

May 26-27, 2021

ITEM 194-1005-R0521

Request for Authorization to Confer the Title of Professor Emeritus on Kevin Canty, University of Montana – Missoula

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Kevin Canty from the faculty of the University of Montana, the faculty wishes to express its appreciation for his 24 years of service to the University and the State of Montana by recommending that the rank of Professor Emeritus be conferred upon him by the Board of Regents of the Montana University System.

EXPLANATION

Professor Kevin Canty earned his MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Arizona in 1993, taught for two years as a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and then joined the English Department at the University of Montana in 1996. Over the years he rose in rank here to Professor. He served as Director of Creative Writing for a three-year term in 2014-17. He retired, after twenty-four years of service, in May 2020.

Professor Canty was an engaged and influential teacher of both undergraduate and graduate students in our creative writing program. He usually taught fiction workshops, including workshops on the novel, but he also taught popular “special topics” courses designed for creative writing students, including courses on twentieth-century experimental works that opened new possibilities at the level of form and style. He devoted a great deal of time every year to supervising the theses of graduate students in the MFA program. He was a superb mentor of many students who have gone on to become accomplished writers and teachers.

Professor Canty has been the most prolific writer in our creative writing program over the last twenty-five years. Since the appearance of his first book in 1994, *A Stranger in the World*, he has published three collections of short stories and six novels, all of which have come out with highly regarded presses, many of which have been translated into multiple languages. He has published several dozen stories and essays in well-known literary magazines, including three stories in *The New Yorker* over the last several years. His stature in the field of contemporary fiction has helped to keep the MFA program at the University visible and attractive to young writers. Many have come here to study with him.

Over the years, further, Professor Canty gave a great deal of time to department service. The MFA program here is a large program, and a program of national distinction, and the annual admissions and recruitment process requires time and commitment. Professor Canty was a wholly engaged presence at every level of this program for over two decades: recruiting students, mentoring students, shaping the program, helping to bring visiting writers to campus, making connections for young writers in the wider literary world, participating in local readings and literary events. He has given a great many readings and talks at universities around the country.

The English Department is very happy to nominate Professor Kevin Canty for emeritus status.

ATTACHMENTS

No Attachments