



Symposium on Mass Incarceration



Patrick E. Alexander

The Project on the History of Black Writing has chosen to highlight its 35th anniversary as a program by focusing local attention on a burning contemporary issue. HBW's **Symposium on Mass Incarceration**, to be held on Saturday, 23 March, from 2:00-6:00 pm at the Lawrence Public Library, will feature several speakers, including **Patrick E. Alexander**, a specialist in critical prison studies. Alexander is Associate Professor of English at the University of Mississippi where he also teaches American and African American literature. In 2018, Alexander published his debut

monograph with the provocative title, *From Slave Ship to Supermax: Mass Incarceration, Prisoner Abuse, and the New Neo-Slave Novel*. He has also published several articles about teaching African American literature in prisons. Alexander co-founded Mississippi's Prison-to-College Pipeline Program, a university-community engagement initiative that promotes higher education in prison. The program recently won the Mississippi Humanities Council's 2018 Humanities Educator Award. Alexander will be joined on the dais by KU English's **Brian Daldorph**, himself a long-time prison educator and editor of *Douglas County Jail Blues*, a compilation of creative writing by Douglas County Jail inmates. HBW board member **Jerry W. Ward, Jr.**, Professor Emeritus from Dillard University and now affiliated with the Orleans Justice Center, will also speak, as will **Jennifer Wilmot**, graduate student and HBW affiliate, who will talk about her experience with the Criminalizing Girlhood Project. There will also be a quilt exhibit curated by **Marla Jackson** of Lawrence's African American Quilt Museum & Textile Academy. During two separate but related events, University of Kentucky Professor of English **DaMaris Hill** (PhD '12) will lead a writing workshop and read from her new monograph (see "Calendar" for times and places). Hill's work, a narrative-in-verse entitled *A Bound Woman is a Dangerous Thing: The Incarceration of African American Women from Harriet Tubman to Sandra Bland*, honors black woman freedom fighters who have had to endure "incarceration" of many kinds.

Publications

Kaminski, Megan

"In bloom" (8 poems). *American Poetry Review* 48.2 (2019): 28-29.
from "A thing we ask entirely too much of" (2 poems). *Denver Quarterly* 53.1 (2019): 48-49.

Warren, Hannah

"Parallel Universes" (poem). *Room Magazine*.

Presentations

Anatol, Giselle

Invited lecture. "The Color of Monstrosity: The Skin-Shedding, Blood-sucking Soucoyant of Caribbean Folklore and Fiction," University of South Florida Humanities Lecture, USF, Tampa, FL, 24 January.

Calendar

F 22 SAGE Meeting, 4:00-5:00 pm, 4033 Wescoe.

S 23 HBW's 35th Anniversary Event: Symposium on Mass Incarceration, 2:00-6:00 pm, featuring **Patrick E. Alexander**, English, University of Mississippi; **Jerry W. Ward, Jr.**, English, Dillard University (Emeritus); **Brian Daldorph**, English, KU; Jennifer Wilmot; and Marla Jackson, Lawrence Public Library Auditorium.

Freely Stated: KU Graduate Creative Writers Reading Series featuring **Kim Gronniger**, **Pete Fey**, **Wil Kenney**, and **Dee McElhattan**, 4:00 pm, McLain's, 1420 Crescent Road.

HBW's 35th Anniversary Event: Reading and Book Signing, "A Bound Woman Is a Dangerous Thing," **DaMaris Hill** (PhD '12), English, University of Kentucky, 7:00 pm, Crystal's Spot, 704 Massachusetts.

N 24 HBW's 35th Anniversary Event: Writers Workshop with **DaMaris Hill**, 4:00-6:00 pm, Lawrence Public Library, Meeting Room A.

T 26 Voting Department Meeting, 4:00 pm, 4051 Wescoe. This meeting will adjourn into a **Senior Staff Meeting**.

R 28 Disability Studies Seminar, "Teaching Literature and Disability Through Superhero Comics," **Mikaela Warner**, English, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

IDRH Event, "Maker Spaces: Ideas, Questions, Possibilities," **Whitney Sperrazza**, English, Hall Center Digital Humanities Post-Doc, 3:30-5:00 pm, Watson Library, 455.

M 1 FSE Workshop, "Supporting Multilingual Writers: Noticing Language across the Writing Space," **Michelle Cox**, English Language Support Office, Cornell University, Session 1: 10:00 -11:30 am, Anchutz 201; Session 2: 4:00-5:30 pm, Anchutz 201.

Richard W. Gunn Memorial Lecture, "Pre-Modern Climate Change," **Kellie Robertson**, English, University of Maryland, 7:00 pm, Watson 3 West, Watson Library.

T 2 Advisory Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, 3001A Wescoe.

R 4 KU in Wichita, "Researching *The Chaperone*," **Laura Moriarty**, English, 7:00 pm, Wichita Museum of Art, Wichita, KS.

Accepted for Publication

Warren, Hannah

“Forgetting the Color of Hansel’s Hair” (poem). *Third Wednesday*. (Also winner of *Third Wednesday’s* poetry prize)

“A Guide for Transformational Bodies,” “Replacing the Hearth in My Birth Mother’s House,” “A Woodfire of Live Oak Branches,” “Izard brain as abject,” & “Forgetting the Rough of Callouses (poems). *Prism Review*, forthcoming.

Announcements, Notes & News

• **Donna Baier Stein** (MA ’75) has a new book coming out, *Scenes from the Heartland: Stories Based on the Lithographs of Thomas Hart Benton*. She will give a reading at the Kansas City Library on 10 June.

• **Giselle Anatol** has been elected to the Book Awards Committee of the Children’s Literature Association

KU and Regional Events

• **Resident Humanities Fellows**, “Free Land: Homesteading the U.S. West,” Sara Gregg, History, 26 March, 12:00 pm, Hall Center Conference Hall.

• **CTE Workshop**, “Approaching All Students as Language Learners,” with Kim Warren, History/WGSS and Meaghan Patterson, CTE/Educational Psychology, 26 March, 12:30-1:30 pm, 135 Budig.

• **Research on the Leading Edge**, “Philosophy Within Its Proper Bounds,” Edouard Machery, History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, 27 March, 3:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room. RSVP by 15 March to receive a free copy of Machery’s new book of the same name: hallcenter@ku.edu.

• **TGIT**, for faculty and staff, 28 March, 4:00-6:00 pm, Adams Alumni Center.

• **Colonialism Seminar**, “Panama’s Black King,” Robert Smale, History, University of Missouri, 29 March, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Digital Humanities Seminar**, “Building DH Scholarship in Northern Mexico: The Case of the Tecnológico de Monterrey’s Master in Digital

Humanities,” Paloma Vargas Montes, School of Humanities and Education, Tecnológico de Monterrey, 2 April, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Colonialism Seminar**, “Cosmogony and Culture of the Aztecs of XVI Century,” Paloma Vargas Montes, School of Humanities and Education, Tecnológico de Monterrey, 3 April, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

• **Emerging Scholars Mentor Info Session**, 4 April, 2:00-3:00 pm, English Room, Kansas Union. Sponsored by Center for Undergraduate Research. Faculty member job description submission deadline: 15 April.

• **Nature & Culture Seminar**, “Ticks of the Trade,” Jim Sherow, History, Kansas State University, 5 April, 3:00-4:30 pm, Hall Center Seminar Room.

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

• **a2ru** (The Alliance for Arts in Research Universities) **National Conference**, 7-9 November, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. Submissions deadline: 5 April.

• **Humanities in the Wild**, a monthly evening of humanities presentations, puzzles, games, demos, and more as part of the Final Fridays art walk in downtown Lawrence. Presentations should reveal how humanities scholars are “grappling with a wide array of questions related to the great outdoors. Suggested presentations deadline: 25 March.

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

• **12th Annual Sustainability Leadership Awards**, to recognize students, faculty, and staff, as well as programs and projects that have made important contributions to sustainability and have promoted the values of environmental, economic, and social responsibility. Nomination deadline: 29 March.

• **KU Research Go’s** next deadline for applications is 1 April. See “Fellowships” bulletin board for details.



and, along with members of her entourage, chatted with students about past and current productions of plays by Samuel Beckett, Sean O’Casey, and Martin McDonagh in New York, London, and at the still-flourishing Abbey Theatre in Dublin. O’Connor also kept checking her phone to monitor the real-world drama of Brexit as it was unfolding five hours ahead of Kansas time in the British Parliament.

On March 18, between meetings with Governor Kelly and Chancellor Girod, Irish Minister of Higher Education **Mary Mitchell O’Connor** visited **Bob Elliott’s** ENGL 327 Modern Irish Drama class at the Spencer Research Library, where students were examining original Abbey Theatre programs and early published works by the playwrights of the Irish Renaissance (part of Spencer’s extensive O’Hegarty Collection). O’Connor professed herself “gobsmacked,” but delighted, to discover that Ireland’s proud tradition of dramatic literature is the subject of academic study and appreciation in the American heartland. O’Connor quoted a bit of Yeats, declared herself a fan of J. M. Synge’s Pegeen Mike in *The Playboy of the*