



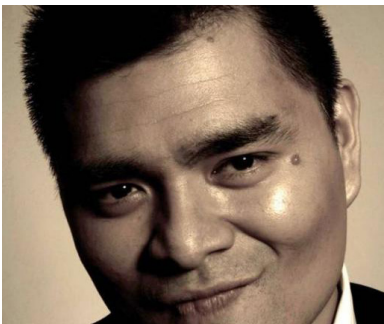
Laura Mielke Elected Chair of American Literature Society

Professor **Laura Mielke**'s professional stature continues to rise. During intersession, Mielke was elected chair of the **American Literature Society**, after serving for the last two years on the organization's advisory council. According to its website, the society is "an independent professional organization of scholars devoted to the preservation, study and recognition of American literature and culture. The society hosts sessions at the annual MLA Convention and maintains a listserv to encourage networking and exchange among students, teachers, and researchers of American literature. It annually awards the Jay B. Hubbell Medal for Lifetime Achievement in American Literary Studies, which has been bestowed on many of the most distinguished scholars in the field." At the just-concluded 2019 MLA convention, the society oversaw panels on "New Diasporas," "American Literature Pedagogies," and "American Literature without Authors." Laura encourages all Americanists to join the ALS via the website: <http://www.als-mla.org/als/membership/>. She notes that the process is both free and easy.



Laura Mielke

The Kenneth A. Spencer Lecture



Jose Antonio Vargas

On 24 January, The Commons & The Raven Book Store are sponsoring the annual **Kenneth A. Spencer Lecture**, this year a reading and book signing by **Jose Antonio Vargas** at Liberty Hall. Vargas's presentation begins at 7:00 pm. According to publicity for the event, Vargas "is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, and a leading voice for the human rights of immigrants. He

is a founder and chief executive officer of Define American, the nation's leading nonprofit media organization that fights injustice and anti-immigrant hate through the power of storytelling." Vargas tells his own story in his recent memoir, *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, published by HarperCollins in September 2018 and no doubt the focus of this reading. The work supplements and expands on previous work in the form of essays and articles, a documentary feature film, and a television special, all of which have won awards. The event is free and open to the public.

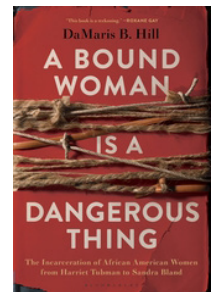
Publications

Lamb, Jonathan

"How to Concern Yourself with Shakespeare's Books," *Shakespeare Studies* XLVI, 2018.

Announcements, Notes, & News

• KU English alum **DaMaris B. Hill** (PhD '12) has a new book out. *A Bound Woman Is a Dangerous Thing* (Bloomsbury Publishing) became available as an e-book on 15 January. Subtitled *The Incarceration of African American Women from Harriet Tubman to Sandra Bland*, the work is a narrative-in-verse in the tradition of Claudia Rankine's *Citizen*. *A Bound Woman* honors black woman freedom fighters who have had to endure "incarceration" of various kinds, experiencing



Calendar

- M 21 MLK Day Panel**, "Intersectionality and Social Justice," with **Charlesia McKinney**, English; Randal Jelks, American Studies/AAAS; Joseph Urba, Journalism and Mass Communications, 3:00 pm, Lawrence Public Library.
- W 23 Mark Jaskowski**, PhD Exam, 9:00 am, 3001A Wescoe (Conrad, Drake, *Johnson*, Fischer, Linden).
- R 24 Job Presentation**, first candidate for an assistant professorship in rhetoric and composition, 4:00 pm, Big 12 Room, Kansas Union. Reception follows. (See separate publicity for further details.)
- The Kenneth A. Spencer Lecture** by **Jose Antonio Vargas**, memoirist, journalist, and filmmaker, 7:00 pm, Liberty Hall. The event is free and open to the university community and the public.
- M 28 Job Presentation**, second candidate for an assistant professorship in rhetoric and composition, 4:00 pm, Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union. Reception follows. (See separate publicity for further details.)
- W 30 Leighann Thone**, RDP, 10:00 am, 3025 Wescoe (Devitt, Reiff, Mapes)
- R 31 Job Presentation**, third candidate for an assistant professorship in rhetoric and composition, 4:00 pm, Centennial Room, Kansas Union. Reception follows. (See separate publicity for further details.)

a plethora of horrific attendant adversities. Press publicity calls Hill's hybrid piece of scholarship and poetry "a history, a reckoning, a balm, and [a] call to empathy and action." DaMaris Hill is an assistant professor of creative writing and African American and Africana studies at the University of Kentucky.

KU and Regional Events

- **The Grant K. Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies**, "A Queer Friendship at the Origins of Modern Japanese Literature: Shiki, Sōseki, Haiku, and the Novel," J. Keith Vincent, Japanese/Comparative Literature/WGSS, Boston University, 24 January, 5:30 pm, Parlors, Kansas Union.
- **Colonialism Seminar**, "The Spanish Conquest of Panama and the Creation of Maroon," Robert Schwaller, History, 25 January, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

- **5th Annual Cavalier Conference**, "VOICES = Expression/Diversity/Identity," 12 April 2019, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS. Deadline for proposals: 15 February. Registration now open.
- **Looking Glass Rock Writers' Conference 2019**, 9-12 May, Brevard, NC. Deadline: 1 March. The conference is directed by **Alyse Bense** (PhD '18).

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

- **CTE Course Transformation Grants, Spring/Summer 2019**: TRESTLE Course Transformation Grants for STEM faculty; C21 Course Transformation Grants for non-STEM disciplines. Priority deadline: 4 February.
- **CTE/KU Libraries Research Sprints**: The Research Sprints planning committee has issued its call for the Research Sprints, which will be held May 20-24. This year the Sprints will focus on open access and open education. Projects will be selected that will result in the open publication of research, a course redesign that implements open pedagogical techniques, or the creation of an open educational resource. Recipients will receive training in open practices from expert librarians building upon CTE's Diversity Scholars Program. Additionally, recipients will receive a \$1,000 stipend. For more information, attend an information session in Watson Library 455 on February 5 at 11:00 am or contact Karna Younger, karna@ku.edu or Rebecca Orozco, orozco@ku.edu.
- **Hall Center Graduate Competition Deadlines: Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities**, 21 January; **Graduate Summer Research Awards**, 4 February; **Applied Humanities Summer Fellows**, 4 March. For further information, see Hall Center website: <http://hallcenter.ku.edu/funding/graduate-support>.