Greetings from the New Director

For those of you who don’t know me, let me introduce myself: My name is Kelly Hankin. I was the first full time professor hired directly into Johnston since the days of the College and have taught in the Center for 9 years. I came to Johnston as a film scholar, after having taught at the University of Rochester and Old Dominion University and having written a book for University of Minnesota Press called The Girls in the Back Room: Looking at the Lesbian Bar in Film and Television. In my first few years at Redlands, I penned a short film that went to Sundance. Over time, I was happily corrupted by Johnston’s call to be a life-long learner, so in the last few years you’d be just as likely to find me teaching in the area of food studies as you would film.

After a summer of settling into the Director’s seat, all of that seems a lifetime ago. Of course, teaching will still be on my plate, but the Director’s job extends far beyond that. Barely four months into the job I already find my self meeting with people across the campus with whom I never found time to closely engage. This is a great thing for Johnston. We’re reconnecting or making new relationships with Student Life, the School of Music, the School of Education, Student Success and Disability Services, and Residence Life. We’re also reaffirming our relationships with the Center for Diversity Affairs and Development and Alumni Relations.

In doing all of this, I find myself in a truly joyful state. Passionate for the classroom, I never imagined being in the Director’s chair. But here I am, and I couldn’t be happier. I’m more than ready to begin my tenure in what I have no doubt is one of the best gigs in academia. My goal is to bring this joy and preparation to the entire community, including the incoming class, which numbers a respectable thirty-seven students.

You’re probably wondering what kind of Director I will be and what my goals are for the years to come. In many areas, Johnston is a well-oiled machine. But other areas need more attention, and here is where I hope that I can create positive change. Our reunions have been fantastic ways at keeping our community connected. The last reunion was a tremendous smash and I have no doubt that our next reunion will be the same. But in between reunions, we haven’t been as good at finding ways to keep Johnston alums connected, both to each other and to the Center. So, one of my main goals is to work on this piece of community. Along with Bill McDonald, who in his retirement (for real this time!) will be working on alumni and development projects, I plan to devote a good portion of my time to endeavors that will connect all of you readers to the Center and to one another. This has already begun. You’ve no doubt heard of the regional dinner parties called “Buffalo Grazes” and the online reading groups called “Buffalo Books.” My goal will be to nurture these projects so that they become important ways our community can keep connected between reunions. The fact that one of these endeavors is on the internet reveals just how important the digital realm is and will continue to be for our community. Whatever one wants to say about Facebook and its ilk, they have become invaluable tools for staying in touch with one other. Again, the “staying in touch” that Facebook allows might mean different things for different people, and some of us might rightly critique its superficiality. But as the new Director, what it means for me is that I get to meet and connect with Johnston alums who were here before my time. This is a wonderful and unexpected part of my academic life. Indeed, Facebook has allowed me to develop a relationship around food, film, shoes, chickens, and Johnston with the most delightful Bay Area alum who graduated long before I came here. It has also allowed me to find out what the class of 2010 is up to. So, using Facebook to connect with you all, as well as pushing out information about everything from what’s happening on complex on any given day to upcoming events, will continue to be an important piece of alumni relations for me. If you haven’t already joined the Johnston Facebook page, please do. And I’d love to be your friend on my personal page as well.

The second goal I have during my tenure as Director is to work on fundraising for Johnston. It’s somewhat ironic that I’m in this position, since I’ve never given a dime to my undergraduate institution, despite repeated efforts on its part. To be truthful, it’s very clear to me that I never felt a quarter of the devotion to my undergraduate college that students feel towards Johnston. I see this devotion everyday. You remember that feeling, don’t you? You probably recall that intense passion towards community, even if it drove you crazy sometimes. Or, you no doubt remember that dedication to the educational process that allowed you to find your own intellectual path and that fierce...
connection you had with one, maybe two or even more, faculty. And do you remember what it was like to be here and to benefit from alumni who donated money to the Endowment or Director’s Discretionary Fund? Maybe you don’t. You were probably so thrilled about receiving money for your project that you didn’t realize at the time that it was funded from alumni just like you. So now here you are in the same position as those alumni, and I’m going to spend a lot of time pestering you on behalf of our current students who need just the same kind of support you did (well, maybe DVDs instead of cassettes!). Okay, okay, before you start thinking that you are not the profile of a “donor,” my goal is to help you all rethink what a Johnston donor is. Sure, we would love a check for one million dollars to come our way, but I’ll let the big noise folks up in the Administration building worry about this. My goal is to get you to write a check for five, ten, twenty-five dollars. Because you probably remember that this kind of money goes a long way towards art supplies, gas money to interview someone in Los Angeles, food for an academic event, DVDs for a senior movie project, etc. For more information on where your donations have gone recently, see “Your Donations Realized” below.

Fundraising for study abroad will also be an important focus of my energies over the next several years. If you don’t know about the Oaxaca Integrated Semester, you will want to read about it below. It is Johnston’s very own integrated study abroad, led by longtime Johnston faculty member Patricia Wasielewski. One of the special things Pat does is bring one or two alums along as Oaxaca interns. This is an amazing experience, but it is one that does not come out of the operational budget the administration provides us. I think this unique program is worth paying special attention to and asking you to do the same. Additionally, I hope to fundraise to provide for students who can’t afford study abroad. Study abroad is tremendously important to our students, but the reality is that, even with the amazing opportunities provided by the University, which pays tuition and room and board for students traveling abroad, not all students can afford to go. For many students and their families, finding money to pay for international airfare and living expenses is simply too much of a financial hardship. The University is witnessing an increase in first generation and low-income students, which will no doubt change the profile of the University and Johnston all for the better. But this also affects our “cross-cultural” component of the graduation contract. We anticipate that we will see more and more students who simply cannot fulfill their cross-cultural component—a component that has long been at the heart of our Johnston education. Thus, I think it is imperative to put this at the forefront of our fundraising efforts.

Okay, all of this is to say that, in addition to safeguarding the great academic quality of Johnston, I plan to put you, alums, at the center of my time in the Director’s seat. Yes, sometimes I will be asking you for donations, but most times, I will just reach out to see what you’re up to.

Beyond that, all I really want is to do well by our students, staff, and faculty. As a Director, I want Johnston to be a place that all community members love to be a part of. I want to help students find their passions, help faculty do the things they love to do, and celebrate everyone for the unique gifts that they bring. This is a tall order, especially because not all days will be joyful and, well, I’m bound to make mistakes. But it’s the contract that I’m making with myself and I hope to live up to it as best as I can. Although, as the all too familiar Johnston saying goes, I reserve the right to renegotiate this contract at anytime....

University Update

In the last Coz McNooz, interim Director Bill McDonald reported about the challenges the University was facing, primarily faculty and staff layoffs across the college. Despite faculty and student lobbying and protests against these cuts, they sadly came to fruition. Twelve faculty will not have their contracts renewed and two staff members were laid off in May. Though we hoped Johnston would be immune to these losses, we were hit hard by the staff layoffs. As was reported in the last issue, Johnston was uncertain whether or not the Center would be able to keep both our Associate Director position, held for two and half years by Deb Weis, and our Area Director position, held by alumna Denise Davis. Unfortunately, as a cost-cutting measure, the University decided to consolidate these two positions into one. The new position, held by Denise Davis, combines Student Life responsibilities with Community responsibilities. Though we are saddened by the loss of Deb, whose contributions to community life were immense, we are grateful that Denise will remain with us. As an alumnus who worked for Student Life for the last year, Denise brings an enormous skill set to Johnston. Though her workload is already heavy, she is capable and passionate about the job. We will miss Deb and thank her for her many gifts to the Center.

Greetings from the new Assistant Director

Dearest Buffalo,

It is my honor to write to you now as the new Johnston Assistant Director. I graduated from the Johnston Center in 2006 with an emphasis in “Social Psychology of Gender and Multiculturalism for Social Change.” While a student at Redlands, I was involved in Residence Life, ASUR, the Centers for Diversity and Inclusion, the Redlands Review, the Bulldog Weekly, Amnesty International, and I co-founded a group called Safe Space Allies (a queer/straight alliance). After college, I landed a job working full-time in Residence Life at the University of Oregon. A year later I found myself pursuing my dream of attending the London School of Economics. I completed my MSc in Social and Cultural Psychology from LSE in December of 2008. In January of 2009, I happily returned to the University of Redlands as an Area Director in Student Life and an Adjunct Faculty member for Women’s and Gender Studies and the Johnston Center. For the 2009-2010 school year, I was an Area Director overseeing the West Side of campus, with my apartment and office in Johnston.
In all of my travels and experiences post-college, I have always been so proud to be a Johnston alum and to explain what I feel is the best undergraduate education system in the country. As you know, Johnston is a place where one’s passion and creativity are at the forefront of their education. This, combined with a wonderfully supportive faculty, administration, and student body in Johnston make possible a college experience that is typically nothing short of transformative. At this point in my life, I could not be more thrilled to be working in Johnston and helping to foster those passionate visions and dreams that have been alive in students and faculty here for more than 40 years.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, ideas, suggestions or nostalgic Johnston moments. Here’s to a great year ahead!

Meet Our New Administrative Assistant

We’re pleased to have Kerry Robles as our new administrative assistant. Kerry has worked at the University for twenty-two years, starting out at Whitehead College and most recently serving in the office of the Chaplain. She is the mother of a 26 year old University of Redlands alum (06) who was recently married by University Chaplain John Walsh. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, traveling, and Harleys. Though she no longer owns her own bike, she proudly maintains her license to ride! When asked what kind of Johnston emphasis she would design for herself, Kerry quickly answered that she would create a field of study around children with special needs.

Your Donations Realized

Thank You Donors! Your contributions to the Director’s Discretionary Fund and Endowment have been put to good use. In addition to the student projects you funded (see last edition of the Coz on the website for a list of titles), your contributions recently bought new kitchen equipment for the newly formed “Buffalo Food Collective” and a high-end camera, boom, and lighting kit for the “Johnston Film Collective.” This equipment has already helped create an award winning film (see “Student Spotlight” below). Additionally, this fall we will use your contributions to transform one of the rooms in Bekins’ basement into our very own screening room. This room will be equipped with a computer, projector, and screen, and furnished with a seminar table, and it will become a prized space for professors and students to teach media classes and hold film screenings. This is a big step for the Center, and we’re excited to finally have a screening room of our own, however small. The transformation of Bekins’ basement doesn’t end here either. Now that the dark room has moved to the beautiful new Peppers Art Center, we will transform the old dark room—now fully cleansed of asbestos!—into an editing suite. This room will house computers and editing equipment so that student photographers and filmmakers can have a place of their own to work. These rooms absolutely would not be possible without your support.

The Man Behind Vintage Johnston

By the time you read this, many of us will have celebrated at the 4th annual “Vintage Johnston Wine Dinner,” a high-end wine dinner and tasting that serves as a fundraiser for the Johnston Center’s Director’s Discretionary Grant, otherwise known as the Student Project Fund. In these pages, I want to celebrate the benefactor of Vintage Johnston, John Slater, who donates all the wine for the event from his personal collection. John is a Fine Wine Specialist for the Henry Wine Group who graduated from the University of Maryland. Apart from a friendship with Bill McDonald, John had no official affiliation with Johnston when he decided to work with Bill on developing the annual fundraiser. Of course, after four years of dedication and commitment to the Johnston community, John has now become honorary Buffalo. Why does he give to Johnston? According to John, he was “raised in a family that emphasized giving back to the community.” Following in the footsteps of his father, who at seventy-five continues to volunteer and work at a community center every Friday, John makes it a priority to be involved in his community. For John, this means devoting his energies and his incredibly vast and special wine collection to two communities: the MS Society (as a response to a friend’s diagnosis) and Vintage Johnston. Through Vintage Johnston, his goal is to highlight our students to the larger community, both University of Redlands and the city at-large.

We at home base think this is pretty fantastic, and our gratitude to John Slater is enormous. Hopefully John’s gift to Johnston will inspire you to do a couple of things. First, come to Vintage Johnston next year! We have a rollicking good time. Second, follow in the footsteps of John and donate to the Director’s Discretionary Grant or the Endowment.
Happy Birthday Old Girl!

This fall is Bekins’ centennial. We celebrated in September with a cake, a talk from a University archivist, Nathan Gonzalez, about Bekins’ history, and an open mic where community members shared stories about life in Bekins. It’s not too late for belated gifts either!

Student Spotlight: Johnston Film Collective wins awards at 48 hour film challenge

This August, students from the “Johnston Film Collective” entered the “48 Hour Film Competition,” the world’s largest timed-filmmaking competition. In this contest, each team was given a genre, three elements (character, prop, line of dialogue) and 48 hours to make a four to seven minute film. The JFC was required to film a mockumentary that included a number of elements, including a toothbrush. With new equipment purchased with funds donated by Alumni, the JFC produced Un-Duh-Feated, which was screened to a large audience at a movie theater in downtown Riverside. Out of 38 entries, this moc-documentary won multiple awards, including “Audience Award,” “Best Use of a Prop,” “Best Use of Character,” and “Best Actress.” Johnston congratulates Lauren Hohle, Matt Greene, Adam Ghovayzi, Caroline Debruhl, Annie Pennell, Aaron Zaheen, Molly Irelan, Josh Gordon, Ben Grainger, and Brett Lewis for their creativity. Un-Duh-Feated can be found on youtube.

Upcoming Events

In the last Coz, we told you about the class on experimenting colleges being taught this fall by JC alum Rabbi Patricia Karlin-Neumann (1976). With her co-instructor, Joy Kliewer (Associate VP for College Advancement at Pitzer), Patricia will host two interesting events as a part of this class. On November 22, Patricia and Joy will host a virtual seminar celebrating more than four decades of educational innovation. This virtual seminar will be a tribute to founding faculty as well. On November 29, they will feature a presentation by guest speaker L. Jackson Newell, Professor Emeritus at University of Utah and President Emeritus of Deep Springs College. Patricia and Joy will also travel to the Center for Innovative Environments in Learning annual Conference at the New College of Florida to present their work. A report from this conference will appear in the next edition of the Coz.

Johnston Abroad

Integrated Semester: For the fourth time, Sociology, Women’s and Gender Studies, and Johnston Professor Patricia Wasielewski is offering her Integrated Semester in Oaxaca, Mexico and Guatemala in the spring of 2012. While the University of Redlands offers an impressive array of study abroad opportunities, what is special about this experience is that it is an entirely Johnston-run semester abroad. Johnston pedagogy, integrated learning, and evaluations are central to the learning experience, which includes intensive language study, the history and culture of Mexico and Central America, community involvement, a study of globalization and tourism, and home stays. Moreover, infusing this program into the living-learning community at home in Redlands is also a central component of the study abroad experience. Each May term, the students who traveled to Oaxaca and Guatemala bring back their experiences in a day-long symposium and celebration featuring food, dance, and presentations. This year, we’re hoping to make this connection between Oaxaca/Guatemala and Johnston even stronger by hosting a Oaxaca dinner in Johnston and taking students to Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) events in Los Angeles in October.

On top of this, we’d like to reach out to alumni to integrate you into this rich experience. We’re looking for a Spanish speaking alumnus to work with students on this Integrated Semester abroad. Working with Pat Wasielewski, this person will help students with...
their academic work, their adjustment to a new environment, and their commitment to Johnston collaborative learning. If you are interested in this position, please contact Patricia_Wasielewski@redlands.edu

**Greece:** This coming summer (2011), Bill McDonald plans on leading another alumni trip to Greece in the second half of June. The trip is still in its nascent stage, so stay tuned for more information.

**Roaming Buffaloes: Regional and Virtual Communities**

Exciting things are happening to keep alumni connected. The first Buffalo Grazes were great successes. JNST alumni dinner parties were held in Portland, Houston, and Los Angeles. Community members got a chance to catch up and share stories about their personal and professional lives. The second set of Grazes coincided with the 4th annual Vintage Wine dinner and were held in Seattle, Denver, and Oakland. Check into Facebook for announcements about more upcoming Grazes around the country, including Washington D.C. If you’d like to host a Graze in your hometown, contact Kelly_hankin@redlands.edu. For more information on the concept of the Graze, see the Johnston website.

Many of you know that a “Proust Reading Group” is underway, with forty-some Johnstonians signed up for the marathon journey through Remembrance of Things Past on our new “Ning” site (see below). Another way to keep connected is to join “Buffalo Books,” started by JC alum Sandra Shattuck (1977) and organized with fellow alum Jane Creighton (1973). Buffalo Books offers Johnston alumni a place to re-connect through reading together. This book discussion group can be led by anyone wishing to read something with other passionate and creative readers. The group is starting off with Othello Redux. This group will then read two novels that take up Shakespeare’s play: Tayeb Salih’s Season of Migration to the North (1969) and Caryl Phillips’ The Nature of Blood (1998). Here’s the tentative schedule: 4-18 Oct. – online discussion of Season of Migration to the North; 8-22 Nov. – online discussion of The Nature of Blood. To join the book discussion, you need to join the group, Buffalo Books, which is part of the Johnston Ning.

1. Go to http://johnstoncenter.ning.com and click on “Sign up” in the box on the top right of the screen. If you’re already a member of the Johnston Ning, just click on “Sign in.”
2. Once you’re signed in, click on “Groups” on the top menu.
3. Choose “Buffalo Groups” and ask to join.

Buffalo Books is aiming for some rollicking good reads together. If you have any questions, or if you have an idea for a Buffalo Books discussion, email Sandra Shattuck (sdshattuck@gmail.com). Towards unsolitary reading!

**SAVE THE DATE: Bulldogs-BUFFALOS in Service:**

On Saturday, April 9, 2011, come out for “Bulldogs and Buffalos in Service,” an international day of community service. All alumni of the University of Redlands community plus current students, parents, and friends, are encouraged to take part in one of the many projects being developed around the nation. Locations include Redlands, Riverside, Orange County, San Diego, Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Portland, Seattle, New York, Las Vegas, Hawaii, Washington DC, and more. The goal will be to encourage as many current Johnston students to participate in Redlands, so we hope that you will represent the Buffalo in your hometown. Details will be announced in the spring. If you have any questions, or want to be a project leader for 2011, contact Johnston alumni board member Judy Crowell (judycrowell@yahoo.com).
**Featured Alumni Tim Seiber (2004).**

This academic year, we’re thrilled to have Johnston Alumnus Tim Seiber return to work as an adjunct professor of Film Studies. Tim graduated from Johnston in 2004, with an emphasis entitled “Reading the Social,” in which he synthesized (then) recent theories that treated all objects - literature, media, society, bodies—as texts that could be understood through critical analysis. After a year off from school, Tim entered the Ph.D. program in Visual Studies at UC Irvine in 2005. In 2010, he finished his Ph.D. in Visual Studies by completing a dissertation entitled, “Thresholds: Managing Life and Death through the Public Circulation of Medical Images.” This dissertation is the beginning of a large research program that seeks to understand how contemporary visual culture has been largely medicalized by a transfer of images and ideas from laboratories and advanced imaging systems into popular culture. No surprise to us, Tim was selected to represent all matriculating graduate students at UCI’s 2010 commencement.

When asked about what excites him about returning to Johnston, Tim states, “I am most excited to be back at Johnston to establish an arc of continuity between my memory and the present reality. There really is no place like it, but what I remember surely cannot be what Johnston is today. Other than my sass, I am excited to bring back to Johnston a way of looking at the world, in all its mediations, that is founded on the principles of a self-designed education.”

---

**Claudia Alexandra Paras (formerly McCabe) (2002):**

Claudia Alexandra Paras is the current chair of “Pinay sa Seattle -GABRIELA USA” (PINAY) a political grass-roots women’s organization that advocates for the rights of Filipina women locally, national and internationally. Claudia graduated from Johnston with a degree in “Identity through Literature and Creative Writing” in 2002 and then moved to Seattle in 2003, where she was able to get a full time job teaching English and Job Skills to low-income immigrant adults. In 2005 she began doing grassroots organizing with the local Filipina-American women and in 2006 spearheaded a fundraising production “Umaga” which was an original script that addressed domestic violence in the Filipino-American community. Later in October 2006 she was one of the founding sisters of Pinay a grass-roots women’s organization that addressed issues affecting Filipina women and defending their rights globally. In 2007 as the Education Director of Pinay she developed curriculum tracks for mass membership education and community workshops. Claudia was also part of a two-woman contingent that went to the Philippines in February 2007 to apply for overseas chapterhood of GABRIELA-PHILIPPINES the largest political women’s grass-root network. Later that year in November she helped organize a national conference in Seattle of other Filipina women who wanted to form a national alliance with GABRIELA. In 2008 the GABRIELA-USA organizing committee was established with the acceptance of GABRIELA-PHILIPPINES. Claudia moved back to the Philippines in 2008 and interned with GABRIELA Philippines,
She also helped organize the first GABRIELA-USA exposure trip that summer which brought women from the U.S. to do hands on integration with urban poor and peasant communities. In addition she was also commissioned by the Philippine National Red Cross to write a book about the career of her grandmother Loreto Paras Sulit. In 2009 she returned to U.S. for the founding GABRIELA-USA congress in Los Angeles and later in July was elected Chair of Pinay. Currently Pinay is established in the Filipino Community Center and has been awarded a grant to do a survey of immigrant Filipina women and girls in King County. In 2010 Claudia represented Pinay at the Montreal International Women’s Conference and plans to attend the International Alliance for Migrants and Refugees Conference in Mexico this November.

Gabriel Thompson (2001): Last year, the Johnston First Year Seminar class enthusiastically read Calling All Radicals: How Grassroots Organizers Can Save Our Democracy, written by our very own alumnus Gabriel Thompson. This fall (November 4), Gabriel will come to campus as part of the Kathryn Green alumni lecture series and Campus Diversity and Inclusion events, and we couldn’t be more thrilled. Gabriel will be speaking about his second book, Working in the Shadows: A Year of Doing the Jobs (Most) Americans Won’t Do, also published by Nation Press. Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union, writes “In writing this remarkable book, Thompson brings attention to the resilience of the workers who are the backbone of this country’s economy, appreciates the great contributions of undocumented workers to making our lives better by holding up the economy and the backlash they so often face. For anyone who has fought for dignity in the workplace, Working in the Shadows is a triumph—and a call to arms.”

David Wicker (1991) is a licensed and certified personal trainer. He’s been endorsed by doctors, surgeons, therapists, and sports trainers. David has instructed over thousands of students and created Wellness Centers for resorts across Hawaii. He is the founder of White Tiger Yoga and producer of the best selling yoga DVDs in Hawaii. We look forward to listening to and doing bodywork with David when he returns this fall as a Kathryn Green alumni lecturer.

The Class of 2010

The Johnston class of 2010 asked Kathy Ogren, one of their professors in their First Year Seminar to address them for their commencement speech. In order to honor the Johnston process through which students take ownership of the education, Kathy Ogren asked them to take ownership of this commencement speech. Specifically, she asked Johnston seniors to send her the title and explanation of a text that had been transformative in their educations here. Any kind of text—books, songs, visual texts—"counted." She then used those texts to write the speech with the seniors. Here, in their words:

I am deeply honored to sing this epic story of the Johnston class of 2010, all of whom successfully participated in exploratory journeys of encounter and transformation: today is our opportunity for remembering. What a relaxed herd of buffalo you now are, roaming across the Bekins Lawn amidst this extended living-learning community of friends, colleagues, faculty, parents and family, University administrators and even our President James, Appleton, who received an honorary degree from Johnston in 2005. Observers would be hard pressed to identify just who the graduates are amongst us; as we designate no status via robes or rows or platform parties. Instead we gather as one, just like we did when you first arrived in fall 2006, at the portal of the Johnston Center.

It all started with roads, didn’t it? Upon arrival, you answered our call to join an educational community unlike any other. We charged you with the responsibility to make your own college education, and you answered in 60 distinctive ways. Your pathway into college bears little resemblance to the maddening one traversed by Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man. Instead, we insisted that you craft your education. And you did, deciding with us your curriculum, defining with us your learning goals, expanding your enthusiasm to study abroad, and practicing your ideals for living democratically together.

We faculty guardians who met you at the threshold—especially Professors Kelly Hankin, Eric Hill and myself—navigated the start with you in our course Exploration and Identity. We analyzed some pretty good road stories: Reservation Blues, Lewis and Clark, Nella Larsen’s Passing, Easy Rider, Thelma and Louise, Keep the River on Your Right, A Boy Named Sue, and Hiroshima, Mon Amour. We faculty are not standing at the threshold today. We don’t need to: you traversed the Johnston liminal zone and now stand at the other side.

For those of you unfamiliar with this concept of a liminal zone, I take my concept from the work popularized through the work of anthropologist Victor Turner. Turner applied a model developed by Arnold van Gennep, who posited that rites of passage have three stages: separation, transition, and reincorporation. Turner should be an honorary Johnston community member since he was most drawn to the middle, or liminal stage. Based on his studies of the Ndembu from Central Africa, Turner observed that liminality can be seen as “an ambiguous period characterized by humility, seclusion, tests, sexual ambiguity, and communitas—that is an unstructured community where all members are equal.” Simply put, it’s a betwixt and between stage of a rite of passage where creative possibilities abound. Hasn’t Johnston been your liminal zone?

Because you made your education here, I asked you to help make this speech today through telling me the texts that proved transformative for each of you. Let’s see what your remembering can tell us. Your initiation began with a remarkable circle of storytelling at the Prospect Park Carriage House, although back on complex you experienced exclusion when community elders regaled you with tales of the golden
ages long gone that you had missed. You responded by forming a strong community amongst yourselves, becoming one of the most loving and supportive Johnston classes in recent memory. And you welcomed numerous internal transfers and other outsiders who joined their Redlands journey to yours. In this you are like that tripmaster monkey; reconstituting Johnston community in a new form.

And, like that imagined theater the monkey made in Maxine Hong Kingston’s novel, you engaged diverse, contested, dramatic, compassionate, intense and performative reading, writing, activist and social communities in and outside your classes. Philosophers and theorists, scholars and poets inspired your work. You thank Martin Heidegger for teaching you about the power of media and socialization; you acknowledge Foucault’s History of Sexuality for inspiring a love of theory; and Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton’s American Apartheid because it brought “together your interest in spatial thinking and racial justice.” You even praise a textbook—Paula S. Rotheberg’s Race, Class and Gender in the United States—because it provided a turning point in your education. The French Lit.’s Woman taught you reconsider how the novelist tells a story “that is all imagination… …a genuinely created world that is independent of its creator.” Scott McCloud’s validation of comic books proved the social, artistic and cultural power of sequential art, and the X Files suggested that the “truth is out there.” You declared the “second line” to Buddy Bolden and then came Through Slaughter, and you ascended Thomas Mann’s The Magic Mountain in all that lovely falling snow.

The transformational power of some texts you chose cannot be separated from the classes in which you encountered them, and in some cases, taught them yourselves. For example, The Alchemist in “Wandering Literature,” which made one of you “realize that just because something has almost no chance of happening doesn’t mean you shouldn’t go after it if that is really what you want.” Or this, from Scott Mc Cloud’s Understanding Comics, a book that illustrates how this genre of sequential art provides “the way we assert our identities as individuals and break out of the narrow roles nature casts us in.” What you describe as the “simultaneous beauty and concise horrors” of the novel The Life and Times of Michael K, brought one of you into a seminar on its author J.M. Coetzee. From there you went to South Africa, and ultimately, with several of your colleagues, to the “beauty and concise horror” of the San Bernardino Juvenile Hall.

Several of you mapped the legendary May Term exploration of James Joyce’s Ulysses; now that book forever haunts your reading. Of course texts speak constantly to other texts, especially in Johnston, where our interdisciplinary foundations generate multiplicities of song and story. So the Odyssey appeared also via Gandolf’s voice, and in Christa Wolf’s remarkable Cassandra, from which you learned: “The smiling vital, self-sustaining, empathic, third alternative. If there is any lesson I hope to not only know, but live, it is this one.”

You are spiritual seekers, also, following the Lost Art of Compassion and cel-

embrating the “archaic revival” called forth by Food of the Gods. You echo the stoic resilience in Rudyard Kipling’s poetry, and also tell me that a very different poet—Paul Zaryzski—changed your life. From Caroline Adams, you treasure this promise: “Your life is a sacred journey. And it is about change, growth, discovery, movement, transformation, continuously expanding your vision of what is possible, stretching your soul, learning to see clearly and deeply, listening to your intuition, taking courageous challenges at every step along the way.” You accomplished some remarkable collective transformations of a different order as well, through shenanigans where you cemented the rock, romanced the rock, and attacked the rock costumed as red corn syrup draped Zombies. And you rocked on with “So What?” by Pink, “Boats” by Kenny Chesney, and “Mind Chaos” by Hockey.

What is the value in this listing, this remembering of the stories you’ve shared with me? Well, first, you demonstrate readiness for the reincorporation beyond this liminal zone. You can explain why your education mattered. You were paying attention, making the texts your own, making them valuable in your lives and the lives around you. The texts also attest to your unity in difference. No two of you are alike, no two journeys here can be framed with tiresome homilies and reductive lists of advice that commencement speakers often give to graduates. I could iterate all the grave challenges that await you, all the troubles of the world, and then underscore your responsibility to address some of them, but I don’t need to. I already know how you made this complex world through your openness to what the texts could teach, and through the generosity with which you affirmed possibilities for each other, and for our living learning community.

Johnston’s distinctive education can be described many ways, but I want to single out one that I learned from Director Emeritus, Yasuyuki Owada. In our rite of passage, we ask you to accomplish something that is very difficult in American culture; we ask you to design a highly individualized, even idiosyncratic education in Johnston—this is the exciting and attractive part—but we expect you to do so in a very difficult setting, through an intentional community. American culture and society celebrates the independence of the first part, it does not generally privilege the second. But you have proved yourselves to be extremely good at this combination—no one is perfect at it—and so I have enormous hope for the future thanks to you. You will keep dancing this border dance as you reincorporate to the world beyond. We will all be the better for that.

Eric Wong

Emphasis: Creative Writing and Sequential Art

Suzanne Joy Burdman

Emphasis: Globalization & Race and Ethnic Studies
Emphasis: Social Advocacy and Environmental Justice
Jessica Closson

Emphasis: Criminal Psychology and Sociology
Kelianne Marie Montalvo

Emphasis: Literary and Theoretical Studies
Isaac Hoft

Emphasis: Holistic Studies and The Sonic Arts
Alexandra M. Rodriguez

Emphasis: Urban Sociology and Community Study
Annastasia Kaessner

Emphasis: Eco-Gastronomy and Holistic Health
Jake I. Rogers

Emphasis: Business & Politics, Film & Activism
Sarah Kate Wemple

Emphasis: Media Sociology and Communications
Myranda Hunter

Emphasis: Literary Frameworks: Text and Context
Katie S. Handler

Emphasis: Aesthetics, Studio Art and Gender Studies
Jake Aaron Ziering

Emphasis: Global Language, Media and Communication
Ryan Matthew Glidden

Emphasis: Mathematics and Spanish: Speaking the Languages
Alexis Renee Clore

Emphasis: Public Relations: The Art of Fashionable Promotion
Christopher M. Suzuki

Emphasis: Exploring Culture Through Religion and Theatre Arts
Justin England

Emphasis: Costume Design: History, Theory, Praxis
Michaela Harrison Petrovich

Emphasis: Creative Writing in Multiple Media
Christopher William Rosenberg

Emphasis: Philosophy and French Language
Steven M. Warech

Emphasis: Marketing, Business, and the Social Sciences
Saman Khazani

Emphasis: Frames of Identity: Writing, Culture, and Art
Amy Lynn Bowinski

Emphasis: Intra-personal Reflection and Interpersonal Relations
Mary Mitchell Stewart

Emphasis: Ecopsychology: Exploring Dimensions of Psyche and Earth
Sara Beth Joern

Emphasis: Call and Response: Multiple Voices for Social Change
Michelle Nichole Deyden

Emphasis: Visual Culture: Designing and Understanding Media
Christopher Sam Young

Emphasis: Outdoor Education
Carolyn French

Emphasis: Marine Governance
Alexandra Renee Babcock

Emphasis: The Art of Storytelling
Kathleen Sheard McCarthy

Emphasis: Sustainable Development
Justin England

Emphasis: Exploring Culture Through Religion and Theatre Arts
Lindsey Anne Howes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Emphasis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liam Armstrong Neal Norris</td>
<td>Emphasis: Quantitative Reasoning, Modeling, and Applications in the Natural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drea E. Bustamante</td>
<td>Emphasis: Bars to Bridges: The Connectivity of Intrapersonal, Societal and Environmental Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Ann Irelan</td>
<td>Emphasis: From the Visual to the Sartorial: Exploring Art and Costume through History and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristin M. Smith</td>
<td>Emphasis: Creating and Conserving Narrative Spaces: Race and Ethnic Studies, Urban Planning, and Non-Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Steven Harrow</td>
<td>Emphasis: Music Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bretton Bartlett Serrell</td>
<td>Emphasis: Creativity in Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatianni Marie Gagner</td>
<td>Emphasis: Poetry and Visual Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmett Martin Joseph</td>
<td>Emphasis: American Voice and Meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Nicholas Spar</td>
<td>Emphasis: Economics and Non-Fiction Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Elizabeth Brown</td>
<td>Emphasis: Animal Rights and Environmental Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callie Jane Spradley</td>
<td>Emphasis: Arts Administration: Sustaining the Arts in the 21st Century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah Morgan-Trostle</td>
<td>Emphasis: Depth of Field: A Coalescence of Visual and Literary Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Hansen</td>
<td>Emphasis: Creating the Ultimate Athlete: the Mind/Body Connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Aaron Irving</td>
<td>Emphasis: Non-Fiction Writing with an Emphasis on Journalism and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison McLean Hogan</td>
<td>Emphasis: Individual and Community Sustainability Within the Modern Marketplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristen E. Jacobson</td>
<td>Emphasis: Voices from the Margins: Teaching Social Justice through the Written Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine Gorman</td>
<td>Emphasis: Examining Contradictions: Gender and Sexuality in Art History and Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Lorraine Carllock</td>
<td>Emphasis: Why Art?: An Examination of the Societal Importance of Creativity as Expressed through Image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barclay Mason Woodbury</td>
<td>Emphasis: Giving the Past a Voice: Bringing the Ancient World to Life in a Modern Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callie Jane Spradley</td>
<td>Emphasis: Engaging Our Narrative Processes: Critical Consciousness, Resistance, Ubuntu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Faculty Summer Reading...

**Ben Aronson (Biology):** A High Wind in Jamaica by Richard Hughes and The Bridge Over the River Kwai by Pierre Boulle.

**Karen Derris (Religion):** Grace Shireson, Zen Women: Beyond Tea Ladies, Iron Maidens, and Macho Masters; Tariq Ramadan, What I Believe

**Kelly Hankin (Johnston Director):** That latest Sarah Waters’ novel The Little Stranger and Geraldine Brooks’ March.

**Daniel Kiefer (English):** First I saw a fine documentary, Man on Wire, about Philip Petit’s amazing illegal feat, rigging steel cable between the World Trade Center towers on August 7, 1974, and frolicking back and forth. Then I read a fine novel by Colum McCann, Let the Great World Spin, telling strangely interconnected stories of that day. His writing is vibrant, his characters richly varied, and the cumulative effect is a kind of elegy for the destruction of 9/11.

**Bill McDonald (Retired! Finally!):** I read about 20, but I’ll choose Roberto Bolaño, 2666, Hilary Mantel, Wolf Hall and the first of the seven Proust novels, Swann’s Way.

**Kathy Ogren (History/Johnston):** A Mercy by Toni Morrison; Thirteen Moons by Charles Frazier, and On Space by Doreen Massey.

**Kevin O’Neill (Philosophy):** My reading this summer has been wide-ranging and even a little bizarre in its eclectic range. I have been reading the New Republic, the Nation, Times Literary Supplement, London Review of Books, and a variety of tech blogs/zines such as Lifehacker and Mashable and TechCrunch regularly; my book reading has focused on The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer, Suite Francaise by Irene Nemirovsky. (Both highly recommended; very different takes on the Jewish experience in World War II), The Wordy Shipmates by Sarah Vowell (I love everything she does), 1864: Lincoln at the Gates of History by Charles Bracelen Flood, Practicing Catholic by James Carroll, Kierkegaard: A Biography by Alastair Hannay, Twentieth Century Catholic Theology by Fergus Kerr, and some careful re-reading of one of my favorite thinkers, Gillian Rose -- Mourning Becomes Law and The Broken Middle, both difficult, brilliant studies of the relationship between law and history. I have also begun gnawing at the edges of John Henry Newman, whom James Joyce cited as the greatest master of English prose! And of course I am re-reading Kierkegaard and the pragmatists for my courses, and assorted unnamed because title-unremembered British and American mystery books.

**Alisa Slaughter (Creative Writing):** Poems: The Russian Version, by Elena Fa- nailova; Super Sad True Love Story, by Gary Shteyngart.

Julie Townsend (Interdisciplinary Humanities, Johnston): Rachilde’s La Jongleuse and Monsieur Venus (both French Decadent novels from the 1890s).

Patricia Wasielewski (Sociology/Anthropology, Women’s Studies, Latin American Studies): Among the books I have read this summer are Bleeding Kansas by Sara Paretsky, a contemporary novel with connections to Kansas’ role in the abolition movement, and Daphne, a fictionalized version of Daphne Du Maurier’s life woven into the angst of a literature grad student. Then, of course I had to go back and read Du Maurier’s Rebecca.


Submit to the Coz: Have a story you want to submit to the Coz? We’re looking for stories for the following features: “On this day in Johnston history” and “Where are they now?” We’re also looking for ideas for regular features. Send all submissions and ideas to Kelly_hankin@redlands.edu.

Please email Kelly_hankin@redlands.edu if you would prefer to receive hard copies of future issues of the Coz McNooz.