

News

Bulletin

Volume LV Number 1 14 August 2017

# MEET THE NEW BOSS! SAME AS THE OLD BOSS!

# The Parting on the Left Is Now the Parting on the Right





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2017

The hairstyle has changed, but it's the same **Dorice Williams Elliott** back in the English Chair's office for a reprise of her responsibilities from 2003-2009. Elliott began a six-month term as Interim Chair on 1 July after **Anna Neill** completed her five years of exemplary service. **Katie Conrad** will take up the reins on 1 January 2018. Elliott's agenda is to hold the fort until Conrad takes over, but she does plan one major initiative. Out of her teaching office, she will sell bootleg ice-cold Diet Coke to **Marta Caminero-Santangelo** (and other department members suffering withdrawal) at \$3/can. By December, she hopes to endow a new graduate scholarship in English.

# Tip Your Cap to the New Constitution

Assistant to the Chair Robert Elliott wears many other hats as well. At the moment, he is clinging to ad hoc duties as the English Department's Attorney General, despite being described as "beleaguered" and "weak" by the new Interim Chair. Bob is reviewing the Department bylaws (last voted on in 2012) for items that need attention from the voting bodies in the unit or small needed changes (such as the change of titles from MFA Director to Director of Graduate Creative Writing) that have already been voted on. He will also review the old "Information for Full-time Faculty" booklets, which once provided such pleasurable reading for department members, with an eye to adding electronic appendices that include information which is not now centrally available for one-stop review. Anna Neill already began this process by carefully updating the versions of the Faculty Evaluation Plan and Promotion and Tenure Guidelines that are available in the College Policy Library (the versions currently in the bylaws are outdated and will be removed). Once all these matters have been addressed, the resulting document will replace the version now available on the G Drive.

#### Calendar

T 15 KU Common Book Workshops with Siobhan Scarry, Chair of English, Bethel College, 2:00-3:00 pm (Workshop 1), 3:00-4:00 pm (Workshop 2), The Commons, Spooner Hall. For instructors who plan to teach this year's KU Common Book, *Citizen*, by Claudia Rankine. If interested, please e-mail firstyear@ku.edu.

**Poetry Reading** with **Siobhan Scarry**, English, Bethel College, and **Candice Wuehle**, English, 5:15 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

R 17 KU Teaching Summit, "Learning from (with) Our Students." Keynote speaker: Randy Bass, Vice Provost and Professor of English, Georgetown University, on transformational learning. Among other presentations, Laura Mielke, English, will formally receive the Byron T. Shutz Award for Excellence in Teaching. 8:30 am-12:30 pm, followed by lunch. Registration closed on 10 August, but department members could try calling CTE and saying that you heard an English professor was giving the keynote so you decided it was worth coming. Better yet, just request late registration. Budig Hall. See cte@ku.edu for more information.

CTE/CODL Workshop, "Creating Online Elements for Your Course," 1:30-3:30 pm, 6 Budig (see brief feature below for RSVP information).

- S 19 Annual Department of English SAGE Picnic, 6:30-8:30 pm, NEW LOCATION, Burcham Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Indiana (see brief feature below for further information).
- N 20 Free State Prairie Celebration, including the honoring of Professor Emerita Beth Schultz, 6:30-8:30 pm, Free State High School (west side), 4700 Overland Dr. Co-hosted by KU, FSHS, and the Grassland Heritage Foundation.
- T 29 Department of English Open Forum to learn more about new concealed carry policies, with Deputy Chief of Public Safety, James Anguiano, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe (see brief feature below).

#### Take a Bow to the New Revolution

The Center for Teaching Excellence and Center for Online and Distance Learning will offer a workshop, "Creating Online Elements for Your Course," from 1:30-3:30 pm on Thursday, 17 August, The workshop will be held in 6 Budig Hall. Topics will include online engagement, video creation, and other elements for flipped, hybrid, and online courses. Please RSVP to Judy Eddy (jeddy@ku.edu) by Wednesday, 16 August,

# Get Out Your Guitar and Play



The annual SAGE pre-academic-year picnic will be held on Saturday, 19 August, from 6:30-8:30 pm at a **new location** – Burcham Park, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Indiana (see **Hannah Scupham's** e-mail from 8/12 for more information and a flyer). Faculty, staff, graduate students, spouses, partners, children, and pets are welcome. Come meet our new MA, MFA, and PhD students, many of whom will have just finished GTA orientation.

### **Get On Your Knees and Pray**

Concealed carry went into effect at the University of Kansas on 1 July. Several months ago, the Department scheduled an open forum for all English Department members with Public Safety for Tuesday, 29 August, at 4:00 pm. The Provost's Office has just announced that there will be a University-wide forum on the issue at the end of the week before classes (exact date and time TBA). We are still planning on having this department-level gathering, however. Online information about concealed carry can be found at http://concealedcarry.ku.edu/.

# Sit in Judgment of All Wrong

The only **Voting Department** meeting scheduled at this time is set for Tuesday, 5 September, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe. No Senior Staff meetings have been scheduled yet, but **the associate and full professors** will assemble to discuss the promotion and tenure candidate files of assistant professors **Phillip Drake**, **Kij Johnson**, **Megan Kaminski**, and **Jonathan Lamb** on Tuesday, 3 October, and Tuesday, 10 October, at the same time and place. Additionally, there will be a **New Faculty Reception** on 19 September from 3:30-4:40 pm in the North Gallery of the Spencer Research Library to welcome new 2017-2018 GTAs and our new Herman Melville Distinguished Professor of American Literature, **Randall Fuller**. More details will be forthcoming after the semester begins.

The Who, "Won't Get Fooled Again" <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHhrZgojY1Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHhrZgojY1Q</a>