

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

Friday, March 31, 2006

Editor: Janet Carlson

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"No passion in the world is equal to the passion to alter someone else's draft." – H.G. Wells

And the award goes to . . .

Big congratulations to these award winners!

Wheeler Winston Dixon is this year's recipient of the NU Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award in the field of arts and humanities. The ORCA goes annually to two faculty members in the NU system who have conducted outstanding sustained research or creative activity of national or international significance. "I'm astonished and flattered," Wheeler said, and extended thanks to Linda Pratt and Linda Rossiter for their assistance and encouragement, and to Ted Kooser for his letter of support.

Fran Kaye has won this year's Annis Chaiken Sorensen Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Humanities, UNL's highest teaching award in the humanities.

The awards will be presented at the Recognition of Rising Scholars Convocation, scheduled for 1 p.m., April 23 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Recent Publications & Other Achievements

You won't see **Steve Behrendt** in the classroom next year. He will be busy with his ongoing research on Irish women poets of the Romantic period, supported big-time by the \$50,000 Senior Fellowship awarded him by the American Council of Learned Societies for the coming academic year.

Over spring break Steve was in London to give the plenary address at a conference called "Teaching Romanticism." The conference was jointly sponsored by the University of London, the English Subject Centre, and the British Association for Romantic Studies; it was attended by college and university teachers from all regions of Britain, plus several European and North American scholar/teachers.

Linda Pratt wrote the introduction to a new edition of Meridel LeSueur's novel, *The Girl*, just published by West End Press.

Congratulations to **Amelia Maria de la Luz Montes** on receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor.

Oyekan Owomoyela's essay "Trading Voices: Transformations in Yoruba Orin Owe (Proverbial Songs) and Related Surreptitious Fighting Texts" has appeared in *Afriche e Orienti: Parole parlate. Comunicazione orale fra tradizione e modernita* 4 (2005).

At the CCCC conference in Chicago last week **Chris Gallagher** presented a paper on the P-16 movement and the "accountability agenda" and served as chair and respondent on a panel devoted to activist literacies. **Eric Turley** was on the panel with Chris.

Also at 4Cs, **Joy Ritchie**, **Dana Kinzy**, and **Whitney Douglas** presented "Daring to Dialogue: Sharing Feminist Literacies Across Academic and Non-Profit Contexts."

Prairie Schooner presented its 80th anniversary celebration and reading at the AWP Conference held in Austin, Tex., March 8-11. The panel included Janet Burroway, Judith Ortiz Cofer, **Glenna Luschei** (M.A. 1962), Lee Martin, Peter Pereira, **Hilda Raz**, and Peggy Shumaker. **Kelly Grey Carlisle** moderated. Others at the conference from our department included **Grace Bauer**, **Judy Slater**, **Hadara Bar-Nadav**, and **Zach Schomburg**. Zach also read from his poetry at the invitation of *LIT* magazine at Austin's Club de Ville. Getting out of Dodge was no mean feat, thanks to bad weather. Grace, Kelly, and Hilda "got stuck in airline hell for two days," Kelly said. (Kelly also saw a mountain lion on her way home at 2 a.m. from Omaha.)

Anthony Hawley has just returned from readings in Berkeley, New York, Chicago, and Ann Arbor, where he read from his first full-length collection of poems, *The Concerto Form*, with poet Brenda Hillman, Macedonian poet Lidija Dimkovska, and Alberta Prize Winner, Laura Sims, among others. View photos from the Discrete Series in Chicago at <http://chicagopoetry.blogspot.com/>.

Anthony's "P(r)etty Sonnet XXVIII" appears in the Spring 2006 issue of *The Colorado Review*, and his "P(r)etty Sonnet XLIV" appears in the new print magazine *Cannibal*.

Jehanne Dubrow's poem "Ossuary" has received an honorable mention in the Anna Davidson Rosenberg Awards for Poems of the Jewish Experience. Her poem "Discussing Milosz" placed second in the *Atlantic Monthly's* Student Writers' Contest. Jehanne also recently received a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize, and she has poems appearing in the current issues of *Diner* and *The New Hampshire Review*.

Joy Currie read a paper, "By whose right!: Recalling Mary Queen of Scots in Sir Percy Herbert's *Princess Cloria*," at the Queens and Power Conference held on our campus last week.

Carrie Shippers has two poems, "Fishing with Johnny Cash" and "Prima Facie," in the newest issue of *Quarterly West*, which is just out.

Virtually Out'a Here

Amanda Gailey has accepted the position of Associate Director of the Humanities Digital Workshop at Washington University in St. Louis. She will be helping develop digital archives of Edmund Spenser's work, historical documents such as slaves' freedom suits, and materials from Henry Hampton's documentaries on the civil rights movement and the Great Depression.

Alumni News

Mary K. Stillwell (Ph.D. '05) has an essay, "The Ecologies of Place in the Poetry of Kathleene West," in the just-published *Midwestern Miscellany 32* (Spring/Fall2004). It's a special double issue on contemporary Midwestern female poets of place published by the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, edited by Marcia Noe.

Valery Varble (Ph.D. '04) has two new stories just published: "Wild Camels" in the current *Colorado Review*, and "Bat," which won the *Mid-American Review's* 2005 Sherwood Anderson Fiction Award, judged by Steve Almond.

On May 5, the Nebraska Alumni Association will present **John McNally** (Ph.D. '99) with a 2006 Young Alumni Achievement Award in a ceremony at the Champions Club. His new novel, *America's Report Card*, will be released in July by Simon and Schuster's Free Press. And he has received tenure at Wake Forest University.

Sam Dodson (Ph.D. 1995) has just published *Berryman's Henry: Living at the Intersection of Need*

and *Art* (Feb. 2006, Rodopi), an examination of John Berryman's epic poem *The Dream Songs*. Now a tenured associate professor at Tarleton State University in Texas, Dodson wrote the dissertation on which the book is based while studying here under **Linda Pratt's** supervision.

Liz Ahl (Ph.D. 01) is finishing her fifth year as assistant professor of English at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. She expects "(barring any unforeseen monkey business)" to start a three-year term as English department chair this summer. She will also be the New Hampshire state judge for the "Celebrating Rural Poetry" initiative (in May, the winner will be among the 50 state winners reading alongside Ted Kooser in Washington, D.C.). Liz's poems have appeared recently in *River Styx*, *Crab Orchard Review* and *Clackamas Literary Review*.

Laureate Rounds

Long before that gig in D.C., **Ted Kooser** will travel (today) to Portland, Ore., and back to Omaha, where he will read April 2 at Omaha's The Rose Theater (see Upcoming Events); then to Oklahoma for "Conversations with Ted Kooser" at Oklahoma City University on April 5.

The really sweet event on his agenda, however, will surely be Ames, Iowa's, "Ted Kooser Day" on April 11. They're going to do a bang-up job, too, with a walking tour of locations from Ted's youth mentioned in his *Local Wonders*, an awards ceremony for the K-12 "Where I'm From . . ." contest, a reading by Ted, a reception and book signing, and a poetry jam.

Then he's back in Omaha, reading at Creighton University on April 12.

"Cather, Journalism, & Periodicals" Symposium

On April 21 scholars from Nebraska and beyond will present on Cather's career as a journalist in Lincoln and Pittsburgh, her work as a magazine editor in Pittsburgh and New York City, and her writings published in newspapers and magazines. The keynote speaker is Ellen Gruber Garvey of New Jersey City University. The symposium will take place in the library instruction room in Love Library from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a reception following in Seaton Hall.

Presenters from our department will include **Susan Belasco**, **Andrew Jewell** (Ph.D. '04), **Kari Ronning**, and **Melissa Homestead**. Charles Johanningsmeier, of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, will also speak.

The symposium is free and open to the public, but

pre-registration is requested by April 16. You can find a registration form and more information at <http://cather.unl.edu/community/seminars/periodicals.html>

Questions? Contact symposium director, Melissa Homestead, at 472-0323 or mhomestead2@unl.edu.

Nebraska Presence: The State of Poetry

The Backwaters Press [Greg Kosmicki (Ph.D. '75), publisher; Denise Banker (Ph.D. '05) and Mary K. Stillwell (Ph.D. '05), editors] is looking for the best poems by contemporary Nebraska poets for an anthology, tentatively titled "Nebraska Presence: The State of Poetry." Authors may submit up to 10 pages of poetry, with a brief (up to 100 words) biography, and publication acknowledgments. To be eligible for inclusion, poets must have been born and raised in Nebraska or currently reside in the state, and have work published in at least one major publication or have published at least one chapbook by a non-vanity press. Poems **do not** need to have a Nebraska theme.

Deadline for submissions: July 31, 2006. Final selections: December 31, 2006. Expected publication: fall, 2007, in time for the Nebraska Book Festival.

All submissions must be on paper and must be mailed to Mary K. Stillwell, Nebraska Presence, 908 Elmwood Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68510-3320. An SASE must be included if return of materials is desired. After selection, electronic copies of the poems will be requested in order to facilitate production.

Upcoming Events

Mar. 31 thru Apr. 7 – *Macbeth*

Presented by The Flatwater Shakespeare Company, directed by Bob Hall, at the Haymarket Theatre, 803 Q St. Show dates are Mar. 31, April 1-2 and 6-7. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. For tickets, call 484-7640. **Steve Buhler** is the production's dramaturg.

Apr. 2, 4 p.m. – **Ted Kooser** reads at The Rose Theatre, 2001 Farnam St., Omaha. Call (402) 444-4800 for details.

Apr. 3–30 – The Poetry Foundation delivers **National Poetry month** to an ear near you with daily poetry **podcasts** featuring high-quality recordings of poems, interviews with poets, and poetry documentaries. Go to <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/> for more information.

Apr. 3, 7 p.m. – **Denise Banker** poetry reading at Crescent Moon Coffee, 816 P St. For further information contact Rex at jwalton@neb.rr.com

Apr. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. – Thomson Learning Book Fair

Not just pizza, but a raffle for an iPod Nano and other prizes, too! Bailey Library

April 5, 3:30 p.m. – **Faculty meeting**, Bailey Library

Apr. 6, Noon-5 p.m. – Undergraduate Research Conference, Nebraska Union Centennial Room

Two English undergraduates will present their work: **Mary Kate McCarney**, *Senior Portfolio: Poetry and the Study of Sound* and **Erica Rogers**, *Selling "No Child Left Behind": A Rhetorical Case Study of Media and Government Policy*. Oral presentations start at noon, and the reception and poster session begins at 3:30 p.m.

Apr. 6, 2 p.m. – Emma Perez, reads from her novel *Forgetting the Alamo, or Blood Memory*.

Perez is associate professor of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado. The reading is part of Ethnic Studies Week. In Bailey Library.

Apr. 6, 3:30 p.m. – A Working Wilderness: A Call for a Land Health Movement

Courtney White, executive director of the Quivira Coalition, will speak at this first annual "Grassland Conservation and Sustainable Communities" lecture sponsored by The Grassland Foundation. At the Center for Great Plains Studies Art Museum, 1155 Q St.

Apr. 6, 7 p.m. – Poetry reading by Marilyn Chin in Great Plains Studies Art Museum, 1155 Q St.

Born in Hong Kong and raised in Portland, Ore., Chin is author of *Rhapsody in Plain Yellow* (2002), *The Phoenix Gone, The Terrace Empty* (1994), and *Dwarf Bamboo* (1987).

Chin has won two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, two Fulbright Fellowships, a Stegner Fellowship, four Pushcart Prizes, and a Mary Roberts Rinehart Award. She is on the faculty of the M.F.A. program at San Diego State University.

Apr. 6, 7 p.m. – **Sweet Will & the Saucy Jacks** serve up some Early Modern Rock. In the Nebraska Union Ballroom, 14th & R Streets.

Steve Buhler and his rocking bards romp through such favorites as "No Contest" ("Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?") among others. Free and open to the public.

Apr. 7, 4 p.m. – **No-Name Reading** featuring **Jan Jarvis** and **Jim Reese**. At Sur Tango Bar & Café, 1228 P St. See <http://www.unl.edu/noname> for more info.

Apr. 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. – "**The Future of English Studies – 50Years of UNL's Graduate Program as a Prologue**," honoring **Paul Olson** on his retirement and exploring ways to build on the foundations he has

helped lay throughout his career. At the Great Plains Art Museum, Center for Great Plains Studies, 1155 Q St. The colloquium is open to anyone who can squeeze in. Sorry, but the lunch and evening banquet are full up.

Apr. 12, 3:30 p.m. – Zan Meyer Gonçalves speaks on "Queer Identity, Performance and Social Change"

Gonçalves is assistant professor of English at Franklin Pierce College, specializing in identity theory, composition, and community-based learning. Her book *Sexuality and the Politics of Ethos in the Writing Classroom* has recently been published by the Studies in Writing and Rhetoric series. Contact Whitney Douglas for more information.

Apr. 12, 3:30 p.m. – Ted Kooser reads from his works as part of the Creighton Reading Series, in the Rigge Science Auditorium. For further details contact Mary Helen Stefaniak,, mhs@creighton.edu, (402) 280-5768.

Apr. 13, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. – English Days

Pizza party and meet-and-greet for high school students to talk with department faculty and students. Fran Kaye's in charge. Bailey Library

American Life in Poetry: Column 049
By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate

This fine poem by Rodney Torreson, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, looks into the world of boys arriving at the edge of manhood, and compares their natural wildness to that of dogs, with whom they feel a kinship.

On A Moonstruck Gravel Road

The sheep-killing dogs saunter home,
wool scraps in their teeth.

From the den of the moon
ancestral wolves
howl their approval.

The farm boys, asleep in their beds,
live the same wildness under their lids;
every morning they come back
through the whites of their eyes
to do their chores, their hands pausing
to pet the dog, to press
its ears back, over the skull,
to quiet that other world.

From "A Breathable Light," *New Issues Poetry and Prose*, 2002, and first published in *Sou'wester*. Copyright 7COPY; 2002 by Rodney Torreson and reprinted by permission of the author. This weekly column is supported by The Poetry Foundation, The Library of Congress, and the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This column does not accept unsolicited poetry.

Wind & Fire

Heed these warnings!

- The **fire alarm** is a l-o-o-o-n-g bell tone. **Get out of the building.**
 - The **tornado warning** is a loud buzzer that alternates five seconds on, five seconds off for up to three minutes. **Move to the basement hallway.** If the hallway is too full, you can also go into the classrooms on the north side of the building (toward Morrill Hall).
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