

UPDATE

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English Receives KU's Department Excellence in Teaching Award

On August 19, 2003, at the annual KU Teaching Summit, the University of Kansas English Department received the 2003 Department Excellence in Teaching Award. KU Chancellor **Robert Hemenway** presented the award, now just in its second year, to Professor **James W. Hartman**, who stepped down as Chair of English in June 2003 and to the new Chair, Professor **Dorice Williams Elliott**. The competition this year was restricted to large campus departments (more than 20 full-time faculty members). Chancellor Hemenway, himself an active teaching member of the Department, wryly opined that the Center for Teaching Excellence committee had exercised "remarkably acute judgment."

The presentation of a teaching award to a group of college instructors naturally conjures up visions of inspirational discussion leaders and gifted lecturers. Every university graduate can recall some charismatic teacher who opened new vistas of knowledge or stimulated new ways of thinking for them. According to CTE Director, Professor Dan Bernstein, however, these sorts of contributions, significant as they are, constantly (and rightly) receive recognition through individual teaching awards. At KU, individual professors and instructors are eligible for the university-wide H.O.P.E., Mortar Board, and Chancellors Club prizes, among others. Five GTAs are recognized annually as Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistants. Perhaps the best-known individual teaching awards at KU presently are the twenty annual Kemper Awards, checks for \$5000 presented at the beginning of each fall in unannounced administrative "raids" during regular class periods. (This past year, English lecturer **Mary Klayder** won a Mortar Board award, English GTA **Kara Northway** was named an Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, and Professors **Paul Stephen Lim** and **Marjorie Swann**, in a rare double for one Department, received Kemper). The Department Excellence in Teaching Award, on the other hand, recognizes collective, institutional effort. The call for nominations states that this award process "is intended to gather examples of innovative, collaborative, and effective intra-departmental initiatives, honor those that are well-developed, and share those



Chancellor Robert Hemenway presents the 2003 CTE Department Excellence in Teaching Award to English Chairs Dorice Williams Elliott and James W. Hartman. Photo credit: Aaron Paden/KU University Relations

examples with other departments to further their development of teaching programs." The definition of excellence in teaching, in this context, also leans away from an instructor's materials and presentation and toward tangible evidence of student learning and growth.

CTE was perhaps most impressed with the KU English Department's V-6 teacher training program. In the spring of 1960, the Department approved a new comprehensive plan for the instruction of freshmen and sophomores at the University. Chair William Albrecht (1957-1964) had served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Using Navy terminology, he dubbed the new program "V-6," for May 6, the day the program was to be put to a vote in a Voting Department meeting. The minutes for that meeting record that agreement on specifics of the plan proved elusive (surprise!), so the vote was postponed. However, it was approved later that semester and the original name stuck. The basic elements of the program are a carefully-prepared three-day orientation workshop for first-time lecturers

and GTAs, and a two-semester sequence of practicum courses, taught by full-time faculty members who then continue to supervise the performance of participants. The CTE award letter called V-6 "a model for the campus" in the training of part-time faculty. In addition, since 1998, the Department has engaged in a full individual mentoring system for GTAs. All full-time faculty members in the Department advise one or two GTAs each academic year, examining their teaching materials, visiting classes, comparing and discussing reactions to student work, and providing written feedback to the instructor as well as an overall evaluation to the Department each year. CTE noted that these interactions, particularly with regard to the shared examination of student performance, indicate "a very progressive departmental teaching culture."

The Freshman-Sophomore English office also strongly recommends other professional development activities designed to improve the teaching of lecturers and GTAs. Besides a

2002: The Year in Review



Probably neither the best of times, nor the worst of times – another year has passed in the life of the Department. This past year has brought its challenges but even more it has brought achievement, recognition, and pleasure, and a clear sense that, though evolving, core traditions persist.

The Department continued its strong publication activities of the past several years, with books by **Edgar Tidwell**, **Dennis Quinn**, **Anna Neill**, **Ken Irby**, **Dorice Elliott**, and **Susan Harris** appearing in 2002. These and other publications give ongoing testimony to the intellectual vitality of the Department.

Another outlet for that vitality is, of course, in the classroom. It was therefore very gratifying to learn that the Department will be given the

Center for Teaching Excellence Award for Outstanding Teaching. The Department was cited for the depth of concern with teaching as reflected in our mentoring, training, discussion groups and other activities that promote good teaching. This is a long tradition in the English Department and we are most pleased to be receiving University-wide recognition for it.

The Department will be further strengthened through our recruitment of new faculty. In addition to Professor **Susan Harris**, Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture and Professor **William J. Harris**, who both joined us this past year, we will also be joined by **Rebecca Curtis**, an Assistant Professor, who will be teaching creative writing. In January, Professor **Geraldo Sousa**, a Renaissance specialist, will join us from Xavier University as an Associate Professor. And the following year we will bring in a second new Assistant Professor of Fiction Writing, **Deb Olin Unferth**. In conjunction with American Studies, the noted jazz critic **Kevin Whitehead** will also be joining us as a lecturer at that time. And, with Professor **Giselle Anatol** returning from a year teaching at Spelman College in Atlanta, the Department continues to reconstitute itself. The extended Departmental family also reconstitutes itself. Sons born to Professor **Anna Neill**, **Sonya Lancaster**, Assistant Director of Freshman-Sophomore English, and Professors **Marta Caminero-Santangelo** and **Byron Caminero-Santangelo** will all bring new joys to Departmental social gatherings!

Such gains, of course, are partially offset by departures. Professor **Max Sutton**, a pillar of the Department, will be retiring this summer. And, most unfortunately, Professor **Carolyn**

Doty recently passed away. Her absence as teacher, mentor, colleague, friend, hostess, and vital force will be felt for many years.

But the texture of the Department also depends on more transitory events: the Humanities Lecture presented by Professor **David Bergeron**, The Distinguished Professor Inaugural Lecture presented by Professor **Susan Harris**, the first New Literacies Conference (née October Conference) held at the new Lawrence Arts Center, **Paul Lim**'s and EAT's full production of *The Glass Menagerie*, with Professor **Amy Devitt** as Amanda; the 2002 summer Holmes Institute that brought in Professor Dana Nelson from the University of Kentucky; the summer Multicultural Literary Institute taught by Professors Akiba Harper (Spelman College) and William Cook (Dartmouth); the panel of editors discussing how to approach publication. Such activities provide opportunities for students and faculty alike to deepen and enrich their lives. It should be noted that all of these activities were supported, in whole or in part, through gifts to the Department. From the refurbishing of a creative writing classroom, to the support of staff and student travel, to bringing in guest scholars and writers, to scholarship help for students, to the purchase of special books, your gifts raise the effectiveness of the Department to a higher level.

As I step down as Chair, I welcome my replacement, Professor **Dorice Williams Elliott**. With her leadership, the tradition will continue. And I wish to thank you for your moral and financial support of the Department of English. That, too, is an essential part of the tradition.

■—Professor James W. Hartman, Chair

Excellence (continued from page 1)

mandatory “norming” session in the fall, where instructors critique the same papers and reach consensus on grading standards, FSE provides workshops at which teachers discuss topics related to their courses. Recent workshops have focused on generating writing assignments, recognizing and dealing with plagiarism, and understanding the level of high school English instruction that new university students have experienced. Ad hoc peer “teaching teams” are encouraged. Groups of four to seven instructors frequently band together to compare notes and experiences. Other professional development activities include participation in pedagogy reading groups, attendance at regional or national conferences related to teaching, and the submission of sample materials for inclusion in resource files. Finally, some FSE instructors are experimenting with portfolio-based assessment. FSE's *Manual for Teachers* describes a portfolio-based approach to teaching

composition in this way: “A “portfolio” is a collection of a student writer's work over time and includes multiple drafts of individual papers, accompanied by a reflection essay wherein the student writer comments upon and evaluates his or her progress during the semester. . . . For the writing teacher, the portfolio offers one of the best ways to underscore the importance of revision – a cornerstone of process approaches to the teaching of writing.” In the minds of CTE's evaluators, the Department's experimentation with portfolio-assessment also revealed a willingness to explore and implement new teaching methodologies and a recognition that “advanced teachers focus on the product of all their work.”

Mentoring new faculty members in the Department is not limited to the FSE program. All new tenure-track assistant professors are also assigned a senior faculty mentor to “guide and support [them] as they teach new courses for

the first time and work to develop their teaching strengths.” Informal Department organizations linked to pedagogy as well as research abound, involving both full-time faculty and graduate students. CTE noted approvingly the number of “discussion groups focused on teaching issues from a variety of perspectives and with widely diverse goals,” such as 2Cs (composition studies), ARIEL (Renaissance drama), and AHAA (ethnic and minority literatures). Award committee members were also enthusiastic about English's leadership in promoting service-learning at KU and in the local community. Service-learning is a pedagogical methodology which links academic study with service experience. In the fall semester of 2002 alone, five sections of Freshman Composition incorporated a service-learning component, allowing students to observe, volunteer, and learn from their experiences in a variety of community organizations. Undergraduate and graduate

students have also participated in service-learning projects designed to further community literacy. For example, some advanced students have conducted literacy groups with populations as diverse as the Douglas County Jail and First Step House, a shelter for women with substance-abuse problems. Professor Bernstein, speaking for CTE, lauded the Department for its trailblazing efforts in service-learning at the University of Kansas, noting that "English provided many of the examples that make the case for community engagement beyond the expected human service units."

CTE noted that the KU English Department has demonstrated "a real commitment to the extended teaching mission of KU on the Edwards Campus." This year, Edwards broke ground on a new building that will be completed by 2004. Enrollment is expected to double soon thereafter. Part of the impetus for the expansion of KU's Overland Park venture has been provided by a growing number of students attracted by courses offered as part of KU English's Language, Literature, and Writing major. Over half of the current College of Liberal Arts and Sciences credit hours taught at Edwards are generated by Lawrence Campus English faculty members who commute to Kansas City to teach courses specially-designed for non-tradi-

tional students. As course offerings in Kansas City have increased, though, so have the types of courses available to students of English in Lawrence. Sixteen new undergraduate and graduate courses, most in diverse areas such as African, Latino/a, African-American, Caribbean, and Jewish literatures, have been instituted in the last five years. In concert with pedagogical and research outreach efforts such as the Langston Hughes Centennial Symposium (see last year's *Update*) and the inaugural Conference on New Literacies, these curricular innovations provide further evidence of a dynamic teaching environment in the Department. CTE concludes its praise for KU English's teaching accomplish-



New English GTAs confer during V-6 training in August 2003

ments by noting such initiatives are "consistent with a departmental culture that features teaching as important and intellectual work . . . You should be very proud . . . for being recognized in this way by a committee of faculty colleagues."

■—Robert F. Elliott

Department News Capsules

Change of Chair

Professor **Jim Hartman** completed his three-year term of service as Chair of the University of Kansas English Department on June 30, 2003. At the last Voting Department meeting of the 2002-2003 academic year, and at the annual Spring Awards Ceremony on May 11, Professor Hartman received warm applause and heartfelt expressions of thanks from his colleagues for his excellent service. He returns to regular teaching duties this fall. Associate Professor **Dorice Williams Elliott** began a three-year term as Chair on July 1, but will take a previously-awarded sabbatical leave during the fall semester of 2003. Professor Elliott is a specialist in Nineteenth-Century British Literature and Culture, the Novel, Women's Literature and Gender Studies. Former Chair **Richard Hardin** will serve as Acting Chair until Professor Elliott's return in January 2004.



Overdue Recognition

Congratulations to Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies, **Bud Hirsch**! Years of patient, often unnoticed work advising hundreds of English majors and prospective majors were recognized this spring when Professor Hirsch received the inaugural **Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award** from the University of Kansas Advising Network. Professor Hirsch's efforts have also been integral to the development and success of the Edwards Campus major. He has also been actively pursuing career placement opportunities for English majors and has negotiated internships with Kansas City companies. These internships are now beginning to blossom into full-time jobs and are generating valuable "word-of-mouth" about KU English students in the metropolitan business community. In the meantime, in order to provide instructional coverage in both his areas of



training and expertise (American Indian Studies and British Romantic Poets) during this long period of slow hiring, Professor Hirsch frequently teaches a voluntary overload class.

Conference on New Literacies

The venerable October Conference on Composition and Literature was retooled in 2003 (its 50th anniversary) and given a new calendar slot as well as a new name and focus. The first **Conference on New Literacies** was held on February 21, in conjunction with the Langston Hughes February Festival, itself a spin-off from last year's hugely successful Langston Hughes Centennial Symposium. Conference Chair **Maryemma Graham** explained that the conference was "reshaped . . . to reflect the need to understand literature in relation to a world that is becoming more global, diverse, and inclusive. The conference will focus on the need to understand the nature of written, oral, and graphic or visual competencies." In 2003, the theme was "Integrating Literature and the Arts." The conference was held at the new Lawrence Arts Center.

The Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature & Culture

In the fall of 2002, the University of Kansas and the KU English Department welcomed Professor **Susan K. Harris** as the new Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature & Culture. The position had been vacant since the departure of Professor William Andrews to the University of North Carolina in 1996. Professor Harris, a specialist in nineteenth-century American literature, particularly Mark Twain and American women writers, had been Professor of English at The Pennsylvania State University since 1992. Before that, Professor Harris taught for fifteen years at Queens College, City University of New York. Her arrival at the university coincided with the publication of her latest monograph, *The Cultural Work of the Late 19th-Century Hostess: Annie Adams Fields and Mary Gladstone Drew* (Palgrave/St. Martin's Press, 2002) and a chapter in *The Oxford Mark Twain* (Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Ed.) entitled "Mark Twain and Gender" (Oxford UP, 2002). Since 2000, she has edited (with graduate student assistance) Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* for Houghton Mifflin's New Riverside Series (2000) and Catharine Maria Sedgwick's *A New England Tale* for Penguin/Putnam (2003). Significant essays on Sedgwick, and Mary E. Wilkins Freeman have also recently appeared, and one on American Regionalism is forthcoming. Professor Harris has also recently been appointed to the editorial board of *American Literature*, the flagship journal in her field. She will serve 2003-2005.

Professor Harris took a roundabout route to her focus on Twain and American women writers (and, indeed, English studies in general). An avid reader, she grew up in mid-twentieth-century Baltimore, in a community that was unusual for its time in its general acceptance of women in the workforce—as long as they were also exemplary wives and mothers! (When she suggested once that she was thinking of becoming a nurse, her mother replied, "Why not a doctor?") Because her father was an international labor statistician, the family also periodically sojourned abroad, especially in Puerto Rico, Columbia, and Nepal. These experiences fired her curiosity about the world and its diverse cultural systems. As an undergraduate at Antioch College, Professor Harris majored in sociology and anthropology, but a senior-year class in film and an interest in making documentaries about the Civil Rights Movement led her to pursue an M.A. in Communications at Stanford University. Now married (to Professor **William J. Harris**), Professor Harris accompanied her husband to his first teaching appointment as an assistant professor of English at Cornell University. Here she began the pursuit of a Ph.D. in English. She



completed her doctorate in 1977, accepted the Queens College position, published her first book on Twain, and received tenure. Then came a watershed experience. Accompanying her husband during a Fellowship at Harvard for a year in 1982, with a new daughter (Kate, now a senior at Tufts in American Studies), Professor Harris received a grant to work at the Schlesinger Library, which serves researchers studying the history of women in the United States. The movement to recover early American women writers had recently begun. At the same time, contemporary literary theory was expanding the discipline of English into her previous areas of interest in history, politics, law, and cultural studies. This convergence of influences, along with her personal experiences in the domestic sphere, sparked a new emphasis on women's literature and gender issues in her work that both diverged from and yet further informed her mainstream studies of nineteenth-century American literature. She returned to Queens where she published perhaps her most influential work, *19th-Century American Women's Novels: Interpretive Strategies* in 1990 (Cambridge UP, reprint in paper, 1992) and advanced to the rank of Professor. From 1989-1992, she served as Director of the Women's Studies Program.

Though comfortably based in Brooklyn (Professor William Harris was now teaching at Stony Brook), the Harrises eventually took advantage of an opportunity to teach in the same Department and moved to Penn State in 1992. Meanwhile, her interests in Sam Clemens and gender/women's writing had become even more, so to speak, "inter-twained." A summer at the

Center for Twain Studies at Quarry Farm, Elmira, NY, had introduced Professor Harris more fully to the life and writings of Olivia Langdon, Twain's wife. Since Twain traveled constantly, much of the couple's relationship was epistolary. Fascination and further research, particularly into how Sam and Livy's courtship and marriage were shaped by what they read and shared with each other, led to *The Courtship of Olivia Langdon and Mark Twain* (Cambridge UP, 1996), a ground-breaking advance in Twain and nineteenth-century literary scholarship. This focus on the cultural importance of reading (her own earliest passion) led to Professor Harris's most recent book on American women hostesses. She remains intrigued by the literary and social implications of women's reading communities in the nineteenth-century. She is curious, particularly, about the way novels were read at that time, and how reading slowly drew women into more public endeavor. Besides investigating these issues further, Professor Harris plans to continue working in conjunction with graduate students on new editions of American literary classics, on Twain's marginalia, and on a history of American literature from the Revolution through the Civil War. She is also interested in the overall direction of her profession as she evidenced in her thoughtful Distinguished Professor's Inaugural Lecture, "The Role of Literature in a Research University," delivered on April 9, 2003.

As part of the hiring process for the Hall Distinguished Professorship in American Literature & Culture, numerous scholars and former colleagues were consulted regarding Professor Harris's standing and reputation in the field. Besides testifying to the excellence of her research and publications, these recommendations also cited Professor Harris's fine teaching record, dedicated and valuable service to her institutions and discipline, impressive leadership skills, and unfailing collegiality. Plaudits were also forthcoming from students and teacher/students who participated in Professor Harris's 2000 Holmes Institute seminar in the Department. The Department and University are extremely pleased to welcome Professor Harris to Kansas. For her part, Professor Harris is delighted to further develop her research agenda and career as a member of KU English and, particularly, as an important new participant in the activities of the burgeoning Hall Center for the Humanities. The interdisciplinary quality that galvanizes Professor Harris's research is uniquely suited to the Hall Center's mission as "KU's primary forum for interdisciplinary discourse and scholarship in the humanities."

Professor Harris's arrival coincides with an

influx of new funding from the Hall Family Foundation. In the summer of 2002, the Foundation pledged \$42 million to KU, \$7 million of which will support the humanities. \$1 million will endow symposia, lectures, and fellowships, and \$2.5 million will create endowed chairs in the humanities. Both of these donations are challenge grants to be matched by public or private funds. \$3 million will make possible the expansion of the Hall Center to a new home in the renovated 1887 University of Kansas powerhouse, the oldest structure on campus (groundbreaking, 9/03; opening, 9/04). With new space to house its fellows, host larger seminars, and provide a relaxed public venue for other formal and informal scholarly dialogue, the Center hopes to advance further toward its goal of serving as an "intellectual commons" for the University. Distinguished Professor Susan Harris's talents, prestige, collegiality and energy will benefit the Center greatly in this effort.



Rendering of a renovated KU powerhouse, new home of the Hall Center for the Humanities in 2004.

■—Robert F. Elliott

Help Create Opportunities

In the past few years the Department has been able to expand academic opportunities for its students and faculty through a number of programs and awards—e.g., English Alternative Theatre, the Alice F. Holmes Summer Institute, and the Merrill Awards for graduate student research projects and conference participation. These have been funded wholly or substantially through the generosity of concerned alumni/ae and friends.

In this time of financial challenges to the quality of education at KU, the Department asks that you consider making a contribution, in whatever amount is comfortable for you, to the English Department Development Fund. Please send your tax-deductible donation to Ms. Terri Knoll Johnson, Senior Development Director, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Kansas University Endowment Association, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928. If you like, specify how you wish your gift to be used. In doing so, you can take satisfaction in knowing that you have created opportunities for students and faculty in your Department.

New Faculty

KU's new Associate Professor **William J. Harris**—sometimes known as Billy Joe—embraces English Studies because it's "PR for poetry, literature, and ideas." Professor Harris arrived at KU in the fall of 2002 after teaching for the past ten years at The Pennsylvania State University. He has a Ph.D. in English and American Literature from Stanford University, where he wrote both a creative thesis in poetry and a dissertation on Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones). He has been a professor at Cornell University, UC Riverside, and SUNY, Stony Brook as well as Penn State. His publications include a scholarly book on Baraka, whose work he admires because it fearlessly confronts issues of race, politics, and language, and two volumes of his own poetry. He has also produced a collection of Baraka's work and, with Patricia Hill, Trudier Harris, and others, edited the landmark *Call and Response: The Riverside Anthology of the African American Literary Tradition*. He is the author of numerous articles and reviews, and has published many poems in anthologies and magazines. Professor Harris recently contracted with Cambridge UP to write a book-length history of African American poetry.

Though his first love is poetry, Professor Harris is also fascinated by jazz. He has written extensively on how poets like Baraka, Ishmael Reed and others make use of the jazz form in their own medium. He enjoys the interdisciplinary nature of Jazz Studies, looking at jazz in its cultural context, and searching to understand how other artists—painters, and film makers as well as writers—employ jazz techniques. In the spring of 2003, he taught a course called "Jazz in Modern American Literature" that gave his students a chance to consider these same matters. His teaching method, in fact, is jazz-like. It's student-centered and collective. The thrill for him is working with a common text and grappling with the ideas, coming to some kind of terms with it in collaboration with his students.

His advice (in his own words) to those planning to pursue a career in academia: "When you are in school, take your fellow students seriously because, if you are lucky, they are going to be lifelong friends. Figure out what you like and start publishing in that area as soon as you can. Ask people for criticism, not praise; you're not going to grow without it. Try to find people to read your work and, of course, read theirs. Find models for the kind of criticism you want to write. Read everything." He lives by the same principles. He reads everything from poetry, to philosophy, to fiction, to history, to newspapers. He is part of the KU Interdisciplinary Jazz Studies Group, whose members include professors from multiple departments. He also goes to

New York with his wife—Professor **Susan K. Harris**—about every five or six weeks, to "go to museums, bookstores, operas, and the theatre," as well as to keep in touch with friends, colleagues, and editors. These trips are a mixture of work and pleasure for him. "You know," he says, "I really don't separate the two." We should all be so lucky someday. And right now, we're lucky to have Professor Harris in our midst.



■—Shelley Manis

Technical Writing liaison **Christopher McKitterick**, who joined the faculty of the University of Kansas Department of English in fall of 2002, describes himself as "author, editor, tech writer, college teacher, and sometime lunatic." He earned his M.A. in English from the University of Kansas in 1996, where he specialized in creative writing, though he has spent much of his time balancing the practice of his art with his technical writing career.

McKitterick finished his B.A. in English at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 1991 with a writing minor; he also pursued academic interests in astronomy and psychology at the University of Minnesota. He spent most of his youth in Ortonville, MN, though his father's participation in the Vietnam conflict took him to places like Korea. Childhood adventures abroad as well as at home in Ortonville sparked McKitterick's interest in science fiction. In fact, he has been writing most of his life. At merely eight-years old, he composed his first science fiction story, a tale about a time-travel hula-hoop. His childhood hero was Robert Goddard, a pioneer in space flight who launched the first liquid-fuel rocket. Inspired by Goddard, a 13-year-old McKitterick designed and engineered small liquid-fuel rockets, a hobby that taught him the valuable life lesson that stirring red nitric acid with a plastic spoon is not a good idea. Current hobbies include building telescopes, riding motorcycles, restoring old vehicles, and designing games.

McKitterick's students at KU enjoy this writing instructor's special knowledge of backyard engineering as well as the diversity of his



experience as a technical writer. McKitterick worked for Microsoft for five years and still writes occasionally for the company. Most recently he contributed several chapters to the *Windows Server 2003 Resource Kit Distributed Services Guide*. His writing and editing for Microsoft have earned him various awards of excellence from the Society for Technical Communication.

McKitterick's mandate in the Department and College is to help develop KU's Technical Writing program, particularly in conjunction with other schools (Business, Engineering, etc.) and at the Edwards Campus. He also stays in touch with local businesses to be sure KU's technical communications offerings fulfill their needs. In the near future, he hopes to institute a technical writing minor or certificate program at KU, including an internship program in technical communications that connects students with local corporations. He also plans to begin work on a technical writing textbook and teacher resource kit.

The **Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction**, also occupies much of McKitterick's time. He organizes workshops and conferences, and also serves as juror on the Campbell Award for best SF novel and as nominations director for the Sturgeon Award. He heads up the Center's Science Fiction Youth Program, a literacy and donation service that helps put science fiction books and magazines into the hands of young people while helping school teachers and public librarians develop a science-fiction teaching curriculum.

McKitterick has recently acquired an agent and is marketing two of his unpublished novels, one of which follows a disturbed software engineer who contacts aliens. His non-tech writing first appeared in print in 1984 and he has published many stories since. His wife, novelist **Kij Johnson**, is also active in fantasy and science fiction and teaches creative writing in KU's English Department. In 1994 she was awarded the Center's Theodore A. Sturgeon Memorial Award for her novelette "Fox Magic," and she is now a juror for the award. Tor Books has since published her novels *The Fox Woman* and the forthcoming *Fudoki*. McKitterick and Johnson are both active in organizing science fiction discussion groups and workshops.

Learn more about Chris, Kij, and what they are doing at their websites:

<http://www.sff.net/people/mckitterick/>
<http://www.sff.net/people/kij-johnson/>
<http://www.ku.edu/~sfcenter/>
<http://www.people.ku.edu/~cmckit/>

■—Tiffany DeJaynes Ng

After one year at St. Mary's College of California, **Rebecca Curtis** will join the KU English Department as Assistant Professor of Fiction Writing in the fall of 2003. Professor Curtis holds an M.F.A. (2001) from Syracuse University. In January, Dr. **Geraldo Sousa**, a KU English Ph.D (1983), will return to his Lawrence roots as Associate Professor of Renaissance Literature with tenure. Dr. Sousa has been Professor of English at Xavier University since 1999 and has taught at Xavier since 1989. Professors Curtis and Sousa will be profiled in the next *Update*. Additional hires for 2004-2005 will also be previewed at that time.

Faculty News

In May 2003, **Giselle Anatol's** edited collection, *Reading Harry Potter: Critical Essays*, was published by Greenwood Press. The collection explores the ways in which the popular series of children's books can inculcate particular social roles and political ideology, as well as what the novels' phenomenal success suggests about contemporary culture. Anatol was invited to speak on the Potter stories at Newman University's "Beware the Jabberwock: Confronting Monsters in Children's Literature" Conference in February (Wichita, KS), and addressed the subject of trauma in the narratives. Anatol also continues to pursue her interests in Caribbean women's literature. "Speaking in (M)Other Tongues: The Role of Language in Jamaica Kincaid's *The Autobiography of My Mother*" was published in *Callaloo* in the summer of 2002. Anatol gave papers on the works of Caribbean science fiction writer Nalo Hopkinson at the 20th-Century Literature Conference in Louisville, KY (February 2003) and at the Caribbean Studies Association Conference in Belize City, Belize (May 2003).

Margaret Arnold looks forward to teaching Milton in the fall before retirement at the end of the academic year. She hopes to see students and to continue research on Milton and seventeenth-century women writers.

Philip Barnard spent AY 2002-03 working in his second year as the Department's Graduate Coordinator. In addition to his work in the Department, he has been active in the crowded field of early American novel scholarship. He completed work as co-editor of a collection of essays on novelist Charles Brockden Brown, forthcoming from U of Tennessee Press, and has begun editing a volume of selected short fiction and other prose by Brown as well as a classroom edition of Brown's novel *Edgar Huntly*. On the musical front, he continues to promise that a western swing act will be forthcoming, performing soon at all the usual Lawrence venues.

David M. Bergeron enjoyed chairing a session at the Mediterranean Studies Association

meeting in Granada, Spain at the end of May 2002, as he also enjoyed being in Spain for the first time. After the conference, he hopped over to London, arriving in time for the big blast associated with the Queen's Jubilee. He gave a paper, "Location, Location, Location: Shakespeare's Early Plays," at the meeting of the South-Central Renaissance Conference in New Orleans in early March 2003. He was the invited final speaker in the 2002-03 KU Humanities Lecture Series and presented the talk "Shakespeare in the Closet" on 3 April 2003. He has had accepted a revised edition of *English Civic Pageantry 1558-1642*, to be published by the Arizona State University Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies series, to appear in late 2003 or early 2004. He also published several essays during the past year on subjects ranging from King James's sexuality to the prefatory material in the Shakespeare First Folio.

Beverly Boyd read a paper at the International Humanities Congress in Honolulu, as well as at the MAMA Conference at UMKC. She wrote two articles on stained glass windows of medieval context, and also attended the Medieval Academy of America meeting in Minneapolis.

Byron Caminero-Santangelo was awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor this year, and his manuscript, *Reading Postcolonial Cultural Hybridity: African Fiction and Joseph Conrad*, which focuses on debates over how to interpret the revision of Western cultural forms in the work of postcolonial writers, was accepted for publication by State University of New York (SUNY) Press. Professor Caminero-Santangelo also gave a paper entitled "Remapping Nature: Ecocriticism and Postcolonialism in Nurrudin Farah's *Secrets*" at the annual Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in February (Savannah, GA). He had a particularly enjoyable teaching experience with an insightful group of graduate students in a course on postcolonial fiction. This course integrated various key works in postcolonial theory with novels by Chinua Achebe, Salman Rushdie, V.S. Naipaul, Jean Rhys, Jamaica Kincaid, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Nurrudin Farah, and Zoe Wicomb.

Marta Caminero-Santangelo was thrilled to teach her first graduate seminar at KU, "Studies in Race and Ethnicity in American Literature." She wishes to thank her graduate students for fostering such a supportive and intellectually engaged classroom community! The themes of the graduate course, naturally, continue to be pressing in Marta's research as well. She is currently finishing an article on theories of race and Puerto Rican author Piri Thomas's memoir, *Down These Mean Streets*, and has also been awarded a GRF grant to work on another article, "Scenes of Collectivity: Magical Realism and Ana Castillo's *So Far From God*," which is based on a conference paper

originally presented at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literatures in St. Louis (2002). Meanwhile, Marta's article "Margarita Engle, Cuban American Conservatism, and the Construction of (Left) U.S. Latino/a Ethnicity," appeared in *LIT: Literature / Interpretation / Theory* in the winter of 2002, and another article, "'Jasón's Indian': Mexican Americans and the Denial of Indigenous Ethnicity in Anaya's *Bless Me Ultima*" will be published in *Critique* later in 2003. Finally (but certainly not least), Marta and husband Byron are expecting their second child (a boy) in July!

Jim Carothers returns to the Department full-time this fall after a two-year sabbatical among the fleshpots of administration, most recently in the Provost's office. He attended the International Hemingway Conference in Stresa, Italy last June, participating in a panel on the teaching of *A Farewell to Arms*. This June he gave a paper "Baseball in American Fiction: Background and Foreground" at the baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. In August at his 25th annual "Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha" Conference in Oxford, Miss., he will once again lead two panels on teaching Faulkner. His current research project is a book on "Reading Faulkner's *Collected Stories*," contracted with the University of Mississippi Press, in collaboration with Prof. Theresa Towner (K.U. B.A., English, 1980) of the University of Texas at Dallas.

Jack Cohn was a guest panelist at a conference (April 10-12) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: "Wright Morris: American Dreamer." Some members of the department may recall the December 1965 visit of Wright and Josephine Morris. After the writer's death in April 1998, Cohn met with his widow in Mill Valley, CA, to acquaint her with the Regional Center program then taking shape and to urge her to keep her husband's personal library intact as a valuable research tool. When Nebraska emerged as this region's designated Center, Cohn on her behalf wrote to the Nebraska Consortium for a Regional Humanities Center. Through a series of stages (including Josephine's own death in April 2002), Nebraska (specifically the renamed Plains Humanities Alliance) has become the repository of Wright Morris's personal library, manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, and so on.

This has been an exciting year for **Kathryn Conrad**, who was just promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and is looking forward to the publication of her book, *Locked in the Family Cell: Gender, Sexuality, and Political Agency in Irish National Discourse* (University of Wisconsin Press, Irish Literature and Culture series, forthcoming Spring 2004). Spring saw her first contribution to the radio, a commentary for KANU/KPR on St. Patrick's Day, as well as an invited lecture at University College Dublin entitled "'The Road to Destruction':

Decriminalisation and the Rhetoric of Security in Great Britain and Northern Ireland." Her visit coincided with St. Patrick's Day, and she reports that only the heartiest of partiers should attempt the large cities on the day itself, lest they find themselves stepping in mysterious substances on the streets and sidewalks. Although she looked forward to a post-tenure summer spent practicing mandolin, printing photos, and making woodcuts, she has found her days filling up with work, albeit enjoyable work: not only will she be participating as usual in the annual meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies and copyediting and indexing her book, but, much to her surprise, her undergraduate Joyce class this spring spawned a small *Finnegans Wake* reading group in which she will be participating with gusto (and at least a few pints of Guinness). She also plans to give a short presentation at the Kansas City Irish festival at the end of the summer. In the fall, she will return to Joyce with a graduate seminar, and she will return to the Edwards campus to teach a course on the 20th century British novel.

Brian Daldorph's poems and stories have appeared in *North American Review*, *Mid-American Poetry Review*, *The Kansas City Star*, and elsewhere. This academic year he taught writing and literature classes at the University of Kansas, and continues to teach Creative Writing at Douglas County Jail. During Spring Break in England he taught in English schools. He edited John Musgrave's book of poems, *Notes to the Man Who Shot Me: Vietnam War Poems*, and is at work on the next issue of *Coal City Review*. His new book of poetry, *Senegal Blues*, will be published by 219 Press this summer. The poems are about his stay in Senegal in 2000, when he taught at the *Université Gaston Bergere* in St. Louis.

Finishing her second year as assistant professor in the English department, **Mary Catherine Davidson** continues to focus in her research on medieval multilingualism. In August 2002 at the University of Turku in Turku, Finland, she presented a paper on multilingual "legalese" in medieval England. Her article on multilingualism and medieval identity, "Code-Switching and Authority in Late Medieval England" is forthcoming from *Neophilologus*. On-going work includes an upcoming research trip to Oxford to study the manuscript contexts of multilingual legal writing and the completion of an on-line bibliography of medieval multilingualism aimed at reaching scholars in medieval studies and linguistics. She also co-authored a conference paper with student Wheaton Elkins on multilingualism in the films of Jean Renoir and Jim Jarmusch at the Literature/Film Association annual conference last fall at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.

Dorice Williams Elliott has had a grand year teaching a course on Jane Austen to 38 committed Austen fans, along with team-

teaching a fascinating senior seminar on the Rags-to-Respectability narrative with American Studies Professor Ann Schofield. In fact, she had so much fun teaching this semester that she decided it couldn't be topped—and is taking next semester off as a sabbatical leave. This will involve spending a few weeks doing research in the Australian National Library on nineteenth-century convict fiction and personal narratives.

Frank Farmer continues to promote service-learning in the Lawrence community, across campus, and in the English department. This past year, Frank served on the Provost's Office "Working Group for the Implementation of a University-wide Service-Learning Program at the University of Kansas." He also was a member of the Carnegie Building Study Circle, a civic group commissioned to explore possible future uses of the old Carnegie Library building. Within the Department, Frank directs graduate students who teach an ongoing literacy group at a local women's shelter, and advises teaching assistants who wish to incorporate service learning projects as part of their composition courses. He is co-author of a forthcoming essay on theorizing service-learning scheduled to appear in the *Journal of Advanced Composition*. For his efforts in mentoring and teaching in our graduate program, Frank is the recipient of the 2003 Mabel Fry Award.

In Fall 2002 **Iris Smith Fischer** co-founded the interdisciplinary Performance Research Group. Devoted to the diverse work of KU faculty and advanced graduate students in the areas of dramatic literature, theatre, and performance studies, the group meets monthly throughout the academic year. Fischer published "Wild Dogs," a review-article assessing the career of playwright Lee Breuer, in the magazine *American Theatre*, and presented "The 'Hail' of Contemporary Avant-Garde Theatre" at the 2002 meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research. She is active as a member of the executive board of the American Theatre and Drama Society. While revising the final chapters of her history of the theatre company Mabou Mines, Fischer has continued to offer courses both familiar ("American Dramatic Traditions") and new ("Semiotics and Theatre," "Performing the Real"), and is currently enjoying teaching poetry and fiction once again in American Literature Survey II.

The euphoric recipient of a Hall Center Humanities Research Fellowship for the fall of 2003 and a sabbatical for the spring of 2004, **Doreen Fowler** is looking forward to a year of work on her next project, tentatively titled, "Making a Difference: Writing Race," a book-length, psychoanalytic interpretation of the construction of racial difference in the works of four authors: William Faulkner, Richard Wright, Flannery O'Connor, and Toni Morrison. Two conference papers, "Faulkner's Uncanny Novel: *Intruder in the Dust*" (American Literature

Association meeting; Boston; May 2003) and "Race and Representation: Flannery O'Connor and Walker Percy" (Flannery O'Connor symposium; Milledgeville, Georgia; October 2003), lay the groundwork for two chapters of the projected study. This year, in *A Companion to William Faulkner Studies* (Greenwood Press), she also published a comprehensive survey of the psychological literary criticism written on Faulkner. In her "spare" time, she ferries about her 11 year-old daughter to various activities and lessons, including, but not limited to, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, Summer Youth Theater, and Girl Scouts.

Last June, Wesleyan University Press published **Joseph Harrington's** book, *Poetry and the Public: The Social Form of Modern U.S. Poetics*. *Publisher's Weekly* called it "one of the most compelling books on modernism published this year." He is currently working on another book, *Things Come On*, which combines research with writing in several genres. It will tell the story of his mother's life and times, as a starting-point for an exploration of the individual's experience of history and the strangeness of the past. Prof. Harrington is coming off two exciting years as chair of the Lecturers and Readers Committee, during which the Department hosted novelists Ishmael Reed and Cristina Garcia, and poets Robert Kelly and Minnie Bruce Pratt, among others. His teaching repertoire has expanded to include courses in American nature writing, creative writing workshops, and the interdisciplinary "United States in Global Context." He has enjoyed teaching at the Edwards Campus, which graduated its first two English majors in fall of 2002; a small ceremony was held in Prof. Harrington's class to commemorate the event.

Bud Hirsch presented papers at two conferences this year on American Indian Literature: "Coyote Made Me Do It: Self-Deprecatory Humor in American Indian Fiction" at the Western Literature Association Conference, October 2002, in Tucson, Arizona and "Fixing Up the World with Thomas King," March 2003, at the Native American Literature Symposium, held at the Shakopee Molewakanton Dakota Sioux Community in Prior Lake, Minnesota. His article, "'Stay Calm, Be Brave, Wait for the Signs': Sign-Offs and Send-Ups in the Fiction of Thomas King" has been accepted for publication and will appear early next year in *Western American Literature*. Bud also won the University of Kansas Advisory Network's inaugural Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award.

Ken Irby had new poetry published during 2002 in *Hambone* (Palo Alto), edited by Nathaniel Mackey, and *First Intensity* (Lawrence), edited by Lee Chapman, and further writing will be forthcoming in *First Intensity* in 2003. A prose poem was also contributed to the

gathering, "Gerrit's Box," prepared by Pressed Wafer in Boston, celebrating the 75th birthday of the distinguished American poet, Gerrit Lansing. He gave a public reading of his work at Brown University in Providence, RI, in the fall of 2002, at the invitation of Forrest Gander, Director of the Creative Writing Program there. In June 2003 he will be a faculty member offering a course in the Summer Writing Program of the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa University in Boulder, CO. Among other classes taught at KU in the past year, it was an especial pleasure to return again to the Major Authors course on Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, with a somewhat different array of materials covered. He continued to serve on the English Department's Lecturers and Readers Committee through May 2003.

Michael L. Johnson continues as director of Freshman-Sophomore English. In October he received the Frederick Manfred Award from the Western Literature Association for the collection of new poetry he read at the association's meeting in Tucson. He's now completing a revisionary history of the American West, with the working title *Hunger for the Wild: A Cultural History of America's Obsession with the Untamed West*, under contract with the University Press of Kansas and due to be published in fall 2004.

Paul Stephen Lim continues to raise and nurture his brainchild—English Alternative Theatre is now officially a teenager at age thirteen. EAT began the academic year with the Labor Day staged reading of *Boy Gets Girl* by Rebecca Gilman (featuring department thespians **Amy Devitt** and **Bud Hirsch**, among others). In October there was the double-bill of new student one-acts, one of which, "Fatherland" by Adam Merker, was invited to the regional festival of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Cedar Falls, IA in January. Also representing EAT at the same festival were four Ten-Minute Plays by Paul's students, one of which, "Attack of the Asians" by Tim Macy, was invited to the Kennedy Center in Washington DC in April. For his third and final year as Playwriting Chair for Region 5 of KCACTE, Paul went on the road and served as respondent/adjudicator for over thirty productions of original scripts within the region. Meanwhile, back in Lawrence, Paul presented staged readings of six other Ten-Minute Plays by his students for the New Literacies Conference sponsored last February by the Department. In April Paul directed a full production of *The Glass Menagerie* (featuring **Amy Devitt** as Amanda) at the Lawrence Arts Center which was seen by over a thousand students who were also reading the play in the department's FSE program. 2002 also saw the publication of Paul's one-act play "Report to the River" by One-Act Play Depot in Canada.

His full-length play, *Mother Tongue*, was taught in various Asian-American literature courses at UC-Irvine and Pomona College. In June, Paul drove his dog MyKee to Memphis to visit Graceland.

Tom Lorenz will be serving one more year as Associate Chair of the department. He looks forward to the addition of two new writers to the creative writing staff. He still edits *Cottonwood*, KU's literary review. He encourages all those who are interested in *Cottonwood* to get in touch with him.

In July 2002, **William O. Scott** delivered a paper on Shakespeare's history plays at a conference in Preston, Lancashire (Dickens' Coketown, now clean and pleasant though still industrial). Former graduate student **Warwick Waterworth** kindly gave him a driving tour of the beautiful countryside and attractive villages. In October, Scott offered his services (not needed) as a "bouncer" at the reception for new Department faculty in Spencer Research Library; this was a role he hadn't filled since graduate school. In April he presented a paper on legal issues in *All's Well that Ends Well* at a conference in Victoria, B. C. Writing on *King Lear*, he appeared for a second time in the pages of *Shakespeare Survey*.

During the previous academic year **Haskell Springer** chaired the search that ultimately brought us **Susan Harris**, the Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture; this year he sought less responsibility, and found it. The high points in his teaching were his interactions with the excellent, engaged students in two courses, one on Herman Melville and the other on Metafiction. Continuing to teach electronic fiction and to be excited by its (as yet few) significant literary accomplishments, he is also working collaboratively on two Melville books as well as hypertextually pursuing *Moby-Dick*.

Max Sutton went off phased (virtual) retirement in 2003 and is now experiencing full-time (real) retirement. He thanks everyone here since 1964—colleagues, students—for kindness, encouragement, and tolerance. Being in such good company has been a blessing, one seen all the more clearly after a happy retirement reception and a heap of generous good wishes. In turn his good wishes go to all who are still carrying on the work of English teachers and scholars—and to all those former students doing responsible things in that other world outside the Department.

In August 2002, **Marjorie Swann** won a W. T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, awarded specifically for her "Teaching and Advising in the Academic Major." Marjorie's article "Kansans and the Visual Arts," co-written with William Tsutsui (Department of History), was published in *Kansas History* 25.4 (Winter 2002-2003): 272-295.

Graduate Studies

In Fall 2002 the department welcomed a large incoming body of almost thirty new Masters and Doctoral students, a diverse group who came to KU from universities in twelve states, two Canadian provinces, and Japan. With students like these, the department's graduate program continues to grow and to foster emerging scholars and teachers in all fields of English, American, and Anglophone literature, Language and Composition Studies, and Creative Writing.

Summer 2003 continued the department and graduate program's tradition of offering special summer seminars with distinguished visiting faculty. This year's Multicultural Literary Institute was devoted to holocaust literature. The seminar was taught by Alan Berger, who holds the Raddock Eminent Scholar Chair for Holocaust Studies at Florida Atlantic University and who has authored numerous studies in the field, including *Crisis and Covenant: The Holocaust in American Jewish Fiction* (1985) and *Children of Job: American Second-Generation Witnesses to the Holocaust* (1997). The 2003 Holmes Institute focused on issues concerning marriage and sexuality in Victorian literature and culture. The seminar was taught by Professor Helena Michie, Director of the Program for the Study of Women and Gender at Rice University, whose book-length studies include *Confinements: Policing the Reproductive Body* (1997) and *Sororophobia: Differences Among Women in Literature and Culture* (1991).

Several changes in the Master's program were proposed by the graduate committee and approved by the Department during 2002-2003. Master's thesis and exam options were separated, making it possible to elect either of these options separately (previously the Master's exam was required whether the candidate wrote a thesis or not). Most importantly, perhaps, from the student perspective, a significant revision of the Master's exam reading list was approved in Spring 2003. The resulting list represents a wider and more varied list of options that will help the program and its students stay in touch with ongoing changes in the fields we cover.

In Fall 2003 the graduate program will welcome another group of about thirty students. In the coming year the graduate committee will devote particular energy to finding new techniques of graduate student recruitment in a time of ever-declining higher education and humanities budgets. The Department continues to make every effort to attract top graduate students and to improve the quality of its programs, while these efforts become ever more challenging in an era of perpetual budget deficits and cutbacks.

■—Philip Barnard

SAGE Update

We started off this year continuing the tradition of the SAGE picnic to welcome new graduate students and faculty, and despite the sweltering heat, it was quite a success. The picnic was held at "Dad" Perry Park and was a potluck-style event.

Most of SAGE's fall semester activities revolved around creative readings and receptions for visiting professors. Held at a local coffeehouse, SAGE's creative readings served as a wonderful opportunity for graduate students to share their poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction. In addition, we were pleased to have Alonso Menendez, a spoken word artist from Miami, FL, perform at two creative readings this year. The readings were lively and well-attended—standing room only at the last two readings—with many graduate students sharing their work. SAGE also hosted receptions for visiting faculty, including **Geraldo Sousa** and **Rebecca Curtis**. Also this fall, we hope we started a new tradition with a SAGE Halloween party, hosted by **Mindi McMann** and **Samantha Parkes**. Graduate students came dressed in a variety of costumes—from monks to gnats—and a good time was had by all.

With another creative reading, the book sale, and a "clean up" day for the SAGE computer lab, spring semester was a busy time for SAGE. The book sale held on Wescoe Beach in early April raised a substantial amount of money for SAGE, which will allow us to continue hosting receptions for visiting professors and throwing Halloween parties in style. With a newly formed awards subcommittee, SAGE was able to select the Mabel S. Fry teaching award recipient—Professor **Frank Farmer**—as well as present three graduate students with travel grants of \$100 each. The "clean up" day for the SAGE lab was also very productive. Now, all of the SAGE resources—computers, journals, and teaching aids, such as videos and DVDs—are organized and accessible to graduate students in the SAGE lab. We hope next year to update the technology in the SAGE lab.

Another exciting development this year was the formation of the Events Committee; this newly-formed committee will coordinate creative readings, discussion groups, and other social and academic events for SAGE members. Committee members will also serve as contacts for incoming graduate students.

SAGE Advice has continued its tradition of keeping graduate students up-to-date on each others' scholarly accomplishments, providing advice to graduate students in their roles as teachers as well as students, and offering much appreciated humor and insight.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the new SAGE officers for the 2003-2004 academic year:

- Presidents: **Joe Sommers** and **Samantha Parkes**
- Secretary: **Aaron Profit**
- Treasurer: **Bryan Harries**
- SAGE Advice Editor: **Kristen Bovaird-Abbo**
- SAGE Events Committee: **Beth Lagaron** and **Mindi McMann**

■—Crystal Gorham

Freshmen-Sophomore English Report

Returning Director **Michael Johnson** and Assistant Director **Sonya Lancaster** maintained a high level of professional development and support for new and experienced English GTAs and lecturers in 2002-2003. They also oversaw substantial revisions of the Freshmen-Sophomore English *Manual for Teachers* and *Composition and Literature* (a required text in English 101 and 102).

The Freshmen-Sophomore English Committee approved new goals for 200-level courses. After an extensive search by the textbook subcommittee, the FSE Committee also adopted five new literature anthologies that meet the goals of English 102: *Literature for Composition*; *Literature and the Writing Process*; *Making Literature Matter*; *Thinking and Writing about Literature*; and *Reading Literature and Writing Argument*.

The FSE Office sponsored several workshops throughout the 2002-2003 academic year. In accordance with the new portfolio-assessment option adopted by the 2001-2002 FSE Committee, **Sonya Lancaster** and **Frank Farmer** led a series of portfolio workshops for FSE instructors who want to engage in portfolio assessment. "The *Everyday Writer Workshop*," led by the handbook's editor, Kristen Bowen, offered tips for incorporating our handbook into classroom instruction. Melissa Manning, Associate Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, shared valuable advice with FSE instructors in the workshop "Do-It: Teaching Students with Disabilities." Writing Center Director **Michele Eodice** and Assistant Director **Emily Donnelly** oversaw "The Power of Peer: Student Response in the Writing Classroom," which offered coverage of the theory behind peer workshops, followed by a discussion of the practice of conducting such workshops in our classrooms.

Once again, several FSE instructors earned honors and awards for their outstanding instruction in the Department of English. **Kara Northway** received an Outstanding GTA award,

a University-wide recognition. **Michael Stigman, Emily Wicktor, and Steve Evans** received Departmental awards for teaching excellence. The James A. Gowen Memorial Award for Excellence in the Teaching and Study of Composition went to **Lisa St. Ledger**, and the Seldon Lincoln Whitcomb Award for Excellence in the Teaching and Study of Literature went to **Greg Brister**.

■—Donna Binns

Transition

Retirements

Dr. **Max Sutton**, Professor of Nineteenth-Century British Literature, officially retired in August 2003. Dr. **Margaret Arnold**, Professor of Renaissance Literature, plans to retire in August 2004. Both of their careers will be profiled in the next *Update*.

Carolyn Doty: 1941-2003



Note: Carolyn Doty, Professor of Fiction Writing in the University of Kansas English Department passed away unexpectedly on March 10, 2003. A memorial service for Professor Doty was held on March 31 in Alderson Auditorium. Portions of the following tribute from Scott Heim (M.A. 1992) were read at that service.

The first time I met Carolyn, back in 1987, I was a little wary. Too many students had enrolled in her Fiction Writing II class. I was one of those students. From her barked orders, from her grimaces and warnings about mounds of assignments, she seemed to be trying to get rid of some of us. I'm glad I don't frighten easily. At 21, I desperately

wanted to be a writer, so I stayed in her class. True, at times the workload was a bit heavy. But Carolyn's class also proved to be a lot of fun. Under her guidance and direction, the stories I wrote started to show improvement and life. She taught me the value of packing a story with what she called "another layer of complexity"; she taught me the devastating power of a single, strategic detail placed at the precise emotional moment. Carolyn had such a mastery of teaching. I can't think of a better word than that to describe the way she taught. She was such a great writer, but perhaps even more, a great reader. It sounds silly, even pretentious, to say this, especially now that I can't say it in private, to her face, any longer, but taking classes with Carolyn changed my life.

To be a student in a Carolyn Doty class felt the way a membership in a secret, snooty, only-the-coolest club must feel. I met other later-to-be-published novelists, brilliant writers like **Connie May Fowler** and **Kellie Wells**, in Carolyn's classes. I met wonderful people like **Bill Kueser** and **Liz Woodbury** and **Pam Erwin**, friends I still treasure to this day. Was it coincidence that all these terrific, talented people were Carolyn's students? We would congregate at her gorgeously airy house on Barker Street for workshops, sitting in chairs or couches, making a gossipy semicircle around Carolyn, who took the pink-flowered chair in the corner, her stockinged feet usually drawn close to her body in the manner of one of her treasured pet cats. I can still see her sitting there in that pale-gold lamplight, a pen in one hand, a student's story in the other, as she pointed out the good and the bad. Inevitably, some turn or twist of a plot would remind her of something from her own life, and she would begin to relate some surprising story about the writers she'd known, the places she'd been.

I had never, and have still never, heard anyone deliver a story like Carolyn. She was like a skilled comic actress, a kind of novelist-and-professor version of Carol Burnett. I remember stories of her bizarre classes at Irvine, of New York literary parties, of raucous nights at the Squaw Valley conference in California where she taught each August. To me, a struggling wanna-be who'd lived all his days in small-town Kansas, these stories made her a star. Carolyn was so enchanting. She had traveled places I longed to visit; she'd filtered the ups and downs of her experiences into complex, unflinching prose; most important, she'd PUBLISHED. Real, honest-to-god NOVELS. She was the first person I'd known who had done this. She was the first person to tell me, tiny me, that I had the talent to accomplish it too. And later, when I'd applied to graduate schools, Carolyn was the sole person who urged me to accept my offer from Columbia, and to

move to New York. She believed in me more than I did. For this, especially this, I idolized Carolyn. I hung on every single bit of wonderful, life-changing advice she gave me.

One of my treasured possessions is a videotape made at some late-night after-class party at Carolyn's house. At some point, someone puts the needle to an old disco record. Everyone begins dancing to Donna Summer and the Bee Gees. In that video, Carolyn pivots and claps and strikes a weird, finger-to-the-roof John Travolta pose. She is the center of everyone's attention, just as she wants it, just as it should be. She never stops smiling. She looks so beautiful.

The night before I left Kansas to move to New York, Carolyn gave me a signed copy of *What She Told Him*, the only novel of hers I hadn't read. Inside was an envelope. Carolyn made me swear I wouldn't open it until my plane landed. I almost obeyed: I waited until I was midflight, somewhere over Missouri or Ohio. Inside the envelope was a card and a check for two hundred bucks. She had written two things I'll never forget: "I have such faith in you," and "You have made me so proud." Neither of my parents had ever said anything like this to me about my writing or my decision to move east. But Carolyn had. She was my teacher, and she was my dear friend. She was quite possibly the biggest influence on my life at that time, and ultimately on my career as a writer. In many ways, she still is. I loved Carolyn so much. I think that for a long time now, whenever I sit down to write, I will think of her, and I will miss her.

Keeping in Touch

Some alumni/ae have requested information about students and instructors who were at the University during their college years. Unfortunately, the Department does not keep records of former students. Those interested in locating them should contact the University of Kansas Alumni Association, which can assist in the search. Please report a change of address directly to The University of Kansas Alumni Association, 1266 Oread Ave., Lawrence, KS 66044-3169. You may communicate electronically with KUAA via kualumni@kualumni.org; fax: 785/864-5397.

Following are relevant websites and addresses:

- General KU Information:
<http://www.ku.edu>
- English Department home page:
<http://www.ku.edu/~english>
- English Department e-mail:
english@ku.edu

ALUMNI NEWS

1930s

Jerene Dew Simmons (M.A. 1937) is now 88. For a year and a half she and her husband lived in an assisted living facility. Her husband passed away Jan. 14, 2003. Jerene has now moved back to their home and her daughter is living with her.

1940s

As a longtime retiree from the US department of State and USAID and from UNESCO as director of the International Bureau of Education in Geneva, **James Chandler** (B.A. 1943, M.A. 1949) has kept busy with two Rotary clubs (Clayton and Richmond Heights, Missouri) serving on their boards of directors and dealing with international programs, with the Société Française de Saint-Louis, serving as President, Vice President, Secretary and Commissaire (Sergeant-at-arms) in that order, entertaining foreign guests sponsored by State and managed by the World Affairs Council, and attending meetings of many organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, Fralellanza Italiana, Alliance Française, St. Louis Lyon Committee (as part of the art exchange program, sending our paintings to Lyon and then exhibiting theirs and ours here in St. Louis, and so on), leaving time for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, The Repertory Theatre and the Opera Theatre. While all of this sounds pretty inconsequential, someone has to do it and it keeps him busy and out of trouble at age 82. He is fortunate to have at his side his patient spouse of the last 56 years, Madeleine, also 82. But his long ago stint with the KU English department keeps raising the flag: *e.g.*, Saturday while bedsitting a sick friend, he read a recent translation of Beowulf. When they discussed the reason for Beowulf being organized in three episodes, he was able to recall a factor ignored by the translator (a Harvard man) that of *monnum javening* which he learned about when sent off to study the *Gunnlaugssaga*.

William H. Hutton's (M.A. 1949) present work in progress: Françoise Sagan and Jean-Paul Sartre dining on *Les Champs Élysées* and *a deux* chatting.

Margaret Wilson earned two degrees in English from Kansas University: a bachelor's degree in 1939 and a master's degree in 1947. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1939. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. She married Frank Simrall Bangs in January 1942, shortly after Pearl Harbor, after he was commissioned

an ensign in the U.S. Navy. He died in May 1998. His grandmother, Fannie Ross Bangs, as a girl, witnessed Quantrill's raid, and was later in the first graduating class at the new university on the hill. This spring the fifth generation of the Bangs family will be graduating from KU: Margaret and Simrall Lancaster. Granddaughter Elizabeth Bangs will be graduating from Northwestern University in Chicago.

In Wichita, where the Bangs lived after WWII, Margaret served on the boards of the Wichita Children's Guidance Center, the Wichita Junior League, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Kansas Natural Resources Council. During the 1976 energy crisis, she was appointed to the Wichita/Sedgwick County Energy Advisory Board.

Later, she was appointed to the Kansas Corporation Commission's Consumer Information Board, serving as its president for six years. With Linda Weir Enegren, also a KU grad, and Margaret Miller, she worked for the passage in the Kansas Legislature of the bill which established the Consumers Utilities Ratepayers Board (CURB), which represents residential and small business ratepayers before the Kansas Corporation Commission. Today, she is an advocate for all forms of solar power; they are infinite, while oil, coal, and gas are inevitably finite. She now lives at the Santa Catalina Villas: 7500 N. Calle Sin Envidia, Apt. 13206, Tucson, AZ 85718.

1950s

Evelyn Jo Barnes wrote the following note regarding her husband, **Robert J. Barnes** (M.A. 1950): "I found this letter in my husband's desk. I'm sure that he planned to write you about our joyous years at KU. It is there, as a graduate assistant, that he first learned the love of teaching." The accompanying obituary relates, "Robert J. Barnes, Professor Emeritus of English at Lamar University, died January 18, 2003 at his home in Beaumont.... Following naval service in the western Pacific during World War II, he earned his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Kansas and completed his Ph.D. at the University of Texas in 1955. He taught for five years at the University of Southern Mississippi, before coming to Lamar, where he served as Director of Freshman English from 1960 to 1963 and Head of the English Department from 1966 to 1969.... A memorable and inspiring professor, Bob Barnes passed on his love of literature and teaching to a generation of Lamar students."

1960s

Bob Bataille (M.A. 1965, Ph.D. 1970) has been retired for three years from Iowa State and has enjoyed nearly every minute of it. He is not doing any scholarship at the moment and is instead reading whatever he feels like reading, including drafts of his wife's (Mary Howard) second novel. Recently he and Mary have travelled to Normandy and Costa Rica and look forward to trips to both coasts this summer to visit family. Old friends can reach him at <rrbataille@aol.com>.

John Ival Blair (M.A. 1966) worked as an aerospace technical writer and magazine editor 1966-1977. He has been an advertising copy writer, copy editor and project manager for NCH Corporation, Irving, Texas, 1977-present. He has been married since 1967 to Clara Marie Franz. They have one child, Joseph (no grandchildren yet) and have resided in Arlington, Texas, since 1971. John has been writing and publishing poetry since 2001. Numerous examples can be accessed at <www.pencilstubs.com> and <www.prairiepoetry.com>.

Alan E. Craven (Ph.D. 1965) has retired after eight years as Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts at The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX, and 21 years as Chair of the Department of English, Classics, and Philosophy. He continues to teach courses in Shakespeare on a part-time basis in the department. He and his wife, Jan, live on the outskirts of San Antonio in the beautiful Texas hill country.

In May 2003, Salisbury University celebrated the 30th anniversary of the first publication of the highly-respected film journal, *Literature/Film Quarterly*. **Thomas Erskine** (M.A. 1963) and **James Welsh** (Ph.D. 1996) founded the journal in 1973 at what was then Salisbury State University on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Welsh's wife, Anne, has served as business manager for the publication. *Literature/Film Quarterly* can be found at the best university libraries in the U.S. and is distributed in more than 30 other countries.

Joe Hatcher (Ph.D. 1968) ends his two-year commitment as acting chair of the English Department at the University of Central Arkansas June 30. For the foreseeable future he will be working with Horizons Stewardship, Inc., doing 100-200 days a year of search and management consulting.

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1970s

David Leon Higdon (Ph.D. 1968) was the plenary speaker at the American Society for Aesthetics (Rocky Mountain Division) in July. His essays on concordances and research methods classes appeared in *TEXT* and *Profession 2002* and he delivered a paper at the 2002 Virginia Woolf Society meeting during MLA. He is a contributor to *Contemporary British Novelists*, forthcoming from the University of Edinburgh Press. Each word he writes now is carefully edited by a very large Ragdoll cat who hangs over the computer screen, walks on the keyboard, and propels pens to the nether reaches of the study.

James Hoggard (M.A. 1965) had his 16th book published in November: *Patterns of Illusion: Stories & A Novella*. (Wings Press).

Robert N. Lawson (Ph.D. 1966) has arranged with Creative Arts Book Company, of Berkeley, CA, to bring out his novel, *The Bridge of Dreams* (which he self-serialized on his web site <<http://www.washburn.edu/reference/bridge24>> a chapter a month the first two years of this century) in book form some time in 2004. The novel will remain available on the web site, however, along with an on-going four-play dramatic adaptation (and other “friperies”).

Sherry Ann Mowrer Newell (M.A. 1964) is still actively involved with Cameron University Honor Societies and Classic Film Series, as well as serving on the board of SW OK Opera Guild, participating in the local Shakespeare Club, and continuing in community service projects.

Paul A. Parrish (M.A. 1968) has been named Regents Professor by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, a recognition bestowed on only two Texas A&M professors each year. He will be entering his 30th year as a member of the English Department at TAMU and continues to serve as the Chief Editor of the Commentary for *The Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne*.

Susan Strong Richardson received a Ph.D. in English from KU in the spring of 1968. She retired at the end of February, 2003, after 27 years at the Illinois State Board of Education in Springfield. She spent the last eight years of her career there working with Illinois’ colleges and universities that prepare teachers. She found the work very rewarding, but will enjoy more free time now for reading, gardening, and arts and crafts projects. She would enjoy hearing from those who knew her at KU; her e-mail address is <dvrchn@ameritech.net>.

Thomas Fox Averill (M.A. 1974) has a second novel, *The Slow Air of Ewan MacPherson*, to be published in July 2003 by BlueHen/Berkley. In his capacity as a fellow for the Washburn University Center for Kansas Studies, he is also overseeing the re-publication of Edgar Wolfe’s *Widow Man*—fifty years after its original publication date, and in time for the celebration of Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka.

Terry J. (Ryan) Axline earned her M.A. in English from K.U. in 1973. She has fond memories of strong coffee and morning conversations in the old English Annex when she was a T.A. **Barry Baddock, Phil Jones, Barb Balfour** and **Carla Essary** were some of her pals during those years. Now a grandmother, she still enjoys her work at the Albuquerque Biological Park where she manages Communications, Graphics and Special Events. She and husband Bob are members of Rye Creek Band and play Celtic music about once a month at O’Neill’s Pub in Albuquerque. In 2002 Terry and Bob established scholarships in their names through the K.U. Endowment Association.

Dean Bevan (Ph.D. 1971), since June 2000 an Emeritus Professor of English at Baker University, continues to live happily with his wife Judy in Lawrence. Freed from grading papers, in 2002 he wrote three plays. *Haunted* won the Rockhurst University playwriting contest and was performed at Rockhurst; *United We Stand* was performed in Lawrence by the EMU Theatre group. (The third, *Allegory*, is still looking for a troupe.) He also completed a screenplay, *Jolly Roger*, now in his agent’s hands. In addition, he embarked on a thespian career, serving as dramaturg and guest artist in Bernard Shaw’s *You Never Can Tell* on the Kansas University Theatre stage in the fall of 2002, and this summer is appearing in *Kiss Me Kate* at the Lawrence Community Theatre.

This is **Oliver Finney’s** (Ph.D. 1975) first update since graduating. He made harpsichords from 1975 (first one made for the library fines clerk in Watson Library met in course of dissertation work) to 1990, then spent the next twelve years consulting for and then employed by Hill’s Pet Nutrition (Science Diet), working on new product development and then technical information systems. (Observations from working around marketers: the “!” key is much more frequently used in “bidness” than in academic circles. Further, if you answer “okay” when asked how you’re doing, marketers will

sympathetically ask what’s the matter.) He quit Hill’s early this year to trade stocks/options and to work on a harpsichord research project.

Patricia Cleary Miller (Ph.D. 1979) has just been promoted to the rank of Professor at Rockhurst University, Kansas City’s Jesuit university. Her French poem, “Clara” was published in the Fall 2002 journal of Pi Delta Phi, the National French Honor Society. This year she has given some ten readings of her poetry, much of it inspired by paintings and by chamber music. At KU’s Composition & Literature Conference this spring she presented a new work on a series of faded murals by Mark Rothko. She has just published the 16th annual edition of *Rockhurst Review*. This summer she will tour scenes of *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2* with the Harvard Alumni Association. She is looking for a composer who will set to choral music her poem on the 1945 Allied bombardment of Dresden.

In August 2002, **Eiki Senaha** (Ph.D. 1977) was invited to deliver a lecture on “Wordsworth’s Concept of Nature: a Traditional Japanese View” at the Wordsworth International Conference held at Grasmere, Cumbria. In October 2002 he was invited to deliver a keynote speech on “The Japanese Reception of English Literature: Its Impact on Japanese Literature” at the Hokkaidou Society of English Literature which took place at the University of Hokkaidou. He also contributed papers on “Lyrical Ballads (1798)” and “Manfred and Hujimura Misao” to the Journal of Japan Association of English Romanticism and the Journal of Byron Society of Japan respectively.

Jon-Christian Suggs (Ph.D. 1978) is on sabbatical leave from the City University of New York (John Jay College and the Ph.D. Program in English/Graduate Center) as he works on a novel of Black intellectuals at the end of the Civil War and on a study of the self-invention behind the career of Walter Francis White, Harlem Renaissance man of letters and executive secretary of the NAACP from 1930 to his death in 1955. Chris teaches African American literature and law and literature and for the last three years has been the coordinator of the program in Justice Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He has just returned from a two week trip to Scotland where he visited a friend from Lawrence and Baldwin days, Roger Doudna, Ph.D. in Philosophy 1974, who has lived in Findhorn, Scotland, for more than 25 years. Chris’s daughter, Heather, is an architect in Kansas City if anyone needs design work done, but her sister,

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Seana, is a county prosecutor in New Jersey and he hopes you won't have any business with her. If you do, you could await your day in court at the bar in his son, Joshua's, restaurant, "Delta's"—conveniently located only a few blocks from the court complex in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Finally, Chris's step-daughter, Quintana, is opening a nursery school at the south end of Park Slope in Brooklyn, if you want to drop your 3 year-old off on the way to Wescoe.

Bill Thompson (M.A. 1973) is serving his first term in the South Dakota House of Representatives. Running on an education platform, he defeated a Republican incumbent in a Republican district in a year of Republican sweeps. Although the state faced a \$40 million deficit and declining student enrollment, the legislature and governor balanced the budget, added \$15.1 million to education, and developed a prescription drug plan for the disabled and those sixty-five and older. Serving in the legislature is a year of graduate school compressed into 40 days, and testifying in a committee hearing is like orals.

Verna Urbanski (M.A. 1973) celebrated her 25th anniversary as a catalog librarian at the University of North Florida. She continues to be active in the American Library Association, to garden, walk the beach and play with her cats. In other words, she has become the cliché we all think we never will. But, she's happy.

John Vanderhorst (M.A. 1977), after seventeen years in technical communications, became a full-time pastor last year at Cornerstone Community Church in Overland Park, KS. He and **Dotty Adams Vanderhorst** (M.A. 1977) celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary last year with a twelve-day walking tour across Scotland. Of their eight children, Ariel, the oldest son, is married and completing an English degree. The rest of the clan resides in Lenexa, KS. The Scottish walking tour (Perth to Fort William) was self-guided with detailed maps and "route guidance" literature (which didn't always help when we found ourselves in the middle of pasture or a field of tall waving grain). In Aberfeldy, Dotty got a picture of John seated in the very spot in the "birks" from which Robert Burns wrote his famous poem. They also saw the remainder of Birnam Woods of *Macbeth* fame, including the oldest oak in Scotland (the UK? the world?).

Laura H. Weaver (Ph.D. 1977) has participated in several art exhibits during 2003. Framed panels

of her text, written for a joint exhibit with Evansville IN artist Matt Busby in 1999-2000, have now been made into three-dimensional works (with wood and clay) by a Netherlands artist, Nel Bannier, a teacher at the University of Evansville. These works were shown in February at the University of Evansville; in March at the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana CA; and in April at the St. Peters Community & Arts Center, St. Peters MO.

1980s

Andrea Broomfield (B.A. 1986, M.A. 1989) is an Associate Professor of English at Johnson County Community College, where she happily settled after leaving Wheaton College in 1999. She continues to write and publish articles pertaining to Victorian British journalism, and her work has appeared in *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *Women's Studies*, and *Victorian Periodicals Review*. She serves on the Executive Board of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals and is co-editor with Sally Mitchell of *Prose by Victorian Women: An Anthology* (Garland P, 1996). Love of family and love of teaching writing prompted her and her husband's move back to the Kansas City area. She is married to Vince Miller (B.A. 1987) and has two children, Clara (7) and Gavin (4).

Keith Coplin (Ph.D. 1989) recently had a novel accepted by Putnam/Penguin of New York. The book, *Crofton's Fire*, will be issued in January 2004. It is the story of a young cavalry officer in the nineteenth century who survives Custer's debacle at the Little Big Horn only to become involved in a "whore's war" in Kansas, a nasty revolution in Cuba, and the horrors of the Zulu war in South Africa. Neil Nyren, Editor-in-Chief at Putnam, intends to submit the novel to the Pulitzer Prize Committee. Brad Pitt is reading the book with the view of a film production.

This August, **Holly Franking** (Ph.D. 1988) will give a multimedia presentation at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland for the International Popular Culture Association. Her topic will be "The Future of the Book is Now: How Technology is Creating New Delivery Systems for Information." At the conference, she'll meet for the first time a distant cousin, who is a professor emeritus from Michigan State. After a week in Dublin, she and her husband will go to Paris. A former classmate from elementary school has an apartment there. She has not seen this friend in 44 years.

Pat Hagen (Ph.D. 1984) still lives in Duluth, Minnesota, where she teaches Irish literature, management communication, studio art and honors classes at the College of St. Scholastica. Having finished a 3-year stint as self-study coordinator for the North Central accreditation visit (which went frighteningly well—no progress reports of any kind), she has replaced one half-time administrative job with another, chairing the strategic planning committee—not precisely what she had in mind when going to graduate school. Pat and husband Tom Zelman, who just got promoted to full professor at the College of St. Scholastica, have finished their book *Eavan Boland and the History of the Ordinary*, which will be published by Maunsel in September 2003. Son Andy will be a senior in high school this fall.

Jim Persoon (Ph.D. 1984) is Professor of English, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI. 49401. This summer Jim is attending an NEH seminar on Irish studies at Notre Dame, led by Christopher Fox. Next winter, he will do a one-semester exchange to Cape Coast University, Ghana. Nearby is one of the last protected herds of forest elephants. If you want to see Ghana or elephants, come for a visit. Contact Jim at <persoonj@gvsu.edu>.

Debra Seely (M.A. 1983) had her first novel, *Grasslands*, published by Holiday House in 2002. It's a historical fiction novel for ages 10-14. Deb just finished a stint at Newman University in Wichita, where she was acting director of the Milton Center for one year and taught freshman composition and children's literature for four years. Now she plans to devote her time to writing for children. She just signed a contract with Holiday House for her second book.

Judith J. Thompson (Ph.D. 1982) had a revised paperback edition of her 1987/1989 hardcover book *Tennessee Williams' Plays: Memory, Myth, and Symbol* published by Peter Lang in August 2002.

1990s

Clint Crumley (Ph.D. 1998) and Patricia Dinas are enjoying their first year with their son, Henry Winfield, born Jan. 13. This fall, Clint begins his sixth year chaperoning proms and class trips, coaching debate, advising Beta Club members, and teaching English at Providence Day School. He hopes someone will soon publish his first novel, written over the past four summers. He,

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Patricia, and Field (and their cat, Clara) live in a 1930 bungalow in Charlotte, NC.

Chris Devictor graduated in 1997 with a Master of Arts degree in English/Creative Writing. Since 1999-2000, he has been teaching introductory Composition, Literature, and Writing courses at Neosho County Community College's Ottawa Campus.

Allan T. Grohe Jr. (M.A. 1996) lives in San Jose, CA, where he works for Juniper Networks as a Knowledge Engineer. In 1997 Allan won the Langston Hughes Award for his non-fiction personal essay "Betwixt & Between." Allan continues to write and publish poetry, non-fiction essays, role-playing games, and book reviews. He is happily married to Heather Grohe (née Schunk, 1995 M.S. Music Therapy from KU); in the past year they adopted two orange tabby cats, Percy Beeblebrox and Trapdoor Jasper (twin brothers; Percy and Jasper for short).

Vance (M.B.A. 2000, M.A. 1994) and **Beth Sullivan** (M.B.A. 2000, M.A. 1994) **Hampleman** welcomed their second child, Jane Elizabeth, on March 10. Their son, Nathan, is 2 1/2 years old. Vance works at Sprint PCS and Beth at American Century Investments. They live in Olathe, KS, and can be reached at <vhampman@comcast.net>.

Karen Hellekson (M.A. 1991; Ph.D. 1998) is a freelance copyeditor in the scientific, technical, and medical journal market, although she also edits books about critical theory for Stanford UP and the Lives of the Past series for Indiana UP. She has returned to her science fiction academic roots by publishing and presenting papers about slash fan fiction. In spring 2003, she taught an SF class at the University of Maine at Farmington.

Jennifer Lawler (Ph.D. 1996) continues to work full-time as a freelance writer. Her nineteenth book, *Dojo Wisdom*, was released in June by Penguin Compass. A scheduled book tour through ten cities plus other promotional activities should keep her occupied for some time. She is hard at work on the second book in the *Dojo Wisdom* series, this one for writers, which will be released next year. Her daughter, Jessica, will soon be six years old, and is doing well; she can already spell the most important words in the English language: "dog" and "book." Jennifer's two rambunctious dogs are not calming

down any with old age. She plans to adopt another malamute this year, thus confirming for those who have suspected all along that she really has lost her marbles.

Since completing her Ph.D. in 1997, **Amy Lerman** has lived and worked in both Illinois and Arizona. Currently, both she and her husband, Mike Mader, work full-time for Arizona State University. Amy teaches for the Writing Programs department, though this summer she will also be teaching graduate students at Thunderbird University, an international school of business located in Phoenix. She continues to research and present at conferences—most recently at the Southwest Texas/Popular Culture Association Conference this past February in Albuquerque. Her current email addresses are <Amy.Lerman@asu.edu> and <aslerman20002000@yahoo.com>. In addition, her website is <<http://public.asu.edu/~alerman>>.

Joycelyn Moody (Ph.D. 1993) is currently a KU Affiliate Professor working out of the Edwards Campus in Overland Park, KS. She is writing the Course Guide to accompany the revised edition of the Norton Anthology of African American Literature, which is scheduled for a fall 2003 release. Joycelyn is currently an Associate Professor of English (and Adjunct Assoc Prof of Women Studies) at the Univ of Washington, where she has been on the faculty since 1991. She is the author of *Sentimental Confessions: Spiritual Autobiographies of Nineteenth-Century African American Women* (UGA Press, 2000). This title will be released in paperback in December 2003. Other recent publications include "To Be Young, Pregnant, and Black: My Life as a Welfare Coed," in *Reclaiming Class: Women, Poverty, and the Promise of Higher Education in America*, ed. Vivyan C. Adair and Sandra L. Dahlberg (Temple UP, 03). In April 2003 she served as the Peterson Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society, where she researched her book project "Silent Language: Enslaved Women and the Production of Literature Without Literacy." She also served as one of the Ropes Lecturers at the University of Cincinnati in Feb 03. Her subject was "Eliza's (Triumph) Trump: Antebellum Black Women Writers and the Subversion of Marriage and Sentiment."

Carolyn Moran (Ph.D. 1996) retired in 2002 from Tennessee State University and now lives in Albuquerque NM, where she is working on

translations of Nelly Sachs's poetry and writing a family biographical narrative. An article on Girl Heroes in award-winning children's literature of the Nineties will appear this year in *Knowledge Quest: The Journal of School Librarians*.

Laura Moriarty's (M.A. 1999) widely-praised debut novel, *The Center of Everything*, was published by Hyperion in 2003.

A few months after graduating from K.U., **Jessica Scheibach** (M.A. 1997) moved to Seattle and joined Amazon.com, then a small but growing Internet bookstore. Currently, she manages four website development teams for the Consumer Applications group, focusing on product merchandising, ordering, and self-service applications. Although she never imagined venturing into such a career while working on her English degree, it all seems to make sense these days. Shakespeare has never been so relevant.

After five years as the director of marketing and advancement at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson, **Karen Siebert** (M.A. 1992) is now doing public relations at the American Academy of Family Physicians in Kansas City.

Jeff Warner (M.A. 1992) has been working as a copy editor and occasional writer at the *Union-Bulletin* newspaper in Walla Walla, Washington since October of 1999. Before that, he lived for four years in Seattle, making a gradual transition from academics to publishing and editing. The UB is a small paper owned by the same family that owns the *Seattle Times*. Warner's work is varied and interesting, more so than the term "copy editor" would imply — he creates pages, places stories on them, cuts them to size and edits them and writes headlines. Swivelling back and forth from a PC to a Macintosh, he also works photographs and graphics, adjusting them for size and color before they are inserted into the pages. Mornings are fast-paced, working on a deadline; afternoons are more leisurely, working on special sections and the Sunday paper. Warner also writes a weekly film review column entitled "Video Discoveries" in which he reviews independent or more off-beat video releases; he also writes the occasional outdoors adventure column, relating personal camping trips, mountain climbing or rock climbing excursions and so on. He is married to the lovely Melissa — their first anniversary is July 20, 2003, and their first child is due August 19th. They live in

a lovely little house to which they personally did a great deal of remodeling.

2000s

Ryan Murray (M.A. 2000) has finished his second of three years at UMKC; he is working

toward a B.A. in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood. In fall 2003 he will be student teaching in a pre-K program and in spring '04 he will be doing his elementary student teaching in kindergarten, which is the grade he plans to teach after he graduates. Also, Ryan is still looking for that elusive soulmate, but now suspects that no such woman exists.

However, he refuses to let that interfere with his dream of being a parent, so within two years after graduation, he plans to adopt as a single parent. Ryan also keeps busy with other activities, including Kenpo Karate, in which he is currently working toward his purple belt.

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 Mr. Brian J. Zimmer & Ms. Jennifer L. Pehlke

Melancholy Dame



Professor **Amy Devitt** portrays Amanda Wingfield in **English Alternative Theatre's** production of Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie*, directed by **Paul Stephen Lim**. The production, which was mounted in April 2003 and will be reprised in October 2003, is a joint venture between EAT and the new Lawrence Arts Center. Geared to Lawrence residents, the University community in general, and to students in the FSE program in English specifically (up to 100 sections of English 102 will view the play over the two semesters), these performances open new vistas for EAT, now in its 13th year of existence. Several other EAT readings and events have been staged at the Arts Center and prospects appear promising for an ongoing relationship.

The University of Kansas
 Department of English
 1445 Jayhawk Blvd.
 Wescoe Hall, Room 3116
 Lawrence, KS 66045-7590

Chair: Dorice Williams Elliott
Editor: Robert F. Elliott

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