



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI — EMERITI ASSOCIATION — **NEWSLETTER**

Fall 2020 Issue

Upcoming Dates-2021

January 14	Coffee	9:30	Union 237A
February 11	Coffee	2:00	Union 237A/B
March 11	Coffee	9:30	Union 237A
April 8	Luncheon and Meeting	11:30	Union 240
May 11	Coffee	2:00	Union 237A/B
June 3	Coffee	9:30	Union 237A

President's Message



Hi to all of you who have played such an important role in the history of the University of Central Missouri! Can you imagine the total number of years that we have all given to Normal School # 2, Central Missouri State Teachers College, Central Missouri State College, Central Missouri State University, and the University of Central Missouri and the thousands of students who have been part of our lives in many ways? We will soon begin the yearlong celebration of the 150th

Anniversary of the founding of UCM, and Emeriti will plan programs tied to that theme.

I must admit that it is wonderful to look ahead to 2021! What a year 2020 has been for all of us and our friends and family! Every community has been impacted by COVID-19 and its associated financial stress. We hope that you and yours are well and that we will see you many times as the New Year becomes reality.

Unfortunately, before January we must remain healthy, vote, and make decisions which can be difficult. The hardest one recently was to cancel the remaining UCM Emeriti coffee in October, the Emeriti Luncheon in November, and the Holiday Carol Reception in December. We all hoped that

we could gather for fellowship and to check on one another in these trying times, but no matter how much social distancing and how responsible we were with mask wearing, we are an at risk group of retirees who choose to isolate as much as possible until vaccines are available and cases diminish. I hope you support our decision and that you will put all of our Spring 2021 event dates on your calendar. We have not yet had a chance to cheer for the new 2019-2020 Emeriti, and we are working with the President's Office to plan an event to honor them in the spring. Please join us!

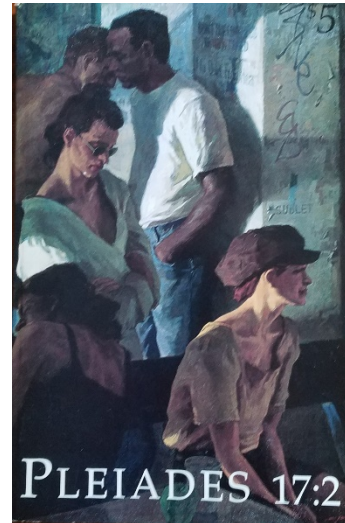
Pleiades: A Love Story
By R. M. Kinder, Professor Emerita of English



In the years since 1991, Central's Department of English and Philosophy has given birth to an illustrious presence in the literary community, one that still may not be fully recognized by those on home ground: *Pleiades*. Its early history would have to go back to 1939 with the first issue of *Spring Flight*, later *Cemost*, an annual publication filled with the creative works of Central's students, staff, and some outside contributors. The older, thin volumes are wonderful to read, capturing the times and sensibilities and slight differences in

contemporary form and language. During the last phase of the journal as a student production titled *Pleiades*, Central professor Robert C. Jones was advisor. He was a poet, teacher, editor, a man who loved his students, their work, and the craft of writing—and fostered the reward of publication to beginning writers.

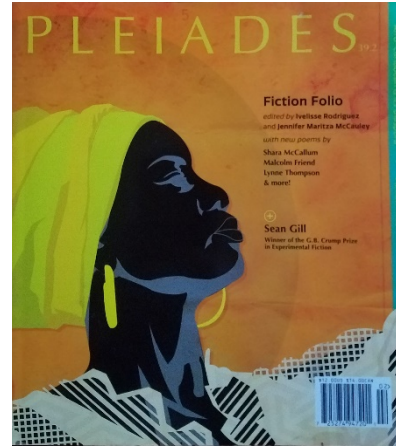
In 1991 Bob Jones turned the journal over to me, and we, students and some faculty, guided *Pleiades* in a new direction—outward, as a semi-annual, open, refereed, public forum for writers everywhere. The goal was to promote cultural diversity, a major social effort then as now, and to join Central and this area to the greater literary community. The goal was partly approached by the multicultural nature of the contents and by providing a free copy to approximately 150 libraries and educational institutions across the country, with Missouri libraries first on the list. Volunteer faculty and student editors donated time and energy and talents. Financial support came from the school, private contributions, book sales, and subscriptions. The Missouri Arts Council was a constant support. Even so, the budget was miniscule. Some now-emeriti professors involved then were James Obertino, Larry Olpin, Robert Lovell, Robert Graybill, Ken Cust, and Gail Crump. Mary Kay Johnson (Emeritus Professor Mark Johnson's wife) set up the text. The first issues were black and white, between 80-120 pages, the cover art provided by Central students. Those issues were, and are, striking, and carried the work of some noted writers as well as beginning ones.



*First Color Cover
Spring 1997*

The next phase of *Pleiades* was remarkable, following the joining of poet Kevin Prufer in 1996 as faculty member and partner in producing *Pleiades*. A heftier budget allowed for a color cover, and Kevin had a keen eye for art and an adroit way of acquiring the rights to it. With his creativity, industry, and unflagging commitment to the journal, it soared. Early honors included Special Mention in the 2000 *Pushcart Prize Anthology*, first prize in the 1999 *Stanley Hanks Memorial Contest for a Missouri Poetry Publication*, second prize in the same contest in 2000, being featured journal on *Poetry Daily* three times in two years, and featured journal on *Now Culture* in 2001. Anecdotes from that first burst of activity would fill a journal. Since then, many talented and dedicated editors have contributed to *Pleiades*' position as a prestigious literary journal, but special among them are Wayne Miller, Phong Nguyen, Kathryn Nuernberger, and Jenny Molberg. Submissions currently number about 2500 poems and 1000 short stories a year. Gail Crump, emeriti

professor, has not retired from *Pleiades*. He reads about 500 fiction submissions a year. The manuscripts come from all over the world, some from winners of major awards such as *Nobel*, *Guggenheim*, *Pulitzer*, and *Ruth Lily*. *Pleiades* has consistently given early recognition to many emerging writers, such as Diane Glancy, Edith Pearlman, Ander Monson, Catie Rosemurgy, and Zachary Mason, and has given continued expression to established ones, such as Sherman Alexie, Joyce Carol Oates, UCM alum David Baker, D. A. Powell, and William Gass. *Pleiades* produces also *Pleiades Book Review*, *A Literary Supplement* containing over fifty reviews, and sponsors two fiction contests a year, the G. B. Crump Award for Experimental Fiction and the R. M. Kinder Award for Realistic Fiction. *Pleiades Press*, an outgrowth of the journal, publishes several titles a year, including the Unsung Masters Series, the Robert C. Jones Prize for Short Fiction, and the Lena-Miles Wever Todd Prize for poetry. And the journal is a bold champion of, and much needed outlet for, cultural diversity. *Pleiades* was included in the VIDA count as one of the 15 literary journals publishing women and non-binary writers. It's an international voice on contemporary issues.



***Fiction Folio Issue
Summer 2019***

Now *Pleiades* has the same challenge as many worthy projects—a crisis that diminishes support in multiple areas, financial, staff, space, and time. *Pleiades* may thus be at the apex of a journey. We hope not. But if that's the case, it has been a journey Central can be most proud of, as can be the rest of us. *Pleiades* has become somewhat of a constellation.

In Remembrance

William (Bill) Brame, Professor Emeritus of Industrial Technology, died September 15, 2020 at the Missouri Veterans Home in Warrensburg. Born in Slater, Missouri in 1925, Bill started at Central Missouri State Teachers College at the end of his first semester as a senior in high school. He then served in the U.S. Marine Corp in the South Pacific Theatre during World War II. In the summer of 1946, he married Nannetta Marshall, whom he had met the previous year while she was a student at Central Methodist in Fayette. Bill's first professional position was as an assistant manager of the LaCrosse Lumber Company in Fayette, and then he became a manager at LaCrosse first in Montgomery City and later at Carrollton, Illinois. After returning to Warrensburg to complete his higher education, Bill received his Baccalaureate

and Master's degrees in education at Central Missouri State and his Doctorate in education from MU. During his career at what is now UCM, he served as Chair of the Department of Manufacturing and Construction, as Coordinator for Industrial Arts and Technology and Graduate programs, and as Assistant Dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Technology. Bill also served twelve years on the Warrensburg City Council and was elected mayor two of those years. He was mayor pro tem for the balance of the time. Bill was the first president of the Faculty Emeritus Association and was a Paul Harris Fellow of The Rotary Foundation as well as a member of the American Legion.

Davie Suzanne Davis, Professor Emerita of English and former chair of the Department of Academic Enrichment, passed away on Aug. 11 while residing in Lee's Summit. Born in 1945 in Topeka, Kansas, Davie earned her Bachelors degree in English at Kansas State University and then went on to earn a Masters in Library Science at Emporia State and a Masters in English at UCM, where she spent her professional career. Dedicated to helping students succeed as an associate professor, she retired from the university in June 2015 after serving for 25 years. During her tenure at UCM, Davie served as coordinator of the Writing Center, and prior to that she taught courses in developmental writing and English. She also spent part of her career at the university supervising several student honors projects and developing the Peer Tutoring in the Writing Center course. Her strong interest in contributing to the quality of the university led to leadership opportunities, including serving on the Faculty Senate, where she spent two terms as president. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, and four grandchildren.

Tom Hairabedian, Professor Emeritus of Physical Education (known as "Dr. Dive" during his tenure at UCM), passed away in Independence at age 96. After growing up and attending college in California, Dr. Hairabedian came to UCM in the 1960s and served into the 1970s as men's and women's swim coach. Long after he left the university, Tom continued competitive swimming and was a successful diver participating in many master's competitions and serving as a strong advocate for the sport. He was a U.S. Masters National Diving Chairman from 1980-82 and U.S. Grand Masters Champion on at least six occasions prior to his induction into the UCM Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. Dr. Hairabedian was also inducted into the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame in 2007 with five World Championship gold medals to his name. Into his 90s, he enjoyed a life that allowed him to pursue his passion for competitive diving, and to mentor, influence, and befriend countless others both in the sport and out.

Stanley Killingbeck, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, died April 20 at Western Missouri Medical Center. Born May 20, 1929 in England, son of Arthur and Dorothy (Brotherton) Killingbeck, Dr. Killingbeck was a chemistry professor at UCM for many years. He enjoyed writing and was also an avid reader. A lifelong bachelor, he had a special place in his heart for cats, helping to care for the strays in his neighborhood.

Tom Kunz, former Mules football player, coach, member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, and UCM Distinguished Alumnus, recently passed away due to COVID-19 he contracted a week earlier. He had been hospitalized and under medical care for the past several years following being hit by a car crossing the street, in Toronto, Canada, where he was attending an international convention on bats. Kunz was recognized as one of the world's top authorities on bats, a species ironically thought to be the source of COVID-19. His wife was Margaret Brown, former Assistant Professor in the UCM School of Business. They have two children.

Floyd E. Riebold, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, died March 19. A longtime resident of Warrensburg, he served at UCM for about thirty years teaching and mentoring many grad students who went on to become psychologists. In addition, he and his wife Eva developed a private psychology practice, the Tran-State Institute, serving counties in the area. After Floyd retired from UCM, the Riebolds established a Wellness Center in Warrensburg, and then later he went on to develop that property for residences. He is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, and a grandson.

Shing Seung So, Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, died April 29. Born in 1954 in Macau, SAR, China, Dr. So received his B. S. in 1976 from Hong Kong Baptist College, his M. A. in 1980 from Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State), and his Ph. D. in 1989 from UMKC. He taught at UCM from 1983-2014, then at Pace University from 2014-2020. In addition to his work with the university, he was an active member at the Church of Christ in China (Hong Kong Chi To Church), First Baptist Church-Warrensburg, and Warrensburg Chinese Christian Fellowship. Dr. So also taught Chinese Martial Arts, in particular, Ip Man Wing Chun, and in 2011, he founded Warrensburg Wing Chun to share this art with the next generation of practitioners. Dr. So was preceded in death by his parents, So Yan and Mui Sui Fong. He is survived by his wife Carmen, three sons, and six brothers and two sisters

Congratulations

R. M. Kinder, Professor Emerita of English, has had her collection of short fiction, *A Common Person and Other Stories*, awarded the 2020 Richard Sullivan Prize in Short Fiction, and it will be published in 2021. She writes, “I’m thankful to many people in the University of Notre Dame English Department, Creative Writing Program, and Press for continuing to work on the project and will acknowledge them later. For now, I am especially thankful to Valerie Sayers.”

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

Barbara Baker, Professor Emerita of Communication, writes “After attending a big party in Plano, TX on December 31, Gregg and I had big plans for 2020. Well, those have all changed. Because of the pandemic, I suddenly had to switch abruptly in March to teaching my classes at UT Dallas all on-line. A conference of the Southern Communication Association I was planning to attend was cancelled. Our summer plans to go see my youngest sister in Tucson also had to be cancelled. Because her nursing home still is in lockdown, I and other family members have been doing some video calls with her. During the summer I prepared for remote teaching this fall, and also had a 72-hour EEG to see if I was suffering any aftereffects from my fall and seizure last summer. The good news on that was that it was normal, so I am being weaned off the anti-seizure medication I was taking. I also did a lot of reading during the summer, as well as watching movies on TV. I continued doing some research on the latest *Star Wars* sequel films and completed two reviews for prospective journal articles and a review of a prospective textbook in communication theory. I have been on campus only once since March, to pick up some necessary items to teach at home. It was very different, with many sections taped off and lots of signs everywhere to wear masks and keep socially distanced. Many hand sanitizer stations as well. This is because some classes are being taught on campus. My fall semester at UTD started on August 17, and I’m doing all four of my classes in a synchronous remote mode, which is taking some time to get used to. At least I can see my students virtually, but even without a commute to campus, it is tiring and requires some multitasking, but not as much as those teaching both in-class and remotely at the same time. We bought a new desktop computer to help with this process. Because the semester also will be ending early, right before Thanksgiving, I had to adjust my schedules to get all the course requirements completed. Gregg was planning a big celebration for my upcoming 70th birthday in September, but that also has been put on hold for later. Everything locally is cancelled or

scaled down, including the State Fair of Texas because the pandemic cases were rising sharply in north Texas for a while and still have not gone down much. In addition, the biggest academic conference in my discipline, usually held each November, has now gone virtual. Running errands and seeing doctors constitute our current outings. Outside of voting in the big election this fall, the biggest thing I have upcoming is cataract surgery sometime in December.”

Sam Cox, Professor Emeritus of Communication, writes, “Dianne and I have used the isolation required by the COVID-19 pandemic to work on our hobbies. One major change has been enjoying the Morning Prayers from the Deanery of Canterbury Cathedral (Dianne really fell in love with England after the years I spent there as Visiting Research Professor at the Open University and as Exchange Professor at Buckingham-Chilterns University College). A second change has been making wooden puzzles for children. I cut them out and Dianne paints them. I wish I had taken some art classes with Neva or someone in the art department so I could better contribute. I have also been busy in my workshop making things including six old-fashioned highchairs with scenery like hot air balloons, Pooh, Dumbo, puppies, etc. on the backs for each for my nephew’s and nieces’ grandchildren (yikes I am getting old!). Our daughter Katie suggested a puzzle to go with each highchair so that was the next phase. The highest honor received this past year was being awarded an Honorary State FFA Degree. I began teaching Public Speaking at the FFA’s Leadership Week in the summer of 1986 at Camp Rising Sun with Dan Curtis. That relationship continued until we moved the experience to the UCM campus and renamed it the FFA Public Speaking Academy. Twenty eighteen was my last summer—32 years of association minus the few years we were overseas on assignments with the International Office. I passed the leadership of the Academy to Terry Cunconan and am most pleased to now possess the distinction of Honorary State FFA Degree! Our best wishes to all the Emeriti who have contributed so much to our lives!”

Mollie Dinwiddie, Dean Emerita of the Kirkpatrick Library, writes, “After more than 40 years as a Missouri resident, I understand that we are flyover country, meaning everything comes to our part of the US later as it moves either westward or eastward for the two coasts. It seems COVID-19 was no exception as rural Missouri surely was late seeing as much activity as some other areas. My travel plans, like everyone else’s, were altered this summer. I did get a short excursion to the local Western Missouri Medical Center in early August since after months of very carefully wearing a mask, washing hands, avoiding crowds, and staying home, I succumbed to that nasty and very strange

virus. My experience, while much better than many, included fever for two weeks, headache, body-wracking cough, nausea, and fatigue. My oxygen levels dropped into the 80s, and that sent me to the hospital with a milder case of pneumonia. I did leave there feeling better than when I entered. I was really sick for a good three weeks, and my recovery took another three weeks. It was the sickest I have ever been in my adult life! My advice to all retirees/emeriti who have avoided COVID-19 so far is keep vigilant and also purchase a pulse oximeter to measure your pulse and blood oxygenation levels. I credit that little device and my daughter's diligent monitoring of my condition to getting to the hospital early enough to avoid needing oxygen or worse interventions for my illness. Now I am hopeful I have some antibodies that may protect me from a second infection, but I also intend to keep doing all the things to avoid COVID-19 as well!"

Mark Johnson, Professor Emeritus of English, writes the best news is that he and his wife **Mary Kay** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 6. He adds, "We have not entered a building other than our condo since mid-March, having literally everything delivered or using curbside pickup—which we will use at Pierpont's [in KC] tonight. So, pretty boring. I do work out every day for an hour or so with resistance bands and a stair stepper, and Mary Kay cooks and bakes all the time. We use lots of jigsaw puzzles and books. I am currently enjoying *Tristram Shandy*, which I had to zip through in grad school. Bawdy and deliciously droll."

Rebecca Limback, Professor Emerita of Office Administration, writes, "Didn't send anything at first because like most we've been hermits since March! All art and dulcimer activities have been canceled. However, we've been able to participate in some virtual art shows and competitions. I was awarded 3rd place in the Lake Arts Fall Art Show and a first-place award in their PhotoQuest2020 show—both virtual shows. Two paintings were selected for the Buttonwood Art Space "Connections" show currently viewable virtually. Mid-Missouri Artists held our first ever ZOOM meeting August 27, and as long as the virus is a danger will schedule more meetings virtually (I'm still serving as President). I've participated in two virtual dulcimer festivals and learned new techniques and tunes. Like many others, have had too much time for cooking and trying recipes. I dusted off the sewing machine and experimented with different facemask patterns, donating over 50 within the community. Look forward to being able to travel once again!"

Ginny McTighe, Official Professional Emerita, writes, "I've been getting groceries during senior hour at ALDI's. First one in and out. Haven't been to

Walmart since early March. Zoom meetings with WD40's, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Senior Center. I've been riding along with Cass as he hauls railroad containers. Been to TX three times, AZ twice and Mississippi once. Two beds and stock our own food. Masks a must when we refuel. I do get out to walk early each morning and late evening at rest areas. TX has very nice facilities. Stay safe."

Paul D. Polychronis, Emeritus Director of the Counseling Center, has completed his fifteenth scholarly article in six years. In fall of 2019 Paul earned the Leighton Whitaker Memorial Scholarship Award, conferred by the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, for another of his publications. He has spoken at national conventions, presented a webinar on suicide in higher education with law scholar Peter Lake, and served as a consultant to University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Paul is also working on various art and music projects. As a board-certified psychologist, Paul has a clinical and consulting practice in Warrensburg.

Harold Sampson, Professor Emeritus of Communication and Dean Emeritus of Graduate Studies and Extended Campus, writes, "The celebration had to be limited but it did happen. On June 15, I celebrated my 95th birthday and I am looking forward to the next one. Activity at John Knox Village East in Higginsville is quite limited these days, but they are taking good care of us. Because of failing eyesight, I transferred my car to my grandson. I have enrolled in TALKING BOOKS through the Wolfner Library in Jefferson City – it contains many interesting sources. In spite of cancer attacks, I remain active, walking, tending several pots of blooming flowers on my balconies and visiting with neighbors – at six feet distance."

Marla Selvidge, Professor Emerita of Religious Studies, writes, "Tom and I continue to travel. We spent three weeks camping in Two Harbors, Minnesota attempting to escape the heat. Traveling and vacationing is not the same these days, with most museums closed and people failing to wear masks, but Two Harbors is a jewel on the north coast of Minnesota along Lake Superior. Although we do not have the virus, we seem to have the virus fever. Many days over the past few months we have spent renovating our home in Missouri. We found the colors of our walls to be oppressive and have brightened them with a variety of blue and yellow paints. Tom continues to consult internationally with his small business, TCH Animal Health. I have accepted an offer to run the Speakers Bureau of The Nature Center at The Great Outdoors in Florida, where we live in the winter. It has been more than rewarding discovering scientists, archaeologists, and activists. Since

volunteering at the Brevard Museum, I have become obsessed with learning about underwater/pond archaeology and shell mounds (at one of my jobs, I taught archaeology, and I studied to become an Egyptian archaeologist early in my career.) This spring will find me presenting on those topics in various places in Florida. Vanesa, the interlibrary loan librarian at the UCM library, has been most helpful in discovering articles from the 19th century and more. On our way south in the fall, we will visit several Native American mound sites, among them Poverty Point, and will give you the scuttlebutt on that site the next time we talk. Stay safe!"

Stephen Walker, Librarian Emeritus, writes, "In 2019, my travels continued to the year's end and a bit beyond. In September I did a Road Scholar to several Canadian national parks that are in the Rockies; there I did a super slippery shuffle atop a glacier and elsewhere saw a black bear and several elk. On another Road Scholar I went on a classical musical tour in Germany attending several recitals and operas. In December I did volunteer work through Earthwatch in the Peruvian Amazon. The group was based on a docked riverboat, and activities included listing birds; the catch and release of fish, such as piranha and catfish; observing pink river dolphins; walking transects on trails; and looking for caiman (which are related to alligators). My final trip was in February to Florida. I began in Sarasota and among the wildlife saw manatees, both captive and free. With travel now limited I have done more reading than average. Among my more challenging selections have been all the major poetry of Chaucer (in Middle English), a re-read of the seventeenth-century *Anatomy of Melancholy* by Robert Burton, and tackling the award-winning *Making of the Atomic Bomb*, by Richard Rhodes, some of which proved incomprehensible."

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