



## Humanities Lecture Series Welcomes Neil Gaiman

The Hall Center's **Humanities Lecture Series** will host "An Evening with Neil Gaiman" on Monday, 19 November, at KU's Lied Center. Gaiman is a legend in the music industry, who has sold more than 100 million records over his long and distinguished career as a singer-songwriter. He has had ten No. 1 singles on the Hot 100 and Adult Contemporary charts. In the mid-1960s, he made a name for himself by writing several popular hits for The Monkees, including "I'm a Believer." Soon he began recording his own work, launching himself to stardom with a single and an album both entitled "Solitary Man." Fifty years on, he continues to record and tour despite recently being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2011 and, just this year, received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. Of course, this bio is completely bogus, but it could be true in some alternate universe dreamed up by our reality's Neil Gaiman. Judging by the fact that the ticket allotment for his KU gig was exhausted weeks ago, Gaiman needs no introduction to the local populace. There will be a packed house for this versatile and spectacularly imaginative English creative writer.



Neil Gaiman

### Publications

#### Farmer, Frank

Review of Don Bialostosky, *Mikhail Bakhtin: Rhetoric, Poetics, Dialogics, Rhetoricity* (2016), in *Rhetorica* 36.4 Autumn 2018.

### Presentations

#### Elliott, Dorice Williams

"National Identity and Global Commuting: Henry Kingsley's *The Recollections of Geoffry Hamlyn*," NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association), St. Petersburg, FL, 13 October.

#### Graham, Maryemma

Interviewer: James Meredith, "Memories of the Civil Rights Movement," Pavillon Populaire, Montpellier, France, 15-17 October.

"Where There's Smoke, There's Fire: From Literary and Political Activism to Cultural Internationalism," Black Power: Movements, Cultures, and Resistance in the Black Americas, Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany, 18-19 October.

Closing Roundtable Participant, "Where Do We Go from Here?" Black Power: Movements, Cultures, and Resistance in the Black Americas, Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany, 18-19 October.

#### Johnson, Kij

Lecture and Master Class, University of Glasgow, Glasgow (Scotland), 16-17 November.

#### McKitterick, Christopher

Keynote Speaker, "Space Opera" event, Greal R. Sherratt Library, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT, 13 November.

#### Mielke, Laura L.

"Arousing an Audience: Antebellum African American Performers and Spectator Response." Staying Woke Working Group, American Society for Theatre Research. 17 November. [working group to meet digitally due to conference cancellation]

Roundtable on Britt Rusert's *Fugitive Science: Empiricism and Freedom in Early African American Culture*, American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, 9 November.

## Announcements, Notes, & News

• **Darren Canady** is directing Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble's production of *The Wild Party*, by George C. Wolfe and Michael John LaChiusa, 9-10, 15-17 November, 7:30 pm, 11, 18 November, 2:00 pm, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 S.W. Jackson St., Topeka, KS.

### Calendar

**M 19 Humanities Lecture Series**, "An Evening with Neil Gaiman," 7:30 pm, The Lied Center.

**W 21-  
N 25 Thanksgiving Holiday**

**M 26 Jacob Geither, MA Defense**, 10:00 am, 3001A Wescoe (Drake, Farmer, Reiff).

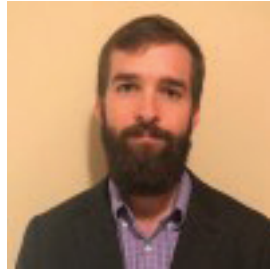
**W 28 Clare Echterling, PhD Defense**, 8:30 am, 3001A Wescoe (Conrad, Neill, Outka, Santangelo, Adams).

**R 29 Chris Hall, RDP**, 3:00 pm, 3025 Wescoe (Conrad, Drake, Santangelo).

**F 30 Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshops**, "A Spectacle of Considerable Interest: Industry and Nationalism on Display at the Irish International Exhibitions, 1852-1907," **Meghara Eichorn-Hicks**, English, 12:00-1:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room. RSVP to [hallcenter@ku.edu](mailto:hallcenter@ku.edu) by 11/23.

**F 7 Department of English Holiday Party**, for faculty, staff, grad students, spouses, partners, friends, and children, 7:00-9:00 pm, Lawrence Union Pacific Depot, 402 N 2<sup>nd</sup> St. (The Lawrence Visitors Center). Refreshments, beverages, and live music provided.

- Last week, KU announced the recipients of this academic year's Self Graduating Senior Fellowships and Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowships. English is represented in both select groups. Entering MA student **Alexander Burdge** has been named a 2018-2019 Self Graduating Senior Fellow. Recipients of this fellowship are chosen based on their "individual achievement in leadership and scholarship," "potential to make significant contributions to society," and "ability to envision and attain goals that require exceptional energy and tenacity." Burdge's research focuses on environmental representation in contemporary American literature. Entering PhD student **Lisa Favicchia** received a Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowship which will support her work over a five-year period. Chancellor Girod observes that the CDF program is intended to recruit and assist "talented scholars who will help shape the future of their chosen field of study. Their work holds enormous promise to lift our university and society." Favicchia is a poet who plans to pursue a university-level teaching career while continuing to write and publish her own poetry.



Alexander Burdge

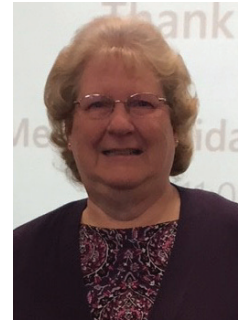


Lisa Favicchia

- KU English Professor Emerita **Susan K. Harris**, formerly KU's **Hall Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture**, is the recipient of the **2018 Karen Dandurand Lifetime Achievement Award**, which is awarded every three years at the **Society for the Study of American Women Writers'** conference to recognize a scholar's career achievement in the study of American women writers. The award recognizes the individual's commitment to the field, as demonstrated in his/her teaching, mentoring of students, scholarship, and service. The award is named in honor of Karen Dandurand, who passed away in 2011. She was one of the founding editors of *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*.

- Check out the digital roundtable posted by **Anthony Boynton** on the HBW website as a tribute to playwright Ntosake Shange who died in late October: <http://www.projecthbw.ku.edu/> Shange is best known for her influential 1975 play, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*. English Professor Emerita **Janet Sharistianian** and recent English PhD **Simone Savannah** join KU English alum (and current Theatre grad student + HBW affiliate) **Alysha Griffin** and Associate Dean **Nicole Hodges-Persley** in commenting on Shange's work and legacy.

- CLAS and Digital Media Services Administrative Assistant **Pam LeRow** has been named November's **Employee of the Month** at KU. Pam is a long-time friend and associate of KU English. She worked in the Department early in her career, but is best known now for the cheerful and capable assistance she has given to English faculty and staff for decades, typing and laying out books and indexes; creating posters and flyers; advising on digital formatting of everything from P&T forms to PRO; and, not least, helping get the DNB out each week – all part of her duties first with CLAS Word Processing Services, then with Digital Media Services. Since that office moved from Wescoe to Watson Library several years ago, we see less of Pam and she has taken on new duties with the Institute for Digital Humanities and Digital Initiatives in the KU Libraries. She does the layout of journals that the Library hosts at [journals@ku.edu](mailto:journals@ku.edu) and preps other projects being hosted in ScholarWorks for faculty. Congratulations, Pam, and thanks for all your help!



Pam LeRow

## ***KU and Regional Events***

- **Digital Humanities Seminar**, "Data Visualization and Storytelling: Revealing the Hidden Stories in the Spencer Museum of Art Collection," James R. Miller, Engineering; Robert Hickerson, SMA, 19 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- **Disability Studies Seminar**, "Rethinking Interdependence: Desiring Messy Dependency," Akemi Nishida, Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois-Chicago, 29 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- **Colonialism Seminar**, "Language, Class and Identity in Haitian Hollywood," Cecile Accilien, African & African American Studies, 30 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.