

ampersand

MAGAZINE OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



DEAN

Mark Lawrence Kornbluh
kornbluh@uky.edu

EDITOR

Jennifer T. Allen '00
jennifer.allen@uky.edu

OFFICE OF PHILANTHROPY

Laura Sutton '89
lsutton@uky.edu
Debra Gold
debra.gold@uky.edu
Sydney Baker
sydney_baker@uky.edu

DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION

Shaan Azeem, Art Director '13
shaan.azeem@uky.edu

WRITERS

Jennifer T. Allen '00
Nate Harling
Tatyanna Pruitt '18
Sarah Wood '18
Julie Wrinn

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Shaan Azeem '13
Mark Cornelison | UK Photo
Dana Rogers '13
Eric Sanders '15

Direct comments or questions to:
Director of Communications & Creative Services
UK College of Arts & Sciences
901 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

Ampersand is published for alumni, faculty and friends of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Kentucky.

We'd like to hear from you. Send letters and story ideas to Ampersand, at the address on the back cover.

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ON THE COVER

Students utilize the spacious William T. Young Library for study sessions, research, writing, and more.

Photo by Eric Sanders

BACK COVER

Inside the William T. Young Library.

Photo by Shaan Azeem

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A&S graduate students profoundly impact campus, the Commonwealth and beyond



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PHOTO BY DANA ROGERS

Dear Friends,

Did you know that the College of Arts & Sciences accounts for nearly half of all undergraduate hours at UK and produces the most doctoral degrees? We in the Dean's Office are committed to strengthening that vital work. This issue of Ampersand showcases a year of outstanding achievement in teaching and research by our students and faculty in the College. With the help of loyal alumni who understand the value of our mission to advance knowledge, we are changing the lives of our students, our communities, and the world at large.

Key to our forward progress is marking past successes, and each October we celebrate the best and brightest of our alumni and faculty at the Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame. On p. 4-5 you can learn more about last year's honorees and see the names of this year's, who will be inducted on October 19.

I often speak about study abroad experiences and their lifelong impact on students, and a wonderful example of this is Harrison Bailey (Geography '49), whose undergraduate trip to Mexico sparked an interest in geography and cartography that led to a long and fruitful career with the U.S. Defense Mapping Agency. It was also on this trip that he met his future wife, Eva Lewis Bailey '48 (see p. 6).

The Living Learning Program known as STEMcats was inaugurated at UK in 2014, which means that this spring we are graduating our first class of participants. This highly successful program for freshmen increases their exposure to STEM fields and faculty, provides immediate research opportunities in their first year of college, and nurtures a community of like-minded students. You can read more about the difference it made for two students on p. 8.

Ampersand also profiles groundbreaking research by English professor Peter Kalliney into the CIA's role in funding writers from Africa and other decolonizing areas of the

world during World War II, whom they thought would be sympathetic to U.S. objectives. Kalliney was awarded the highly prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for his investigation, which you can read more about on p. 10.

And finally, who can resist a story of love at first sight? The Swanberg family got its start at UK in more ways than one and now boasts four graduates of UK, parents Greg '85 and Joan '81, plus two of their three sons, James '09 and Michael '12. All of them earned their UK degrees on nontraditional timelines, especially Greg, for whom the flexibility of the Bachelor's of General Studies degree allowed him to pursue a fruitful career as a civilian contractor for military facilities. The couple's desire to give back to UK has led them to establish the Mill House Residency for creative writing MFA students on their property in Virginia (see p. 20).

I hope these stories in Ampersand convey the many ways in which the College integrates innovative research with exceptional teaching, which provides pathways to understanding the past, solving the problems of today, and imagining possibilities for tomorrow. Our successes of the past decade would not have been possible without the generous support of you, our alumni, donors, and friends. Thank you for your enthusiasm for our work.

Yours,

Mark Lawrence Kornbluh
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
kornbluh@uky.edu

News & Notes

Frank X Walker Poem on New Student Center Wall

THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY STUDENT CENTER, PART OF THE \$2.2 BILLION CAMPUS RENEWAL AND TRANSFORMATION, INCLUDES AN EXCERPT FROM A POEM THAT HAS SPECIAL MEANING TO THE UK CAMPUS.

“There is no vaccination against ignorance, but there *is* us. There is *this* university. And we still have heavy doors to open, unmet obligations to the land and its people. There are still leadership opportunities to advance the Commonwealth, this nation, and our world towards fulfilling its potential, towards meeting its lofty promises.”

University of Kentucky English professor and former Kentucky Poet Laureate Frank X Walker penned these inspiring words in honor of the University’s 150th anniversary in 2015. His poem, “Seedtime in the Commonwealth,” acknowledges “our imperfect past, our opportunity to make ourselves ‘right for the fight today,’” and the promise of this place to seize the “leadership opportunities to advance” those we serve toward their potential. The excerpt is inscribed in glass and is back-lit at night.

To learn more about the importance of these words, read UK President Eli Capilouto’s blog on the poem at as.uky.edu/our-shared-spaces.



PHOTOS BY MARK CORNELISON (ABOVE) AND DANA ROGERS (RIGHT)



Washington, D.C., Internship Expanded

UK HAS EXPANDED AND ENHANCED ITS WASHINGTON, D.C., INTERNSHIP PROGRAM NOW ALLOWING STUDENTS TO:

- Participate during the academic school year,
- Utilize their financial aid, and
- Remain a full-time student

The program is a partnership among the Department of Political Science, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of the President, with the shared goal of providing an affordable opportunity for students to intern in the nation’s capital without delaying their time to degree.

“One of our primary goals in our approach to this new program was to ensure students remain on track to graduate and have the necessary financial support to participate,” said Tiffany Barnes, associate professor of political science and internship program director.

The program began during the spring 2018 semester and had 13 interns, 11 of which were College of Arts & Sciences majors.

“My Washington internship has by far been the highlight of my time as a student at the University of Kentucky,” said Hayley Leach, a senior double majoring in political science and writing, rhetoric, and digital studies. “I was chosen as the Press Intern in Senator McConnell’s office. Because of this, I have been fortunate enough to attend countless hearings, meet with Kentucky constituents, and work with Senator McConnell’s press team. The opportunity to see our greatest legislative body at work has been the best possible experience as a political science major!”

Learn more at: polisci.as.uky.edu/uk-expands-dc-internship.

Truman Scholarship to Advance A&S Junior’s Refugee and Immigration Policy Studies



PHOTO BY MARK CORNELISON

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY OFFICE OF NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE AWARDS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ARABIC AND ISLAMIC STUDIES JUNIOR HADEEL ABDALLAH, OF LEXINGTON, HAS BEEN NAMED A 2018 TRUMAN SCHOLAR AND WILL RECEIVE \$30,000 TO SUPPORT HER GRADUATE STUDY. Abdallah is the 14th UK student to receive the honor from the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

The Truman Scholarships are national awards presented to college juniors who demonstrate outstanding leadership and are devoted to careers in public service. Recipients of the award are required to work in public service at least three of the seven years following completion of their graduate program.

Abdallah’s passion for public service began at a young age while translating for refugees and has continued as she has served in other capacities over time. “Having so much exposure to these extremely intelligent, resilient people, who have gone through so much has really inspired me,” Abdallah said. “You know, if I have resources to help, why shouldn’t I?”

Abdallah is also a recipient of a Robert and Anne Trunzo scholarship which will allow her to intern at the American Civil Liberties Union in New York this summer.

Read more about Abdallah and this prestigious scholarship at polisci.as.uky.edu/truman-scholar-abdallah.

A Passion for Science Earns A&S Biology Junior an Astronaut Scholarship, NIH Internship

A DESIRE TO BECOME A PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST HAS LED UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY BIOLOGY JUNIOR JOSHUA PRESTON TO NOT ONLY EXCEL IN THE CLASSROOM AND LAB, BUT ALSO GARNER ONE OF THE NATION’S MOST COVETED STEM SCHOLARSHIPS AS WELL AS ENTRY INTO SEVERAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS DURING HIS COLLEGE STUDIES.

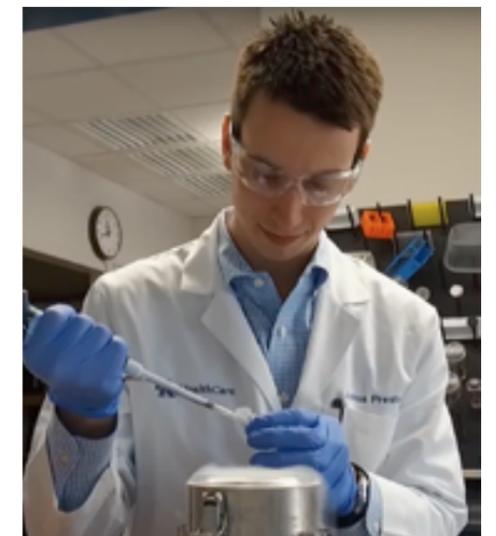
Preston is UK’s most recent recipient of the Astronaut Scholarship from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF). He is one of 45 recipients of the prestigious \$10,000 scholarship, which is presented annually to outstanding college students majoring in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM). Candidates must be nominated by faculty of the participating universities based on their display of initiative, creativity and excellence in their chosen field.

In addition to his Astronaut Scholarship, Preston was also one of 1,350 interns out of a pool of more than 7,500 selected for the National Institutes of Health Summer Internship Program in Biomedical Research in 2017. As an intern, Preston spent last summer working at the NIH’s National Institute on Aging (NIA) side-by-side with some of the leading scientists in the world, in an environment devoted exclusively to biomedical research.

“This fellowship helped me develop my skills as a researcher and allowed me to experience the intensity of NIH research. It also helped me broaden my horizons to research in the field of translational gerontology and helped me network with other scientists outside of UK,” Preston said. “Lastly, this experience set me on a trajectory towards becoming a physician-scientist.”

This July, Preston will give a presentation on his NIH and NIA work at the 14th International Symposium on Neurobiology and Neuroendocrinology of Aging in Bregenz, Austria.

Learn more about Preston and his work at www.as.uky.edu/passion-for-science.



Celebrating Excellence Hall of Fame 2018

The College of Arts & Sciences inducted five new members into its Hall of Fame on Oct. 6, 2017, with a ceremony in the Don & Cathy Jacobs Science Building. The inductees were Charlie Grizzle, English B.A. '73; Martha Rolingson, Anthropology M.A. '60; Tom Spalding, Geological Sciences B.S. '80, M.S. '82; Karl B. Raitz, Department of Geography; and Daniel R. Reedy, Department of Hispanic Studies.

View videos and photos from the event at www.as.uky.edu/halloffame.



1) Inductees Reedy, Raitz, Dean Kornbluh, Rolingson, Grizzle, and Spalding (left to right), 2) Tom Spalding, 3) Martha Rolingson, 4) The award ceremony in the JSB main lecture hall, 5) Charlie Grizzle, 6) Karl Raitz .

PHOTOS BY ERIC SANDERS & SHAAN AZEEM

Celebrating Alumni Departmental Reunions

Three Arts & Sciences departments hosted alumni reunions in the past year. The Psychology Department celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a reunion weekend in June 2017 that featured tours, talks, and an evening at Equus Run Vineyards in Midway, Ky. The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Department of Statistics took place in September 2017 in Lexington. The Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences hosted receptions for geology alumni and friends as they celebrated 125 years of geology. Events were held in Texas, Colorado and Lexington throughout the year.



PHOTOS BY ERIC SANDERS

Visit psychology.as.uky.edu/psych-100-reunion and stat.as.uky.edu/stats-50th-reunion to view photos from the events.



HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION CEREMONY & RECEPTION

SAVE
— THE —
DATE

OCTOBER 19 2018

Make plans to join us for the Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony & Reception on Friday, Oct. 19, 2018. This year's alumni inductees are Jennifer L. Garr, Topical Studies B.A. '86; W. Bruce Lunsford, Political Science B.A. '69; Rodney F. Page, Political Science B.A. '68; and LaVon V. Williams, General Studies BGS '80. This year's faculty inductees are Dr. David M. Allen, Agriculture B.S. '61, B.S. '64, (Department of Statistics); Dr. Penny Miller Harris, Political Science B.S. '64, Ph.D. '86, (Department of Political Science); and Dr. Sheldon M. Steiner, Microbiology MS '64, Ph.D. '67 (Department of Biology).

Visit www.as.uky.edu/halloffame for more information.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Travel Broadens the Mind

The Harrison and Eva Lewis Bailey Geography Student Travel Endowment Fund continues UK's legacy in Mexico.

By Nate Harling

Harrison Bailey ('49) had a palpable presence on UK's campus while he pursued his degree in geography, both maintaining an active presence in his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and leading the charge in the acquisition of a charter for the University's chapter of the International Geographical Honor Society, Gamma Theta Epsilon. To this day, the charter bearing his name still hangs in the offices of the Geography Department, but Bailey is not done leaving his mark on the University of Kentucky. Through his generous giving, the Harrison and Eva Lewis Bailey Geography Student Travel Endowment Fund has been established. The fund will award travel scholarships to geography majors seeking to study in Mexico. This is the second endowment fund he has established at UK, having previously funded the Harrison and Eva Lewis Bailey Alumni Lecture Series in Geography.

Personal photos of Harrison Bailey's ('49) University of Kentucky trip to Mexico.

Bailey's idea for the new scholarship fund was inspired by a month-long study trip he took to Mexico in June of 1947 with a group from the University. He paid his way on this adventure by agreeing to be a driver, taking his fellow students and professors to Mexico and back in his own vehicle. "I was very excited about the trip, so much so that having to drive all the way down and back seemed like a small price to pay for such an opportunity," Bailey said.

During the trip, he met two people who would have a profound impact on his life. Professor Joseph R. Schwendeman, who served as the head of the Geography Department from the day it was established in 1944 to his retirement in 1967, led the trip. Bailey grew close with Schwendeman and his wife during the course of the trip, which eventually led Bailey to major in geography and continue fostering a relationship over the course of his studies.

Bailey's personal life was also forever changed by meeting a woman on the trip named Eva. "We were a small group traveling from place to place all summer and I didn't know the language very well, so the group mostly stayed together. I ended up spending a lot of time with her on that trip and when we got back to Kentucky," Bailey said.

As it turns out, they were destined to spend a lot more time together, traveling the world and raising a family over the course of 60 years of marriage until her passing in the spring of 2012. The endowment fund is named for her, honoring her love of travel and the place where they met.

After graduating in 1949 with a degree in geography, Bailey went on to work as a cartographer for the Army Map Service, since renamed the Defense Mapping Agency, until his retirement. Throughout his years with the agency, his training at the University of Kentucky and the knowledge he gained in Mexico paid dividends and set him up for an excellent career. "Professor Schwendeman and the rest of the Geography Department sparked my interest in geography and cartography, and gave me the skills to make a living from it," Bailey said.

Having had a long and fruitful career, Bailey believes that now is as good a time as any to give back to the institution that helped him achieve such success by establishing a legacy that will give a new generation the same opportunity he had to study in Mexico. As to why he believes this experience to be so important?

"Travel broadens the mind," he said. "You have to learn from others, and travel is the best way to learn from a diverse group of people you wouldn't have met otherwise."

Since Bailey first traveled to Mexico with the University of Kentucky, the University's connections with Mexico have evolved into a tight-knit partnership with an organization based in Oaxaca called SURCO. This organization's Spanish acronym translates to "University Services and Knowledge Networks in Oaxaca." It



Harrison and Eva Bailey's love of travel led him to establish a travel fund to help UK students have the same eye-opening experiences.

is a nonprofit organization that advocates for and assists the development and availability of higher education in Oaxaca. A partnership with the UK Department of Geography, set up in 1999 by Oliver Froehling, a former UK graduate student and director of SURCO, helps to achieve these goals. The program "Social and Environmental Justice in Oaxaca" sends geography students to Oaxaca in the summer to participate in the operations of the organization and take classes for five weeks, followed by three weeks of research for an independent study project.

One alumna of this program, Lindsey Funke ('16), left for Oaxaca in the summer of 2015, right before her senior year. She spent her senior year interning with SURCO and had her own Oaxacan graduation celebration when she couldn't make it back for UK's ceremony. She now works for SURCO full time in a dynamic role as a teacher, translator, and graphic designer, among other duties. "Travel is a critical part of education because if you stay in one place, you have a very limited perspective," Funke said.

Funke also believes the Geography Department prepared her to tackle life in a new and wildly different country. "The UK Geography Department has such a diverse range of classes that prepared me for life in a place with cultural systems as complex as Oaxaca," she said. "My professors, especially Dr. Sue Roberts, were instrumental in piquing my interest in traveling to Mexico and were so supportive in helping me figure out how to make it a reality."

Students like Funke show just how life-changing studying abroad can be for both the student and the community they visit. Bailey experienced the same impact in 1947 that Funke had in 2015, displaying over half of a century of continuity in the Geography Department's involvement in Mexico. Thanks to Bailey, that continuity is assured for years to come, as the Harrison and Eva Lewis Bailey Geography Student Travel Endowment Fund will allow students to benefit from an experience they may not have been able to have otherwise. With the first Bailey scholarship planned to be awarded in 2018, UK's involvement in Mexico has a bright and assured future. &

Pioneers in Lab Coats

The first generation of STEMcats students are graduating equipped with unique research experience.

PHOTO BY ERIC SANDERS

By Tatyanna Pruitt

IN 2014, THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES WAS AWARDED A \$1.9 MILLION GRANT TO IMPROVE RETENTION OF STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THE STEM FIELDS, one of 27 research institutions selected by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). As a result of that grant, A&S created STEMcats, a Living Learning Program (LLP) for first-year college students interested in STEM fields.

STEMcats began in the Fall of 2014 and facilitates exploration of research and career opportunities in STEM-related courses while providing a like-minded community for students interested in fields such as biology, chemistry, geological sciences, math, neuroscience, and physics. Four years later, the first students to join STEMcats will walk across the stage at Rupp Arena and graduate this May.

“My experience here at UK has been so much more than I thought it could’ve been. I am extremely thankful for the University, my job as a peer mentor, and for the STEMcats program,” said Nicole Mitchell, a biology senior from Louisville, one of the first students to join STEMcats as an incoming freshman and now a STEMcats peer mentor. “I’ve been very happy the past four years.”

Breah Johnson, a biochemistry senior from Atlanta, was another member of the STEMcats freshman class in 2014. Neither Johnson nor Mitchell had planned on UK being their home for the past four years. They both changed their minds when they came to campus for a tour. “I just knew this would be the right fit for me,” Johnson said.

Mitchell agreed: “I could see myself coming here. This is exactly how I wanted college to feel.”

Before deciding to come to UK, neither student knew about the STEMcats program or what it offered. “Prior to my SeeBlue U Orientation, I had no idea what STEMcats was,” Johnson said. “There was a guy handing out flyers and explaining that if you’re part of this LLP you’ll get

all types of benefits, such as moving into your dorm early, being able to meet students with similar interests, and being able to do research. After hearing that, it was a no-brainer to me; of course I wanted to be involved.”

Mitchell learned about STEMcats from a postcard mailed to her house. “The postcard talked about getting to know your professors better and being able to do research,” she said. “Obviously being a biology major, I thought it would be amazing to do research my freshman year.”

Both Johnson and Mitchell enjoyed their experience in STEMcats so much that they have continued to work with the program as peer mentors every year. This has given them a firsthand view of how the program has evolved over the years.

“They have made so many changes and I feel that it has really benefited the students. For example our freshman year we would only have one speaker come and talk to the class,” Johnson said. “Now we have three to four speakers for a class period to keep the students engaged and interested.”

Mitchell agrees: “One of the things I love about STEMcats is that the faculty really listen to the students and mentors and make improvements each year. I’ve always felt valued throughout the program, and that makes me want to come back and give more.”

STEMcats is designed to help students succeed in their college career and prepare them both academically and socially through participation in research opportunities, special seminar courses and FastTrack, an academic program designed to prepare first-year students for rigorous undergraduate course work in STEM fields.

“Students participating in STEMcats build confidence, enthusiasm, and a sense of belonging to UK, and experience a smoother transition to college,” said Jesse Hedge, assistant dean for enrollment management and decision support in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Biology professor Doug Harrison has been involved with STEMcats since its beginning. One of the valuable benefits of STEMcats is the opportunity it gives students to conduct research their freshman year.

“One of my favorite things is seeing the students really get excited about biology and what they are doing. I love being able to give them an experience they normally wouldn’t get until their junior or senior year,” Harrison said.

As peer mentors, Johnson and Mitchell are assigned to a group of freshmen to answer questions, help with classwork, improve their transition from high school to college, host events (academic or social), and organize study sessions for major exams.



Breah Johnson (left) and Nicole Mitchell (above) were in the first STEMcats cohort in Fall 2014, stayed involved with the program as peer mentors, and will graduate this May with degrees in biochemistry and biology respectively.

Peer mentors in STEMcats also help in the labs during the spring semester. “I serve the role as facilitator between the students and the professor,” Johnson said. “STEMcats has helped me grow as a person with my leadership skills. Since being in this program from freshman year to now it has changed so much. I love being part of the change.”

“I think that what I get out of it is so much more than just a paycheck. I love having a job that allows me to give back,” Mitchell said.

Being in STEMcats helps students and peer mentors create connections not only with other students, but with professors too.

“I participated in a research program this past summer which was under Dr. Hollie Swanson, a professor in pharmacology and nutritional sciences in the College of Medicine. I met her through STEMcats my freshman year. One of the qualifications for the position was previous research experience, which I had thanks to STEMcats,” Johnson said. “In the lab with Dr. Swanson, we studied drug interactions with breast cancer. Having previous research experience with STEMcats made me stand out from the other applicants and helped me get the job.”

STEMcats isn’t just an academic program; it’s a community.

“I’m more than thankful for all of the experiences I’ve had at UK,” Johnson said. “STEMcats has opened me up to thinking that anything is possible.” &

Connecting the Dots:

Africa, the CIA, and a Texas Library

English professor and Guggenheim recipient Peter Kalliney unravels the covert spread of American culture during the Cold War.

PHOTO BY ERIC SANDERS

By Jennifer T. Allen

AS A JUNIOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, PETER J. KALLINEY PACKED HIS BAG, BOARDED A FLIGHT, AND SET OFF ON A STUDY ABROAD ADVENTURE AT KING'S COLLEGE IN LONDON, ENGLAND. Little did he know when the plane took off from the Newark, NJ, airport that the impending experience would spark an interest leading to a Guggenheim Fellowship 25 years later.

“London is an extremely multicultural city and you immediately realize there are people from all over the world who are living here,” Kalliney said. “I noticed the history of the city, but I became especially interested in the history of migration and settlement there after World War II.”

Coupling his study abroad experience with his father's own story as an Egyptian migrant, Kalliney solidified his interest in researching British Literature and the history of British imperialism. Sami Kalliney was born in Egypt in the 1930s, when Egypt was part of the British Empire.

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“Egypt became independent as my father passed from teenage years into adulthood,” Kalliney said. “I learned something about my own family’s history by studying postcolonial literature as it relates to Britain. It was a side of my father’s story that he rarely talked about. My father grew up in a British colony and had gone through decolonization when he was a young man before he left Egypt.”

After graduating in 1993 from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in English, Kalliney went to the University of Michigan, earning his Ph.D. in 2001 with a specialization in 20th century British literature. Kalliney’s journey to UK in 2006 included a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Oberlin College, Ohio, and an entry-level professorship at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.

Coming to the University of Kentucky gave Kalliney the opportunity to teach at a large school with a graduate program in English in a department with robust and active research.

“Mentoring graduate students is an important part of what I wanted to do as a teacher and a scholar,” Kalliney said. “I’m also excited to work with a large and diverse body of undergraduates. UK has a really strong English department with a lot of history as well as the facilities to support research and teaching of graduate students.”

As to why he chose the study of literature for his life’s work, Kalliney said: “Reading allowed me to understand a little bit more about the way other people whom I would never encounter in real life experienced the world. It was a way for me to understand how other people think, how other people articulate their experiences through the written form in a way that still speaks to me very powerfully.”

Kalliney published his first book, “Cities of Affluence and Anger: A Literary Geography of Modern Englishness,” in 2007. Inspired by his study abroad experience in London, the book focuses on literature and urban space in Britain and how migrants from the British Empire represent London. His second book, “Commonwealth of Letters: British Literary Culture and the Emergence of Postcolonial Aesthetics,” expands and develops some of the ideas in his first book, but it has a more archival focus.

“I wanted to study what I call literary or cultural institutions that fostered collaboration between white, metropolitan writers and their counterparts from other parts of the British Empire, especially non-white writers,” Kalliney said.

To accomplish this, Kalliney looked at organizations such as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), which had several literary radio programs that brought together Indian, Caribbean, African and metropolitan British writers. He focused on the collaborations between white and non-white British writers in the middle decades of the 20th century. His research took him to the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas.



“Whenever I go to a new library, I always go to the librarian first and spend a few minutes describing my research. The librarians and archivists always know more about their own collections than researchers,” Kalliney said. “I was describing my project and was told I needed to speak to a colleague about something called the Transcription Centre, with which I had no familiarity.”

He did just that, learning that during the early 1960s the Transcription Centre in London was recording radio programs with African artists, writers and intellectuals with the idea to ship the recordings to radio stations in sub-Saharan Africa. “The interesting feature about this whole project was that it was funded covertly by the CIA,” Kalliney said.

The only problem was that he could not see how the story of the CIA involvement in literature could fit into the book he was writing, so he put the idea on hold.

Kalliney continued to nurse the thought of a project on the Cold War while he was finishing his second book and writing a third, “Modernism in a Global Context,” published in 2016, which provides a broad overview of 20th century literature. “I kept thinking back to the archives I had visited while I was working on my second book,” he said.

As Kalliney pursued the trail, which also led him to the Special Collections at the University of Chicago’s Regenstein Library, he found that the CIA, through an organization called the Congress for Cultural Freedom, was very active in the 1950s in Western Europe and other parts of the world. They were one of the major patrons of African writing during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

“It turns out that the CIA, through the Congress for Cultural Freedom, funded two of the most significant postcolonial magazines in English that came out for Africa—‘Black Orpheus’ and ‘Transition,’” Kalliney said. “They also funded the most important conference on African writing in English, which took place in 1962 in Uganda.”

So, why would the CIA fund African writers and artists?

“The CIA had activities in the Middle East, they had activities in sub-Saharan Africa, they had activities in South America, in sub-continental Asia, India, Pakistan, and in Australia. They were all over the world funding writers they thought would be sympathetic to their objectives,” Kalliney said. “Their involvement with European intellectuals is well known, but the story of the CIA’s involvement in funding writers from decolonizing areas of the world is a relatively unknown part of the story.”

Kalliney’s Guggenheim Fellowship project, “Bandung Generation: Decolonization and the Aesthetic Cold War,” was born out of a chance encounter with a librarian in Texas. It has now taken a life of its own. The two major objectives of his research project are to

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“To hear how my teaching contributed to a student learning a little bit more about her own heritage reminds me that we shouldn’t take knowledge, even about our own families, for granted.”

—Peter J. Kalliney

Associate Chair of the English Department

study how cultural diplomacy from the United States and the Soviet Union influenced writing in the decolonizing areas of the world, and how U.S. and British surveillance of intellectuals also affected the evolution of the literature of decolonization.

“The Cold War was being fought out politically, diplomatically, economically, and through propaganda,” he said. “But it was also being fought culturally through the patronage of writers, intellectuals and artists.”

In general terms, Kalliney’s research will help explain the relationship between writing and literature and state bodies during the Cold War period.

“National governments were not neutral where literature was concerned. They believed that literature mattered. They wanted to influence literature either by promoting it or by censoring it,” he said. “This was a time when intellectuals could be defenders of nations and their interests or cause problems. Literature mattered so much so that governments took an active interest in monitoring and supporting writers.”

In addition, Kalliney’s project will help tell the story of how English became a global literary language—not just a global language, but a global language for trading ideas about culture. “If you are interested in why English is arguably the dominant literary language in the world with only a couple of rivals—French, Arabic, and Spanish perhaps—that story is a Cold War story,” he said.

Receiving a Guggenheim Fellowship gives Kalliney a one-year research leave to focus on the project. He hopes to have his fourth book published in 2020.

“The extremely competitive Guggenheim Fellowship is a tremendous recognition of Peter’s scholarship,” said Jeffory

Clymer, chair of the UK Department of English. “He is the model of a scholar-teacher, whose research enriches his teaching of our undergraduate and graduate students. The Guggenheim Fellowship will support his new research on global English literature during the Cold War, and via his teaching will translate directly for our students into their understanding of literature’s role in world politics.”

Mentoring and teaching graduate students and working with undergraduates of all levels is still at the heart of what Kalliney loves to do—and he continues to incorporate his research into his teaching, even when he teaches 100-level classes designed for first-year students of any major.

“It is great that the English Department and the College of Arts & Sciences can influence the intellectual development of students from a wide variety of backgrounds and with a wide variety of intellectual interests,” Kalliney said. “Undergraduate students from different colleges on campus come through Arts & Sciences to meet their basic course requirements.”

When teaching introductory courses on global literature, Kalliney provides historical background to supplement the reading. For V.S. Naipaul’s Trinidadian novel “A House for Mr. Biswas” a few years ago, he led a discussion about slavery and indenture in the Caribbean. “At the end of the semester, a student told me her family is from Trinidad, of Indian descent, but no one in her family would tell her the story of how so many Indians ended up in the Caribbean,” he said.

“That was very powerful,” Kalliney said. “To hear how my teaching contributed to a student learning a little bit more about her own heritage reminds me that we shouldn’t take knowledge, even about our own families, for granted.” &



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An Equal Opportunity University

Building a Legacy

A&S graduate students profoundly impact campus, the Commonwealth and beyond

By Jennifer T. Allen

Photos by Eric Sanders

GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE THE KEY TO RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY CAMPUS. They will be the next generation of researchers and innovators, and they are often mentors and instructors to undergraduate students. Many graduate students spend hours working at their desks, in libraries, or in laboratories hoping to find the next breakthrough. Others devote days to fine-tuning teaching plans for the classes they instruct. Their work in the College of Arts & Sciences enriches our campus, our teaching, and our research, as well as all of the lives touched by the University of Kentucky domestically and around the world.

College of Arts & Sciences graduate students are selected for their talent, commitment to their fields, and work ethic. Their presence on our campus adds an important component to the innovative environment we strive to create. Each graduate student has a different story of how they ended up on UK's campus, how they found their passion, and where they hope their studies will take them.

Here are three of those stories.

Kaylynne Glover, biology doctoral candidate, enjoys working with students in the classroom.

Kaylynne Glover

3RD YEAR PH.D. CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Kaylynne Glover realized she wanted her career to touch the lives of students when she was in high school. "I had a really influential science teacher, and I want to be that for other kids," she said.

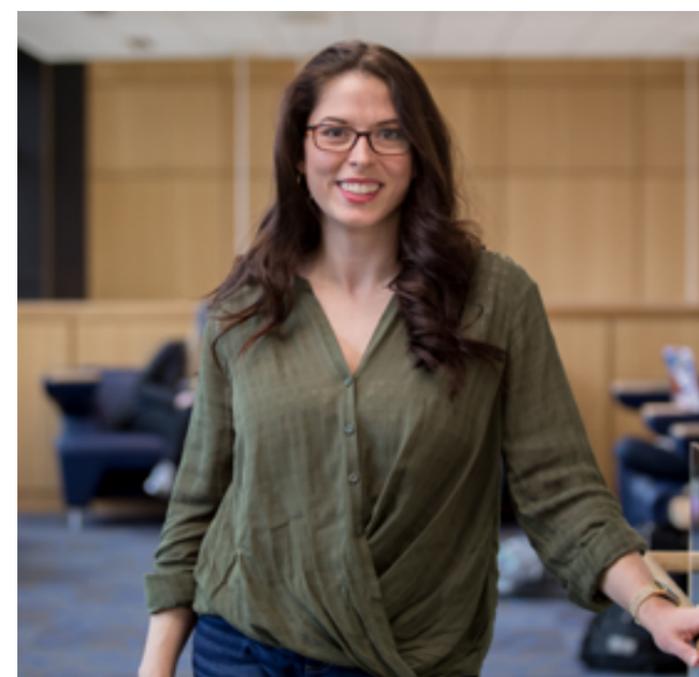
Now 15 years later, Glover has touched the lives of countless students as a college adviser, a college teaching instructor and mentor, and scientific literacy lecturer.

"I love teaching. I love being in the classroom," Glover said. "I don't think there is anything more powerful than helping someone change their life. That's why I do what I do. It's why I went into teaching. It's why I love mentoring. Being able to give someone the tools to change their life is the most gratifying thing in the world."

Glover received her bachelor's in Earth science from the University of Central Arkansas and taught high school science for a year before enrolling in Arkansas State University. After obtaining her master's in biology, Glover worked as a pre-professional advisor at Arkansas State University for science students in the College of Arts & Sciences.

"I love working with my students," she said. "I have been recruited to medical schools, but I have never been really interested in being a doctor. I always say, 'Why be a doctor when I can make doctors?'"

After working as an advisor for five years, Glover realized the research she left while working on her master's still followed her.



"I study the evolution of human reproductive behavior, and I had to go back and explore that research more," she said.

She also plans to work in science literacy and policy. "I want to help the community accept science and help scientists seem less standoffish—to help them reach out to the public more," Glover said. "Often we get stuck in our research and aren't thinking about how to communicate effectively or how to bring people into our research."

As a third year doctoral candidate, Glover is currently working on three different research projects while mentoring undergraduate students in the lab. Her first research project looks at sexually coercive behavior and trying to predict factors that can influence the behavior and how it emerges in both humans and non-humans. She recently had her first paper published on the topic in the "Journal of Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology." Glover is also looking at the degree to which women are able to perceive their own fertility and building an app that tracks women's fertility, asking about sexual behavior and general behavior throughout a woman's cycle.

As she has throughout her career, Glover continues to connect with students at UK. She takes her mentorship responsibilities seriously. "It's often difficult for undergraduates to go to their professors. Having graduate students helps bridge that gap," she said. "Mentoring undergraduates also helps recruit students for graduate school."

Glover believes relationships are key when it comes to inspiring someone. "Graduate students are the people you develop more of a relationship with by virtue of their position," she said. "I would not have gone into science education if I had not had a relationship with my high school biology teacher that inspired me to do so. It sparked a passion in me."

Being part of the inspiration that can affect change in someone's life is also the reason Glover is active in the Graduate Student Congress on campus. She is currently serving as president. "I love our community. There is a lot on campus for graduate students and a lot of resources," she said. "There are so many ways for graduate students to get active on campus and fight for change."

If three research projects, mentoring undergraduates in the lab, and being active on campus wasn't enough, Glover is also the director of advocacy and social justice and director of legislative affairs for the Midwest Regional National Association of Graduate-Professional Students.

"I've realized the classroom is too small for me," Glover said. "I want to work on a larger scale. I want to affect change for as many people as possible."

» CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Justin Strickland

4TH YEAR PH.D. CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Justin Strickland has been working in research labs since he was an undergraduate at Davidson College in North Carolina.

“I majored in psychology and biology, so I spent a lot of time working with several different research groups,” Strickland said. “My primary research interests were preclinical research and working with animal models of substance abuse.”

After three years working with animal models, Strickland became interested in working with humans in a laboratory setting. During the summer before his senior year, he came to UK to work with William Stoops, a professor in the Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, in the Laboratory of Human Behavioral Pharmacology. When it came time to apply to graduate schools, he knew he wanted to continue his work with Stoops at UK.

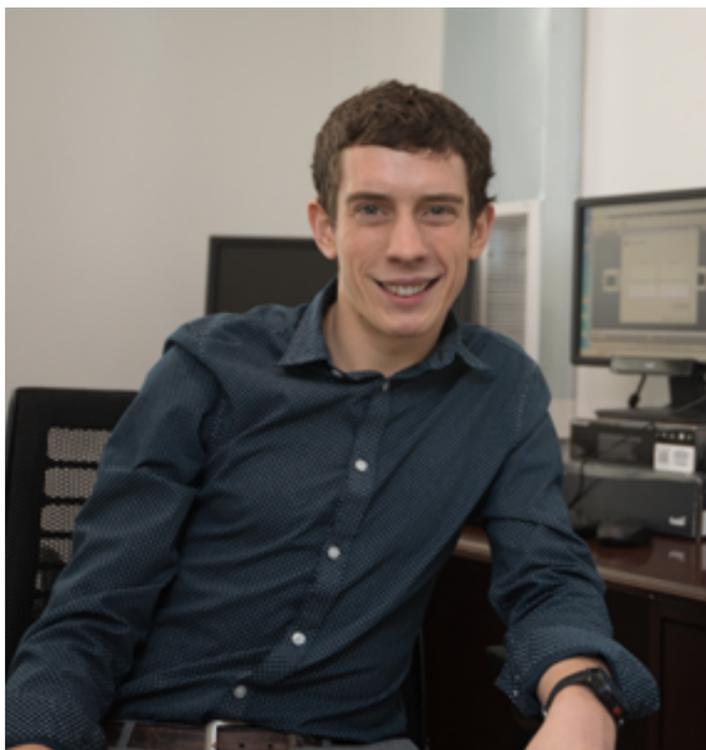
“The UK Psychology Department is a big place for addiction research. There are a lot of really great addiction researchers, and the department has a great program for bringing undergraduates to campus to do research over the summer,” Strickland said. “I came here for the doctoral program and am doing a master’s along the way.”

While working with Stoops, Strickland is looking at different behavioral and pharmacological interventions for substance abuse. A lot of the lab work deals with medication development for cocaine and other stimulant use disorders.

“It was a very nice transition from what I did as an undergraduate. The big difference now is that I’m primarily working within the human laboratory,” he said. “We are looking at different interventions and are in phase one/early phase two-type trials to determine the safety and efficacy before we go into large-scale trials.”

Strickland was an outstanding undergraduate with many offers to top graduate programs in the country. What lured him to UK was his relationship with Stoops, but also the additional financial support from the Robert S. Lipman Graduate Fellowship in Psychology. Such support is crucial for recruiting the most talented graduate students. Now with a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Strickland has been able to focus on his research. Even though he hasn’t had formal experience teaching a class, Strickland assisted in an Introduction to Behavioral Neuroscience and Biological Psychology class as well as mentoring undergraduate students in the lab.

“I love interacting and mentoring students,” he said. “We tend to have a lot of rich experiences for students in the lab so they are able to truly take part in the research.”



And Strickland knows firsthand how important research experience is for undergraduate students. “Thinking back to my undergraduate experience, getting to jump into labs really quickly was key to finding my passion,” he said. “I went into college wanting to be a film critic until I experienced working in a lab and doing research. Working in a lab is a really unique and special experience because you can learn knowledge of things in a classroom, but a really important skill is learning how to do things.”

While mentoring is an important part of graduate students’ work on campus, their expertise and help in laboratories is crucial.

“Having graduate students allows faculty to pass on their knowledge to a new group of people. It really allows you to have individuals you are working with who are eager and excited to do the work,” Stoops said. “The work researchers are doing on campus would absolutely not be able to be done without graduate students.”

With a year left until defending his dissertation, Strickland plans to stay in academia, ideally at a science research intensive institution within the context of a medical community, like UK.

“I’ve really loved working with people because you can really see the impact your research can have,” he said.

Deirdre Mikolajcik

5TH YEAR PH.D. CANDIDATE, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Deirdre Mikolajcik’s love of literature began as a young child. “My dad will just quote poetry at you and my parents always made sure the TV was off and we were reading,” she said. “They instilled in me a love of reading and writing and engaging in ideas.”

Mikolajcik received her undergraduate degree in creative writing from Lewis University outside of Chicago and earned her master’s in English with a focus on manuscript print culture and editing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. While working on her master’s degree, she came across two scholars’ work she admired: Lisa Zunshine and Ellen Rosenman, both faculty in the Department of English.

“When I was looking at schools for my doctorate, that put UK on my radar,” Mikolajcik said. “I was accepted to both UK and Syracuse,



I chose to come here because I really liked the faculty and the healthy graduate student community in the English Department. I wanted to go somewhere where people were going to challenge me and also support me.”

Teaching has been a large portion in Mikolajcik’s graduate student career—eight years to be exact. She has been teaching classes since she began work on her master’s degree and has been at UK since 2013.

“I’ve taught everything including freshman composition and communication introduction, business and technical writing, introduction to film, and a British literature survey,” she said. “Seeing my students’ improvement is really the best thing.”

This semester is the first time Mikolajcik isn’t teaching a course since starting her graduate student path. She received the College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Competitive Fellowship, which allows her to focus on completing her dissertation. Thanks to additional financial support from the Jill M. Rappis Endowed Fund in Arts and Sciences, Mikolajcik was also able to travel to New York to complete research on the writer Anthony Trollope for a chapter in her dissertation.

Mikolajcik’s dissertation research stems from one line in a Victorian novel, “North and South” by Elizabeth Gaskell. “In this particular line in the book, a mill owner is complaining about his workers and their ‘dishonestly enjoyed pleasure,’ and I’m left wondering how pleasure can be dishonestly enjoyed,” she said. “It took me down a rabbit hole, and I started looking into what people did for pleasure during the Victorian period and why the mill owner would have such a problem with it. It has ended up being tied to ideas of manliness, masculinity and class.”

Mikolajcik published a peer-reviewed journal article on the topic in “Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature” and presented in Greece this past summer at the International Association of Byron Societies Conference. She plans to turn her dissertation into a book once she is in a faculty position and hopes to teach 19th century literature.

Along with teaching comes mentoring undergraduate students, and Mikolajcik knows the importance graduate students play in that role.

“Graduate students are pretty much the first line, the first encounter for undergraduate students. I communicate to my students that face-to-face contact with faculty members is so important,” she said. “If we, as graduate students, can help them with that adjustment and get them ready for when they are in smaller classes with faculty, we will send them along with more confidence and stigmas broken down.” &

FULL CIRCLE

The Swanberg Legacy: love, family and giving



By Julie Wrinn

ON BOTH SIDES, IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT. Joan Swanberg (B.A. 1981) had grown up in Cleveland but was drawn to the University of Kentucky for its beautiful campus, southern charm, and affordability. During her first two years at UK she thrived in her studies but had brought home to Ohio one too many “bad boyfriends.” At the beginning of her junior year, Joan remembers her mother saying, “Why don’t you go find a nice boy at church?”

Greg Swanberg (B.G.S. 1985) lived at UK’s Newman Center, the campus Catholic ministry, and served as its co-president. Joan went to church, and Greg caught sight of her through a window and told a friend, “I’m going to marry that girl.” When later introduced to Greg, Joan was similarly struck, and they’ve been together ever since.

As the Swanbergs’ Mill House Residency for UK creative writing graduate students prepares to launch this summer, we take a look back at how the Swanbergs’ marriage, careers, and children intersected with the University of Kentucky. It is a story of searching, persisting, and finishing strong, not only for Greg and Joan, but also for their grown sons.

Greg grew up in western Kentucky, the son of a military veteran in a family of eight children. Three older siblings had already enrolled at Western Kentucky University, and Greg thought he might like to try something farther away. During his senior year of high school Greg’s father passed away, creating an enormous burden for their mother, who had four younger children to raise. But it meant that Greg could attend the University of Kentucky tuition-free through the Kentucky Veterans Association. A scholarship from his local community provided living expenses.

During the next three years as an engineering student at UK, Greg returned home often to help his family, and his studies suffered. By the end of his junior year, he was still far from graduating and had reached the end of his ability to pay for college. Greg and Joan decided to marry, leave school and move to Michigan, where Greg got a job. Nine months later their first child, Joe, was born.

When they left UK, Joan had been much closer to graduating herself and needed only six more credit hours, which she was able to complete through independent study and by sitting for final exams at a local university in Michigan. But they knew that in order for Greg to earn his degree, their young family would have to return to Lexington. “We both felt strongly that Greg should definitely return and get his degree,” said Joan, “but we wondered, ‘How long is this going to take, how are we going to swing it?’”

Thanks to UK’s Bachelor of General Studies degree, Greg was able to use all the credit hours he had gained previously. “For the last 18 months of school, I was able to take a combination of engineering,

math, and business classes, and it really set me up for my entire career,” said Greg. In Michigan, Greg had found his calling in facilities management, maintaining large government installations and complex military facilities as a civilian contractor. Back at UK, he was even able to name his major: B.G.S., emphasis in facilities management. Greg would go on to earn two more degrees, a master’s in Public Administration from Georgia Southern University, and an MBA from Northwestern University’s Kellogg Graduate School.

Recognizing how essential the B.G.S. flexibility was for many nontraditional students like the Swanbergs, UK has recently reintroduced the degree under a new name—Bachelor of Liberal Studies—and the university is reaching out to former students and encouraging them to finish their degrees through this route. In the Swanbergs’ case, with a young child in tow, “we were definitely nontraditional students,” said Greg. While Joan was working outside the home and Greg was in class, his younger brother, Tom, also a student at UK, would babysit his toddler nephew.

“Those two formed a bond that is still strong to this day,” said Joan. “It’s kind of sweet that he got to know his uncle in a way that he never would have if we hadn’t come back to UK.”

For her part, Joan had initially planned to major in art education, but later switched to English. Once Greg graduated and embarked on a career in government contracting, they moved nearly every two years, including overseas, and in every new locale Joan was able to find work in education.

“I got such a good foundation at UK,” said Joan. “It was a benefit to me as a woman to have a college degree when many others didn’t, and it opened doors every time we moved.” She often taught adult learners, most memorably for the city schools of Anniston, Ala., doing GED prep for employees at a nearby Caterpillar plant.

The Swanbergs’ two younger sons also graduated from UK after taking time away from school just as their parents had. “I really empathize with students who find it difficult to pin down what they want to do,” said Joan. “I knew that I wanted to go to college, but I didn’t have a good idea of a career path.”

For James Swanberg (B.S. 2009), their middle son, all it took was one semester of construction work to realize that he needed to return to college. That semester he joined a crew who renovated and expanded the Swanbergs’ mill house in Scottsville, Va., which they recently offered as a summer residency for UK graduate students in creative writing.

That initiative described in the accompanying article was both inspired by, and partly conceived by, their youngest son, Michael.

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“Had we not had help from scholarships and other aid programs, I just cannot imagine where we would be today. I feel obligated to pay that forward. Once we got our children through school, we knew we wanted to help others.”

—Greg Swanberg

“Michael loved the English program and poetry and didn’t love anything else,” said Joan. “He had a really tough time trying to figure out what he wanted to do. When he dropped out, we were worried that he would not return to school.” After a two-year hiatus, Michael did return to UK and to the English Department, where he was drawn to the legendary English professors and poets Jane Gentry (Vance) and Nikky Finney. The Swanbergs are deeply appreciative of Gentry and Finney for their mentorship of Michael.

“They really nurtured him and his talent,” explained Joan. “They encouraged him to just plug on, and not let little things stop him,

and see the big picture. We were so grateful for that.” After earning his English degree at UK in 2012, Michael received a full-ride scholarship to study creative writing at the University of Wisconsin and recently completed his MFA there.

Michael Swanberg’s achievement was the tipping point for Greg and Joan: “It really made us feel that it was time to give back ourselves,” explained Joan.

In 2014, the Swanbergs helped establish the Nikky Finney Graduate Fellowship, open to any student enrolled in UK’s Master’s of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program, with priority given to students from Kentucky who are from underrepresented backgrounds.

“We know firsthand how difficult it can be to pay for school,” explained Greg. “Had we not had help from scholarships and other aid programs, I just cannot imagine where we would be today. I feel obligated to pay that forward. Once we got our children through school, we knew we wanted to help others.”

Thanks to Greg’s success with the 2015 sale of BioStorage Technologies Inc, where he served as CEO, they now have the means to help UK achieve its ambitious goals of nurturing success for all students, especially those who may need a little extra time to finish strong. &



PHOTO BY ERIC SANDERS

Joan and Greg Swanberg visited campus and the new Don & Cathy Jacobs Science Building in September of 2017.

Moonlit Cottage

First student awarded MFA writing residency in Virginia

By Sarah Wood

TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD, QUIET AND OFF THE BEATEN PATH LIES THE MILL HOUSE AT GLENDOWER. The Virginia cottage is surrounded by walking trails and scenic woodland beauty. There is only one key ingredient missing from this peaceful scene: a writer.

In 2017, UK alumni Joan and Greg Swanberg offered the use of this idyllic 125-acre property to the Department of English annually for the month of July. The English Department, thankful for the generous suggestion, created two competitive residency programs—one for current MFA students in creative writing and one for published authors—each lasting two weeks.

Isabelle Johnson, a first year MFA creative writing student, won the inaugural competition for an internal applicant and will receive a small travel stipend provided by the Department of English. She will stay in the Virginia cottage and work on her thesis, which, according to MFA Director Hannah Pittard, “is a collection of magical and speculative short fiction that explores her experiences in the intersection of marginalized identities.”

Johnson wrote the winning piece, “Tsuki,” in a fiction workshop at UK. Tsuki is Japanese for the word “moon,” and the story is an intimate narrative about a young woman who wakes up when the moon is full and then goes to the park to talk with her older friend, Mrs. Ogawa, and her dog. “Tsuki” is a complex story that follows an evocative relationship, and there are twinges of uncertainty and mysticism.

“It’s a story about what people do when they’re not being watched, when they’re free of expectations,” explained Johnson.

Novelist and writing competition judge Kayla Rae Whitaker (B.A. 2007) chose Johnson’s short work of fiction as winner of the competition because of “its vibrant language, its haunting sense of place, and the delicate intimacy of its central friendship, all of which demonstrate immense promise.”

Johnson, excited to begin the residency, is ready to plunge into the forests of Virginia to write. The bustle of studying and teaching will keep Johnson busy in the future, so she wants to write as much as she can while she has free time. The residency program will give her the space and time she needs to work on her thesis.

The College of Arts & Sciences’ MFA program is one of the few in the country that offers such a unique opportunity to students. “We’re lucky to have this residency associated with our MFA program,” Pittard said. “With the Mill House, we’re able to offer the opportunity to experience the intense dedication of time to writing which is a residency, and we’re able to offer it to our students sooner than they might otherwise be eligible.”

Johnson will spend this July at the Mill House, continuing to explore the intricacies of her thesis.

“I’m really thankful to the Swanbergs for offering up their space, and I’m very thankful to the MFA program and the English Department,” Johnson said. “I’m very excited.”

For more information on the writing residency or MFA program, visit english.as.uky.edu/mill-house. &



Artist sketch of the Mill House, a new writing residency in the Department of English.

From Student to Professor: Teaching at their alma mater

Compiled by Nate Harling

The University of Kentucky, being a large research university with a wide selection of disciplines, gives students the tools for careers in academia. UK graduates have gone on to have success as professors and researchers at universities across the United States and beyond, but some of them feel the pull of UK and Lexington strongly enough to come back. To gain a perspective of what it's like to be a faculty member at one's alma mater, Arts & Sciences caught up with a few of these professors.

Jennifer Cramer '04

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS



Originally from Louisville, Associate Professor Jennifer Cramer studied linguistics and French as an undergraduate student at UK before obtaining an M.A. in linguistics from Purdue and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Q: What made you choose to study at UK as a student?

JC: Being from Louisville, but being a UK fan, there was no way I could go to U of L. I had a lot of friends at UK already and I got some nice scholarship money. I also knew, even then, that it was the best university in the state. It was a no-brainer!

Q: What is it like to have your former instructors become your colleagues?

JC: It was strange at first. I couldn't help the inclination to call them "Dr." But each time, my former professors encouraged me to think of them as colleagues.

Q: Do you think that having been a student at UK gives you a special perspective as a professor?

JC: Sometimes. It also makes me sound old. When I mention that I lived in Patterson Hall, which is not a dorm anymore, I think students wonder how long ago that must have been. But I have a good idea about where things are on the campus and an even better idea of the experience of UK students. I was a first-generation college student, and I know what those students are going through when they arrive here. I try to relate to them in ways that might be difficult for my colleagues who don't have my background.

Julie Human '03

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES, LITERATURES & CULTURES



Assistant Professor Julie Human is another Kentucky native. Having grown up in Frenchburg, she went on to study French at Transylvania University as an undergraduate student. Human spent her time at UK working on her M.A. in French before going to the University of Michigan for her Ph.D.

Q: What made you want to become a professor?

JH: The wonderful professors I had as an undergraduate and graduate student. They were so inspiring in the classroom and I wanted a career like that, with opportunities to work closely with students and learn more about literature and culture. My dream was to come back to teach at UK, but I didn't imagine I would actually get to do it.

Q: What is your favorite thing about working at UK?

JH: Getting to work closely with students and being a member of the Department of Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures & Cultures (MCLLC). When I was a grad student at UK, the language departments had just begun the transition from several small departments into the larger MCLLC department. When I was hired, we were still transitioning from maintaining separate divisions based on languages into a department unified around our shared goals and research and teaching interests, and I very much enjoy being part of such a diverse, thriving department.

at their alma mater

Melanie Goan '96, '00

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



Another UK alum who has returned to the university as a faculty member is Associate Professor Melanie Goan. Goan completed an M.A. and Ph.D. in history at UK. Coming to Kentucky by way of Erie, Pa., she has embraced Lexington as a place to call home for her and her family, and is very enthusiastic about the opportunity to teach for the institution where she spent her graduate school days.

Q: What made you want to become a professor?

MG: I loved the idea of spending my life on a college campus. I loved the idea of learning every day, and I haven't been disappointed!

Q: What led to your decision to work at UK?

MG: Following graduate school, my husband had a good job at UK and we decided to stay in Lexington. That choice significantly limited my job prospects. I was happy to have a few years to stay home while my children were very young. By the time I was ready to send the last one off to school, the History Department approached me about a lecturer position they had created. It was the perfect opportunity, and one I wouldn't have even dared to dream would fall into my lap.

Q: How do you feel about the city of Lexington?

MG: My family has had opportunities to go elsewhere, but we can't imagine leaving this place. It has big city amenities with small town charm and a wonderful sense of community.

Jeramiah Smith '07

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY



Associate Professor of Biology Jeramiah Smith is yet another case of a student who came back to UK as a professor. Coming to Kentucky after growing up in Gillette, Wyo., and obtaining a bachelor of science from Black Hills State University and a master's from Colorado State University, he earned his Ph.D. in biology from UK. After completing postgraduate fellowships at a number of universities, Smith came back to Lexington and has been enjoying the research and teaching opportunities it has granted him.

Q: How did studying at UK prepare you for a career in academia?

JS: When I was a student, the University provided several opportunities for students to obtain support for their research. These investments were invaluable in terms of training and in developing a competitive research portfolio.

Q: Do you think that having been a student at UK gives you a special perspective as a professor?

JS: Yes, absolutely! I have a diploma from UK hanging on my office wall, so I feel like I'm invested in helping maintain and grow UK's status as a research institution. It's also fun to have known most of my colleagues in the department for several years as a student. I think it gives me insight into their work and personalities that I wouldn't have if I hadn't been a student here. I remember seeing Dr. Cassone (Vincent Cassone, chair of the department) and several other scientists give seminars when the department was searching for a new chair during my last year here as a graduate student. The next time I met him, I was applying for a job myself.

Q: How do you feel about the city of Lexington?

JS: I love Lexington and am delighted to see the dramatic improvements to the downtown area over the years. The development of the microbrewery scene is amazing. We didn't have any when I was a graduate student. I also love the changes of season and the reflection of the seasons at the farmers' markets. &



University of Kentucky
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202 Patterson Office Tower | Lexington, KY 40506

