

OH, THE HORROR! ROMERO

and the Horror Studies Collection at the University of Pittsburgh Library System

A University of Pittsburgh Library System newsletter sharing Horror Collection updates, Romero news, horror genre events, and more.

A Note from the Collection Coordinator

I am excited to share that **the papers of Gwendolyn Kiste** are the newest addition to the Horror Studies Collection! Kiste employs a neo-Gothic sensibility in her writing, evoking authors like Edgar Allan Poe and Jane Austen while grounding her stories within modern settings and issues. She frequently explores the sense of being an outsider and highlights female protagonists and the perils women must navigate within our world.

Her debut novel, *Rust Maidens*, follows a group of young women afflicted by a mysterious disease. The steel and heavy industry collapse that defined the Rust Belt serves as the backdrop. While set in Cleveland, through the vivid sense of despair and uncertainty brought about by the closing mills, the story could just as easily take place in Pittsburgh. The novel earned Kiste the 2018 Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a First Novel.

Kiste's other works include the story collection *And Her Smile Will Untether the Universe* and the novellas *Pretty Marys All in a Row* and *Boneset and Feathers*. She also writes nonfiction pieces examining the history of horror. Originally from Ohio, Kiste now lives in Western PA, making her the first local author to deposit her works with the Horror Studies Collection. Her archive includes edited drafts and manuscripts of her works, which will allow researchers to examine and understand her creative process. We are very excited to have her materials join the growing archives here at Pitt!

Earlier this month, **the Living Dead Weekend** returned to Monroeville Mall after a hiatus in 2020. The

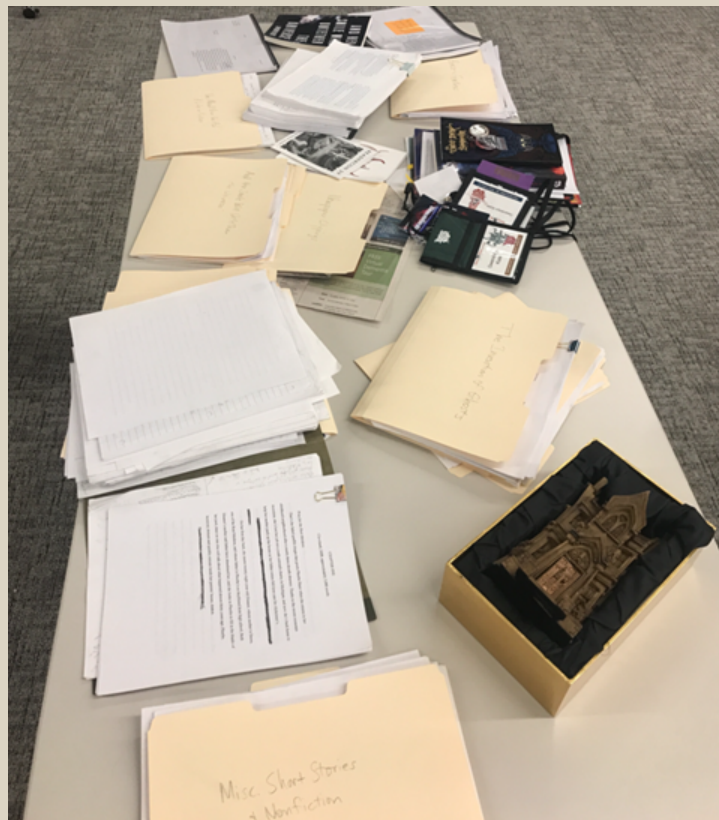
well-attended event was a success – it was great to see so much of the Romero family in person again after so long. The celebration focused on the *Day of the Dead* and *Return of the Living Dead* films, as well as *Dawn of the Dead*. One major highlight included a dedication of Romero Court, the promenade area where the bust of George currently stands (in front of JC Penny and Dick’s Sporting Goods). Additionally, the Living Dead Museum relocated back to the Mall from Evans City and is now open for visitors.

Planning is underway for fall events and programming, including the relaunch of the Horror Studies Webinar Series. Stay tuned and stay scared!

- Ben Rubin, Horror Studies Collection Coordinator



Author Gwendolyn Kiste stands beside Horror Studies Collection Coordinator Ben Rubin who holds the Bram Stoker Award she included in her donation!



A selection of materials from Kiste's archive laid out on a table in Archives & Special Collections.

Fresh Cuts from the Blog

Visiting scholar Adam Charles Hart shares freaky and fantastic behind-the-scenes highlights on our [Horror Studies website](#).

EXT CITY STREET DAY

A world no longer in use. Deserted. No cars. No pedestrians. Only RUBBLE drifting on the breeze.

WIND blows a NEWSPAPER up against a wall. It flips open revealing a BANNER HEADLINE:

DEAD RISE!
EAT LIVING!

We hear SLOGGISH FOOTSTEPS. A SHADOW appears on the pavement and LURCHES TOWARD US. After a moment, we see THE FIGURE that is casting the shadow. Male, Neanderthal-like, a bit of a gorilla... (call him ZOMBIE KONG)... his flesh is rotting. He's been DEAD for quite some time.

FREEZE FRAME. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE:

ZOMBIE
(AKA: "DEADALUS STINKUS")

The IMAGE UN-FREEZES. The Zombie shambles on.

He's only taken a step or two before ANOTHER SOUND FADES IN. The SOUND of a souped-up CAR ENGINE. Then we hear... BLAM! BLAM!... TWO SHOTGUN ELASTS!

ZOMBIE KONG'S RIGHT ARM IS BLOWN OFF! He exhibits no pain. Only mild irritation as he looks up and sees...

...a red THUNDERBIRD CONVERTIBLE, circa 1968, roaring past. At the wheel is a very cool-looking WOMAN... think Tomb Raider... (call her T-BIRD). With one hand on the steering wheel, her free hand wields a SHOTGUN which she FIRES one more time. BLAM!

ZOMBIE KONG is HIT again! Half his FACE is BLOWN AWAY!

MCU: T-Bird as she drives on.

FREEZE FRAME. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE:

HUMAN
(AKA: "ALIVUS SELF-SATISFACTUS")

The IMAGE UN-FREEZES. The Thunderbird accelerates.

George Romero's *Zomboid*

In 2006, Romero wrote several treatments for a proposed television series called, alternately, *Zombisodes* and *Zomboid*. The script is a cartoonish burlesque on zombie movies whose hapless undead protagonist is slashed, shot, blown up, crushed, run over, and otherwise punished over and over again.

[Read more about Zomboid](#)

DEAD RECKONING

by
George A. Romero

© 2001, Sanibel Films II, Inc.

First Draft, July 25, 2001

98.

DENISE

You were right, mother. The pilot
does seem to know what he's doing.

The helicopter loses control again. Denise gasps. The
chopper rights itself. Denise breathes a sigh of relief...
before she realizes that the machine is coming straight
toward her penthouse window.

INT/EXT DEAD RECKONING/REAR COMPARTMENT NIGHT

In the open hatchway, RILEY'S attention is drawn to...
a stupendous FLASH OF LIGHT from across the river.

THE OTHERS look and see...THE TOP FIVE STORIES OF FIDDLER'S
GREEN BLOWN TO DUST!

When the SOUND of the explosion and the flash of its LIGHT
finally fade away, Riley looks back into the truck.

RILEY

You, er...y'all mind if I...come
back inside.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT MOUNT WASHINGTON ROAD NIGHT

Dead Reckoning: the origins of *Land of the Dead*

In 2005, after a 20-year hiatus, Romero returned to his zombie universe with *Land of the Dead*. The film was the biggest budget entry into the Dead series and featured Pittsburgh in its most prominent role despite being the first of the series filmed entirely outside of the region. The film continues the bleak tone of *Day* as it depicts a stratified Pittsburgh with the rich living in safety and luxury within the fortified and barricaded Golden Triangle of Downtown Pittsburgh, while the rest of society toils amongst slums outside the gates with threats both human and undead.

[Read more about the Land of the Dead](#)

George A. Romero Foundation Updates

Keep an eye on the [GARF website](#) for news about future programming!



 **Forward**

Collection Contact: Ben Rubin, btr9@pitt.edu, 412-648-8194

Media Contact: Sharon Blake, blake@pitt.edu

Archives & Special Collections at Hillman Library

320 Hillman Library
University of Pittsburgh
3960 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

You received this email because you signed up for our mailing list online or at an event.

[Unsubscribe](#)