



The 2017-2018 American/British Lecture

Given the establishment this fall of the Melville Distinguished Professorship of Nineteenth-Century American Literature, it seemed fitting for the KU English Department to bring a nineteenth-century Americanist to campus this fall to deliver the **2017-2018 American/British Lecture**.

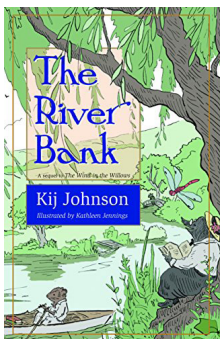
Melville Professor **Randall Fuller** will introduce University of Illinois Conrad Humanities Scholar and Associate Professor of English **Christopher Freeburg** whose topic for the 3 October presentation will be “Returning to the Slave’s Song.” The lecture will take place at 7:00 pm in the Malott Room of the Kansas Union. Freeburg is the author of *Melville and the Idea of Blackness* (Cambridge UP, 2012) and, most recently, *Black Aesthetics and the Interior Life* (U of Virginia P, 2017). Lecture publicity notes that he is “currently completing a book titled *Slavery: Art and Counterlife*, which focuses on slave texts across a variety of media and how scholars make sense of them.” Freeburg has published widely on his research interests which, along with American and African American Literature generally, include The Idea of Black Culture; The American Novel after 1850; Slavery in the Atlantic World; and Media Aesthetics. He has been invited to submit essays on “Melville and Black Performance” and “Douglass, Delaney, and the 19th Century Public Sphere” for upcoming Cambridge Press publications.



Christopher Freeburg

The River Bank

Readers of KU English Assistant Professor Kij Johnson’s haunting *Dream-Quest of Vellitt Boe*, her 2016 meditation on the work of H. P. Lovecraft, have been surprised and charmed by Johnson’s new “sequel” to Kenneth Grahame’s *The Wind*



in *The Willows* entitled *The River Bank*, which has just been released by Small Beer Press. Press publicity sums up the plot in this way: “. . . [S]taunch Mole, sociable Water Rat, severe Badger, and troublesome and ebullient Toad of Toad Hall are joined by a young mole lady, Beryl, and her dear friend, Rabbit. There



Kij Johnson

are adventures, kidnappings, lost letters, and family secrets—lavishly illustrated throughout by award-winning artist Kathleen Jennings.” Johnson’s project combines homage to Grahame’s locale, characters, style, and tone with the gentle introduction of twenty-first century perspectives – especially feminist perspectives – on the actions and society depicted. Congratulations, Kij!

Calendar

T 3 Associate and Full Professors P&T Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.

The American/British Lecture, “Returning to the Slave’s Song,” **Christopher Freeburg**, English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 7:00 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.

W 4 Book Launch/Reading, *Water-Gazers*, by **Elizabeth Schultz**, English, with guest readings by current and former KU English students and faculty **Alyse Bense**, **Danny Caine**, **Brian Daldorph**, **Kevin Rabas**, **Denise Low**, and **Megan Kaminski**, among others, 7:00-9:00 pm, Lawrence Arts Center.

R 5 Humanities Lecture Series, “The Parthenon Enigma,” Joan Breton Connelly, Classics and Art History, New York University, 7:30 pm, Lied Center Pavilion. Public Conversation, 10/6, 10:00 am, Hall Center Conference Hall.

F 6 Digital Humanities Seminar/Medieval and Early Modern Seminar, “Spenser and Historical Stylometrics,” **Apunam Basu**, English, Washington University in St. Louis, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

SAGE Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4076 Wescoe.

T 10 Hall Center Resident Fellows Seminar, “A Poetic Biography of Maria Sibylla Merian (1647-1717): Natural Science, Religion, and Illustration in Pre-Enlightenment Europe,” **Alyse Bense**, English, 12:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

Associate and Full Professors P&T Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.

Libraries Love Lawrence Initiative Presentation by novelist and short fiction writer **George Saunders**, English, Syracuse University, 7:00 pm, Liberty Hall.

W 11 Coffee and Conversation with George Saunders (see above), 10:00 am, Watson Library, Third Floor West.

Presentations

Boyd, Beverly

“Chaucer and John of Gaunt,” Mid-American Medieval Association (MAMA), UMKC, Kansas City, MO, 16 September.

Schieberle, Misty

“Stephen Scrope’s ‘Persyval’ and Other Evidence of His Hasty Translation,” Mid-America Medieval Association (MAMA), UMKC, Kansas City, MO, 16 September.

Accepted for Publication

Brown, Creighton

“On Common Books, Civic Engagement, and Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen*,”
Essay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies.

Announcements, Notes, & News

• **The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences** is searching for a .5 FTE **Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** (see <https://employment.ku.edu> and click “Search Faculty Jobs (AD for DEI). Deadline: 1 January 2018.

• Over the summer, KU announced that the Spencer Research Library would house the papers of the late **Kenneth Irby**, who taught in the English Department for thirty years before his untimely death in 2015. A press release from 19 May describes the collection and the ongoing process of cataloging: <https://lib.ku.edu/news/2017/irby>. The press release concludes with the following note and admonition: “Friends and colleagues of Irby’s may further enrich his collection by contacting Spencer Research Library to donate correspondence from the poet.” If you have something to contribute, please contact Special Collections Librarian **Elspeeth Healey**.

KU and Regional Events

• **Philosophy Lecture**, “Schema, Perception and Memory in Social Interaction,” Susan Sterrett, History/Philosophy of Science, Wichita State University, 29 September, 3:30 pm, Divine Nine Room, Kansas Union.

• **Red Hot Research**, “Ecologies & Land,” 29 September, 4:00 pm, The Commons, Spooner Hall.

• **Hall Center Public Event**, “Revolution and Counter-revolution in the Mississippi Valley: Conjure, Communism, and the US Civil War,”

Andrew Zimmerman, History, George Washington University, 3 October, 4:00 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.

• **CTE Fall Workshop**, “Creating Community to Enhance Teaching,” Trevor Rivers, Biology and Drew Vartia (Chemistry), 4 October, 12:00-1:00 pm, 135 Budig.

• **Gender Seminar**, “WitchFace: The Use of Makeup Design to Create Sorceress Characters Onstage,” 5 October, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **The Tuttle Lecture**, “My Life as a Student of African American History and Culture: An Appreciation,” Bill Tuttle, American Studies (Emeritus), 5 October, 4:00 pm, Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union.

• **Nature & Culture Seminar**, “Fairness in the Low-Carbon Shift: Learning from Environmental Justice,” **Uma Outka**, Law School, 6 October, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **University Theatre** presents *Metamorphoses*, by Mary Zimmerman (based on the work of Ovid), 6-7, 10-12 October, 7:30 pm, 8 October, 2:30 pm, Inge Theatre, Murphy Hall.

• **Place Race and Space Seminar**, “Against ‘law and order’ lockup: the 1970 NYC jail rebellions,” [Skype], Toussaint Losier, University of Massachusetts, 9 October, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **The Urban Experience Seminar**, “Race and Gender in the Disciplining of Black Girls,” Dorothy Hines-Datiri, Curriculum and Development, 12 October, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

• **2017 Nimrod Conference for Readers and Writers**, 20-21 October, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK.

• **45th Annual Children’s Literature Association Conference**, “Refreshing Waters/Turbulent Waters,” 28-30 June 2018, San Antonio, TX. Deadline: 15 October 2017.

• **Third International Conference on Communication and Media Studies**, “Alt-Media – The Shifting Tide of Political Communication,” 18-19 October 2018, Berkeley, CA. Deadline: 20 October 2017.



Diverse Academic Careers Workshop with N.Y. Nathiri, Executive Director, Association for the Preservation of the Eatonville Community. The workshop for CLAS graduate students was held at the Hall Center September 15, 2017 as part of KU’s Black Love Symposium. Participants (left to right) 1st row: Igor Ristic, N.Y. Nathiri, Maryemma Graham, Morgan McComb, 2nd row: Simone Savannah, Ogochukwu Ngwudike, Sarah Polo, Stefanie Torres-Maksimowicz, Casey Keel, 3rd row: Shelia Bonner, Mercedes Lucero, Kate Nygren, Leighann Dicks, Christopher Peace, Giselle Anatol.