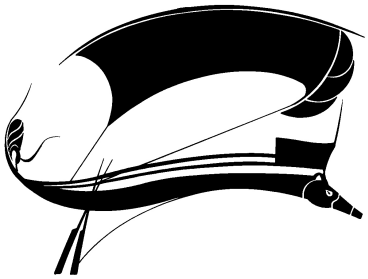
The 35nd Annual Conference of the Sport Literature Association



University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS
June 20-23

Conference Proceedings Edited by Kasey Symons

Wednesday June 20

Conference Welcome

Phil Wedge (University of Kansas), Host
Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Interim Director of the Hall Center for the Humanities
Angie Abdou (Athabasca University), SLA Program Chair

Panel I: Soccer

Chair: Joyce Duncan, East Tennessee State University

Tim Morris (Univ. of Texas-Arlington) email: tmorris@uta.edu
'Soccer in the Novels of Amara Lakhous'

Amara Lakhous (b. 1970) burst onto the Italian literary scene in the 21st century with a series of semi-satiric, semi-political novels, each set in a different neighborhood of Rome or Turin. A multicultural cast of characters in each of these novels - Clash of Civilizations over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio, Divorce Islamic Style in the Via Marconi, Dispute over a Very Italian Piglet in San Salvario, and The Prank of the Good Little Virgin of Via Ormea - explore the nature of national identity, the problems of migration, and the defining elements of culture.
Football in particular becomes a reference point, with supporters of the major Italian clubs conducting skirmishes over the sport throughout. (Even the piglet in Dispute wears a Juventus scarf.) Lakhous

has defined his approach to fiction as "total literature," a phrase modeled on the "total football" approach made popular by the Dutch national team in the late 20th century. He, like many of his characters, finds nothing worse than "catenaccio" - the Italian style of defensive football that blocks progress and limits possibilities.

Joel Sronce (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) email: joel.sronce@gmail.com

'In Defense of the Game: An Exploration of Politics and Sport in Eduardo Galeano's *Soccer in Sun and Shadow'*

In a short chapter titled "In Defense of the Word" — a conclusion to his book Days And Nights of Love and War — Eduardo Galeano observes,

One writes out of a need to communicate and to commune with others, to denounce that which gives pain and to share that which gives happiness. One writes against one's solitude and against the solitude of others. One assumes that literature transmits knowledge and affects the behavior and language of those who read, thus helping us to know ourselves better and to save ourselves collectively.

The desire to engage in sports — specifically in soccer, a game dear to Galeano — originates from much of the same necessities. One plays or observes sports out of a need to communicate and to commune with others. She may partake to transcend a sense of pain or loss or tedium, or simply to share the happiness of what Galeano calls a feast for the eyes and joy for the body. Certainly, one might engage in sports against her own solitude and the solitude of others.

Yet if we are to assume that sports, like literature, transmit knowledge and affect the behavior and even the language of those who take part in them, can sports, too, help us know ourselves better and save ourselves collectively?

Galeano's political convictions and his enormous contributions to the struggle for a better world reveal what the Uruguayan author means by saving ourselves collectively. In that context, this paper analyzes his book Soccer in Sun and Shadow — a celebration of the sport's lights, a denunciation of its darkness — in order to demonstrate how the historical and political angles through which Galeano approaches the beautiful game are synonymous with the convictions that justify an urgent fight for change and salvation.

Brian Daldorph (University of Kansas) email: briandal@ku.edu
‘Heading into Trouble: The Risk of Brain Injury in English Football’

More and more attention is being given to issues concerning brain injury for American football players, including the high numbers of CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) cases in ex-players. Studies suggest a strong correlation between the physical impacts in the game and brain injury. Less publicized until recently but also of significant scope are reports of the head trauma in English football, soccer, caused by “heading,” hitting the ball with the head (often a ball traveling at considerable velocity), and by head collisions in the game.

Studies have shown the impact on Premier League players in England of repeated “heading,” indicating a possible connection between this aspect of the game and the early onset of Alzheimer’s and dementia.

As a boy who grew up playing football in England, then played regularly into my 20s, this new research is of particular interest to me. I remember watching some of the players now affected: like West Bromwich Albion center forward Jeff Astle, for example, a widely-admired footballer most famous for scoring the winning goal in the FA Cup Final. He died in 2002 after years of worsening dementia.

The lightweight, synthetic modern footballs are nothing like the footballs I played with in the 60s and 70s: heavy leather footballs with a bladder inside and a lace. I remember how the ball would turn into a soggy pudding in the rain, and players would routinely “head” the ball when it dropped out of the sky from a goalie’s kick out. How much damage was done before we were even aware there might be a problem?

Later in life, in the 2000s, I watched local football with my mother, the ball dropping out of the sky and the tall center forward jumping to flick the ball on to his teammates, this tactic repeated over and over in the game, ten times, fifteen times, how many? What damage was this repeated trauma doing to the player’s brain? Was he even aware of the risk?

The Premier League, as with the NFL, has been loath to bring attention to this aspect of the game that detracts from the game’s glamor, but as the first Premier League players age and research continues, it’s likely that the issue will be more and more prominent.

Should young children be kept from heading because of dangers to the brain? How much heading is too much? Should the Premier League spend some of its wealth on players damaged in this way by the game they played?

This topic combines my interest in sport and mental illness, especially Alzheimer’s and dementia, a topic I wrote about in my recent collection of poetry, *Ice Age* (Irrupciones Press, 2017).

Panel II: Baseball, first inning
Chair: Don Johnson, East Tennessee State University

Emily Rutter (Ball State University) email: errutter@bsu.edu
'Conjuring the Ghost of Moses Fleetwood Walker in Adam Mansbach's *Angry Black White Boy or, The Miscegenation of Macon Detornay'*

Sixty-three years before Jackie Robinson started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers, Moses Fleetwood ("Fleet") Walker spent the 1884 season catching for the Toledo Blue Stockings, a team that had recently entered into the Major Leagues as part of the American Association. After his subsequent white-engineered exile from baseball, Walker published Our Home Colony: A Treatise on the Past, Present and Future of the Negro Race in America (1908), which is one of the earliest and perhaps the most provocative entries in the considerable catalogue of black athletes' acts of sociopolitical resistance. Despite these significant claims to fame, Walker remains an underexplored figure. Adam Mansbach's novel Angry Black White Boy or, The Miscegenation of Macon Detornay (2005) steps into this breach, conjuring Walker's ghost and recasting his often painful experiences through a fictionalized autobiography. The proposed paper will argue that Angry Black White Boy plumbs an emotional and psychological archive that remains crucial to confronting historical injustices within and beyond the national pastime. Drawing on Avery Gordon's theory of haunting, the essay will likewise suggest that the racial scapegoating Walker endured during the postbellum era continues to trouble America's sporting landscape, further underscoring the importance both of Mansbach's novel and of recognizing the lessons that Walker's experiences impart for our own time.

Richard Black (Northwest Missouri State University) email: rblack@nwmissouri.edu
'"For as their stocks increased and the increase vendible:" Eric Rolfe Greenberg's Baseball Jeremiad in *The Celebrant'*

William Bradford's Of Plymouth Plantation is the earliest and best-known example of the American Jeremiad. His narrative climaxes in Chapter 32, wherein he laments the perceived dissolution of a unified Puritan society in New England. Of the Plymouth colonists' increased material wealth and success, Bradford writes: "for now as their stocks increased, and the increase vendible, there was no longer any holding them together, but now they must of necessity go to their great lots." Bradford thus fears that this increase of wealth and commodity in the colony will be "the ruin of New England."

This essay examines Eric Rolfe Greenberg's 1983 novel The Celebrant as another entry in the pantheon of American jeremiads. I explore the novel's treatment of family, community, and baseball in terms of the pattern of the jeremiad, first addressing the Kapinsky/Kapp family's emigration to the United States as reflective of the myth of America as a New Zion identified by Perry Miller, and how its successive generations begin to "forget or reject the piety of the first settlers and their dreams of a perfect community" (Ruland and Bradbury, From Puritanism to Postmodernism 11-12). The narrative, as related through Jackie Kapp and charting his relationship with the "Christian Gentleman" pitcher Christy Mathewson and the game of baseball generally, reflects an anguished call for a return to the purity of earlier times as well as a "recurrent conflict between the ideal

and the real, the Utopian and the actual, the intentional and the accidental, the mythic and the diurnal" which defines the legacy of the Puritan imagination. (Ruland and Bradbury 11-22)

Scott Peterson (University of Missouri-St. Louis) email: Scott.Palmieri@jwu.edu
'The Busher in Reel Time: The Baseball Fiction of Nunnally Johnson'

Between 1923 and 1939, journalist turned fiction writer Nunnally Johnson published 67 short stories, with 59 of them appearing in the Saturday Evening Post. Just three of those stories took baseball as their primary subject. In 1932, Johnson left New York City and moved to Hollywood, where he worked in Hollywood for the next 21 years on The Grapes of Wrath (as a screenwriter) and The Three Faces of Eve (as a producer/director) and a number of other well-known films.

My paper will examine Johnson's three baseball-themed stories "The Rollicking God" (1924), "The Private Life of Dixie Flash" (1928), and "No Hits, No Runs, One Error"(1931) and seek to answer the following research questions: 1) What evidence of Johnson's transformation to a successful screenwriter is present in the stories? 2) Why did Johnson write only three baseball stories? and 3) What baseball short fiction conventions, including the Big Game, the Bildungs narrative, and the Busher figure, did Johnson employ in the three stories and how did he use those conventions?

Panel III: Running

Chair: Kyle Belanger, Springfield College

Robert Wallace (Independent Scholar) email: bwallace@nc.rr.com
'Class Struggle in the Novels *Brewster, Running the Rift,* and *The Kite Runner'*

Running, as opposed to most sports, has an egalitarian inclination. A decent pair of running shoes is pretty much all that is required, whereas in many, if not all other sports, cost is often a barrier to participation. Running, as well, is also something that comes naturally—it is done at an early age as children during play. So, at least in the beginning, running carries a for-all-to-participate moniker. In addition, (albeit low probability) running has the potential for bringing those that have talent out of poverty. Perhaps that is why running stories are often struggles whereby protagonists are trying to lift their existence out of lower socio-economic status.

In this critical study, this presentation will discuss the contemporary novels Brewster, Running the Rift, and The Kite Runner as examples of how the sport of running has been used in the class struggle to move ahead in life. All three novels, in addition, exist in worlds of extreme brutality and it is in these environments, which are central to the stories, and inform the narratives, the central characters come of age. Although the authors Mark Slouka, Naomi Benaron, and Khaled Hosseini, respectively, set their novels in vastly different places in the world, running, and the hope that it gives, provides the dream for a better life. Consideration will be given to how these narratives influence our critical understanding of the sport of running and what obligations the sport may have towards the people whose stories they tell.

Myles Schrag (Northern Arizona University) email: mylesschrag@yahoo.com
'An Innocent African-American Abroad: Ron Davis and the Origins of an Un-Twainish Pilgrim's Progress from Revolutionary San Jose State to revolutionary Africa'

This paper chronicles the first trip to Africa of Ron Davis. In 1964—two years after he captained the first racially integrated NCAA national cross-country champion at San Jose State University and months after he competed in the US Olympic Trials—Davis took part in an athletic goodwill tour of eight countries. It provided his first international exposure in a nearly 50-year coaching career that would take him to all corners of the motherland, training Olympic medallists, experiencing radical politics and gaining an appreciation for African cultures and challenges that displayed a stark contrast to the racism of his American homeland. The paper is a chapter in progress of Davis' memoir; the paper's author is providing editorial support for it.

The title is of course a play on Mark Twain's famed travelogue in which he visits Europe, North Africa, and the Holy Land with fellow Americans of privilege in 1867. A full century later, Davis provides an illuminating alternative to Twain's American eye on the world. While the paper's primary emphasis will be on Davis' 1964 trip and how it set the stage for his coaching career and political awakening that followed, the comparison with Twain provides a literary backdrop that reminds us how views of other cultures are always tempered by our own stories.

In his initial adventure, Davis and teammates were panelists asked by an Algerian student why the African-American athletes were called "Negroes" before the Olympic Games, "Americans" during the Olympics, and "Negroes" again afterward. In the era of Trumpism and Black Lives Matter, amid growing political awareness among pro and college athletes and the pending golden anniversary of the John Carlos/Tommie Smith Mexico City protest, that question is as relevant as ever.

Panel IV: Baseball, second inning
Chair: Cory Willard, University of Nebraska

Joseph Price (Whittier College) email: jprice@whittier.edu
Perfect Pitch: The National Anthem for the National Pastime

Inspired by the accounts of their adventurous baseball journeys and experienced as a performer of "The Star-Spangled Banner" (having sung the anthem for more than 30 Major League games in twenty ballparks), I devised an expansive project to highlight the intertwining of the national anthem with the national pastime. After receiving pre-approval from teams to be included among anthem soloists during the following season, I designed a tour to include more than 100 minor league ballgames in 40 states during the spring and summer of 2011. Throughout the 28000-mile journey I examined how baseball and the national anthem often bring folks together. And like authors David Lamb (Stolen Season) and Ernest Green (The Diamonds of Dixie), I repeatedly observed how baseball parks and crowds at Minor League games reflect the character of their respective regions.

Appropriating insights from a range of travel narratives and works in American Studies and utilizing methods of visual sociology, I focus attention in this reading and presentation on a selection from my

recently published baseball memoir, Perfect Pitch: The National Anthem for the National Pastime (Mercer University Press, 2018). The presentation is illustrated with photographs (projected via PowerPoint slides or displayed on a poster) from the five-month tour.

Shawn Rubenfeld (University of Nebraska) email: shawnrubenfeld@gmail.com
'"Go Home Jews": Diaspora, Masculinity, and Redemption through Baseball in Bernard Malamud's *A New Life* and James Sturm's *The Golem's Mighty Swing'*

In this article, I use the myth of the American West as a frame to examine how east-coast Jews navigate Western places and how baseball serves as an opportunity for redemption while also being symbolic of the outsider and immigrant experience (after all, what is the goal of baseball but to reach home? That "search for home," alas, is fundamentally Jewish). Specifically, I examine Sy Levin's "travesty Western" in Malamud's *A New Life* alongside the journey made by The Stars of David, a travelling Jewish ballclub in Sturm's graphic novel, *The Golem's Mighty Swing*. Most of whom fail to assimilate into dominant society. Levin hides his Jewish identity but is ultimately outed by the denizens of his Western town. The Stars of David in Sturm's graphic novel proudly carry the symbolic weight of Jewish tradition on their uniforms and faces, but ultimately choose *not* to use their leverage as ballplayers to hide their Jewishness and become models for national identity and manhood. In the end, I argue that both texts interrogate the concept of the American West as a place of reinvention and personal freedom. In addition, I examine the construction of the Jewish American male identity in the twentieth century and begin exploring the challenging gender binary still apparent in today's Jewish diasporic texts.

Julie Merrell (University of Missouri-St. Louis) email: jmerrell@wustl.edu
'"Might It Be I?": Marianne Moore, Feminism, and Baseball'

Despite the poet Marianne Moore's origins in the modernist circles of New York in the 20s and 30s, she became increasingly famous towards the end of her career, appearing in popular magazines like Vogue and Harper's Magazine and shows like The Today Show. As Moore became a national celebrity, her public persona was increasingly linked with her interest in baseball. Yet, despite the recent revival in Moore scholarship, her interest in baseball, as both an aspect of her public persona and her poetry, is largely overlooked and unquestioned. Instead, it serves as a shorthand for painting Moore as an eccentric, elderly spinster. This thesis corrects this critical neglect by engaging with both Moore's public appearances and baseball writing in conversation with her larger trajectory as a critically-acclaimed poet. Moore's work on baseball not only challenges gendered expectations, but also adds complexity to understandings of Moore as an inaccessible, highbrow writer with no room for non-intellectual engagement with her work. Moore's baseball writing–most notably the poems "Hometown Piece for Messrs. Alston and Reese" and "Baseball and Writing"–should not be understood as distinct from the rest of her oeuvre, but gives us a new lens for examining the poet. This thesis draws out the treatment of race and diversity, the inherent feminist impulse, the nationalist implications, and, above all, the enjoyment of the sport central to Moore's baseball writing.

Panel V: Creative Session
Chair: Duncan Jamieson, Ashland University

Shelly Sanders (Abilene Christian University) email: mrw95v@acu.edu
'"Everything Goes Slow Motion": Living at the Intersection of Kwame Alexander, Joan Didion, and Andrew Luck'

In this creative non-fiction essay comprised of short vignettes, I aim to explore how seemingly unrelated texts, including the young adult basketball poetry of Kwame Alexander, a recent documentary about Joan Didion, and an online book club hosted by Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck all ask questions about language, movement and loss. These questions also help me to slow down in my own life as I consider the language and movement(s) of my son, who has started playing basketball at the same time as he has started asking questions about death.

Robert Wallace (Independent Scholar) email: bwallace@nc.rr.com
"What's It Like to Shit in Space" (fiction)

Michael Begnal (Ball State University) email: msbegnal@bsu.edu
"Baseball Poems/Baseball Images"

Jessica Conley (Virginia Commonwealth University)
"Podium Girl" and other Poems

Thursday June 21

Panel VI: Sport in the World
Chair: Joel Sronce, University of North Carolina

Dennis Gildea (Springfield College) email: dgildea@springfieldcollege.edu
'He Should Have Read the Book: Fiction, Fact, and Doping at the Sochi Games'

The men's 50-kilometer cross country ski race in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics was inside the final two kilometers with three Russians among the four leaders when Al Trautwig, calling the race for an American audience on NBC-TV, said, "When the Sochi Games were awarded, Vladimir Putin was told by the IOC (International Olympic Committee), `You have to clean up the sport'" of Nordic skiing. The reference was to the sport's long history of doping-enhanced performances, especially by Russians and former Eastern bloc athletes. Surging ahead on the final uphill of the race, Russians swept the 50K medals with Alexander Legkov taking gold. The result, Trautwig proclaimed enthusiastically, was

"legitimate and purely a Russian success." He probably meant to say a pure Russian success, but syntax aside, the medal sweep was anything but pure and Putin did anything but clean up the sport. Legkov and the Russian silver medalist were among fourteen Russian cross country skiers eventually suspended by the IOC for participating in a state-sponsored doping program at Sochi. This essay recounts the history of the Sochi doping problem and is also a close textual analysis of John Morton's 1998 novel A Medal of Honor, a work of fiction based on the fact of Russian doping at the 1992 Albertville Games. Morton's novel, I argue, all but foretells of the inevitability of doping at Sochi. Before he spoke, Trautwig should have read the book.

Noah Cohan (Washington University in St. Louis) email: ncohan@wustl.edu

The Stadium "Which Cut Off the Sun": The Midcentury University and Big Time Athletics in Howard Nemerov's *The Homecoming Game*

This paper examines Howard Nemerov's novel The Homecoming Game (1957) as an artistic consideration of the crisis of college sports in the mid-century moment. Better known for its own filmic adaptation, Tall Story (1960), starring Anthony Perkins and Jane Fonda, The Homecoming Game tells the story of Charles Osman, a history professor at a fictional college and a kind of proxy for Nemerov, who grapples with an athletics scandal involving a football star, Raymond Blent, who is also his student. Though contemporary discourse tends to frame the issue of NCAA corruption and the problems of amateurism—its beneficiaries, victims, and perpetuators—as of-the-moment, its tentacles stretch across the 20th century and well into the 19th. Nemerov's novel not only forces the contemporary reader to come to grips with how little has changed in the college sports landscape when it comes to the hypocrisy of enforced amateurism, it also asks such a reader to recognize the similarities between the conflicted, self-conscious roles the academic and athlete must play in appeasing the university's donor-driven power structure. Long before ESPN and multi-billion dollar contracts for "March Madness," capital drove the university, Nemerov demonstrates, and football players and faculty members are equally valuable, or disposable, to the degree that they serve the campus's business interests. Furthermore, the integrity of competition in the classroom and the stadium are equally easily compromised, no matter the best intentions of the participants.

Thomas Bauer (University of Limoges) email: thomas.bauer@unilim.fr

'From Maradona to Jude Law: Sport in Paolo Sorrentino's Movies

While sport is a popular theme for film producers, it is only too seldom studied by researchers. This is especially true when sport is not the central theme of the movie, only one of its narrative or decorative elements. Such is the case for Paolo Sorrentino. Although several studies have focused on his work (politics and the quest for power, loneliness and isolation, the flâneur in post-industrial society, sexism and of course the mafia), the theme of sport is nowhere to be found. This is surprising given the multiple references to sport that appear in his movies. Examples are many and varied, including the presence of footballer Antonio Pisapia (L'Uomo in più) and that of the surf instructor (Le Conseguenze dell'amore), the smashes of female volleyball players (L'Amico di famiglia) and fitness training of Giulio Andreotti pedaling on his exercise bike (Il Divo), as well as Cheyenne's winning service during a ping-pong match (This Must Be the Place) and the football jugglery of Ramona's

lover (La Grande Bellezza). We cannot help but notice them. Why does Paolo Sorrentino feel the need to refer to sport: fetishism, nostalgia or esthetics? Why does he moreover attach more importance to certain sports, in particular soccer? These questions and more invite us to identify the "constants" and "variables" of this theme, so as to highlight a strong element of his style.

Mark Noe (Pennsylvania College of Technology) email: markdnoe@comcast.net
The Ephemeral in Sport Literature: The Case of *All Sports Digest*

For fifteen or twenty years, from around 1960 through (to my knowledge, at least) the late 1970s, All Sports Digest was the necessary adjunct to table sports games. More than a fanzine, produced by a marketer of several major table game companies, the small monthly newssheet, usually ranging from 8 to 16 pages, was a source for advice, player ratings, game rule clarifications, commentary, and even participant experiences. While chat rooms may serve some of those purposes in today's gaming world—a world of which I claim no knowledge whatever—no entity could probably come close in the breadth and usefulness of ASD to the analog gamer

Panel VII: Boxing, Round I
Chair: Phil Wedge, University of Kansas

Matthew Tettleton (University of Colorado)
'"The Part about Fate": Boxing, Femicide, and Surveillance in Roberto Bolaño's *2666'*

Roberto Bolaño's 2666 is an audacious, sprawling novel which interacts with the world of sport only obliquely. Yet the novel's crucial middle book, "The Part about Fate," uses a sporting event as a narrative device to drive the entire work towards a reckoning with acts of sexual and gendered violence in Mexico—acts which Bolaño links to neoliberalism, globalization, and the broader context of Western modernity's plundering of the global south.

How do sporting events make visible the concealed social structures that tell us to conduct surveillance on black, brown, and women's bodies but never grant them social visibility? How do these same events condition the way we watch these bodies? What are the limits of social visibility when it is selectively granted and withheld?

My essay argues that "The Part about Fate" relies on a sporting event (a boxing match) to direct the novel's narrative gaze to the real-world rape and murder of hundreds of women in Ciudad Juarez—fictionalized by Bolaño as Santa Teresa—and that this narrative gaze tells us much about the relationship between globalization, race, gender, and surveillance. Because the event is a boxing match, Bolaño invokes boxing's legacy in the Civil Rights movement, and specifically the role the black press played in bringing to light Jack Johnson's exile and arrest caused by racist fears of miscegenation. Yet Oscar Fate, Bolaño's reporter for a black magazine in the novel, fails to bring the same attention to the plight of the murdered women in Santa Teresa.

Adrian Markle (University of Exeter) email: am927@exeter.ac.uk
'Hanging Them Up: Depictions of Retirement and Death in Boxing Literature'

This paper examines the relatively neglected subject of depictions of retirement in boxing literature, which is almost exclusively negative, though sometimes inexplicitly so. This examination includes characters who choose to retire, who are forced to retire, and those that occupy a liminal space between competition and retirement (the training partner, the comeback fighter). It will highlight patterns in the depiction of "former" fighters that include: Characters disappearing from the fictive present almost immediately after their decision to retire, the total severing of all relationships with retiring fighters, mental and physical disability as the only significant carry-over in this new "life," and perhaps most importantly: death, which seems omnipresent in boxing literature, both among the fighters themselves and the characters who populate their lives.

It will also examine the possible relationship between this trend of retirement being associated (either literally or figuratively) with death and three somewhat unique aspects of boxing culture: that personal and professional aspects of fighter's identities are intertwined, that it is insular, and that is obsessed with the past.

This paper will focus primarily on mid-to-late-twenty-first-century American boxing literature, though pugilists have been getting short-shrift in literature as far back as Homer and Virgil.

Panel VIII: Boxing, Round 2
Chair: Angie Abdou, Athabasca University

Michele Schiavone (Marshall University) email: schiavon@marshall.edu
'Jack Johnson, Arthur Cravan, and Antonia Logue's *Shadow-Box'*

Following my last few presentations on boxers in literature, especially Jack Johnson, I would like to give a presentation on a novel by Irish writer Antonia Logue entitled Shadow-Box (1999), which won the Irish Times Literature Prize for Fiction.

This book recounts the intertwined relationships of Jack Johnson, poet Arthur Cravan (the nephew by marriage of Oscar Wilde), and the modernist poet Mina Loy. Cravan, an unusual figure whose birth name was Fabian Lloyd, is often referred to as a Dadaist and the "first performance artist."

Apparently, Cravan and Johnson, who was in Europe eluding U.S. authorities, became friendly in Barcelona, and in 1916, they fought a lopsided, fixed match. (A bit of footage still exists.) When Mina Loy met Cravan, he was supposedly introduced to her as a "prizefighter who writes poetry." Afterward, Cravan and Loy married in Mexico, but Cravan disappeared a few years later and was presumed lost at sea. Neither his body nor the boat was found, which has fuelled speculation that he faked his death.

Most of Shadow-Box consists of imagined letters between Johnson and Loy, who reconnect in 1946. Johnson tells Mina the story of his career, including his famous bouts against Tommy Burns in Australia, Stanley Ketchel, and Jim Jeffries, the Great White Hope. Mina writes to Johnson about her

relationships with leading figures in the world of art and literature as well as her electrifying affair and marriage with Cravan, which produced a daughter, Fabienne. As the book goes on, we find out that Cravan is indeed alive. He writes to Johnson, begging him to set up some kind of reunion with the wife he abandoned. We also read a few pieces written by Fabienne.

Perhaps Antonia Logue became interested in this story because of the connection with Oscar Wilde. My interest began with Jack Johnson and how he is used as characters in novels and other forms of literature. But increasingly it is Cravan who piques my interest. I have found other works based on these events: a graphic novel by Mike Richardson and a Catalan documentary about the Barcelona boxing match. The graphic novel ends by proposing that Cravan, who enjoyed changing his name and playing with his identity, surfaced later as the mysterious writer B. Traven, who wrote The Treasure of the Sierra Madre.

I hope to talk about the history behind the novel, how the novel imagines these historic figures, and the continuing need to mythologize Arthur Cravan and Jack Johnson.

Daniel Taradash (New Mexico Holocaust and Intolerance Museum)
email: danieltaradash@gmail.com
‘“A Champion in Any Other Era”: Jerry Quarry and the Death of the Great White Hope in Heavyweight Boxing’

Following two failed attempts at the heavyweight championship of the world, journeyman fighter “Irish” Jerry Quarry began a gradual fade from boxing relevance throughout the 1970s, until he was largely forgotten by all but the most dedicated fight fans by the 1980s. Yet during his prime in the 1960s and early 1970s, Quarry’s presence as the lone White heavyweight contender in a division dominated by Black fighters took on special cultural, social and political meanings as his journey unfolded during the thick of the American civil rights movement. Cast as the “Great White Hope” by White his fans and journalists, Quarry consciously alternated between embracing a hyper masculine, “Irish” White identity, offering White fight fans the hope that the title and the prestige it held would be returned to its rightful owners, and recoiling from the label, attempting to downplay or eliminate the racial undertones that came to define much of his career. This paper will examine the primary and secondary sources and literature surrounding Quarry’s understanding, internalization, and use of the “Great White Hope” mystique in a boxing landscape dominated by Black fighters and a social landscape defined by the civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

Adrian Markle (University of Exeter) email: am927@exeter.ac.uk
‘Ring Lights Dim’ (boxing fiction)

Panel IX: Young Athletes
Chair: Matthew Tettleton, University of Colorado

Kyle Belanger (Springfield College) email: kbelanger2@springfieldcollege.edu
'When the Moon Comes: Paul Harbridge, Matt James, and the normalization of childhood sports as sublime'

Even in children's literature, sport and the pursuit of sport, is often framed by the quest to attain a quantifiable goal. However, the most common of these tropes (victory, making the team, etc.) do not accurately portray the entirety of the childhood sport experience—and certainly not mine.

For Paul Harbridge and Matt James, childhood sport is much more ethereal than those. It is about the cultivation of a dreamlike sublime en route to kinesthetic intelligence. In When the Moon Comes, a small group of children eagerly await a full moon following winter's first cold snap. The moon provides them the light needed for their first nighttime pond hockey game of the year.

It is what happens once the game begins that sets Harbridge and James apart. Completely without stated rules, and without a mention of a score, the game exists in a dreamlike state, even eschewing words on several of the pages on which it is portrayed. This paper will blend textual analysis with my personal burgeoning relationship with youth hockey, as I transition from a results-based athlete in my personal life to a father who is fully supportive of my 7-year-old son who sees his hockey career as a performative dreamlike pursuit.

Charmayne Mulligan (Davenport University) email: cmulligan@davenport.edu
'Sticks Up: A Look at the Portrayal of Girl's Lacrosse in Literature'

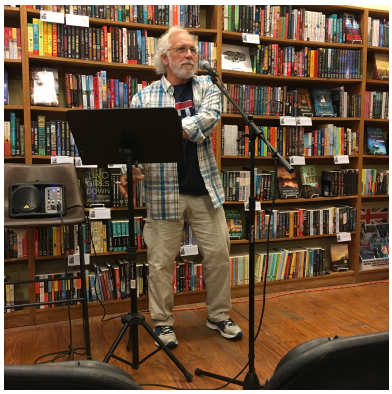
This presentation will examine the portrayal of girls lacrosse in young adult literature, work which is intended for young people aged 12-19. Contemporary young adult literature embraces the challenges of the modern adolescent including such topics as gender, racial, cultural, and ethnic identity; classicism; sexism; and societal issues such as divorce, suicide, poverty, bullying, peer pressure, eating disorders, drug and alcohol abuse and discrimination. In many cases, young adult literature functions as a "problem solver" for issues facing young people. Within these texts, adolescents can see themselves and their situations and find narratives of support for engaging with their worlds. Specifically, in sport literature for young adults, researchers have identified themes reflecting the ongoing challenges girls and women face in athletics despite increased access to and participation in sport. Some of the themes identified are "lone wolf" narratives in which female players, lacking access to a women's team, must participate in men's sports; "triumphant feminist tales" in which women's equal access to sport is reported as having been achieved; and "second rate" narratives which present women's sport as inferior to the men's equivalent. A review of existing literature on women in sport will identify the various ways in which women's sports and female athletes are depicted. This analysis will look at recently published texts (those since 2000) to reveal common portrayals of female lacrosse players and the sport to examine whether these texts mirror those themes identified in other types of young adult literature, including sport literature.

Angie Abdou (Athabasca University) email: aabdou@athabascau.ca
'Graham James: Where were the Parents? An excerpt from *Home Ice: Reflections of a Reluctant Hockey Mom'*

<u>Panel X: Creative Readings</u> (Raven Bookstore, 8 E. 7th St., Lawrence)
Moderator: Angie Abdou

Angie Abdou (Athabasca University)
Phil Wedge (University of Kansas)
Mark Noe (Pennsylvania College of Technology)
Shawn Rubenfeld (University of Nebraska)
Bruce Pratt (University of Maine)
Don Johnson (East Tennessee State University)





Friday June 22

Panel XI: Sport Stories
Chair: Julian M D'Arcy, University of Iceland

Fred Mason (University of New Brunswick) email: fmason@unb.ca
'"Knuckleballs, curves, and ghosts on deck": Chopping away at the Literature on Kinsella's *Shoeless Joe'*

This paper lays out the process that the author went through in writing a textbook chapter on W.P Kinsella's well-known novel Shoeless Joe. This novel is likely one of the most that has been written about in the area of sport literature, with critics taking a variety of approaches and focusing on different themes. The chapter's focus ultimately ended upon elements of fantasy and the heroic quest in the work, and Kinsella's use of metafictional techniques. This paper will discuss those aspects, but also highlight areas that others have productively explored that were left out in making such a choice. This will include how the novel fits in the genre of baseball writing, its relation to J.D. Salinger and Holden Caulfield, anti-corporate and nostalgic impulses, the pastoral landscape and the relationship between fathers and sons (and baseball).

Kasey Symons (Victoria University, Australia) – 2018 Lyle Olsen Prize Winner
email: kasey.symons@live.vu.edu.au
'Goodnight Stories for Female Sports Fans'

This paper draws on the tools of autoethnography (Smith & Dean, 2009, pg. 28 & Ellis, Adams & Bochner, 2010, pg.1) and studies of female sports fans to explore the question of how female sports fans read sports fiction that is written by women, particularly engaging with three texts based on Australian Rules football.

The three texts of sports fiction that I address in this paper are The Family Men, by Catherine Harris (2014), Game Day by Miriam Sved (2014) and The Whole of my World (2013) by Nicole Hayes and are the only fiction books published to date written by women about Australian Rules football for an adult audience. By illustrating my own experience of reading these works, as a self-identifying female Australian Rules football fan, an autoethnographical analysis will address how the tendency to identify with the male-led fan behaviours learned while inhabiting a fan space creates an unconscious gender bias (Blair and Banaji 1996, Kunda and Spencer 2003, Ridgeway, 2009). Thus, affecting how female fans of elite male sports experience other women in this environment. This is primarily exemplified by self-identifying female fans still considering women occupying the space as 'other'. And also by placing the same negative stereotypes upon women that they, as female fans, are also in a constant battle to defend (Pope 2012 & 2013, Jones, 2008, Mewett & Toffoletti 2011 & 2012). How do adult fans, particularly female fans, absorb and relate to how women are depicted in a modern sports literature that seeks to add women back into it? (Pope, 2012).

Panel XII: Baseball, third inning
Chair: Bruce Pratt, University of Maine

James Carothers (University of Kansas) email: jbc@ku.edu
'The Best Baseball Novels'

This paper seeks to identify some of the outstanding characteristics of baseball novels that continue to be worthy of our reading and re-reading beyond whatever immediate attention they may receive upon publication. The argument does not attempt to offer permanent settlement of the question: 'Which is, unquestionably, the best baseball novel ever published?' Rather, it considers elements of five of the better-known baseball novels to stimulate some discussion of why these titles continue to be read, and why few people have ever agreed on a single "best" baseball novel. The five novels are Ring Lardner's You Know Me Al (1916), Mark Harris's The Southpaw (1953), Robert Coover's The Universal Baseball Association, J. Henry Waugh, Prop. (1968), Philip Roth's The Great American Novel (1973), and Eric Rolfe Greenberg's The Celebrant, (1982). The paper treats each of these novels briefly to identify some of their presumable strengths as well as some of their presumed weaknesses. It then calls attention to the ways in which The Southpaw, a very early adult baseball novel, is seriously and playfully developed from the matrix of the baseball fiction that preceded it, and much of that which continues today. The Southpaw introduces the life and times of left-handed pitcher Henry Wiggen, the character who narrates four separate Harris books describing Henry's baseball career. Although The Southpaw is neither the best-known nor the most appreciated of the Harris tetralogy, it is, arguably, among the most sophisticated, humorous, and original baseball novels.

Andy Hazucha (Ottawa University) email: andy.hazucha@ottawa.edu
'The Subplot as A-Plot: The Function of Baseball in Yoko Ogawa's *The Housekeeper and the Professor'*

On February 9, 2009, both The New Yorker and Kirkus published reviews of Yoko Ogawa's The Housekeeper and the Professor, newly translated from the Japanese into English by Stephen Snyder. Neither review mentions baseball. Later that month, the New York Times published a review of Ogawa's novel which says rather dismissively, "One subplot revolves around the effort to take the professor out to a baseball game." Three months later The Guardian published a review of the book with this solitary reference to the game: "There is a subplot about baseball, which may excite American readers more than British ones." In review after review the topic of baseball is either left out of consideration or mentioned only in passing, as if the game plays no considerable role in the narrative.

What these reviewers seem to have in common is tone deafness to the centrality of baseball in the novel, for the relationship between the math professor and his housekeeper's son, Root, hinges on their joint experiences of rooting for the Hinshu Giants and attending a crucial game together during the 1992 pennant race. The events following that game, during which the professor shields the boy from a foul ball with his full body, are equally driven by baseball, as Root searches every antiquarian shop in

the city to find a rare Enatsu baseball card to give to the professor as a tangible emblem of their enduring friendship. Root's decision to present this premium card to the professor at his own birthday celebration is the final plot twist that allows the professor, forced into early retirement because of a debilitating brain injury, to center himself in a world that has lost its center. To echo the words of Reggie Jackson, then, baseball is the straw that stirs the drink in this graceful, poignant novel about damaged people and the passions that bind them.

Barbara Dinneen (Ottawa University) email: barbara.dinneen@ottawa.edu
'The Art of Precious: Harbach Grounds Out'

In September 2011, multiple reviews appeared in the publications that protect and promote our literary integrity. These reviews centered on Chad Harbach's much anticipated first novel, The Art of Fielding, though one would face real difficulty discerning a common focus if the reviewers did not explicitly state one. Wyatt Mason of the New Yorker tells us that the novel is "a story about fallibility," in which the characters "grapple with the disease of awakening into self." Gregory Cowles, of the New York Times, asserts that Harbach "makes the case for baseball, thrillingly," though he adds that the novel "isn't really a baseball novel at all." Michiko Kakutami (also in the New York Times) assures us that the book "zooms immediately into the pantheon of classics, alongside The Natural." And one B.R. Myers of The Atlantic counters with the observation: "Reading [Harbach's] novel through is like submitting to a long and almost imperceptibly light tickling."

These reviews bring to mind the three blind men and the elephant. To mix metaphors (as Harbach actually does quite freely), I decided to read the elephant myself, albeit with some trepidation. I like baseball novels—I like the ones that celebrate baseball with humor and pithy words and the aroma of hotdogs, and I like the ones that celebrate the soul of humanity by engaging baseball as metaphor. I like baseball novels that know who and what they are. Harbach's novel is not one of these. Harbach's novel is baseball-"ish," as I shall explain.

Panel XIII: Football and Fitness
Chair: Shelly Sanders, Abilene Christian University

Julian M D'Arcy (University of Iceland) email: jaydarcy@hi.is
'Ernest Hemingway, Football, and the Carlisle Indians'

Christian Messenger has claimed Hemingway did not like football and Hemingway himself once said he had no interest in the sport and never wrote a line about it. Some biographies and reminiscences, however, would suggest that Hemingway had far more interest in football than he claimed, and indeed there are football references scattered throughout his stories and novels; his sly reference to Kansas U football history in his story of a shell-shocked Krebs in "Soldier's Home" (In Our Times, 1925) is perhaps the most surprising. His novella Torrents of Spring (1927) is often considered a parody of Sherwood Anderson's Dark Laughter (1925), but a close reading of the text reveals intriguingly

subliminal references in which he disparages associations of the military with football, especially through an implied subversive swipe at Army's defeat on the gridiron by the Carlisle Indians in November 1912.

Travis G Zimpfer (University of Colorado) – **2018 Lyle Olsen Prize Runner-Up**
email: travis.zimpfer@colorado.edu
'"Creatures of Play": Football, Rules and Utopia in Jon Bois' *17776'*

This paper will use Jon Bois' online multimedia fiction project 17776 to illustrate the unhuman nature of gamification and the pitfalls of utopia and stagnation by examining a suppositive, immortal American nation obsessed with the sport of football. First, this essay will examine the process of rulemaking and the arbitrary creation of rules in17776 to explain the concept of metagaming. Metagaming is the alteration of behavior to optimize performance or play within a given ruleset. The sudden and unexpected advent of immortality and eternal youth in the future America of Bois' work serve as a massive paradigm shift that forces the human species to adopt wildly different laws, morals, and axioms that govern human behavior. Then, the essay will mark the dangers inherent in a society which has lost all ability for progress and how football and sport have become a substitute for the societal and biological evolution humanity now lacks. Football games have evolved and mutated instead of the human species, so gamification has become humanity's last resort for existence in a world where eternal survival has become a wrote, definite certainty. Finally, the essay will examine how the exaggerated gamification of society in Bois' work applies to the contemporary moment in regards to unhuman game making by emphasizing the possible instead of the moral or ethical. Gamesmanship and competition have become a way of how people relate to each other in a capitalist, winner-take all democratic society. In America, victory has become the core value rather than humanity, justice, and goodwill, and sport has infiltrated aspects of society where it does more harm than good.

Matthew Smalley (Fort Hays State University) email: mrsmalley3@fhsu.ed
'Mose Velsor, Walt Whitman, and an "Athletic and Fit Religion"'

In 1858, a little-known writer named Mose Velsor serially published "Manly Health and Training, With Off-Hand Hints Toward Their Conditions" in The New York Atlas. A sprawling, often-bizarre document of nineteenth-century America's physical culture, "Manly Health" celebrates baseball, rowing, prizefighting, weightlifting, walking, and a high-protein diet. In 2016, Zachary Turpin, a graduate student at the University of Huston, discovered that "Mose Velsor" functioned as a nom-de-plume for one of America's most significant authors—Walt Whitman. The little-known writer was, in fact, one of the most monumental figures of American literature. This startling discovery catalyzed a variety of critical responses that focus on how this revelation enables new visions of Whitman's use of personae, his politics, and his responsiveness to the scientific discourses of his moment. The critical response to this finding remains ongoing, and my paper contributes to this urgent effort by examining how Whitman's journalistic writing on sport and fitness enriches our understanding of his poetic project. Building on the work of David S. Reynolds, John Marsh, and Jason Frank, I read "Manly Health" in relation to the first two editions of Leaves of Grass and Whitman's Notebooks and Unpublished Prose Manuscripts. This presentation places "Manly Health" within the thick matrix of nineteenth-century physical culture and links Velsor's health-and-fitness manual to Whitman's

puzzling claim that, with Leaves, he intended to inaugurate an "athletic and fit religion." By treating seriously Whitman's newly-discovered writings on sport and fitness, I offer fresh insights into Whitman's career-defining aim of reimagining the body as a potent and porous site of intersubjective exchange, identity formation, and political & religious significance.

Saturday June 23

Panel XIV: Baseball, fourth inning
Chair: Scott Peterson, University of Missouri-St. Louis

William Bishop (Baker University)
'The Broadway Bombers: *Bronx Bombers* and the Emergence of a Multi-Media New York Yankee Brand'

Eric Simonson and Fran Kirmser's short-lived Broadway play Bronx Bombers (2014) brings to life the tumultuous 1977 New York Yankee season and Yogi Berra's attempt to reconcile its factions. Made in cooperation with and with an "endorsement of authenticity" from Major League Baseball and the Yankees, the play's signature scene is an imagined dream sequence of a dinner conversation between Yankee heroes from the past and present that vicariously puts legends from Babe Ruth to Derek Jeter in the same room. While much of the play seems to strive for contemporary realist drama, such emotionally-charged appeals to Yankee lore reveal its investment in celebrating and waxing poetic about the Yankee's victorious tradition as well.

As such, Bronx Bombers joins a number of other relatively recent cultural products with sanctioned ties to the Yankee organization that promote their storied legacy. Such texts suggest that the Yankees have adopted, more than any American sports franchise, a multi-media approach to presenting and selling itself to the public, establishing a Yankee "brand" in the marketplace and reasserting the team's status as an American cultural icon. This trend serves as the most recent evidence that the institution of American baseball has come to encompass much more than just the game itself.

Michael Morgan (Murray State University) email: mmorgan@murraystate.edu
'"The Colored Guy Got To Be Twice as Good:" Baseball, Race and Masculinity in August Wilson's *Fences'*

In this paper, I will examine the intersection of race and masculinity through an analysis of Troy Maxson, the protagonist in August Wilson's play about a retired Negro League baseball player. In the play, Troy lives and works in the predominantly black Hill District of Pittsburgh in the late 1950's. While baseball is not the central motif in the play, Wilson uses abundant baseball references as

symbols and metaphors. One such reference is imbedded within a dialogue between Troy and his son, Cory, as they are attempting to begin work constructing the fence Troy keeps talking about throughout the play. Cory says: "The Pirates won last night. That makes five in a row." Troy replies: "I ain't thinking about the Pirates. Got an all-white team." He then complains that Roberto Clemente (a black Latino) isn't getting a chance to play everyday, and says: "The colored guy got to be twice as good." The quote is an extended metaphor, suggesting that in baseball, and subsequently in American society, racism mandates that black people must be exceptional to succeed. I will assert in my paper that Fences illustrates how black men are forced to project themselves as hyper-masculinized in order to compensate for the "twice as good" qualification needed to succeed in baseball, and in life. While Troy's hyper-masculinity ultimately makes him a less sympathetic character, the reader develops empathy in part through the baseball references, which provide a symbolic language by which readers can assess race, and manhood, in light of socialization.

Ken Moon (Iowa Western Community College) email: kmoon@iwcc.edu

'Politics of Innocence: Major League Baseball's Attempt to Make Game "Kid Friendly" Through Its 2017 Little League Classic'

Major League Baseball's Little League Classic in late August 2017, televised on ESP, was an example of Major League Baseball's exploiting the childhood innocence associated with the backyard game by playing it at the Little League World Series. MLB having the Pirates play the Cardinals in the Phillies' double-A ballpark in Williamsport during Little League World Series wanted fans to think of big leaguers as nothing more than "big kids playing a little kid's game." I argue that the game was a sad disguise of MLB trying to manipulate adults and kids alike to think, one, that there is still a sense of innocence surrounding the basic game children play in backyards and rural fields despite the commercialism and politics that have seeped into youth baseball and all other youth sports programs today. Two, Major League's attempted marketing of the Classic to kids, here and around the world, was a staged charade given how the real marketing of the game on television and the actions of managers, players, and umpires on the field are often only appropriate for an adult audience.

Although I do not completely dismiss the average afternoon Major League game to be completely void of any idyllic, innocent qualities of childhood, I argue the Classic was too obvious in "selling" those qualities. Also, it white-washed much of the normal Major League experience—no entire teams shaking hands after games, or players/managers and umpires seldom or ever arguing, or the fans accessing players as the elite Little Leaguers did the Pirate/Cardinal players.

Panel XV: Fiction
Chair: Dennis Gildea, Springfield College

Shelly Sanders (Abilene Christian University)
Scott Peterson (University of Missouri-St. Louis)
'Sportopia— fiction joint reading'

Tom Averill (Washburn University) email: tom.averill@washburn.edu
"Extra Innings"—fiction reading

Scott Palmieri (Johnson & Wales University) email: Scott.Palmieri@jwu.edu
"Opening Day"—short story

Panel XVI: Sport Outdoors
Chair: Angie Abdou, Athabasca University

Cory Willard (University of Nebraska) email: coryglenwillard@gmail.com
'Glaciers, Embodiment, and the Sublime: An Introduction to Ecocriticism and Thomas Wharton's *Icefields'*

Icefields by Thomas Wharton tells a fictionalized account of the early exploration, settlement, and development of what would become known as Jasper National Park in Alberta, Canada. This area, north of the already established Banff National Park, is the stage where a number of important themes in Environmental Literature are able to play out. The novel involves a sense of history covering not only settlement by Metis and First Nations, but also of early European exploration and into deep time through Byrne's fascination with glaciology. Additionally, in Icefields, Wharton explores such important themes as embodiment, spiritual/ecological connection, and the commodification of the natural world. All of these themes are important to understanding the multiple ways the text functions as well as to those who study literature through the theoretical lens known as Ecocriticism.

While readers might not immediately think of Icefields or Ecocriticism as relevant to sport literature, mountain climbing, like most sports, is a rigorous, embodied physical endeavour. Like the boxer who comes to know physically the dimensions and angles of the ring without searching for them, or the tennis player who knows their stride and the measurements of the court as well as the ball's change in behaviour between clay and carpet or, perhaps most closely, the skier who adapts to the snow pack, the mountain's particular topography, and fluctuations in weather and temperature, the mountain climber develops a bodily connection to the environment of their sport

Mark Baumgartner (East Tennessee University) email: baumgartnerm@etsu.edu
‘End of an Endless Summer: Dave Hickey, Kem Nunn and the Troubling Aesthetics of Surf Noir’

The proposed conference presentation is a critical study on the rise and subsequent decline of American “cool” viewed through the sport of surfing. Few activities are more clearly associated with post-war America, yet by 1980 surfing had largely disappeared from the public consciousness, save for a few disparate artifacts: skate culture, Orange County surf punk, and the arrival of a new sub-genre of writing known as surf noir. The focus of this paper will be Kem Nunn’s 1984 classic, Tapping the Source, and its dark view of violence, sex, and California’s devolving surf culture. The novel was a National Book Award Finalist, and perhaps best known for its loose adaptation into the 1991 film Point Blank. Nunn’s work will be examined through the lens of art critic Dave Hickey’s ideas on the interplay between aesthetics and popular discourse. Hickey is author of Air Guitar: Essays on Art and Democracy and Perfect Wave, a MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, and one-time surfer. Of particular interest is the shift in reception of public spectacle in both art and sport at the close of the American twentieth century.

Duncan Jamieson (Ashland University) email: djamieso@ashland.edu
‘Frost on my Mustache’

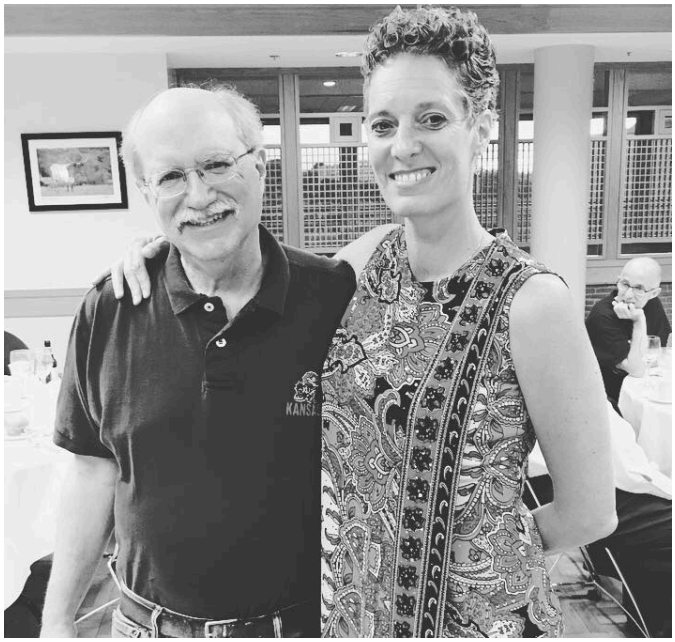
On March 5, 1946 President Harry Truman traveled to the small college town of Fulton, Missouri, home of Westminster College, to introduce Great Britain’s Leader of the Opposition, Winston Churchill, there to deliver his speech, “The Sinews of Peace.” In what became his most famous, and prophetic speeches he stated “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in many cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow.” Less than half a century later, in 1989, that iron curtain fell as the Soviet Union collapsed. Its remnant, however, continues to mark a clear divide slashing north to south across Europe, which is now memorialized as VELO 13, or The Iron Curtain Trail. The 6,800 kilometer bicycle route guides cyclists with an interest in history. One of those cyclists is Tim Moore, an English traveler writer and lecturer who in 2016 rode it on a 1970s twenty-inch vintage German shopping bicycle. The cyclist who went out in the cold recounts his adventure while it exposes the reader to history, geography, politics and an in some places unique environment. This paper discusses Moore’s latest addition to the genre of cycle travel literature.

<u>Panel XVII: Creative Work</u>
Chair: Mark Noe, Pennsylvania College

Nick Fox (Independent Scholar) email: Rugbyfox@yahoo.com
‘“Bus League”—short story’

Richard McGehee (University of Texas)
‘Translation of “Sleeping Idol” by Roberto Fontanarrosa’
~ Read by Phil Wedge in Richard’s absentia.

Closing remarks – Phil Wedge, Host (University of Kansas)



SLA Banquet

Introduction of banquet speaker, **Jim Carothers** (University of Kansas)
Banquet Speaker: **Bill James** (baseball author, Boston Red Sox Senior Advisor)



The 35nd Annual Conference of the Sport Literature Association

University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS
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