

SAGE ADVICE

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Welcome to Wescoe!

Ben Cartwright

Hometown: Spokane, WA

Previous Education: BA Humanities Washington State U.;
MA English Kansas State U

Current Program & Academic Interests: MFA, poetry,
creative non-fiction, fostering my obsessive-compulsive
need to read Mikhail Bakhtin

Summer activities: Working for the Deathstar, a.k.a., the
Social Security Administration as a Disability Examiner

Special talents: Pugilism and sheisterism

Favorite literary character: I would prefer not to answer this
question (Bartelby the Scrivener)

Literary twin: I would like to say Captain Ahab, but I know
the real answer is Charles Bukowski.

How did you beat the Kansas heat? Go to Seattle and visit
my family.

Kelly Chrisman

Hometown: Winfield

Previous Education: BA Fort Hays State University

Current Program & Academic Interests: MA Composition
and Rhetoric

Summer activities: I was actually able to take a break.

Traveled back and forth between Lawrence and Winfield.

Special talents: Is singing in the shower considered a special
talent?

Favorite literary character: Favorites are tricky. As I am
exposed to new literature, and find myself prone to
changing my mind, it's hard to pinpoint.

Literary twin: See above

How did you beat the Kansas heat? In reference to #6,
maybe skill in avoidance! It's not my number one
concern... there's always air conditioning.

Incoming Graduate Student Survey:

Answers given at New Student Orientation August 2006

Rebecca Conn

Hometown: Rhinelander, WI

Previous Education: U of WI- Stevens Points (BA), U of WI-
Eau Claire (began MA)

Current Program & Academic Interests: English MA:
British Victorian and Modernist Lit, c. 1880-1940; queer
theory, deconstruction, Marxism, disability studies,
women's studies, post-colonialism, etc., etc.

Summer activities: Reading John Fowles and workings on a
paper on Paul Gauguin

Special talents: 2-D art & design, criticizing everything,
writing, making sarcastic comments and remember useless
things about Oscar Wilde

Favorite literary character: Dracula. Probably Dracula. He
has some of the best lines.

Literary twin: I wish it were Algernon Moncrieff, but it's
probably more like Dorian Gray, that aesthetic dilettante.

How did you beat the Kansas heat? Air-conditioned studio
apartment.

Rachel Cuning

Hometown: Lawrence

Previous Education: University of Kansas BA creative
writing, Honors

Current Program & Academic Interests: MA

Summer Activities: Learning to knit, baking bread, and
sleeping whenever possible.

Special talents: Double jointed shoulders? Drinking tea?

Favorite literary character: Hermlone Granger

Literary twin: Hermlone, bushy hair and all

How did you beat the Kansas heat? I don't. I am pummeled
by it thoroughly each and every summer. It's an abusive
relationship; I'm not sure why I stay.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Heather Bastian

SAGE Position: SAGE Co-President, FSE

Email: hbastian@ku.edu

Year/Rank: 1st year PhD Comp./Rhet.

What are the duties of your position? Keeping
John under control.

What are your plans for SAGE this year?
Develop community relationships through
professional and social events.

Anything else you would like us to know? If you
have any suggestions or comments, please feel
free to contact me or stop by my office (2048
Wescoe).

John Wiehl

SAGE Position: Co-President and SAGE rep to
Graduate Committee

Email: jwiehl@ku.edu

Year/Rank: 3; fool

What are the duties of your position? Keeping
Heather's dirty mouth shut during the meetings.

What are your plans for SAGE this year? What?
I have to be responsible for a whole year?

Anything else you would like us to know? Sara e
Jordan rocks.

Keri Sanburn Behre

SAGE Position: Treasurer, Graduate Assembly (co-
representative), and Events Committee

Email: ksbehre@ku.edu

Year/Rank: 2nd-year PhD student

What are the duties of your position? As treasurer,
I am responsible for managing the SAGE
account and working with the graduate assembly
to obtain approval for purchases and travel
reimbursements.

What are your plans for SAGE this year? I'm
interested in exploring some new fundraising
ideas, depending on the results of our current
book sales. I'd also like to welcome all of the
new graduate students and encourage them to

James Farren**Hometown:** Kansas City**Previous Education:** KU—BGS; University of Alaska, Fairbanks**Current Program & Academic Interests:** MFA in Creative Writing with emphasis in nonfiction**Summer activities:** Moving home from Alaska (road trip!), spending quality time with my son (15 mos.) & wife before I have no time left**Special talents:** Reading?**Favorite literary character:** Alobar (Tim Robbins's *Jitterbug Perfume*)**Literary twin:** Horton (from Dr. Seuss)**How did you beat the Kansas heat?** Ice water, cold beer, and movies with lots of snow (*Fargo* comes to mind)**Amy Hume****Hometown:** Austin, IN**Previous Education:** Hanover College—BA English & Art History; Ohio University—MA English**Current Program & Academic Interests:** PhD interested in Modernism, specifically Modern poetry, feminism, gender issues, body studies, and Medieval Lit.**Summer activities:** Reading! & gardening & moving**Special talents:** ? cooking**Favorite literary character:** Prufrock, Leopold Bloom**Literary twin:** Hmm? Ursula Buendia**How did you beat the Kansas heat?** Hibernation!**Jessica Isaac****Hometown:** Kearney, NE**Previous Education:** BA University of Nebraska at Kearney**Current Program & Academic Interests:** MA English Cultural Studies and Critical Theory**Summer Activities:** Monitoring a computer lab & knitting. Also traveling to visit friends and family**Special talents:** I'm a good cook, a fair yoga student, and formerly a magnificent pianist.**Favorite literary character:** Edna Pontillier**Literary twin:** Rosalind of Arden**How did you beat the Kansas heat?** Nakedness**Chloé Jones****Hometown:** Lawrence, KS**Previous Education:** BFA from Emerson College**Current Program & Academic Interests:** MFA in Fiction**Summer Activities:** Working at the Merc & fixing the church I live in.**Special talents:** I can stand on my head for an unlimited amount of time (or until I pass out).**Favorite literary character:** Charles from *Chilly Scenes of Winter* by Ann Beattie**Literary twin:** Almost any female character from almost any Tonie Moore book**How did you beat the Kansas heat?** It usually beats me. Hard.**Emily King-Clark****Hometown:** Tulsa, Oklahoma**Previous Education:** BA in English and Psychology from KU**Current Program & Academic Interests:** MA in Literature—Gender studies, post-colonial theory, modernist literature**Summer activities:** Living in Lawrence—working and going to concerts, enjoying my youth**Special talents:** Unicycling, dream analysis, bartending**How did you beat the Kansas heat?** Like a drum**Angela Kordahl****Hometown:** Sioux Center, IA**Previous Education:** BA, Wartburg College**Current Program & Academic Interests:** MA Literature & Literary Theory; lit theory, history of the novel, 19th Century British, Science and literature...**Summer Activities:** I student taught in math & creative writing at a boys' ranch—a home for troubled young men.**Special talents:** I play the violin...**Favorite literary character:** Anne Shirley**Literary twin:** Emma Woodhouse**How did you beat the Kansas heat?** Air conditioning?**Andrew Kuhn****Hometown:** Hays, Kansas**Previous Education:** BA from Creighton University**Current Program & Academic Interests:** MA Modern Literature and Textual Theory**Summer Activities:** Working and Reading**Special talents:** Cooking, industrial deconstruction**Favorite literary character:** Stephen Dedalus *Ulysses***Literary twin:** Krapp—Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape***How did you beat the Kansas heat?** A cool glass of bourbon**Ann Martinez****Hometown:** San Diego, CA**Previous Education:** San Diego State, BA & MA**Current Program & Academic Interests:** PhD in Medieval Lit**Summer Activities:** Went back to CA, and then moved.**Special talents:** I bake ☺ (yumi!)**Favorite literary character:** Sir Gawain, Sherlock

become involved with SAGE.

Justin Sevenker**SAGE position:** Liaison for First Year GTA Students**Email:** sevenker@ku.edu**Year/Rank:** first year MA student**What are the duties of your position?** I keep in contact with our first year GTA students in order to 1) inform them of SAGE's programs, meetings, and social gatherings; 2) encourage them to attend those programs, meetings, and social gatherings; and 3) remind them that SAGE exists for their use and benefit, and that they should therefore approach me with any needs or concerns that they have which SAGE is not currently addressing.**SAGE REPRESENTATIVES and OTHER OFFICERS****Kristin Bovaird-Abbo****SAGE Position:** Webmaster; GTA/Lecturers Committee; Professionalization Workshop Committee**Email:** kabbo@ku.edu**Year/Rank:** Ph.D. candidate / Lecturer**What are the duties of your position?** Webmaster: keep the SAGE website updated; TA/Lecturers: serve as representative for GTAs/Lecturers to the rest of the Department (dealing with issues pertaining to these two groups); Professionalization: develop and schedule meetings to aid in the professionalization of graduate students.**What are your plans for SAGE this year?**

Webmaster: hopefully get some new content (ideas, anyone?); GTA/Lecturers: keep abreast of concerns experienced by GTAs/Lecturers and bring them to the committee for resolution; Professionalization: try to fill Jen Humphrey's shoes!

Katie Egging**SAGE Position:** I'm not sure--it's something to do with supplemental funds, I think.**Email:** k_egging@yahoo.com**Year/Rank:** I'm in my third year of the Ph.D., and am done with classes and am starting to read for the comprehensive exam.**What are the duties of your position?** Another one I'm not sure on--I figured they'd let me know when I went to the first sage meeting.**What are your plans for SAGE this year?** I don't think I have any major plans, especially since I don't really know what my position entails.

Literary twin: I'd like to think it's Elizabeth Bennett, but I could be wrong.

How did you beat the Kansas heat? Stay indoors.

Eta Farmacelia Nurulhady

Hometown: Semarang, Indonesia

Previous Education: Diponegoro University, Bachelor Degree

Current Program & Academic Interests: MA, British Literature

Summer Activities: Fulbright Pre-academic Program in Arkansas U

How did you beat the Kansas heat? I am used to heat in Indonesia, so Kansas heat is ok.

Justin Sevenker

Hometown: Grand Island, NE

Previous Education: University of NE at Kearney

Current Program & Academic Interests: MA—Medieval Lit (Old English), 19th Century American Literature

Summer Activities: Sitting on my wildlife themed futon couch while my girlfriend worked to support me.

Special talents: Same as above

Favorite literary character: Gandalf the Grey

Literary twin: Capt. Ahab—a fighting Quaker

How did you beat the Kansas heat? I have a kiddie pool in the living room.

Cote Smith

Hometown: Lansing, KS

Previous Education: U Kansas, BA (English) & BA (Classical Langs)

Current Program & Academic Interests: MFA Poetry

Summer Activities: Working, reading, writing, playing Frisbee

Special talents: I once watched 7 movies in one day. Is that talent or sadness?

Favorite literary character: Ann Coulter

Literary twin: The whale from *Moby Dick*

How did you beat the Kansas heat? With a wrench

Louise Staffer

Hometown: Holland, Michigan

Previous Education: Bachelors in Journalism from KU, Dec. '05

Current Program & Academic Interests: MFA in fiction writing

Summer Activities: Working at University Relations writing obituaries, seeing the sights of Missouri & standing approx. 2 feet away from my old a/c window unit while drinking warm Fresca.

Special talents: Flea market scavenging, squandering money, cooking exclusively from canned & dried goods

Favorite literary character: Jo March

Literary twin: Ramona Quimby

How did you beat the Kansas heat? See answer #5, last sentence

Elliot Stevens

Hometown: Honolulu

Previous Education: U.C. Davis/Hawaii Pacific U/ Bennington College

Current Program & Academic Interests: MFA

Summer Activities: Reading/ learning sentence diagramming

Special talents: Writing upside down and backwards [Ed. note: written as such]

Favorite literary character: Benny Profane, Geoffrey Firmin

Literary twin: Miss Lonelyhearts

How did you beat the Kansas heat? I let it think its winning

Shelley Stonebrook

Hometown: St. Helens, OR

Previous Education: BA Western Oregon University

Current Program & Academic Interests: MA literature; main interest: late 20th C British lit

Summer Activities: Working and getting ready to move to KS

Special talents: I don't have any. Well, except reading & writing

Favorite literary character: Villanelle in Jeanette Winetson's *The Passion*

How did you beat the Kansas heat? I don't. Does anyone? (Loan me the club.)

Wheat Elkins

Previous Education: KU English

Summer Activities: vaguely

Special talents: Filling out surveys

Favorite literary character: Calvin

Literary twin: The mouse from *Of Mice & Men*

How did you beat the Kansas heat? A careful diet of arthritis pills and fortified donuts.

Personally, I'm hoping to partake in several sage social outings and get to meet new people.

Anything else you would like us to know? I don't think so--I don't know much.

Micah "P." Hawkinson

SAGE Position: I'm in charge of Academics Anonymous this year.

Email: micahpaul@gmail.com

Year/Rank: Third-Year Master's Student and GTA

What are the duties of your position? I organize and provide comestibles for meetings of Academics Anonymous, a group that meets three times per semester and invites faculty members to discuss their research with all interested grad students.

What are your plans for SAGE this year? I'm planning on having three AA sessions this fall. I want to have them on Thursdays sometime, but that is more or less negotiable if it means more people will be able to come!

Anything else you would like us to know? Yes.

Ryan C. McCarty

SAGE Position: Graduate Committee

Email: mccartc@ku.edu

Year/Rank: 3rd year M.A. student

What are the duties of your position? I think I'm mostly working for a sub-committee on improving recruitment but we'll also be tackling changes to 800 somewhere in there.

What are your plans for SAGE this year? I'm not really sure. I'd personally like to know more about what kind of work everyone is doing. I just haven't been that great at keeping up with everyone else and their projects.

Anything else you would like us to know? Hold on, I'll be back in a minute w/ the list. . .

Jennie Joiner

SAGE Position: Representative, Graduate Committee

Email: joinerj@ku.edu

Year/Rank: third year of doctorate degree

What are the duties of your position? attend meetings of graduate committee that consider changes to graduate program and report on such changes to graduate students and also request graduate student feedback to take to the meetings.

What are your plans for SAGE this year? I believe the graduate committee has been charged by the chair this year to consider the 800 course. If anyone has suggestions that you have not already provided to a member of the

What I did this summer...

Katie Egging: I spent a little more than a month on my parents' ranch, spending time with my family and helping to plan and celebrate my little sister, Laura's, wedding. I also went rafting in Tallequah, OK, and spent some time in Denver at the gay rodeo. On the whole, it was a relaxing, incredibly fun summer.

Emily Garriott married Nathaniel Haas from the geography department and honeymooned in Iceland, where she read books about post-plague England and felt like a wimp by comparison.

Daryl Lynn Dance: In addition to spoiling my niece and nephew and doing whatever my mother asked of me, I also taught Introduction to African American Literature at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA.

Ben Storey: I got married in Niagara Falls on June 6 to my beautiful wife Caroline. We had our honeymoon there as well. Besides the normal attractions, such as Journey Behind the Falls and the Maid of the Mist, we spent 85 Canadian dollars to visit Marineland, a fabulous tourist trap rivaling the best Branson has to offer. All in all it was a wonderful experience.

Erin Williams: I spent most of my time on I-70 between Lawrence and St. Louis, making stop-overs in Kansas City and Marshall, Missouri. Dr. Farmer and I shared some quality time discussing my thesis. Along with an underground consortium of fellow KU English students, I clocked in many hours in movie theaters and other local haunts. I was an usher in a friend's wedding, which became a reunion for my Mizzou friends and certainly was the highlight of my summer.

Kristin Bovaird-Abbo: I spent the summer in Watson Library, reading medieval French love poetry and writing my dissertation. Lots o' fun!

Stephanie Scurto: I worked at the Wheat Law Library (at KU) in the technical services department, focusing on special cataloging "clean-up" projects (whoa nelly, doesn't that sound fun?). Other than that, I spent two and a half glorious weeks back on the east coast with family. I went hiking, kayaking, canoeing, and swimming along the Atlantic ocean in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland and Delaware. In addition, much to the chagrin of those with religious and ideological dietary restrictions/choices, I ate lots of fresh, creepy-crawly seafood: crabs, shrimp, lobster, clams, fish, and so forth. Back at home in Oskaloosa, Aaron and I put in a new brick patio off the back of the house, and now that temperatures have dipped back into the 80s and below, we're actually able to sit outside, kick back on the new patio furniture, and enjoy the fruits of our labor. We are almost finished clearing the fence line, so get ready everyone; here come the goats!

Nathan Williams: Classes taught: Technical Writing at the Edwards campus (nice to put all my years of writing manuals in a cubicle to good use). Classes taken: ENGL 980 and ENGL 790 (The Holmes Institute and the Intensive Institute on the Teaching of Science Fiction). Favorite summer blockbuster: *Talladega Nights* ("I like the Christmas Jesus best"). Big summer travel destination: Northern California (Pacific Ocean, wine, blues music, more wine). Best used bookstore find: a 1955 copy of *If* magazine (featuring one of KU's own James Gunn's science fiction short stories). Last thing I read before semester started: *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole (why'd I wait so long to finally read this?)

committee, feel free to send them to me.

Chloe Jones

SAGE Position: MFA Committee

Email: chloej@ku.edu

Year/Rank: 1st year MFA student and GTA

What are the duties of your position? I attend MFA committee meetings (or at least I hope to at some point...)

What are your plans for SAGE this year? I hope I can get everyone to come to the graduate student readings.

Anything else you would like us to know? I'm smaller than you.

Sara elizabeth Jordan

SAGE position: *SAGE Advice* Editor

Email: mzsej@yahoo.com

Year/Rank: third year MA student

What are the duties of your position? Semester newsletter, updating the calendar, and being my fantastic self

Anything else you would like us to know? I apologize for being for the delay in compiling the newsletter, but it was worth the wait, eh?

Stephanie Scurto

SAGE position: Library Committee, Summer Institutes

Email: sscurto@ku.edu

Year/Rank: third year MA student

What are the duties of your position? Library Committee: Functionality=I can direct questions and concerns to the committee and chair. Summer Institutes: Haven't met yet; committee members include M. Graham, M. Caminero-Santangelo, Doreen Fowler and Mary Catherine Davidson; this past summer's institute, the Holmes Institute, seemed to go over very well

Erin Williams

SAGE Position: Well, I'm on the FSE Committee, so I guess FSE Committee member...

Email: erinwms@ku.edu

Year/Rank: 3rd yr MA/GTA

What are the duties of your position? This is a good question. As far as I know, I'm to attend FSE meetings and contribute to them in a meaningful way.

What are your plans for SAGE this year? Can I leave this one as blank as the previous question? I just plan to support John, Heather, and other SAGE members as my time and interests allow.