



## MEGuchi !



Maryemma Graham

Distinguished Professor of English **Maryemma Graham's** exploits as a researcher and scholar, project founder, institute leader, grant magnet, and teacher/mentor are well known in KU's English Department and on the KU Campus. Thanks to her selection as the winner of a **2018 Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Award**, MEG (and the Department) now have a higher profile across all of the Kansas Board of Regents universities. Graham is the recipient of the **Balfour S. Jeffrey Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences**, one of four Higuchi Awards presented annually to KBOR faculty members for "exceptional long-term research

accomplishments." These awards constitute "the state's most prestigious recognition for scholarly excellence." This year's four winners (the other three awards recognize achievement in the sciences) will receive their awards at a ceremony on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Each awardee will receive a citation and \$10,000 that may be used over a five-year period "in support of research activities in the form of research materials, summer salary, fellowship matching funds, equipment, research assistants, or any other purpose that is consonant with the advancement of the individual's research program." Congratulations, Maryemma!

## Nnedi Okorafor Visit

The Lawrence Public Library has selected Nigerian-American writer **Nnedi Okorafor** as its **2018 Ross and Mariana Beach Author**. With the assistance of the Hall Center for the Humanities, the Library will host a visit to Lawrence by Okorafor that will include both community and campus appearances. On Thursday, 8 November, beginning at 7:30 pm, audiences can spend "An Evening with Nnedi Okorafor" at Liberty Hall. On Friday, 9 November, KU English's **Giselle Anatol** will interview Okorafor as part of a "Conversation with Nnedi Okorafor" at 9:00 am in the Hall Center Conference Hall. Discussion will follow. Both events are free and open to the public. Okorafor is officially described as "an international award-winning novelist of African-based science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism for both children and adults." Unofficially, she has become a creative writing phenomenon and superstar whose work has earned both critical and popular acclaim. Like



Nnedi Okorafor

KU English's **Kij Johnson**, she has won the trifecta of major speculative fiction awards – a Hugo, a Nebula, and a World Fantasy Award. Anatol is teaching both Okorafor's adult novella, *Binti* (2015, the first of a trilogy) and her young adult novel *Akata Witch* (2011, also the first in a series) in her "Black Speculative Fiction" course this fall. Okorafor is also in the midst of penning three comic books for Marvel featuring the Dora Milaje warriors of *Black Panther* fame. Up until this fall, Okorafor has balanced her own prolific writing with responsibilities as an associate professor in the English Department at the University at Buffalo. However, she is no longer listed as a faculty member there. Probably she couldn't work it in with this trip to Kansas.

## Calendar

- F 2 Nature & Culture Seminar**, "Rethinking Intersections of Race, Gender, and Animality," **Kara Kendall-Morwick**, English, Washburn University, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- N 4 Taproom Poetry Series** presents poets **Charlotte Seley**, **Brad Vogler**, and **Brett Salisbury** (KU), 5:00 pm, Eighth Street Taproom.
- M 5 Medieval & Early Modern Seminar**, "Conflict and Resolution in the Premodern World," Areli Marina, Art History; Luis Corteguera, History; **Whitney Sperrazza**, Hall Center, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- T 6 Advisory Committee Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe.
- W 7 Research on the Leading Edge Series**, "Shakespeare in the Shadows," **Ruben Espinosa**, English, University of Texas at El Paso, 3:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room. An interdisciplinary panel, including **Geraldo Sousa**, English, will respond to Espinosa's recent work and Espinosa will comment. Discussion following.
- R 8 50 for 50: Celebrating 50 Years of Kenneth Spencer Research Library**, reception and exhibit viewing, 6:00 pm; remarks by **Jonathan Lamb**, English, 6:45 pm, Foyer, Spencer Research Library.
- Lawrence Public Library 2018 Beach Author Series**, "An Evening with Nnedi Okorafor," **Nnedi Okorafor**, fiction writer, 7:30 pm, Liberty Hall.
- F 9 Hall Center Event**, "Conversation with Nnedi Okorafor," 9:00 am, Hall Center Conference Hall.
- W 14 Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Workshops**, "Colored Pencils in the Archive: A Visual-Textual Encounter in the American West," **Rachel Brown**, English, 12:00-1:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room. Lunch provided. RSVP by 11/7 to [hallcenter@ku.edu](mailto:hallcenter@ku.edu).

## Publications

**Wheeler, Lesley Ann**

“Three Migrations” (hybrid work). <http://themapisnot.com/issue-ix-1-ann-wheeler>.

## Presentations

**Polo, Sarah**

“Writing within Required Genres: How Student Writing Matters to Past Construction and Future Envisioning,” Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition, Louisville, KY, 28 October.

## Announcements, Notes, & News

• The KU Office of Graduate Studies has released its list of **University Graduate Fellows** for the 2018-2019 academic year. University Graduate Fellows are provided with a graduate research assistant position as well as tuition support for one year. Of the 32 doctoral students selected for fellowships, two are first-year graduate students in English. **Kimberly Kankiewicz** is pursuing a PhD in twentieth- and twenty-first century American literature. She is “interested in marriage narratives and portrayals of married women, the discourse of women’s ambition, and gendered representations of technology use.” She is also interested in the pedagogy of creative writing. **Yee-Lum Mak** is on the Department’s doctoral rhetoric and composition track. Among her interests are “the use of writing in health contexts, especially for children with chronic illnesses and their siblings; the relationship between K-12 writing education and college composition; and writing program development.” Incidentally, she is the author of *Other-Wordly*, a charming “book on words that have no single-word equivalent in other languages but that encapsulate complex emotions, experiences, or cultural values.” Congratulations to Kim and Yee-Lum!



Kimberly Kankiewicz



Yee-Lum Mak

• The honors continue to pour in for KU English graduate **Becky Mandelbaum** who returned to speak with our creative writers last spring. Mandelbaum’s book *Bad Kansas* has won the 2018 High Plains Award for First Book.

## KU and Regional Events

• **Hall Center Interdisciplinary Fellow in Residence**, conversation and film screening with Mamadou Dia, Senegalese filmmaker, 6 November, 7:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

• **Tunnel of Oppression**, immersive experience that explores issues involving identities, oppression, diversity, and social justice, 7-9 November, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center. Individual and group tours start every half hour and take approximately 30-40 minutes.

• **Museum Studies Speakers Series**, Jennifer Scott, Director, Jane Addams Hull-House at University of Illinois at Chicago, 7 November, 1:30 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.

• **The Urban Experience Seminar**, “On Managing Historic Urban Landscapes in the Asia/Pacific Region,” Kapila Silva, Architecture, 8 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Place, Race, and Space Seminar**, “Exploring the African American Experience Collection in the Kenneth Spencer Research Library,” Deborah Dandridge, Spencer Research Library, 12 November, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Resident Humanities Fellows**, “On the Edge of the Wild: Representations of the Montaña Region of Peru before the Rubber Boom,” Ximena Sevilla, Environmental History/Latin American History, 13 November, 12:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

• **Museum Studies Speakers Series**, Devon Akmon, Arab American National Museum, 14 November, 1:30 pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union.

• **Humanities Grant Development Workshop Series**, “Student Coaching Session,” 16 November, 12:00-1:00 pm, Hall Center.