

University of Missouri-Kansas City

English Department Newsletter

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Spring 2009, Issue 2

Publications, Presentations, & Other Achievements

Karen Anton and **Amanda Clark** were selected to participate in Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol on April 21, 2009. They presented their research and spoke with state legislators and other policymakers in Jefferson City about the unique educational opportunities available to undergraduates in the University of Missouri system.

Karen Anton received the first place award in the Humanities/Performing Arts division for her poster presentation, "My Country 'tis of Thee, Stronghold of Slavery': The Musical Rhetoric of the American Abolition Movement," at the SEARCH symposium on April 17.

Hadara Bar-Nadav was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award. She also was awarded a full fellowship to attend the Vermont Studio Center for a month-long residency in summer 2009. She chaired the panel "Rising from the Cornfields: Literary Culture in the Midwest" and read with UMKC's Creative Writing Faculty, Michelle Boisseau, Christie Hodgen, Michael Pritchett, and Bob Stewart, at the 2009 AWP Conference in Chicago.

Virginia Blanton was inducted into the Scholars Hall of Fame at her alma mater, Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, on April 18. She is both the first woman to receive this honor and the youngest scholar to be inducted.

Michelle Boisseau's fourth collection of poetry, *A Sunday in God-Years*, was published in February by the University of Arkansas Press. She published a short essay, "Reading Szyborska," two poems in *The New Ohio Review*, and four poems in *When She Named Fire: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry by American Women*. She presented "Handmade Not Handmaid" at the AWP Conference in Chicago and gave readings at AWP, the Kansas City Public Library, and the Writer's Place. She'll be giving readings in April at Miami University, University of Cincinnati, Maysville Community College (Kentucky), and Sam Houston State University.

Catherine Browder's "Sparrows" appeared in *Green Mountains Review* 21.2.

Joan Dean published "Rewriting History in the Irish Free State: Dublin Civic Weeks of 1927 and 1929" in *New Hibernia Review*; "Micheál Mac Liammóir's Oscar in America" in *Irish Theatrical Diaspora in America*; "Pageants, Parades, and Performative Culture" in *Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*; and "Martin McDonagh's In Bruges" in *Estudios Irlandeses*, available at <http://www.estudiosirlandeses.org/indexnavy.htm>.

Phil Estes has poems in the February issue of *Front Porch* and in the current issue of *Thieves Jargon*, available at <http://www.thievesjargon.com/workview.php?work=1335>.

Zac Gall presented his short play, "Projection," at Truman State University's annual English Graduate conference *Obliteratute: The Art of Creative Destruction* on April 4.

Muffy Guilfoil presented "More Than Technology: (Re) Envisioning Visual Literacy" with UMKC alum Lauren Obermark in April at the Expanding Literacy Studies Conference. In March, she presented her paper, "Sermon, Novel, Conduct Manual and More: The Multi-Genred Writing of Elizabeth Parsons Ware Packard in *Modern Persecution or Insane Asylums Unveiled*," at the Conference on College Composition and Communication.

Nicole Higgins was accepted into the MFA Program in Poetry at the University of Georgia and awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship.

Christie Hodgen has short stories appearing in *Oxford American Magazine* and *American Short Fiction*.

Alysse Hotz has two poems appearing in the online magazine *Origami Condom*.

Lindsey Martin-Bowen has two poems, "Funeral Dinner" and "Petunias," in the recent issue of *Coal City Review*. Her poem "The Keeper of the Tides" was published in the Spring /Summer issue of *Thorny Locust*.

Jonathan Pearson took second place in the Humanities/Performing Arts division with his oral presentation, "From Wellesley to Yale, 1969-1979: A Textual Analysis of Hillary Rodham's Early Rhetoric," at the SEARCH symposium on April 17.

Jennifer Phegley published "Bleak House and Uncle Tom's Cabin: Teaching Victorian Fiction in a Transatlantic Context" in *Teaching Dickens's Bleak House*. Phegley also published entries on "Argosy Magazine"; "Mary Elizabeth Braddon"; "Cornhill Magazine"; "Reading and Gender, Reading and Class"; and "Transatlantic Journalism" in the *Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism* and a review of Molly Youngkin's *Feminist Realism at the Fin de Siecle: The Influence of the Late-Victorian Woman's Press on the Development of the Novel* in the Winter issue of *Studies in the Novel*.

Michael Pritchett was invited to the University of Missouri-St. Louis on April 6 to give a talk, hosted by UMSL's MFA Program, on the rewards and risks of close examination of American history through fiction, titled "Don't Know Much About History." His essay "15 Observations about the Modern Tragic Hero, Tragic Endings and How They Work Together" appears in the recent issue of *Center: A Journal of the Literary Arts*.

Mary Rogers Grantham was emcee for Poetry Out Loud on February 7 at The Writer's Place.

Robert Stewart is co-winner of the *Ad Astra* poetry contest for "JoCo, Kansas." The poem appears at <http://www.kansaspoets.com/index.htm>. Stewart's poem "Fighting Chuck Berry" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *The Literary Review*. In February, he was a judge for Poetry

Out Loud and in March, he served as nonfiction writing coach for the Avila University Workshop for High School Students. On April 1, Stewart presented a lecture on humor in fiction for the UMKC Honors Colloquium. His introductory essay for the Winter/Spring issue of *New Letters*, "Challenge," takes a three-part look at the structure of the low-down moment.

Department Awards

April Austin and **Jarrold Roark** were awarded Chancellor's Doctoral Fellowships.

Laurie Carano was awarded the Outstanding Dissertation Award.

Lorna Condit, Muffy Guilfoil, Jeannie Irons, and Henri Rix Wood were awarded Ilus W. Davis Doctoral Fellowships.

Philip Estes was awarded the Jo Anna Dale Scholarship for Poetry.

Zac Gall was awarded the Jo Anna Dale Scholarship for Fiction.

Andrea Gillespie, Lindsey Quinn, and Muffy Guilfoil were awarded Women's Council Graduate Assistance Fund Awards.

Muffy Guilfoil and **Kelly Matthews** were awarded 2008 Sosland Teaching Awards.

Clint Hammock was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Essay prize.

Karyn Henry and **Glenn North** were awarded Minority Master's Fellowships.

Kristin Huston was awarded a Preparing Future Faculty Fellowship.

Noelle P. Jones was awarded the Crystal Field Scholarship for Poetry.

Tanya Kelley was awarded a Dissertation Research Fellowship.

Joni Lee was awarded the Barbara Storck Creative Writing Contest in Poetry for her poems, "My Ocean Estate is for You, Mother," "Mother Fades in Fists of Light," and "Your Gaze Was So Steady, Mother." **Sandee Woods** was awarded second place for her poems, "Depressive Gene," "Messy," and "Party of One." She also was awarded the Barbara Storck Creative Writing Contest in Fiction for her story, "Chemo-to-go." **Noah Homola** was awarded second place in the competition for his story, "To Live on a Hill."

Ben Moats was awarded the Robert and Sylvia Farnsworth Fellowship for Postcolonial Studies.

Lindsay Waples was awarded the Ann W. Barnard Scholarship.

Craig Workman was awarded the Gary William Barger Memorial Scholarship.

2009 Graduates for the I-PhD and MA

I-PhD

Lorrie Carano

MA—Creative Writing

Lewis DeJong

Melissa Hicks

Nicole Higgins

Ann Sundeen

MA— Literature/Language and Literature

Emily Akins

Juliette Chisolm

Catherine Clark

Jennifer Fenton

Casey McCabe

Adam Thomas-Brashier

Congratulations to all our graduates!

English Department Organization Officers, 2009-2010

English Graduate Student Association

President: Lindsay Waples

Vice-President: Christo Whelan

Secretary/Treasurer: Robin Sontheimer

Faculty Representative: Lindsey Quinn

I-PhD Representative: Jeannie Irons

Graduate Students in Creative Writing

President: Lindsay Waples

Vice-President: Alysse Hotz

Secretary: Joni Lee

Treasurer: Jedsen Williams

Department Calendar

For a full calendar of events visit: www.umkc.edu/english/calendar.