Mister Long Goes to Savannah

The program preparers for the 10th Annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Commons conference at Georgia Southern University faced a dilemma. Three plenary speakers had been chosen to address the conference and the writers had to label their pictures. Two were easy. One was a professor, the other was a senior educational administrator with a PhD. “Dr.” would work just fine. But the third was a graduate student. A graduate student delivering a plenary? Maybe they should just put the names. But that would be odd. Honorifics are expected. Someone said, “What choice do we have? Let’s call him ‘Mr.’” Mister Aaron Long, a doctoral student in KU English, did, indeed, have the unusual opportunity to deliver a plenary address to about 150 people at this regional conference on pedagogy that attracted participants from 26 states and several foreign countries. According to Long, “SoTL is an international, interdisciplinary discourse aimed at studying the impact of particular course design, classroom management, and assessment practices on student learning. Internationally, SoTL is generating a data-based case for balancing the importance of research and teaching at universities in Europe, Canada, and the U.S., helping institutions in Asia develop a modern workforce, and helping scholars in South Africa think carefully about the decolonization of knowledge across the disciplines.” Dan Bernstein, former director of KU’s Center for Teaching Excellence, was a participant in SoTL and Long was introduced to the discourse through his sideline employment at CTE. He soon became involved with the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL) and was appointed as Student Representative to the Executive Board in 2014 (his term runs through 2018). His contributions to the organization in that capacity led to the invitation to speak in Savannah. His presentation, “Picking Up Change: Finding Evidence of Student Learning in Unlikely Places,” suggested that instructors and pedagogical scholars “can learn a lot about the relationship between students’ learning and the learning they do in other, ancillary contexts simply by paying attention to when and how often students attend office hours and the commentary they offer on the course via email after the semester is over.” In his other work with SoTL, Long has focused on learning through games, an ongoing interest. His PhD research focuses on nineteenth-century transportation and British modernism. Congratulations on this unusual honor, Aaron!

Publications

Bensel, Alyse

Cipri, Nino

Rogers, Reece
“Knapsack” (nonfiction). Obra/Artifact 2.

Warren, Hannah
“Tangled Roots” (poem). 3Elements Review.

Presentations

Hall, Christopher

Long, Aaron

Polo, Sarah

Wedge, Philip
“Taking ‘the crooked with the straights’: Baseball in the Play and Film Fences,” Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference, Ottawa University, 31 March.

Calendar

T 11 Advisory Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe.

Humanities Lecture Series, “Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China,” Evan Osnos, Staff Writer for The New Yorker, 7:30 pm, Woodruff Auditorium; public conversation session, 12 April, 10:00 am, Hall Center Conference Hall.

W 12 Melissa Kleinschmidt, MA Defense, 9:30 am, 3025 Wescoe (Lamb, Schieberle, Sousa).

R 13 Creative Writing Graduate Student Reading Series, fiction and poetry featuring Kim Groninger, David Miller, Mercedes Lucero, Kate Russell, and Candice Wuehle, 7:00 pm, Decade Coffee, 920 Delaware.

T 18 Advisory Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe.

W 19 Undergraduate Reading Series, showcasing English undergraduates reading poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, 6:00-7:30 pm, Spencer Museum of Art.
Accepted for Publication

Bensel, Alyse

Cipri, Nino
“Ad Astra Per Aspera” (story). Capricious.

Announcements, Notes, & News

● Professor Edgar Tidwell and KU English graduate alum Carmaletta Williams will accept an honor bestowed posthumously on Langston Hughes. On 7 April, Missouri State University will induct Hughes into its Missouri Public Affairs Hall of Fame. The award is for “people with a connection to the state of Missouri who serve as examples of global citizens by defining the essence of public affairs, and who have acted consistently for the benefit of others.” Tidwell and Williams are the co-editors of the 2013 collection, My Dear Boy: Carrie Hughes’s Letters to Langston Hughes, 1926-1938.

● KU English PhD student Lesley Wheeler will be the Spencer Museum of Art’s Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/Loo Family Collections Intern for the 2017-2018 academic year.

● The KU Undergraduate Reading Series will feature a special presentation from Liz James, a graduating senior majoring in English/French/Art History. James will read poetry that she wrote this year as the Integrated Arts Research Initiative Undergraduate Fellow at the Spencer Museum of Art. James did her work under the supervision of Megan Kaminski, who was this year’s IARI Faculty Fellow.

KU and Regional Events

● Place, Race & Space Seminar, “Fragmented Citizenship: Municipal Annexation and Incorporation in St. Louis County,” Colin Gordon, History, University of Iowa, 10 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● 2017 Faculty Coffee Talk Series, 11 April, 3:00-4:00 pm, Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center, Room 116.

● The Urban Experience Seminar, “Policing and Protest in China,” Yao Li, Center for East Asian Studies, 13 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● Nature & Culture Seminar, “International Law and Agroecological Integrity: Building New Legal and Instititutional Foundations for a Global Transition to Natural-Systems Agriculture,” John Head, School of Law, 14 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● Digital Humanities Seminar, “A Portrait of Venice: A ‘Virtually’ Digital Exhibition,” Kristin Lanzoni, History of Art, Duke University,” 17 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● Early Modern Seminar, “Inverted Miracles and Misplaced Saints in Feliciano de Silva’s ‘Segunda comedia de la Celestina,’” Andrea Tate, Classical & Modern Languages, Truman State University, 17 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

● Integration of Indian Classical and Western Music, David Balakrishnan, Simons Public Fellow, and Purnaprajna Bangere, mathematician and violinist, 17 April, 7:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

● Graduate Student Workshop: “Theoria, Poiesis, Praxis: Communicating Your Research and Scholarship to the Public,” facilitators in Arts; Humanities; Natural Sciences and Math; Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Social Media and Public Communications, 18 April, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

● Resident Humanities Fellows, “Historicity at a Crossroads: Rethinking Testimonial Cinema,” Verónica Garibotto, Spanish & Portuguese, 19 April, 12:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

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

● (Re)imagining Humanities Teaching: Innovations in Course Design, a CTE co-hosted conference celebrating the Collaborative Humanities Redesign Project (CHRP). CHRP was a cooperative program that involved faculty members from KU, Park, Rockhurst, and Elon Universities. Humanities scholars from the CHRP project and ten other universities will share work on topics that have implications for humanities teaching and learning. 8-10 June, Kansas City, MO. Discount deadline: 15 April.

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