

## Staff Changes at the Hall Center

The Hall Center staff, in a state of transition over the past year, is finally nearing stasis. Our Interim Director, **Clarence Lang**, was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences after two semesters of exemplary leadership. In his place, pending the hire of a permanent Director, is new Interim Director **Marta Caminero-Santangelo**, Professor in the English Department and Director of the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies. She was born to Cuban immigrant parents in Canada, grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, earned her BA in English from Yale University and a PhD in English from UC-Irvine. Dr. Caminero-Santangelo taught in Chicago before coming to KU in 1997.

**Beth McSweeney** has joined the staff as our Event Specialist. She worked previously for the Spencer Museum of Art and KPR's Audio Reader Network while earning her BA from the Kress Foundation Department of Art History. Beth also managed programs, events and academic projects while providing administrative support to the Associate Deans for the KU School of Business. Having recently completed a master's in Art History from the University of Glasgow, Beth is excited to join the Hall Center team.

**Igor Ristic**, now an alumnus of the Department of Communication Studies, has been a great asset as our Graduate Research Development Specialist. He will be taking a faculty position at Oregon State University in the Fall. We welcome **Brett Bias**, graduate student in the KU History Department into the position. Brett is in the final stages of his PhD in History, studying Early Modern Spain, Religion, Gender & Sexuality. He earned his BA and MA in History from Cleveland State University. He is also an alumnus of the Hall Center's Applied Humanities Bootcamp (2017).

## The Inaugural Music & Humanities DMA Award

The University of Kansas School of Music and the Hall Center for the Humanities are collaborating to institute a competition for graduate students completing their doctorates in musical arts. The goal of these awards is to encourage students to practice presenting for a general audience and to engage faculty and graduate students across the University in interdisciplinary conversation on the intersection of musical performance and the humanities. Two students will be awarded the opportunity to perform their final DMA lecture-recitals for a public audience in the Hall Center's W. Clarke

Wescoe Conference Hall during the Spring Semester of 2019. Both winners will receive a cash award of \$200 in celebration of their achievements.

## The Unexpected Caribbean Symposium and *The Ties that Bind*



Art, literature, and culture of the Caribbean and its diasporas will take center stage in Fall 2018 with support from the Hall Center for the Humanities. The international Association of Caribbean Women Writers & Scholars (ACWWS), partnering with the University of Kansas' Institute of Haitian Studies and Center for Latin

American & Caribbean Studies, is hosting "The Unexpected Caribbean" symposium on October 18-20, 2018. The conference will offer Kansans the opportunity to explore the diversity of the Caribbean through a variety of lenses, including through the eyes of Lawrence's acclaimed native son, Langston Hughes. It will also allow visitors from around the nation to learn about and access KU's significant Caribbean resources—particularly the noteworthy art holdings and library collections on Haiti and its diasporas. Academic panels will be held in the Kansas Union. All events are free and open to the public.

The conference and its opening events will focus on the Spencer Museum of Art's exhibition *The Ties that Bind: Haiti, the United States, and the Art of Ulrick Jean-Pierre in Comparative Perspective*, which uses 20th-century Haitian art to explore themes of freedom and liberty, gender, migration, and religion. Featuring the work of Haitian-born, New Orleans-based contemporary painter Ulrick Jean-Pierre, the exhibition is supported by the Spencer's Integrated Arts Research Initiative (IARI) and will be accompanied by a variety of public programs, including opportunities to engage with Jean-Pierre while he is on campus from October 16-23 as the Fall 2018 IARI Creative Specialist. *The Ties that Bind* will be on view from September 8, through January 7, and like all Spencer Museum exhibitions is free and open to the public.