



BYOCC: English Honors and Awards Goes Zoom



Bring your own cheese cubes. The Department of English Honors and Awards Ceremony will be held in cyberspace for the first time on Friday, May 15, at 7:00 pm. In his e-mailed invitation to graduating seniors, their family members, award winners, and English faculty and staff, **Jonathan Lamb**, H&A's traditional MC, declared, "We cannot hold our annual in-person English Honors and Awards Ceremony, but we won't miss the chance to celebrate all of you." (Please see Lamb's previous e-mail and forthcoming reminder for the necessary Zoom ID and password.) The program will proceed in

a format as close as possible to its live predecessors. Sadly, we will all miss the silent pauses, often punctuated by the click-click of high heels, as award winners approach the podium. But other opportunities to just pop a cube and chill may arise as presenters wrestle with a new delivery platform. The main idea is, of course, in Lamb's words, to "celebrate the great work of our students and faculty with equal vigor!" The Awards Committee and English administrators deserve everyone's thanks for the planning and effort required to move ahead with this culminating event of the 2019-2020 academic year. (Negotiations for product placement fees from Kraft are ongoing.)

Katie Conrad and Dorice Elliott Appointed Full Professors of English



Kathryn Conrad



Dorice Williams Elliott

In our mid-April virtual Voting Department meeting, Chair **Katie Conrad** did her best to provide glimmers of good news interspersed with some lightning bolts of bad. Modesty, however, may have prevented her from announcing some glad tidings involving Conrad herself. Both **Kathryn Conrad** and **Dorice Williams Elliott** (professional names for this occasion) have received official word that they have been promoted to the rank of full professor beginning in August 2020. Conrad research-

es twentieth-century British, Irish, and Northern Irish literature and culture. Her related interests in science and technology are reflected in her most recent publication, a co-edited essay collection entitled *Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism* (2019). Conrad is an award-winning teacher and does a bit of service now and then these days. Elliott is also a British literature scholar, with wide-ranging interests. She researches eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature and culture, Australian literature, the novel, women's literature and gender studies, social class relations, servants, philanthropy, and gift theory. Her most recent publication is a monograph, *Transported to Botany Bay: Class, Nation, and the Literary Figure of the Australian Convict* (2019). Also a multiple teaching-award-winner, she is a former chair who guided the Department through the early stages of the LAST recession.

Calendar

M 11 Hamza Rehman, MFA Thesis Defense, 11:00 am, Online (Canady, *Johnson*, Karlin)

Vincent Omni, MFA Thesis Defense, 1:00 pm, Online (Canady, *Hardison*, *Moriarty*)

T 12 Voting Department Meeting, 4:00 pm. Watch for Zoom invitation.

W 13 Arielle Raymos, MA Thesis Defense, 10:00 am, Online (Graham, *Hardison*, *Hodges-Persley*)

James Jackson, MA Thesis Defense, 1:00 pm, Online (Mielke, *Moriarty*, *Schieberle*)

R 14 Lesley Wheeler, Dissertation Defense, 12:00 pm, Online (Anatol, *Kaminski*, *Outka*, *Nam*, *Ceccagnoli*)

Meet KU's Authors, "The Book That Changed America," **Randall Fuller**, English, 6:00 pm, Online. Sponsored by the Hall Center and Lawrence Public Library. See their websites for registration.

F 15 Department of English Honors and Awards Ceremony, 7:00 pm. Online. See e-mailed invitation from **Jonathan Lamb** for Zoom information.

N 17 Online Commemoration Event honoring KU graduates, 11:30 am CDT (11:00 am slideshow). Includes video tributes, musical performances, and messages from the Chancellor and others.

F 22 Grades Due, 11:59 pm.

F 29 Leighann Thone, Dissertation Defense, 10:00 am, Online (Devitt, *Prasad*, *Reiff*, *Mapes*, *Muddiman*)

F 5 Daniel Jalilpoor, MA Defense, 12:00 pm, Online (Drake, *Neill*, *Rowland*)

Publications

Anatol, Giselle Liza

Ed. (with Wilfried Raussert) *Routledge Handbook to the Culture and Media of the Americas – Part 1: Literature and Music in the Americas* (Routledge, 2020) (see “Announcements”)

Barnard, Philip

“Charles Brockden Brown and the Novel in the 1790s” (with Stephen Shaprio and Mark L. Kamrath) in *A Companion to American Literature* Volume 1, Wiley-Blackwell, 2020.

Caminero-Santangelo, Marta

“African American Fiction after Hiroshima and Nagasaki” in *A Companion to American Literature* Volume 3, Wiley-Blackwell, 2020.

Devitt, Amy

“Illicit genres: The case of threatening communications” (with Bojsen-Møller, M., Auken, S., & Christensen, T. K. *Sakprosa*, 12(1), 1–53. <https://doi.org/10.5617/sakprosa.7416>

Ellis, Iain

“Punk and Metal: Frenemies for Life.” Essay. *PopMatters* (located at popmatters.com). 27 April.

Farmer, Frank

Review of *Mikhail Bakhtin: The Duvakin Interviews, 1973*, Gratchev and Marinova, eds, in *Russian Review* 79.1, January 2020, pp. 127-28.

Grund, Peter J.

“Writing the Salem Witch Trials” in *A Companion to American Literature* Volume 1, Wiley-Blackwell, 2020.

Hardison, Ayesha

Ed. (with Randal Jelks). Special issue of *The Langston Hughes Review*, “Zora’s Legacy: Black Love as Critical and Creative Inquiry,” 26.1 (2020).

Johnson, Kij

“The Apartment Dweller’s Stavebook” (story) *Diagram* 20.1, 1 February. Web. http://thediagram.com/20_1/johnson.html. Art by **Jason Baltazar**.

“An Attempt at Exhausting My Deck” (story). *Us in Flux*, Center for Science and the Imagination, 16 April 2020. Web.

Published Interview. “Words and Worlds: A Conversation on Writing, Craft, and the Power of Deep Fandom with Kij Johnson” in Cain, W., Henriksen, D. & Mishra, P. *TechTrends* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11528-020-00495-3>

Mielke, Laura

“Performance, Theatricality, and Early American Drama” in *A Companion to American Literature* Volume 1, Wiley-Blackwell, 2020.

Presentations

Brown, Rachel Linnea

“I Prefer Not to Answer”: Chauncey Yellow Robe’s Institutional Resistance,” American Contact: Intercultural Encounter and the History of the Book Virtual Symposium, sponsored by Princeton University and University of Pennsylvania, 23-25 April.

Johnson, Kij

“*Us in Flux*: Conversations—Kij Johnson and Jessie Rack,” virtual conversation to discuss “An Attempt at Exhausting My Deck,” 20 April.

Lamb, Jonathan

“Special Handling: ProQuest’s EEBO Search Interface and the Taste of Books,” written for the Shakespeare Association of America conference in Denver, delivered to the panel virtually.

“What Books Taste Like: Bacon and the Borders of the Book,” written for the Society for Textual Scholarship conference in Philadelphia, delivered at the Hall Center Canceled Papers Virtual Conference.

Sousa, Geraldo

“In the spiced Indian air, by night”: Violation of Borders in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.” The 48th Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, Denver, 16 April (via Zoom).

Accepted for Publication

Brown, Rachel Linnea

“Now for the Indian Story”: Reconceiving George Bent as a Warrior-Writer.” *Studies in American Indian Literatures (SAIL)*, 32.1-2. Forthcoming.

Fischer, Iris Smith

“Peirce and Curry on Natural Gesture in Elocution and Expression,” *Semiotics* 2019. Expected 2020.

Fuller, Randall

“Reviving Zenobia: The Last Days and Forgotten Life of Martha E. Hunt, Transcendentalist,” *New England Quarterly*, Summer 2020.

Long, Aaron

“How Jules Verne Reinvented the Royal Navy’s Polar Exploration Vessels,” *The Nautilus: A Maritime Journal of Literature, History, and Culture* XI (2020). Forthcoming.

Review of *Sid Meier’s Civilization VI: Gathering Storm. Science Fiction Film & Television* (June 2020). Forthcoming.

Announcements, Notes & News

• **Laura Mielke**, Dean’s Professor of English, has been awarded one of this year’s four University Scholarly Achievement Awards. The prestigious University Scholarly Achievement Award recognizes either a truly outstanding single scholarly or research contribution or a series of closely related contributions. One suspects Laura’s recent monograph, *Provocative Eloquence*, played a role in the USAA competition committee’s decision. Mielke’s future work received a boost this spring as well, She was awarded a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society to support travel (“but when,” she asks) for her next book project, *A Well-Lit House: The Reversal of Spectatorship in African American Oratory and Memoir, 1831-1877*.

• *The Routledge Handbook to the Culture and Media of the Americas – Part 1*, co-edited by **Giselle Anatol** (see “Publications”) deserves greater attention in a future issue of the *DNB*. For now, note that, besides co-editing the entire work, Anatol co-wrote the introduction and three chapters. **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, **Mercedes Lucero** (PhD ’18), **Maryemma Graham**, and **Tim Lantz** also contributed to the project.

• In the weeks since Spring Break, **Casey Keel** and **Aaron Long** successfully defended their PhD dissertations; **Silvan Spicer** and **Alexander Burdge** successfully defended their MA theses; and **Dana Comi**, **Jimin Choi**, **Christopher Peace**, and **Suzanne Tanner** successfully completed their RDP exams.

• **Rachel Linnea Brown** (PhD ’19) has accepted a tenure-track assistant professorship of English at Marian University in Indianapolis, IN.

• **Nicholas Banach** (MA ’19) has been selected as the winner of this year’s Outstanding Thesis Project. His thesis was entitled “Case Study: Becoming.” Banach was nominated by **Kij Johnson** and **Phillip Drake**.

• MFA candidate **Vince Omni** has been admitted to the Florida State University graduate English program where he will work toward a PhD with a creative dissertation.

• **Alyse Bensel**’s (PhD ’18) debut poetry collection, *Rare Wondrous Things*, is scheduled for publication by Green Writers Press in June 2020. Bensel is now an assistant professor at Brevard College.

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

• **KU Center for Faculty Development and Mentoring** announces three calls for applications: 1) **Faculty Facilitators** to serve as peer guides for small groups of faculty to develop mentoring skills. Stipend of \$1125-\$2250 for guiding 1-2 groups. Deadline: May 29; 2) **Senior Administrative Fellows** for tenured faculty to learn more about University administration – no stipend or release time, approximately four hours/month commitment. Deadline: May 29; 3) **Big XII Faculty Fellowship Program**. Deadline: July 1.