



## HBW: New Faces, New Grant



Back row: **Will Cunningham**, The Black Book Interactive Pilot Program; **Kenton Ramsby**, outgoing Project Digital Initiative Coordinator (fellowship leave), still part of BBIPP. Second row: **Meredith Wiggins**, new PDI Coordinator; **Sarah Arbuthnot-Lendt**, Grants Coordinator; **Crystal Bradshaw**, HBW Communications (Communications sophomore); **Kris Lockridge**, Special Projects. Seated: Distinguished Professor **Maryemma Graham**, HBW Founder and Director.

KU English's **Project on the History of Black Writing**, has a newly-formed staff that will help prepare for yet another **National Endowment for the Humanities** grant, the fifteenth in the Project's history. The NEH has committed \$156,000 to fund a 2015 summer institute, "Black Poetry after the Black Arts Movement," a further development of HBW's special series, "Don't Deny My Voice," which received initial NEH funding in 2012. The institute, once again with the help of the Ermal Garinger Resource Center, will also have a Fall 2015 component, a series of webinars with poets such as Nikky Finney, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Sonia Sanchez, and Nathaniel Mackey. Scholars Howard Ramsby, SIU Edwardsville, and Evie Shockley, Rutgers, will each spend a week in Lawrence instructing on-campus institute participants. The institute coincides with the centennial of the birth of Margaret Walker, the first black writer to win the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. The program will also give special recognition to iconic black poets Amiri Baraka and Jayne Cortez, both of whom passed away recently.

## Humanities Lecture Series Welcomes Award-Winning Nonfiction Writer



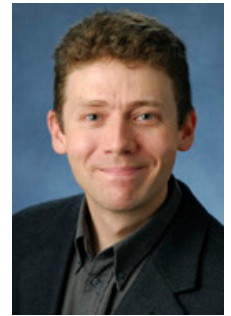
Katherine Boo

The winner of the 2012 National Book Award for Nonfiction, **Katherine Boo**, will kick off this year's **Humanities Lecture Series**, sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities. Boo won the award for her best-selling book, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*. The book also won nonfiction prizes that year from PEN, *The Los Angeles Times*, The New York Public Library, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

The title of her lecture is taken from the title of her book. She will speak on Tuesday, 16 September, at 7:30 pm, in Woodruff Auditorium of the Kansas Union. Boo is a staff writer at *The New Yorker* and a former reporter and editor at *The Washington Post*. She previously won a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service (2000) and a MacArthur Genius Grant (2002). Her writing career has been devoted to advancing social justice in the United States and abroad.

## Grund Delivers ICEHL Plenary Address

Associate Professor **Peter Grund** was a plenary speaker at this summer's 18<sup>th</sup> **International Conference on English Historical Linguistics (ICEHL)**, the most prestigious gathering of scholars in his field. The conference was held in July in Leuven, Belgium. His address was entitled "Identifying Stances: The (Re)construction of Strategies and Practices of Stance in a Historical Community." The native Swede reports that he looked forward to escaping the summer heat of Kansas for the cooler weather of Europe in July, but it was about 85 degrees [Fahrenheit, one hopes] in Leuven and "stiflingly hot" in the room where he spoke. Meanwhile, as most of us experienced, cooler-than-usual temperatures prevailed in Lawrence. Nevertheless, he survived and all reports indicate that the address was well-received. Congratulations, Peter!



Peter Grund

## Calendar

- M 15** 2Cs, 6:00 pm, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Brewery (3512 Clinton Parkway, Lawrence).
- T 16** **SAGE Book Fair**, 9am-4pm, in front of Stauffer-Flint and Wescoe. Donatons help fund English Department graduate students. Continues Wednesday, also 9am-4pm.  
  
**Voting Department Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4019 Wescoe. Agenda: 1) discuss Foundation Professor nomination.  
  
**Humanities Lecture Series**, "Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity," **Katherine Boo**, *The New Yorker*, 7:30 pm, Woodruff Auditorium.
- W 17** **A Conversation with Katherine Boo**, 11:00 am, Hall Center Conference Hall.
- F 19** **Panel Discussion**, "Scholars on Site and Collaborative Research Seed Grant," Beverly Mack, AAAS; **Peter Grund**, English; James Moreno, Dance; Sally Utech, 12-1:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room 1.

## *Publications*

### **Conrad, Kathryn**

“What the Digital Humanities Can’t Do,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 8 September.

## *Presentations*

### **Grund, Peter**

Plenary Address, “Identifying Stances: The (Re)construction of Strategies and Practices of Stance in a Historical Community,” 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on English Historical Linguistics, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven Belgium, 14-18 July.

## *Announcements, Notes, & News*

• **The Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities** will sponsor a two-day forum entitled “Nodes and Networks in the Humanities” on 12-13 September in Watson Library. **Steven Jones**, English, Loyola University Chicago, will be one of the keynote speakers. The forum will include a full day of workshops on Friday, 12 September, and a full conference day on Saturday, 13 September. A number of English scholars from around the country, including KU’s **Callista Buchen**, **Amy Ash**, and **Meaghan Kelly**, are on the program, along with digital humanities scholars from a variety of disciplines. All sessions free. See IDRH website for schedule and details.

## *KU and Regional Events*

- **Nature and Culture Seminar**, “Towards an Environmental History of the Media: Portrayals of Water Pollution in the Baltic Sea Region on Finnish Television, 1955-1974,” Simo Laakhonen, University of Helsinki, 12 September, 3:30-5:00 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- **Kansas Book Festival**, free admission, book signings, food, presenting authors, 13 September, 9 am-4 pm, Kansas State Capitol Building, Topeka. See [kansasstatebookfestival.com](http://kansasstatebookfestival.com).
- **Libraries Lecture Series**, “Thinking Through: Practice-Led Research, Interdisciplinarity and Road Building,” Steven Duval, ARC Initiative; Rebecca Blocksome, Spencer Museum of Art, 18 September, 3:30-5:00 pm, Watson Three West.
- **Oiche Heaney**, a night of Irish poetry, in honor of Seamus Heaney, 18 September, 6:30-9:00 pm, Kansas City Irish Center
- **Conflict & International Change Seminar**, “Murrow’s Wager: The Cold War and the New Communications Frontier,” Jason Parker, History, Texas A&M, 19 September, 3:30 pm-5:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.