

Reading Matters

Vol. 40 Nos. 7

March 2026

PUBLICATIONS

• **Cameron Leader-Picone**,
*Transit Lit: Fictions of Migration
in Twenty-First-Century African
Immigrant Literature*.
Northwestern UP, 2025.

PRESENTATIONS

• **Traci Brimhall**, "The
Notebooks Collective: A
Conversation with Traci Brimhall
and Marianne Kunkel on Food
and Poetry." 24 Feb. 2026.
Online.

Sweet & Spicy: Love Poems. 2
Sylvias Press. 11 Feb. 2026.
Online.

Poetry Reading. Seward
Community College. Liberal, KS.
7 Feb. 2026.

Poetry Reading. Garden City
Community Arts Center. Garden
City, KS, 6 Feb. 2026.

Governor's Arts Awards. Topeka,
KS. 2 Feb. 2026.

• **Mary Kohn**, "Creating
Spearville Community History
Volunteer Past Perfect
Workshop." *Spearville Township
Library*. Spearville, KS. 18 Feb.
2026

"Digitization Workshop."
Jetmore Public Library. Jetmore,
KS. 18 Feb. 2026

"One Hundred Years of
Language Change in Kansas."

KU Endowment. Lawrence, KS. 29
Jan. 2026.

• **Deborah Murray**, "I Hate
Canvas: Resurrecting Vintage
Pedagogy in Defiance of
Technocentric Teaching."
*Southwest/American Popular
Culture Conference*. Albuquerque,
NM. 27 Feb. 2026.

• **Philip Nel**, "DEI Is Not a Slur:
Book Bans, Nostalgia, and
Bigotry" (invited lecture). *Authors
Against Book Bans*, 9 Feb. 2026.
Online.

AWARDS

• **Wendy Matlock** has received the
2026 Ron Gaches Lifetime
Teaching Award from the College
of Arts and Sciences.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Traci Brimhall** hosted the *Poetry
Out Loud State Finals*, which will
air on the Kansas PBS station
KTWU on April 12 at 6pm.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

• **Tolu Daniel** (MA '23) published
"The Price of the Athlete and the
Roar of the Crowd" and "The
Storms of St. Louis and the Shelter
We Need for Them" (30 Jan. 2026)
in *The Common Reader* (28 Feb.
2026): [https://
commonreader.wustl.edu/the-price-
of-the-athlete-and-the-roar-of-the-](https://commonreader.wustl.edu/the-price-of-the-athlete-and-the-roar-of-the-crowd/)

[crowd/](https://commonreader.wustl.edu/the-storms-of-st-louis-and-the-shelter-we-need-for-them/) and [https://
commonreader.wustl.edu/the-storms-
of-st-louis-and-the-shelter-we-need-
for-them/](https://commonreader.wustl.edu/the-storms-of-st-louis-and-the-shelter-we-need-for-them/)

• **Jesse Tyler Lobbs** (MA '16)
published two poems as Jes Tyler in
issue 1 of the new magazine *Fried
Egg*: "Better Ways to Tell Time" and
"Leaves": [https://
friedeggmagazine.wordpress.com/
issue-1/](https://friedeggmagazine.wordpress.com/issue-1/)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

• **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.

• **Friday, 27 March, 10:00 a.m.-
12:00 p.m.** Graduate Program
Visiting Day.

• **Friday, 3 April, 3:30-4:30 p.m.**
Visiting writer Pam Houston, Union
Wildcat Chamber and Zoom.

• **Thursday, 9 April, 5:00-6:15 p.m.**
Spotlight on English Students, Hale
181.

• **Wednesday, 15 April, 3:30-4:30
p.m.** "What's Next?": Faculty
Lightning Talks on Work in

Progress,” Union Wildcat Chamber and Zoom.

• **Saturday, 18 April, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** All-University Open House, K-State Student Union.

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 30, 2026** at 5 p.m. Central Time. Please send your news to Philip Nel via email at <philnel@ksu.edu>. Thank you.