



**KU ENGLISH FAB FOUR ADVANCE IN PROFESSORIAL BRACKETS**



Phillip Drake



Kij Johnson



Megan Kaminski



Jonathan Lamb

**And Then There Were None**

In the midst of March Madness, KU English Assistant Professors **Phillip Drake**, **Kij Johnson**, **Megan Kaminski**, and **Jonathan Lamb** received word that they have been promoted to the rank of **Associate Professor with Tenure**, effective Fall 2018. Their success leaves the English Department with no assistant professors – and none expected until at least 2019 – for the first time in living memory (well, I haven’t asked **Jim Gunn** yet). Nevertheless, what a satisfying moment for this quartet of talented scholars and creative writers who apparently were slam dunks for advancement! No evaluation committee at any level of review had questions or requested further information about any of them. **Phillip Drake’s** areas of research include environmental rhetoric and literature; cultural studies; science and technology studies; and animal studies. **Kij Johnson** is a fiction writer who specializes in the writing of short and long fiction; experimental fiction; foundational fantasy; speculative fiction; and animal narratives. **Megan Kaminski** is a poet who teaches poetry writing; ecopoetics; and nonfiction. **Jonathan Lamb’s** areas of research are early modern drama, especially Shakespeare; history of the book and textual studies; language and form; rhetoric and poetics; and digital humanities. Congratulations to Phil, Kij, Megan, and Jon!

**Ayah Wakkad Earns OGS Summer Research Scholarship**

English PhD student **Ayah Wakkad** has been awarded a \$5000 **2018 Summer Research Scholarship** by the Office of Graduate Studies. Her notification letter observes that this recognition “places [her] among a select group of graduate students, all of whom have excellent academic records and the strongest endorsements from their respective departments.” Wakkad’s scholarship will assist her in writing a paper entitled “Coloniality/Decoloniality in Selected 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Arabic Prison Novels” which has grown out of the research and review of literature she has undertaken in preparation for her Fall 2018 PhD comprehensive exam.



Ayah Wakkad

*Calendar*

- M 26 Humanities Lecture Series**, “American Gold Digger: Law, Culture, and Marriage in the Twentieth Century,” **Brian Donovan**, Sociology, 7:30 pm, Lied Center Pavilion.
- T 27 Advisory Committee Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe.
- R 29 Poetry Reading** featuring **Brian Daldorph** and **Stephen Johnson**, Senior Lecturers, English, 7:00-8:00 pm, Raven Bookstore.
- F 30 Alyse Bensel**, PhD Defense, 10:00 am, 3001A Wescoe (*Kaminski, Moriarty, Rowland, Roripaugh, Ceccagnoli*).
- S 31 Freely Stated: KU Graduate Creative Writers Reading**, featuring **Pete Fey**, **Lesley Wheeler**, **Divya Radhika Bhalla**, **Derek Graf**, and **Katherine DuBois**, 3:00 pm, Sunrise Coffee, 1501 Learned Ave.
- M 2 Medieval & Early Modern Seminar**, “Utility Writing and the Development of Literary Culture in Medieval England,” **Jocelyn Wogan-Browne**, English, Fordham University, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.
- T 3 Voting Department Meeting**, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe.
- Book Talk & Signing** by **Danez Smith**, poet/performer/playwright/teaching artist/host, 7:00 pm, Liberty Hall. Co-sponsored by English.
- T 10 Poetry Reading & Signing** by **Joseph Harrington**, English, 4:30-6:00 pm, Jayhawk Ink Lounge, Kansas Union, Level 2.
- W 11 The American/British Lecture**, “Returning to the Slave’s Song,” **Christopher Freeburg**, English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 7:00 pm, Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union.

## Publications

### Bensel, Alyse

“Sit-Up” (poem). *Moon City Review* (2018): 178.  
“Lunar” (poem). *Puerto del Sol*, 53.1, The Science Issue (Spring 2018): 162-163.

### Boynton, Anthony

Review of *Letters from Langston: from the Harlem Renaissance to the Red Scare and Beyond*, eds. Evelyn Louise Crawford, MaryLouise Patterson, Robin D.J. Kelley, *South Atlantic Review*. 83.1 (Spring 2018) 91-92.

### Neill, Anna

“The Made Man and the ‘Minor’ Novel: *Erewhon*, ANT and Empire,” *Victorian Studies* 60.1 (Autumn 2017), 53-73.

## Presentations

### Canady, Darren

“Langston Hughes,” Endacott Society, Adams Alumni Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 8 March (with **Edgar Tidwell** and others—see “Announcements”).

### Bensel, Alyse

“Pitching, Publishing, and Promoting Reviews: A How-To Conversation,” Conference Panelist and Moderator with Dan Beachy-Quick, BJ Hollars, and Jennifer Schomburg Kanke, The Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Conference, Tampa, FL, 9 March.

### Harrington, Joseph

Blaze VOX Books Author Reading, Lector Literary Wine Bar, Tampa, FL, 10 March.

### Kaminski, Megan

Poetry Reading. *Grey Book Press & Anhinga Press AWP Offsite Reading* w/ E. Kristin Anderson, Robin Beth Schaer, Ann Dernier, Yolanda J. Franklin, Kelle Groom, Hauntie, Gerry LaFemina, and Monica Prince. Tampa, FL. 8 March.

“Writing to Live” (paper). *The Art of Unlearning in the Creative Writing Workshop* w/ Emilia Phillips, Patrick Bizzaro, Hadara Bar-Nadav, and Christopher Salerno. AWP Annual Conference. Tampa, FL. 9 March.

Poetry Reading. *Chax and Black Radish AWP Offsite Reading* w/ Will Alexander, Sawako Nakayasu, Saba Syed Razvi, Charles Alexander, Trace Peterson, Anastacia Renee, James Maughn, and Samuel Ace. 10 March.

### Mielke, Laura L.

“The Tragic Orator,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Albuquerque, NM, 25 March.

### Tidwell, Edgar

“Langston Hughes,” Endacott Society, Adams Alumni Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 8 March (with **Darren Canady** and others—see “Announcements”).

## Accepted for Publication

### Boynton, Anthony

“August Wilson and the Dystopian Pittsburgh,” *B(l)ack Futures: Flat Time in Black Performance*. *Open Cultural Studies*.

### Farmer, Frank

Review of *Mikhail Bakhtin: Rhetoric, Poetics, Dialogics, Rhetoricity* by Don H. Bialostosky, *Rhetorica*, forthcoming

## Announcements, Notes, & News

• **Spencer Research Library** welcomes suggestions for items to be featured in an exhibition for the library’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Suggested items that have shaped your teaching or research by contacting Beth Whittaker at [bethwhittaker@ku.edu](mailto:bethwhittaker@ku.edu). Deadline: 23 March.

• **Edgar Tidwell** and **Darren Canady** (along with **Carmaletta Williams** (PhD ’01) and Randal Jelks, AMS, gave a presentation to KU’s Endacott

Society on 8 March (see “Presentations”). They showed the short documentary film *Langston’s Lawrence* and updated society members on the progress of the long film, *I, Too, Sing America: Langston Hughes Unfurled*.

• **Alyse Bensel’s** poetry manuscript, *Spoil*, has been selected as a finalist for the Autumn House Press Rising Writer Contest.

## KU and Regional Events

• **Colonialism Seminar**, “Transnational Perspectives on Colonialism: Past and Present – Research at KU,” speakers from History; French & Italian; Education, Spanish & Portuguese; and AAAS, 26 March, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Research Sprints Information Session**, informal session for faculty to learn more about the opportunity to work with KU Libraries for one week on a proposed research project, 27 March, 11:00 am-12:00 pm, Rm. 455, Watson Library. This year’s Sprints will take place 14-18 May. Applications due: 5 April. More information at <https://lib.ku.edu/research-sprints>.

• **Oral History Seminar**, “Oral History as Historical Recovery: Reclaiming Mexican American Voices in the Histories of Urban Revitalization in South El Paso, Texas,” Ketty Wong, Music; James Moreno, Dance, 27 March, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **CTE Workshop**, “Disinvestment in Higher Education—and Why It Matters to Faculty,” with Reggie Robinson, Public Affairs, 28 March, 12:00-1:00 pm, 135 Budig Hall.

• **Inaugural Distinguished Professor Lecture**, “An Arctic Lens for American Dispersals: Genomes and Glacial Refugia,” Dennis O’Rourke, Foundation Distinguished Professor, Anthropology, 28 March, 5:30 pm, Big 12 Room, Kansas Union.

• **CODL Lunch & Learn**, “4-Week Format: Strategies for Teaching Short Courses,” with Marsh McCartney, Psychology; Ashley Offill, Art History, 29 March, 12:00-1:00 pm, Budig 6.

• **CLAS Sneakers & Scholarship**, for faculty and staff exercise and interdisciplinary outreach, “Tour of the New Earth, Energy, and Environment Center,” with Bob Goldstein, Geology, 29 March, 12:10-1:00 pm. Meet outside Strong Hall by the bronze Jayhawk, includes walk and lunch. Maximum of 50. RSVP on the College Dean’s Office website by 23 March.

• **Disabilities Seminar**, “A Spectrum of Stories: Working with Children and Adults with Autism,” Deborah Griswold, Special Education, 29 March, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Seaver Lecture**, “Environmental Geopolitics,” Shannon O’Lear, Geography & Atmospheric Sciences/Environmental Studies, 29 March, 4:30 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

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

• **FSE Project Proposals** for 2018-2019. All current GTAs are invited to apply. Deadline: 9 April.

## Fellowships, Contests, Awards, Scholarships, Etc. (Posted)

• **CTE Teaching-Related Education and Travel (TREAT) Fund**, to explore cutting-edge work being done in teaching. Application deadline: 26 March.