



Early Bird Honors and Awards

This year's **Department of English Honors and Awards Ceremony** will be held in the usual place (the Kansas Union Ballroom), but **be sure to note the earlier-than-usual time**. Our annual celebration for graduating seniors and department award-winners will begin at **5:00 pm** on 12 May, the Friday of Commencement Weekend. The time change is the result of a conflict with an Honors Program event to be held that same evening at 8:00 pm. We don't yet know whether this is a one-time or permanent conflict, but, for this year, at least, adjust your party meter to a twilight setting and come join faculty, staff, students, and families at this end-of-academic-year gathering. All graduating seniors in attendance will be recognized and many graduates and undergraduates who produced outstanding scholarly and creative work in 2016-2017 will be honored. This year, a new award will be given for the first time. When Provost **Neeli Bendapudi's** father, Ramesh Thippavajjala, passed away last year, his family asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the KU English Department in his name. Thippavajjala, a native of India, completed a PhD in English at KU in 1974. His dissertation was on the work of Arthur Miller. Rather than spend these funds on miscellaneous expenses, the Department has endowed an annual award that will recognize and reward the work of "an international graduate student in the Department of English who has demonstrated excellence in the fields of literature or creative writing or language, rhetoric, and composition." The Provost had hoped to present the first award herself, but had to cancel due to scheduling difficulties. Come see the inaugural presentation of **The Ramesh Thippavajjala Memorial Award** and celebrate all the English Department's academic work of this year – but be sure to come at **5:00!**



On June 2–4, some fifty scholars from nine different countries will gather at KU to present and discuss cutting-edge research on the history of the English language. They will attend **SHEL 10 (Studies in the History of the English Language)**, the main North American meeting for scholars in the field. SHEL10 at KU follows on earlier conferences at universities such as UCLA, University of Michigan, Indiana University, and University of British Columbia. "It will be exciting to see so many colleagues and friends visit KU to exchange ideas and present their latest research," says **Peter Grund**, who is organizing the conference together with current and past graduate students **Peter Carrillo**, **Amanda Sladek** (formerly of KU, but now of University of Nebraska at Kearney), and **Wen Xin**. He adds: "There will be papers on all periods of the English language, from Old English to the late twentieth century, on language in a variety of contexts and situations (poetry, legal texts, newspapers, and YouTube videos, among many others), and on a number of features and constructions (including the snarky use of *whatever* and the rise of the

adverb *thusly*). The papers will really showcase the breadth of approaches and materials that current scholars of language history engage with." In addition to paper presentations, the conference will include a workshop on teaching the history of English and a roundtable on the profession. Elspeth Healey has put together an exhibit at the Spencer Research Library drawing from the many significant manuscripts and printed works that the library holds for the history of the English language. The exhibit will be open to conference attendees and other visitors to the library starting June 2. More information on SHEL10, including the full schedule, is available on the conference homepage: www.shel10.ku.edu.

MCS Named Director of Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Marta Caminero-Santangelo begins a five-year term as KU's **Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies** on 1 July 2017. CLACS has been a campus fixture since 1961. Undergraduates may pursue a major or a minor in the discipline, while graduate students can earn an MA or a graduate certificate. The Center has over 100 affiliated faculty and lecturers, including **Giselle Anatol**, **Stephanie Fitzgerald**, **Maryemma Graham**, and **Geraldo Sousa** as well as MCS. Marta is "excited to be leading the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at a particularly crucial time. The work the Center does really allows me to bring together my interests and commitments in a meaningful way, to help support our Latinx and Latin American and Caribbean students on campus, and to engage in important outreach in Kansas through educator workshops and community programming. I hope to see many of my colleagues in English at some of the Center's events in the future!"



Marta Caminero-Santangelo

Calendar

T 9 Creative Writing Graduate Student Reading, featuring work by **Danny Caine**; **Kris Coffey**; **Garrett Fiddler**, **Jacqueline Holland**, and **Simone Savannah**, 7:00 pm, Cider Art Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania.

F 12 Department of English Honors and Awards Ceremony, 5:00 pm, Ballroom, Kansas Union.

Renee Harris Wins Argersinger Award



Renee Harris

The dissertation of lecturer and newly-minted KU English PhD **Renee Harris** has been selected to receive the **2017 Marnie and Bill Argersinger Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in the Humanities**. The award includes a cash prize of \$1250. Harris has been invited to join the stage party at the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Saturday, 13 May, in the Lied Center, where she will be officially presented with the award. Her dissertation is en-

titled *Reading Romanticism: Keats, Embodied Cognition, and the Work of Social Affect*. It “argues that Romantic writers conceived of reading as an embodied social practice, understanding literary affect as a physiological connection between writer and reader. . . . [The] project traces the lasting influence of Enlightenment thinkers such as David Hume and Adam Smith on Romantic writers as they, in turn, shaped the literary culture that dominated the nineteenth century.” Professor **Ann Rowland** supervised Harris’s work. Congratulations, Renee!

Publications

Tidwell, Edgar

Review of *Letters from Langston: From the Harlem Renaissance to the Red Scare and Beyond*. Eds. Evelyn Louise Crawford and Marylouise Patterson. In *Journal of American History*, vol. 103, no. 4 (2017): 1072-74.

Presentations

McKitterick, Chris

Invited. “James Gunn on his Contemporaries,” Constellation 8, Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE. [McKitterick and Michael Page interviewed Gunn at this Grand Master Guest of Honor main event.] 29 April.

Invited. Book signing (with Dr. Michael Page and James Gunn), Constellation 8, Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE, 29 April.

Invited. “Guests of Honor Q&A,” Constellation 8, Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE, 29 April.

Invited. “Writing Workshops,” Constellation 8, Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE, 29 April.

Invited. Guest Lecture for Dr. Michael Page’s 65-student “Science Fiction” class (with James Gunn), University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 29 April.

Invited. “James Gunn’s Legacy: The Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction and SF Studies Programs Around the World,” Spring Lecture Series, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 28 April.

Invited. Speaker and instructor. Southwest Speculative Fiction Writers’ Association 2017 Houston Workshop, Houston, TX, 6-10 January.

Invited. “Make Your Scientific and Technical Writing Stand Out.” ITTC (Information and Telecommunication Technology Center) special all-hands meeting, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 4 November 2016. With **Kij Johnson**.

Invited class presentations. “Ideas in Science Fiction,” “Building Suspense and Tension in Fiction,” “Science Fiction,” ENGL 756 and FREN 177. 2016-17.

Tidwell, Edgar

Panelist (with **Carmaletta Williams** and Randal Jelks), post-screening discussion of *Langston’s Lawrence*, Parsons Public Library, 24 April.

Announcements, Notes, & News

● The search for the inaugural **Herman Melville Distinguished Professor of American Literature** in the KU English Department has come to a successful close. **Randall Fuller** will begin his appointment to that position in Fall 2017.

● **Kij Johnson’s** *The Dream-Quest of Vellitt-Boe* has been nominated for a **Shirley Jackson Award**, for outstanding achievement in the literature of psychological suspense, horror, and the dark fantastic.

● KU English Creative Writing PhD student **Lesley Wheeler’s** full-length poetry manuscript “Abandoners” was a semi-finalist in Gold Wake Press’s 2017 open reading period.

● KU English Literature PhD student **Anthony Boynton** has been selected as a graduate student participant in the Hall Center’s 2017 Fall Faculty Colloquium, “The Posthuman.”

● **Creighton Brown** has accepted the position of contributing editor for *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies*.

KU and Regional Events

● **The Urban Experience Seminar**, “Policing Pleasure in the City,” Margaret Kelley, American Studies; Meggan J. Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 11 May, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.