

# UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

*Special "Hitting the Wall" edition*

Editor: Janet Carlson

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"The last term of the school-year is made of decades, not of weeks,  
and living through them is like waiting for the millennium." – Booth Tarkington

## Recent Publications & Other Achievements

**Wheeler Winston Dixon** was a guest on *The Newshour* with Jim Lehrer on PBS April 28, discussing the film *Flight 93*, and the effect of 9/11 on films and television since then. To watch the interview go to [www.pbs.org/newshour/newshour\\_index.html#](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/newshour_index.html#).

The complete collection of Wheeler's films has been digitally remastered in Digibeta format by NETV, and in April these new, color-corrected digital masters were archived by The Museum of Modern Art, completing MoMa's collection of Wheeler's work.

MoMA has also archived a one-hour digital interview with Wheeler from January, 2004, produced by NETV, in which moderator Ron Hull discusses Wheeler's MoMA retrospective with him, and runs clips from some of his favorite works.

Says Wheeler, "That's it. Now MoMA has all of my work in film and tape format, and with the digital remasters, which in many cases look better than the source materials themselves, all my work is available in an easily accessible format. I am very pleased, and grateful to both MoMA and NETV."

In 1974, Wheeler worked as a film editor and cinematographer for famed folklorist Alan Lomax, editing the "Choreometrics" series of films on human body movements and dance styles in various cultures around the world, and contributing footage that he shot to this series of films. Two weeks ago Wheeler was notified that the materials he photographed and edited have been housed in the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, to become part of the American Folklife Center's Alan Lomax Archive.

Wheeler has also published a review of *Derek Jarman and Lyric Film: The Mirror and The Sea*, by Steven Dillon, in *Film Quarterly* 59.3 (Spring, 2006).

**Gwendolyn Audrey Foster** has just published an essay entitled "Performing Modernity and Gender in the 1930s" in *Cinema and Modernity*, edited by Murray Pomerance, just out from Rutgers University Press. In

the same volume is **Wheeler Dixon's** essay "The Endless Embrace of Hell: Hopelessness and Betrayal in Film Noir" exploring the terrain of film noir in the 1940s and 50s.

**Linda Pratt** and **Laura White** co-authored an article in the current issue of the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* titled "A Model for Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies." The essay draws its model from UNL's graduate certificate program in Nineteenth Century Studies. The program is supported by the Departments of English, History, and Modern Languages.

**Kwakiutl L. Dreher** presented her paper "Nice Girls Do It Too: Lena Horne and the Quest for Stage Legitimacy" at the Popular Culture Conference held in Atlanta, Ga., in April. Kwakiutl examined Lena Horne's mission in the 1930s to persuade the Black bourgeois to appreciate and recognize stage performance as a legitimate profession for the bourgeois Black young woman.

Ph.D. student **Carmel Morse** was also at the conference and presented her paper "Keeping Women at Home and Between the Covers: Romance Magazines of the 1960s."

**Janet Harkness** was one of three guest speakers at the opening ceremony, held Jan. 18-19, of the Dominican Republic National Institute of Public Opinion, which was set up by the Fundación Democracia y Desarrollo (Funglode). She was invited to speak about the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), which the Dominican Republic had previously applied to join. Funglode has since received membership in the ISSP.

Janet was also an invited presenter at the Second International Telephone Survey Methods Conference in Miami (Jan. 13-15), where as first author she gave a paper on "Oral Translation in Telephone Surveys." The paper was chosen to appear as a chapter in the Wiley publication accompanying the conference.

On April 20, **Bob Stock** gave a presentation to UNL's Theology for Lunch group on "*The Chronicles of Narnia: Film and Book.*"

**Grace Bauer's** poem "Gray Ghazal" appears in the current issue of *Slant*, and "A Little Like Dorothy" appears in the current *Bat City Review*.

**Mathias Svalina's** poems "Capability," "Coney Island Hot Dogs," "My Skills," "Comma Place" and "Dear Santa," were recently featured online at *MiPoesias*, (<http://www.mipoesias.com/Poetry>), and his poem "The Wasps' Agenda" is in the latest issue of *Typo*.

Watch the *Lincoln Journal Star* for **Tyrone Jaeger's** feature article about a 10-year old Buddhist monk living in Lincoln. Latest word from the newspaper is that the story will run on May 7. Tyrone's story "Parasites" will appear in the Spring/Summer issue of *Phantasmagoria*.

**Anthony Hawley's** essay-review of *The Red Gaze*, the last book of poetry published by Barbara Guest (1920-2006), appears in the most recent issue of *Cutbank*.

### Conference Notes

**Melissa Homestead** offers thanks to all who helped to make the Cather Project symposium on April 21 a success. Forty-four people registered to attend the symposium, including faculty and students from UNL, UNO, UNK, Northwest Missouri State University, and Doane College. **Susan Belasco** gave an overview of the importance of periodicals to research and teaching in American literature. **Andy Jewell** (Ph.D. '04) gave an overview of the Cather Journalism Project on the Willa Cather Archive, and **Kari Ronning** (co-director of the Cather Journalism Project with Andy) joined him for the Q&A and a discussion of how editing Cather's newspaper columns in the 1893-94 *Nebraska State Journal* has opened up exciting new areas for research.

Keynote speaker Ellen Gruber Garvey of New Jersey City University focused on Cather's editorial career at *McClure's Magazine*, arguing that Cather's editorial experience proved fruitful for her career writing fiction. Charles Johanningsmeier of UNO presented on the serialization of *The Professor's House* in *Collier's Weekly*. Finally, Melissa presented a case study of the advertising copy produced by Edith Lewis for two products advertised primarily to women in women's magazines, Jergen's Lotion and Woodbury's Facial Soap, suggesting that these campaigns are an important context for reading Cather's fiction published in women's magazines.

### Dollars for Scholars

**Janet Harkness** has been named a Descartes laureate by the European Union. The Descartes Prize, worth \$1 million, is the European Union's premier award for excellence in collaborative research. This year's prize is shared by five pan-European teams, among them the European Social Survey, for which Janet was responsible for developing translation guidelines and specifications.

**Christine Stewart-Nunez** has been awarded a P.E.O. Scholar Award from P.E.O. International. The award is for \$10,000.

Four of our graduate students have received Fling Fellowships for 2006-07: **Jehanne Dubrow, Tyrone Jaeger, Michael Page, and Eric Turley**.

**Gregory Rutledge** will further his research in 2006-07 with the help of a Layman Fund award. His topic is "The Epic Trickster: From Sundiata to So(u)l."

The Nebraska Arts Council has been good to our colleagues this year, giving four of them Individual Artist Grants: **Gerry Shapiro** (\$5000) and **Judy Slater** (\$2000) for their work in fiction; and **Grace Bauer** and **Mary K. Stillwell** \$1000 each for their work in poetry.

**James Engelhardt** has won this year's competition for the John W. Robinson Awards for Scholarly Papers, with his "Words in Space: Ecopoetics and Ecopoetry."

The newly established Frederick A. & Minnie J. M. Stuff Dissertation Fellowship goes to **Joy Arbor, Heather Camp, Derek Dreidger, Daryl Farmer, and Christine Stewart-Nunez**.

**Daryl Farmer, Kris Gandara, and Eric Turley** won this year's Robert L. Hough Junior Staff Teaching Awards.

### Laureate Rounds

**Ted Kooser's** bookings extend well into 2007. Here are some of the summer events closer to home:

On May 6 he's scheduled to appear at "The Heartland Experience" literary event at the Homestead National Monument, Beatrice, with novelists Ivan Doig and Percival Everett.

On May 12 he's scheduled to join in a conversation with NPR's "Book Guys" Allan Stypeck and Mike

Cuthbert for a taping at Embassy Suites of their "Rare Book Roadshow." The event is a fund-raiser for the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries.

And he's scheduled to be the grand marshal of the 4th of July celebration in Seward ("America's Small Town 4th of July City").

## Alumni News

**Lee Martin** (Ph.D. '94) was a finalist for this year's Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for his novel *The Bright Forever*. Lee is now director of creative writing and professor of English at The Ohio State University, Columbus. For more information, go to [www.pulitzer.org/year/2006/fiction](http://www.pulitzer.org/year/2006/fiction) or [www.nytimes.com/ref/arts/pulitzers2006.html](http://www.nytimes.com/ref/arts/pulitzers2006.html).

### Congratulations to our May graduates:

#### M.A.

**Christopher Higgs** (Supervisor, **Jonis Agee**)  
**Jennifer Moore** (Supervisor, **Guy Reynolds**)  
**Maureen Moynihan** (Supervisor, **Jonis Agee**)

#### Ph.D.

**Hadara Bar-Nadav** (Supervisor, **Hilda Raz**)  
**Kynan Connor** (Supervisor, **Bob Bergstrom**)  
**Joy Currie** (Supervisor, **Steve Buhler**)  
**Kyoko Matsunaga** (Supervisor, **Fran Kaye**)  
**Jim Reese** (Supervisor, **Jonis Agee**)  
**Cynthia Struloeff** (Supervisor, **Jonis Agee**)  
**Wynne Summers** (Supervisor, **Fran Kaye**)  
**James Sundeen** (Supervisors, **Amy Goodburn, Debbie Minter**)  
**Tammy Trucks-Bordeaux** (Supervisor, **Grace Bauer**)  
**Drucilla Wall** (Supervisor, **Jonis Agee**)  
**Leslee Wright** (Supervisor, **Nick Spencer**)

## Who's in charge here anyway?

Here is the schedule for summer department administrative duties:

### Chair/Acting Chair:

Joy Ritchie -- Pre-session - June 2  
Debbie Minter -- June 5 - July 1  
Joy Ritchie -- July 1 - July 31  
Nick Spencer -- Aug 1- 12

### Grad. Chair:

Nick Spencer will hold office hours pre-session to June 29 and Aug 1 -12.  
Joy Ritchie will be acting graduate chair from July 1 - 31

## Upcoming Events

**May 5, 3:30 p.m. – Doctoral Hooding Ceremony,**  
Kimball Hall.

**June 17-23 – Nebraska Summer Writers Conference.** Go to <http://www.unl.edu/nsw/> for details.

**Aug. 21 – First day of fall classes**

## American Life in Poetry: Column 051 By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate

Walt Whitman's poems took in the world through a wide-angle lens, including nearly everything, but most later poets have focused much more narrowly. Here the poet and novelist Jim Harrison nods to Whitman with a sweeping, inclusive poem about the course of life.

### Marching

At dawn I heard among bird calls  
the billions of marching feet in the churn  
and squeak of gravel, even tiny feet  
still wet from the mother's amniotic fluid,  
and very old halting feet, the feet  
of the very light and very heavy, all marching  
but not together, criss-crossing at every angle  
with sincere attempts not to touch, not to bump  
into each other, walking in the doors of houses  
and out the back door forty years later, finally  
knowing that time collapses on a single  
plateau where they were all their lives,  
knowing that time stops when the heart stops  
as they walk off the earth into the night air.

"Marching," from Jim Harrison's "Saving Daylight" (2006) is reprinted by permission of Copper Canyon Press. 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.

## Message in a . . . ?

If you're leaving town this summer and want your office mail forwarded, please fill out the form on the next page and give it to Elaine Dvorak. Note: normally only first-class mail will be forwarded. If you want catalogues and other mass mailing material forwarded, please state

that on the form and give the department some large stamped, self-addressed envelopes or postage stamps.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Starting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Any specific instructions?

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