Rank Advancement

The University Committee on Promotion and Tenure has informed the Department of English that Associate Professor Byron Caminero-Santangelo has been promoted to the rank of full professor effective Fall 2015, barring opposition from the Chancellor or the Board of Regents (an extreme rarity). Byron’s promotion comes on the heels of last July’s publication of his Different Shades of Green: African Literature, Environmental Justice, and Political Ecology, the latest monograph in the University of Virginia Press’s Under the Sign of Nature Series. Now we just have to keep him researching and teaching in the Department! Environmental Studies has permanently poached half his FTE beginning next fall (admittedly with his blessing, since his research has become ever more interdisciplinary). He’ll teach a two-semester sequence for EVRN in 2015-2016. On top of that, he’s been tapped as Interim Director of the Kansas African Studies Center, a one-year service appointment which will keep him completely out of English classrooms until Fall 2016. Wish him well before he goes wandering in the wilderness. Congratulations, Byron!

Murphy, Ngoh Win Awards

English Ph.D. students Angela Murphy and Sarah Ngoh received good news this week in the form of scholarship and fellowship notifications. Murphy has been selected as a recipient of a 2015-2016 Sherman and Irene Dreizeun Scholarship for International Studies. The Dreizeun Scholarships are awarded annually to two KU graduate students by the Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Foundation. Murphy, accompanied by Director of Graduate Students, Giselle Anatol, who nominated her for the award, will officially accept the $2500 scholarship at the foundation’s annual luncheon on 12 May in Kansas City. She hopes to conduct research on the rhetoric of social movements, especially women’s rights movements, in Senegal, West Africa early this summer. Ngoh is the recipient of a Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellowship from KU’s Hall Center for the Humanities. Two Sias Fellowships are awarded each year to KU doctoral students to support intensive work on their dissertations. Ngoh will receive a $7000 stipend as well as an office in the Hall Center for a one-semester residency during the 2015-2016 academic year. The award letter notes that “the fellowship also seeks to expand the Fellows’ experiences beyond a single disciplinary focus by providing the opportunity for interaction with the Hall Center’s interdisciplinary cohort of faculty and public fellows.” Ngoh’s dissertation deals with masculinities and nationalisms in post-independence and contemporary African literature.

Calendar

T 17 St. Patty’s Day Poets, poetry reading with Megan Kaminski, KU English; Hannah Gamble; and Rich Smith, Central Missouri, 7:00 pm, Lawrence Public Library.

M 23 KU Town Hall Meeting, with Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little, to discuss recent happenings at the University, 12 noon, Ballroom, Kansas Union.

Bold Aspirations Lecture Series, “Incidents in the Life of a Genre: Autobiography and Self-Invention,” Maryemma Graham, University Distinguished Professor of English, 5:30 pm, Bruckmiller Room, Adams Alumni Center. English Department attendees are invited to bring a guest.

2015 Graduate Recruitment Visit Reception, 7:00 pm, 1809 Indiana St.

A Dancing Girl Press Reading with Alyse Bensel, Callista Buchen, Candice Wuehle, and Lesley Wheeler, 8:00-10:00 pm, Cider Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania.

R 26 Careers in Applied Humanities, panel discussion and breakout sessions with senior executives from the Kansas City Public Library; KCPT; the Truman Library Institute; Arts KC, the Central Exchange; and the Belger Arts Center, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center. Reception following. RSVP requested.

T 31 Celebration of Books Published by Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts Faculty in 2014, presentations by Jill Kuhnheim, Sherrie Tucker, and David Cateforis, eight books by KU English faculty members featured., 4:00-6:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

R 2 Farewell Reception for departing CLAS Dean Danny Anderson, 3:00-4:30 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

Presentations

Buchen, Callista
“Beyond the Page: Collaborative Poetry in the Digital Age,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, University of Louisville, 26-28 February.

Accepted for Publication

Buchen, Callista
“Kinds of Trucks’ (poem). Fourteen Hills.

Announcements, Notes, and News (Posted)

• There are two co-recipients of the 2015 Paul Stephen Lim Asian-American Playwriting Award sponsored by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. They are: “Family Dinner” by Sarah Cho, University of Iowa; and “Nightfall” by Livian Yeh, Boston University. The winning playwrights will each receive $1000 and a professional development opportunity at the O’Neill Playwrights’ Conference in Waterford, Connecticut. This is the fourth year KCACTF has awarded the Paul Stephen Lim Asian-American Playwriting Award. Lim taught playwriting in the department from 1989 until his retirement in 2010, during which period he was also the artistic director of English Alternative Theatre (EAT), an organization he founded to produce original scripts by his students, many of which also won regional and national KCACTF playwriting awards.

HBW News

Sarah Arbuthnot Lendt, English lecturer and project coordinator of HBW’s 2015 Don’t Deny My Voice: Reading and Teaching African American Poetry NEH Institute, gave birth to Samuel Arbuthnot Lendt in the wee hours of 9 March. Samuel, the second child of Sarah and her husband, Brian Lendt, weighed 7 lbs 10 oz and stretched to 18 inches. Congratulations, Sarah and Brian!

KU and Regional Events

• Nature & Culture Seminar. “On the Trail with Humboldt: Mapping the Orinoco as Transnational Space,” Adriana Mendez, Spanish & Portuguese, University of Iowa, 13 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Hall Center Special Event. “Redefining Rape,” Estelle Freedman, History, Stanford University, 23 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

• Paul Rehak Memorial Symposium in Ancient Art. “Harriet Boyd, American Archaeologist in East Crete, 1900-1904: Her Excavations Then and Now,” including presentations by Susan Heuck Allen, Classics, Brown University; John G. Younger, Classics, KU; Leslie Preston Day, Classics, Wabash College, 24 March, 2:00-5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

• CTE Event: Motivating Undergraduate Students by Teaching Disciplinary Content through Civic Engagement, a session that will highlight the value of public issues in teaching, with Kelsey Bitting and Alison Olson Marshall, Geology, 25 March, 12:00-1:30 pm, 135 Budig.

• Digital Humanities Seminar. “Infinite E-Lit: A Look from Hispanic Legacies,” Elika Ortega, History/KU Libraries, 25 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Disability Studies Seminar. “Bathrooms as Trans* and Crip Spaces of Resistance,” Ashley Mog, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, 26 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Latin America & Its Diasporas Seminar/Nature & Culture Seminar/Urban Experience Seminar, “Healing the Hazardous City; Hygiene Experts and the Fight Against Fire in Mexico City, 1860-1910,” Anna Alexander, Georgia Southern University, 30 March, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Gender Seminar. “Weirdness, Queerness, and Communities,” Tami Albin, KU Libraries, 2 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• Conflict & International Change Seminar, “‘To Strike A Blow Against Slavery Wherever It May Exist’: Abolitionism, U.S. Foreign Policy, and the Caribbean, 1865-1880,” Christopher Wilkins, History, William Jewell College, 3 April, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

• Lyle Olsen Graduate Student Essay Contest, sponsored by The Sport Literature Association and Aethlon. Deadline: 15 April.

Spring Recruitment Visit

Director of Graduate Studies Giselle Anatol writes, “This year’s Spring Recruitment Visit is scheduled from Sunday, March 22 - Tuesday, March 24. We hope many of you will be back from Spring Break to welcome a group of student visitors to campus and show them how vibrant the English Department can be. Several other newly admitted graduate students will visit at various times throughout March and the beginning of April. Please help us to welcome them as well.”

Coming Soon!

The 2014-15 American and British Lecture
Joy Castro, English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
4/2/15