

NEWS RELEASE
English and Modern Languages Department
Pittsburg State University
August 20, 2018

The English Department and *The Midwest Quarterly* at Pittsburg State University are happy to announce that Dr. Judith Saunders will deliver the Twenty-Fifth Annual Victor J. Emmett Memorial Lecture on Thursday, September 27, at 8 p.m., in the Governors Room of the Overman Student Center on the Pittsburg State University campus. In her lecture, Dr. Saunders will discuss "The Anglo-American Special Relationship: Fact, Fiction, and Fantasy." The lecture is free and open to the public. A reception will follow in the Heritage Lounge in the Overman Student Center.

Dr. Saunders was invited to deliver the Emmett Memorial Lecture as the winner of the Victor J. Emmett, Jr., Memorial Award which is given each year to the author of the best essay on a literary topic published in *The Midwest Quarterly*. Saunders' essay, "From Potency to Impotency: Sarah Kane's play *Blasted* as a National Narrative," appeared in the Winter 2018 issue of *The Midwest Quarterly*.

The Emmett Memorial Award and the Emmett Memorial Lecture are sponsored by the Emmett family, the PSU English Department, and *The Midwest Quarterly*. The award and lecture are named in memory of the late Dr. Victor J. Emmett, Jr., who for twenty-three years was a Professor of English at Pittsburg State University.

Dr. Saunders recently earned her Ph.D. in English Literature and Criticism at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and her Master's in English Literature at California State University, Northridge. She is an alumna of Manchester University, United Kingdom (B.A. Drama). After working at the British Broadcasting Company, London, she re-located to the United States driven by a passion for movies. She subsequently worked in Hollywood as a Script Supervisor. However, she returned to academia, developing an overriding interest in modern British drama, performance theory, and political theatre. Having lived in both countries, she is especially fascinated by the Anglo-American relationship. She is currently teaching literature, critical thinking, and advanced composition at Contra Costa College in Northern California, where she lives with her husband and cat, making time to present papers at bi-coastal conferences.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Celia Patterson, Chair of English and Modern Languages, Pittsburg State University, 620-235-4689 or capatterson@pittstate.edu.