Barrett-Fox**, Kansas Union, University of Kansas. Co-sponsored by English.
- M 7 Ars Rhetorica Special Event and Lecture** by **Vanessa Beasley**, Communication Studies, Vanderbilt University, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm, Courtside Room, Burge Union.
- R 10 Celebration of Books Published by Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts Faculty in 2015**, 4:00-6:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall. New books featured include those by **Giselle Anatol**, **Stephanie Fitzgerald**, and **Megan Kaminski**.

McKinney, Charlesia

"When the Nazis are Misunderstood: Addressing Racist Rhetoric in the Composition Classroom," *Journal of Critical Scholarship on Higher Education and Student Affairs* 2.3 (February 2016). Article 11. Online.

Smith, Cote

Hurt People (novel). FSG Originals: Macmillan. 2016.

Staged Reading

Fischer, Iris Smith

Inheritors, by Susan Glaspell, adapted by Iris Smith Fischer. Co-production by River Action and the Quad Cities Theatre Workshop, Davenport, IA, 4 February. River Action's Kate Kremer wrote, "River Action recently was awarded a grant by the Iowa Arts Council for their RiverStages Readings – a series of play readings exploring environmental and cultural issues facing the Quad Cities and Mississippi watershed. Glaspell – a Davenport native – was a natural fit for our first reading and [Fischer's] adaptation of *Inheritors* makes possible a reading of that play."

Announcements, Notes, & News



Cote Smith



• KU English Lecturer **Cote Smith** will celebrate the publication of his new novel, *Hurt People*, at a book launch sponsored by The Raven Bookstore and the Lawrence Public Library on Thursday, 3 March, in the LPL auditorium. Billed as a psychological thriller, press publicity describes the book as "eerily atmospheric, lean, and forceful . . . a debut from a slyly talented new writer." Smith is a graduate of KU's MFA program. Congratulations, Cote!

• **Casey Keel** notes that **Vanessa Beasley**, who will be speaking at an **Ars Rhetorica** event on Monday, 7 March (see "Calendar"), is "an associate professor of communication studies at Vanderbilt University and was named director of the Program in American Studies in 2013. Additionally, she is editor of the Presidential Rhetoric Series from Texas A&M Press. In August of 2015 Dr. Beasley was appointed the dean of The Martha Rivers Ingram Commons at Vanderbilt. As dean of The Ingram Commons, Beasley serves as the academic leader, mentor and senior administrator of the first-year student experience at Vanderbilt. Dr. Beasley is also a scholarly expert in race, gender and diversity in U.S. political rhetoric. She is the author of two books: *You, The People: American National Identity in Presidential Rhetoric* (2003) and *Who Belongs in America? Presidents, Rhetoric, and Immigration* (2006).

KU and Regional Events

• **University Theatre** presents "The Rehearsal" and "The Hypochondriac," by Moliere, adapted into one play by Mechele Lyon, 26-27 February, 3-4 March, 7:30 pm, 28 February, 6 March, 2:30 pm, Crafton-Preyer Theatre, Murphy Hall.

• **Open Forum**, "Voicing Our Differences: LGBTQIA Racial Justice at KU," 1 March, 5:00-7:00 pm, Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union.

• **Disability Studies Seminar**, "War without Disability: A Brief History of an American Obsession," John Kinder, American Studies/History, Oklahoma State University, 3 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Gender Seminar**, "Men and Their Hair: Identity, Discipline, and U.S. Military Service," Beth Bailey, History, 3 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Conflict & International Change Seminar**, "Global Responses to Vietnamese Refugees After the Vietnam Conflict," Heather Stur, University of Southern Mississippi, 4 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Nature & Culture Seminar**, "'Save Energy, Save a Soul': The Energy Crisis and the Unification of Conservative Anti-Environmental Ideas," Alex Boynton, History, 4 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Early Modern Seminar**, "Of Rings and Love in Two Novellas of Marguerite de Navarre's *Heptameron*," Brigitte Roussel, French, Wichita State University, 7 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **The Urban Experience Seminar**, "Blackwater, Dark Rain, and Fragments of Empire in Post-Katrina New Orleans," Joo Ok Kim, American Studies, 10 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Paul Rehak Memorial Symposium in Ancient Art**, "The Experience of the Ancient Roman City: New Research," featuring a panel of classicists and art scholars from Wabash College, UT-Austin, and Trinity University, 8 March, 2:00-5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

• **2nd Annual Enhancing Cultural Competency Conference**, 10 March, 8:00 am-12:00 pm; 23 March, 12:30 pm-5:00 pm, Kansas Union Ballroom

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

• **CTE Teaching Slams**, 25 March, 2:00-3:30 pm (several locations). Deadline for proposal submission: 4 March.

• **UMKC Spring Symposium**, sponsored by English Graduate Students Association, 9 April, UMKC, Kansas City, MO. Deadline: 9 March.

• **The Sultans of Swing: 100 Years of Baseball, Jazz, and Short Fiction**, 14-15 April, Wright State University, Dayton, OH.

• **Ecocriticism and the Future of Southern Studies**, a book-length collection of scholarship that applies interdisciplinary environmental humanities research to analyses of the American South, solicits essays. Deadline: 1 July.

Contests, Fellowships, Grants, Etc. (Posted)

• **2015-2016 Steeples Service to Kansans Award**, given to three faculty members at the KU Lawrence campus who provide significant service to the people of Kansas as a purposeful extension of their teaching and research. Deadline: 4 March.

• **CTE Teaching-Related Education and Travel (TREAT) Funds Summer 2016**, to encourage Lawrence campus faculty members to explore cutting-edge work being done in teaching. Deadline: 24 March.