

From the Editor

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD WITH KATE

June 2022

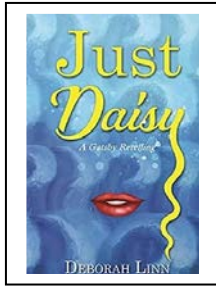
Dear Readers,

I hope your summer is off to a positive, productive, and/or relaxing start! This past year we experienced the return of in-person teaching and learning as we learned to live alongside COVID-19, including our beloved [KATE Fall Conference](#) on November 7-8, 2021. Thanks to the innovative and tireless efforts of conference co-chairs Erica Shook and Stacy Chestnut, we gathered joyfully in Wichita to learn from one another and from YA author [Samira Ahmed](#) and storyteller [Laura Packer](#). The 2021 Fall Conference theme was “Teacher as Artist: Reignite Your Creative Voice.”

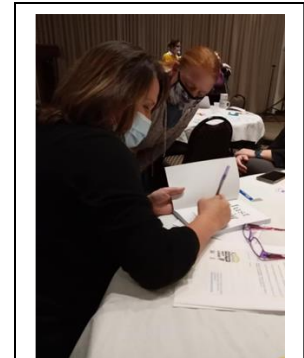


Clockwise from top left: 2021 KATE Conference co-chairs Erica Shook and Stacy Chestnut; conference attendees pose with their programs; attendees cheer “I made a mistake” during a general session activity led by Stacy Chestnut; attendees engage in artistic community-building activities during a general session. So much fun, creativity, and camaraderie!

I am delighted to publish this issue of *Kansas English*, which features a variety of pieces that will enlighten and inspire you, including pieces that highlight Kansas authors and English education scholars.



For example, James V. Jacobs reviews KATE's very own Deborah Linn's retelling of *The Great Gatsby*, *Just Daisy*, which was published in October 2021. Deborah is co-editor of the [KATE Blog](#) and a teacher in the Wichita area. You can learn about Deborah and read her blog at <https://keepingclassics.com/>, and enjoy her recent writing for *Kansas English*, including a reflective essay "[Dealing with Death in Life and Literature](#)" (2020) and a practitioner piece "[Fixing the Blank Page Fear: Essay and Story Starter Practice](#)" (2021).



Deborah Linn signs a copy of her book *Just Daisy* at the 2021 KATE Conference in Wichita.

In addition to this exciting book review, this issue also features a tribute to University of Kansas professor Dr. John "Jack" Bushman, a larger-than-life figure in English education. *Kansas English* YA Book Review Editor Dr. John Franklin spearheaded the effort to memorialize Dr. Bushman, and the special section "Good Job, Jack" features remembrances from colleagues, friends, YA authors, and former students whose words honor Dr. Bushman's life and legacy. Although I never worked with Dr. Bushman, my amazing dissertation chair and mentor Dr. Jim Blasingame was one of his proteges, and his love of YA literature and his support of young readers and writers stays with me to this day.

As the legendary YA author Chris Crutcher writes in his moving and humorous tribute to Dr. Bushman, "I think the measure of a person's value in his or her chosen career can be measured by treasures left behind. Even today, I meet an astonishing number of educators who studied under Jack, or studied under somebody who studied under Jack; or were influenced in one way or another by his take-no-prisoners battle to get kids reading." Indeed!

Reading these moving write-ups helped me to see the far-reaching impact Dr. Bushman had on the field of English education, young adult literature, and writing instruction. What a powerful force he was! I am grateful for Dr. Franklin's efforts to memorialize him so meaningfully in this issue of *Kansas English*. Thank you, John, for giving us all a glimpse into Jack's lasting impact on English education in Kansas and beyond!

In addition to this tribute, this volume features a new column by Dr. Beth Gulley called Teaching Tips. As you can see in the call for manuscripts in the front matter or on the [Kansas English website](#), this column features 250-500 word write-ups of classroom-tested teaching tips, lessons, or activities from all levels of language and literacy education from kindergarten to college. This column was Dr. Gulley's brainchild, and the debut is fantastic! I hope you'll consider submitting your teaching tips for consideration for future issues of *Kansas English*! In addition, if you have an idea for a new column for the journal, contact me at Katie.Cramer@wichita.edu.

Please enjoy this issue of *Kansas English*, and consider participating in the professional conversation by [submitting your own work for the 2023 issue](#)! Until next time, happy teaching and learning!

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