

**Special Interest Articles:**

*Mark Twain Conference*

*Victorian Studies*

*Conference and Publication Opportunities*

**Highlights**

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## A Message from the Co-Presidents

Hello fellow SAGE-ers! We know you're all working hard, so we just wanted to take a quick moment to thank you for your efforts towards the most successful Book Sale SAGE has ever held. Also, our last meeting of the semester will be on November 14, and we

hope you'll all be able to attend. Finally, please be thinking of items or talents you would be willing to contribute to the SAGE silent auction. Good luck over the rest of the semester!

-- Jana & Colin

## New Graduate Student Spotlight

**Jessica Weatherford**

*1. What is your academic area of interest?*

Areas of interest: theory, women's studies, American Indian studies, and film.

*2. From where do you hail?*

Not sure if you mean place or university, so I'm from Lafayette, IN. BA from Purdue (West Lafayette, IN), MA from Ohio U (Athens, OH).

*3. What would your alternate-reality self do for a living?*

Farmer, the organic and sustainable kind that requires lots of work and a love for dirt :).

**Josh Canipe**

1. I'm here for my PhD in Creative Writing. My primary

interest is in fiction, especially short fiction, and creative writing pedagogy.

2. Originally, from North Carolina, though I came to Kansas by way of Louisiana and Tennessee.

3. In some other universe, I would like to drive semi-trucks cross-country. My grandfather drove for years, and the stack of sandwiches my grandmother made him before he left on long trips looked delicious.

4. I'd be any character--even a secondary character--in one of Flannery O'Connor's short stories, just so I could be in that world and watch what she does.

## Ashley Ortiz at the Clemens Conference

Recently, I had the opportunity to present a paper on Mark Twain and environmental ethics at the 1st Annual Clemens Conference in Hannibal, MO, an opportunity I convinced myself to take despite the necessity for significant courage conditioning; I was intimidated by the prospect of presenting on a new interest of mine to a room of seasoned Twain zealots. As it turned out, those zealots were a friendly bunch, more enthusiastic to share ideas with a burgeoning scholar than eager to tear my ideas a new one. As I told them at the end of my designated hour, there is nothing like a conference at the end of the summer to give me the shot in the arm needed

to start a new semester with gusto. Their excitement made me excited, and I cannot more highly

recommend forays into circles of older, more distinguished, more experienced, and highly specialized pros to my peers who may be in need of a dose of academic vitameatavegamin to remind them why we do what we do.

~Ashley Ortiz



## New Grad Spotlight, continued ...

### Renee Harris

My name is Renee Harris, and I am a new PhD student in 19th Century British literature. My answers are as follows:

1. British Romantic Poetry: specifically Keats; and Gender Studies
2. I am originally from the Nashville, TN, area, but I am coming here from my MA work at the University of Arkansas.
3. My alternate reality self would be a professional dancer. Ideally a ballerina, but more likely a back up dancer in music videos.
4. I would want to be Lord Henry from The Picture of Dorian Gray. In another life, I would be flawlessly quippy and hedonistic!

### Chip Badley

1. Twentieth-century American literature and culture, esp. Modernism, the Great Depression, regionalism, and intersections of literature and the mind (neuroscience, psychoanalysis, trauma theory).

2. California (from all over; I'm a geographic and cultural mutt).

3. Dream pursuit is to wear tweed blazers on a daily basis and talk about literature. So, a professor, hopefully paid above the minimum wage. (Tweed blazers are expensive) My alternate-reality self would be a space cowboy (or a gangster of love, or Maurice).

4. John Steinbeck wrote a memoir toward the end of his life titled Travels with Charley in Search of America. Charley was Steinbeck's roadside companion as the two traveled across the country - a black-haired poodle. Not that I'd ever want to be Steinbeck the man (too much living in Central California for my taste), but the idea of driving around America in a good-size camper with only a dog sounds perfect.

## **Join the Victorian Studies Group**

Faculty and graduate students have revived KU's Victorian Studies Group and altered its interests to include British and American concerns throughout the nineteenth century. Our meetings consist of casual conversation amongst students and faculty over different essays and novels from the nineteenth century. It's a great opportunity talk with interesting people from KU in a laidback setting. Our next meeting will be held on December 1st. If you are interested, please contact Katie Wetzel for details at [wetzel86@ku.edu](mailto:wetzel86@ku.edu).

## **Notable Literary Events**

### **• Ken Irby**

Eberhardt Colloquium celebrates the achievements of poet Ken Irby. Saturday, November 5, from 9am to 5 pm in Alderson Auditorium in the Kansas Union. Speakers will include Lyn Hejinian (UC-Berkeley), Pierre Joris (SUNY-Albany), Ben Friedlander (University of Maine), Denise Low (Haskell Indian Nations University) and Joe Harrington (University of Kansas). The colloquium is sponsored by the Department of English, The Hall Center for the Humanities, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the Spencer Museum of Art.

### **• David Sedaris at the Lied Center**

Wednesday, November 9, 2011 – Lawrence, KS. Lied Center of Kansas. Evening reading and signing.  
<http://www.lied.ku.edu/events/david-sedaris.shtml>

## **Reminder**

To complete enrollment, please see Graduate Secretary Lydia Ash in 3001-A to get permission codes.

## **Conference and Publication Opportunities**

### **• 24th Annual Stony Brook University English Department Graduate Conference: "Instrument, Image, Ekphrasis: Intersecting Genres of Knowledge."**

An Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference at Stony Brook University  
[SUNYSB.GradConf@gmail.com](mailto:SUNYSB.GradConf@gmail.com)  
[www.stonybrook.edu/gradconf](http://www.stonybrook.edu/gradconf)  
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2012  
Proposal Deadline: December 17, 2011  
Keynote Speaker: Laura Kipnis

### **• 9th Annual Capitol Research Summit**

February 16, 2012 in Topeka, Kansas.  
8 KU students selected to join their peers from Kansas State University, The University of Kansas Medical Center, and Wichita State University at the Capitol in Topeka on February 16th, 2012. Students will present their research in poster board format to legislators and other members of state government. Awards sponsored by KansasBio and participating institutions.  
Abstracts must be submitted no later than Friday, November 18th. To submit -- [http://www.graduate.ku.edu/08-04\\_capitol\\_research.shtml](http://www.graduate.ku.edu/08-04_capitol_research.shtml)

### **• Mid American Humanities Conference**

Deadline Nov. 18  
March 9 and 10, 2012. aimed at encouraging undergraduate and graduate students to present their research in an interdisciplinary context. This year's theme will be "World as Text: Text as World."

### **• 22nd Annual Mardi Gras Conference at LSU**

February 16th and 17th, 2012  
"Major Minor: Neglected and New Issues in Literary Studies"  
Keynote: Meredith L. McGill  
Deadline: December 9, 2011  
[Mardigrasconference2012@gmail.com](mailto:Mardigrasconference2012@gmail.com)

## Funding Opportunities

A few things every graduate student should know:

- **The Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Fund** is available to Lawrence campus graduate students only. You must be presenting a paper or the disciplinary equivalent at a national or regional meeting of a learned or professional society. A student may receive an award (\$400) only once, and funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **Funds for Professional Development – English Department**

The Travel Funds Committee invites applications from graduate students and part-time lecturers to support professional development activities. Funds are available to support a trip of significant distance to (in order of preference):  
present a paper or read from creative work at a

regional or national conference, conduct research at a library or archive, or engage in a project at a major workshop or institute.

Applications requesting reimbursement of job hunting expenses cannot be accepted. Graduate student applicants should first seek support from the Office of Graduate Studies, which maintains funds to underwrite travel for conference presentations and dissertation research. See [http://www.graduate.ku.edu/02-00\\_abt\\_funding.shtml](http://www.graduate.ku.edu/02-00_abt_funding.shtml) (see above Grad Scholarly Presentation Fund)

Departmental travel awards this year will be \$500, based on the merit of the proposal. Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials well in advance, preferably six weeks before the travel dates.

## Creative Spotlight

- Beecher's Magazine is the graduate student run literary magazine. The staff (led by co-editors Iris Moulton and Ben Pfeiffer) is currently working on issue 2 of the magazine, which they will promote at the upcoming AWP conference at Chicago in February. See <http://www.beechermag.com> for details about the project.

Beecher's last fundraising event of the season will be a food-themed reading at the Raven bookstore. Food and drink will be complimentary. 7:00p.m. Thursday, November 10th at the Raven Bookstore.

- Blue Island Review – Mary Stone Dockery and Katie Longofono, among others, publish this annual collection of local writers. Don't miss it—and check out their Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Blue-Island-Review/175891659104014>

- Parcel – Kate Lorenz, Justin Runge, and Heidi Raak publish this wonderful mag right here in

Lawrence Kansas. Check it out at <http://parcelmag.org/about.html>

- The MFA reading series – Sundays, 6:00 at Genovese, students and friends of the KU MFA program showcase their work and enjoy discounted wine and each other's company. Email Caitlin Thornbrugh for details on upcoming readings.

- Big Tent Reading Series – Every fourth Thursday, a three part reading at the Raven bookstore, hosted by Joseph Harrington and Mary Klayder.

- Taproom Reading Series -- Taproom Poetry Series. A free monthly event at the Eighth Street Taproom in Lawrence, Kansas, featuring touring national and international poets and local published poets.

Curated by: Sorcha Hyland, Megan Kaminski, and Jim McCrary.

## Conference and Publication Opportunities continued ....

### • Early Modern Studies Journal

Early Modern Studies Journal (EMSJ) formerly Early English Studies (EES) is an online journal under the auspices of the University of Texas, Arlington English Department and is devoted to literary and cultural topics of study in early modern period. published annually, peer-reviewed, and open to general submission. Submissions are due January 31, 2012. The issue will appear in Fall 2012. Contact Dr. Amy Tigner: altigner@gmail.com.

### • American Literary Translators Assoc. Conference

The 2011 ALTA annual conference will be held from November 16-19, 2011, at the InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza, 401 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Mo. The theme for the 2011 conference is Translating Voices: Where the Great Plains Meet the World, and the deadline for reserving rooms is Monday, October 24, 2011.

## SAGE Committees, 2011-2012

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Jana Tigchelaar

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