

Reading Matters

Vol. 40 Nos. 5-6

January-February 2026

PUBLICATIONS

• **Traci Brimhall**, "What My Body Knows" (essay). *Southern Indiana Review*, vol. 32, no. 2. Fall 2025, pp. 106-7.

"Bonfire of the Vanities," "He Says, She Says," and "Moirai" (poems). *Southword*, issue 49, 2025, pp. 19-21.

PRESENTATIONS

• **Traci Brimhall**, Kansas Day Celebration, Newton Public Library, Newton, KS. 31 Jan. 2026.

"Late Shift: Dream Walks," Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY. 18 Dec. 2025

Kansas Organization of Victim Assistance, Kansas City, KS. 5 Dec. 2025

• **Gregory Eiselein**, "Life After Full: Rethinking Identity and Purpose" (a faculty mentoring session). *Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference*. Philadelphia, PA. 6 Nov. 2025.

• **Mary Kohn**, "One Hundred Years of Language Change in Kansas." *Eudora Historical Society*. Eudora, KS. 15 Jan. 2026.

• **Anuja Madan**, "Tribal Ecologies and Ecofeminism in Indian Children's Picture Books about the Environment." (keynote). Department of English, NJMS Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal, India. 16 Jan 2026. Online.

• **Philip Nel**, "Children's Literature as Public Humanities" (moderator and organizer). *Modern Language Association Conference*. Toronto, Canada. 10 Jan. 2026.

• **Karin Westman**, "Know Your Budget: A Glossary of Key Terms for Financial Literacy." *Modern Language Association Conference*. Toronto, Canada. 8 Jan 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Jordan Dombrowski (MA '24)** has received the Kansas Horizons Award for Excellence in First Year Teaching for her work at Shawnee Mission East High School, Shawnee Mission, KS in USD 512.

• **Christina Hauck**, Emeritus Associate Professor, has published "All the Little Children" (poem) in *Nixes Mate* (issue 36-37, Summer-Fall 2025) and "To William Brewster with One Foot on the Plank" (poem) in *Collateral* (2025). Her manuscript, *An Angel and Other Apparitions*, was a finalist for the 2025 Gunpowder Press Barry Spacks Poetry Prize.

• **Shirley Tung** was inducted as a new member of the Manhattan chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in December.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

• **Jordan Dombrowski (MA '24)** has received the Kansas Horizons Award for Excellence in First Year Teaching for her work at Shawnee Mission East High School, Shawnee Mission, KS in USD 512.

• **Tara Coleman (BA '02)** has been appointed as Associate Dean for Collections, Technology, and Innovation for K-State Libraries.

• **Darin Jensen (MA '03)** has been serving on the MLA's Ad Hoc Committee on the Academic Workforce in Languages and Literatures in his role as an assistant professor in the English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies Department at Salt Lake Community College. Darin is also the editor of Teaching English in the Two-Year College (TETYC), a peer-reviewed NCTE journal concentrating on two-year college English studies. He is also a founder and editor of the Teacher-Scholar-Activist blog.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• **Friday, 6 February, 3:30-4:45 p.m.** Spotlight on Faculty with Abby Knoblauch, Anne Phillips and Tosha Sampson-Choma, Leadership 201.

• **Wednesday, 11 February, 3:30-4:30 p.m.** Graduate Literature Symposium, Union Wildcat Chamber.

• **Thursday, 12 February, 4:00-5:00 p.m.** Lecture by Judy Jacobs, Zoom.

• **Friday, 13 February, 3:30-5:00 p.m.** Cultural Studies Mini-Seminar III, Leadership 201.

• **Wednesday, 18 February, 3:30-5:00 p.m.** Career Seminar for undergraduate and graduate students.

• **Friday, 20 February, 3:30-4:30**

p.m. Visiting writer Shastri Akella,
Zoom.

• **Monday, 2 March, 5:00-6:15 p.m.**

Spotlight on Undergraduate Faculty
Mentors, ECS 231 and Zoom.

• **Friday, 6 March, 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

Cultural Studies Symposium
featuring Sianne Ngai, Union
Wildcat Chamber.

• **Monday, 23 March, 4:00-6:00**

p.m. Current Voices: Celebrating
Water in the Arts, Union Wildcat
Chamber.

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Allen. The deadline for the next issue
of *Reading Matters* is **January 30,
2026** at 5 p.m. Central Time. Please
send your news to Philip Nel via
email at <philnel@ksu.edu>. Thank
you.

