

Reading Matters

Vol. 39 No. 7

March 2025

PUBLICATIONS

- **Mark Crosby**, “Unentangled in the intricate windings of modern practice”: William Blake’s Apprentice Copperplates and Engravings,” *Blake An Illustrated Quarterly* 53:3 (Winter 2024-25): <https://blaquequarterly.org/index.php/blake>
- **Philip Nel**, and Eric Reynolds, editors, *Crockett Johnson’s Barnaby, Vol. 5: 1950-1952*. Foreword by Ron Howard. Introduction by Susan Kirtley. Afterword and Notes by Philip Nel. Fantagraphics, 2025.
“Boredom, Blacklisting, or New Beginnings?: Why Crockett Johnson Ended *Barnaby*.” *The Comics Journal* 11 Feb. 2025: <https://www.tcj.com/boredom-blacklisting-or-new-beginnings-why-crockett-johnson-ended-barnaby/>
- **Anne K. Phillips** and **Gregory Eiselein**, “Alcott’s *Little Women* and the U.S. Presidency.” *What the Presidents Read*, ed. Elizabeth Goodenough and Marilyn S. Olson, Rowman & Littlefield, 2025, pp. 469-473
- **Thomas Xavier Sarmiento**, “Big Idea: A Filipino Writer in Wichita.” *Humanities Kansas*, Kansas Stories. 10 Feb. 2025: <https://www.humanitieskansas.org/get-involved/kansas-stories/the-big-idea/big-idea-a-filipino-writer-in-wichita>

PRESENTATIONS

- **Cydney Alexis** and **Theresa Merrick**, book club on Ethan Mollick’s *Co-Intelligence: Living and Working with AI*. Kansas State University. 11 Feb. 2025
- **Traci Brimhall**, “Love is a Verb” (poetry workshop), Junction City Public Library, Junction City, KS. 1 Mar. 2025.
Reading from *Love Prodigal*:
~ Wild Precious Life Series, online. 26 Feb. 2025
~ Art Lit Lab, Madison, WI. 8 Feb. 2025
~ Bookdrop Reading Series Milwaukee, WI. 7 Feb. 2025
~ Beaverdale Books, Des Moines, IA. 6 Feb. 2025
~ DMACC, Des Moines, IA. 6 Feb. 2025
- **Elizabeth Dodd**, Online literary reading (host) for *Terrain.org* featuring Simmons Buntin, Juan Morales, and Rachel Richardson. 24 Feb. 2025.
- **Mary Kohn** and Meghan Ward (History & Anthropology ‘24), “An Equation for Resilience.” *Daughters of American Colonists*. Manhattan Public Library. Manhattan, KS. 9 Feb. 2025.
- **Anne Longmuir**, “Letters, Victorian Sociability, and Elizabeth Gaskell” (keynote). *Cultures of Correspondence Symposium*. Baylor University, Waco, TX. 7 Feb. 2025.
- **Theresa Merrick**, **Cydney Alexia** and **Jason Coleman**, “Writerly Voice in AI Times.” *Global Society of Online Literacy Educators Annual Conference* (online). 7 Feb. 2025.

- **Philip Nel**, “Banned Books: The Struggle to Control Imagination” (invited talk). Manhattan Area Retired Educators Association (MAREA). United Methodist Church, Manhattan, KS. 5 Feb. 2025.
- **Thomas Xavier Sarmiento**, “The Big Idea: A Filipino Writer’s Exile in Wichita,” conversation with Dr. Valerie Mendoza and Abby Bayani-Heitzman on Bienvenido Santos. Humanities Kansas (via Zoom). 21 Feb. 2025. Available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoIGNahdptU>.

AWARDS

- **Elizabeth Dodd** has received one of the inaugural “Roots of Research” awards, sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the VP for Research, and the Division of Facilities. Awardees are honored with a tree planted in their name.
- **Stacia Gray** has received a 2025 William L. Stamey Award for Undergraduate Teaching from the College of Arts and Sciences.
- **Michele Janette** has received the 2025 Ron Gaches Lifetime Teaching Award from the College of Arts and Sciences

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will be gathering to celebrate the life of **Jonathan Holden**, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus and first Poet Laureate of Kansas, on Sunday April 6, 2025, 3pm, at the K-State Alumni Center.

FEATURED IN MEDIA

• **Cydney Alexis**, was featured on the episode “Getting Over Imposter’s Syndrome: The Material Dimension of Writing, Tackling Writer’s Block, and Writing Alongside AI” of *Write to the Point* podcast, 13 Feb. 2025:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/getting-over-imposters-syndrome-the-material/id1640904949?i=1000692002487>

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

• **David Murphy** (MA ‘08) has published *Afghanistan: Photos of the North from 2008—2010* (2025). David captured the photos during his time in Afghanistan while assisting with K-State’s partnership with Balkh University.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• **Friday, March 7, 3:30-4:30pm**,
Reading by Jennifer Case.

• **Wednesday, March 12, 3:30-4:30pm**, 22nd Annual Graduate Lit Track Symposium

• **Thursday, March 27, 4:00-5:00pm**, Lecture by Julie Kohner on “Voices of the Generations,” a multi-media program that shares experiences of the Holocaust through the life of her family.

• **Friday, March 28**, Grad Program Visiting Day.

• **Friday, March 28, 3:30-4:30pm**, Sherlock & Co: A Year of Mystery, a series of lightning talks on the origins and legacy of Sherlock Holmes.

• **Monday, March 31, 3:30-4:30pm**, Lecture by Dr. Pritha Prasad on “Benevolent Diversity: Student Protest and Institutional Gaslighting.”

• **Monday, March 31, 5:00-6:00pm**, Sigma Tau Delta Induction.

• **Friday, April 4, 3:30-4:30pm**, Lecture by Dr. Karen Sands-O’Connor on “Whose Country is This Anyway? Representation of Black People/British Spaces in Children’s and YA Books.”

Reading Matters is a monthly publication of the Department of English, ECS Building, 1612 Steam Place, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-6501. Editors: Philip Nel, Karin Westman, and Josh Allen. The deadline for the next issue of *Reading Matters* is **March 28, 2025** at 5 p.m. Central Time. Please send your news to Philip Nel via email at <philnel@ksu.edu>. Thank you.