

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

Friday, November 10, 2006

Editor: Janet Carlson

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"All the news we can beg, steal or borrow."

Recent Publications & Other Achievements

After a year's delay due to Hurricane Katrina, *Umpteen Ways of Looking at a Possum: Critical and Creative Responses to Everette Maddox*, edited by **Grace Bauer** and Julie Kane, has been published by Xavier Review Press. Grace traveled to New Orleans and Baton Rouge for the book release. She participated in a panel "More Than A Mess: The Legacy of Everette Maddox" at the Louisiana Book Festival and also co-hosted a reading by anthology contributors at the infamous Maple Leaf Bar, home to what is billed as "the longest running reading series in the South," which was originally hosted by Maddox. The book is receiving a good bit of attention in New Orleans, having already been written up in *Lagniappe* and reviewed (favorably) in the *Times Picayune*. Grace and her co-editor were also interviewed for a show to be run on WWNO radio at the University of New Orleans.

Grace also has a poem, "Blues Elegies," in the *Maple Leaf Rag*, another recent anthology to come out of New Orleans, where the artists and writers seem to be determined to carry on despite the devastation that surrounds them. "A trip to the lower Ninth Ward or Gentilly or Lakeview areas of the city is still like traveling in the Twilight Zone, not the United States," Grace writes.

She also has a poem, "Snake," in the most recent issue of *Primavera*, and in what may be her most unusual publication to date, her poem "Against Lawn," previously published in Ted Kooser's *American Life in Poetry* column, is reprinted in the latest issue of *Pine County Waters*, the newsletter of the Pine County Soil and Conservation District in Hinkley, Minn.

On Oct. 29, **Marco Abel** gave an invited movie talk on Pedro Almodóvar's career as part of the *Viva Pedro* retrospective at the Ross Theatre.

Tom Lynch attended the Western Literature Association Conference in Boise Oct. 25-28. He chaired a session on "Predators in the West: Narratives and Counter-Narratives" and presented a paper during that session titled "El Lobo's Return: A Bioregional

Narrative of Re-wilding." The Western Literature Association has created a new award in **Sue Rosowski's** honor, to be given for outstanding teaching and mentoring in Western American literary studies. The first award went to Jim Maguire of Boise State University.

Amelia ML Montes will be giving a paper at The Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW) in Philadelphia Nov. 11. The title of her paper is "Not Particular to the Southwest: Anzaldua and Community in the Midwest."

Amelia is also one of the founding members of The Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldua. This new society will be introduced at SSAWW with plans for an international conference to take place in May 2009.

Kelly Grey Carlisle has two essays listed as "Notable Essays of 2005" in this year's *Best American Essays* – one under her married name, and one under her maiden name. She's not sure the editors know the pieces were written by the same person, but is "very grateful all the same." As well she might be – **Ted Kooser** is on the list too.

The news about Kelly's work came just before she left for a two week residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. During her time there, Kelly petted a cow, hung out with the visual artists in a silo, and watched the wildlife frolic outside her studio window. She says she worked best at night, when it was too dark to see the groundhogs and bluebirds, and she has 140 pages of a first draft. She finds re-entry into the real world "(if you can call this place the 'real world') rather difficult."

Kelly also reports that two covers from *Prairie Schooner* designed by Dika Eckersley have been selected for inclusion in the *Print* regional issue, due out this month. *Print* is a national magazine of design.

Last week **Francis Davis** received a Full Fellowship Award in fiction from the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vt. The fellowship is valued at \$3,500 and will provide room, board and a studio for a month's residency at VSC in August 2007. "I'm excited, to say the least," he writes.

Jackie Cruikshank presented "The Lesbian Murderer in American Popular Culture from the 1890s to the 1990s" at the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association Conference in Baltimore, Md., on Oct. 28.

Amber Leichner's poem "How I Explain My Religious History" will appear in the premier issue of *Relief*, due out Nov. 15. The journal can be purchased at <http://www.reliefjournal.com>.

Ben Vogt's poem "Suddenly Autumn" appears in *Puerto del Sol*, vol. 41, issue 1.

FOOD BANK Collection

The University Association for Administrative Development is collecting food items for the Food Bank of Lincoln. Items will be collected in the English department until Nov. 14 and then delivered to the Administration Building for pickup on Nov. 15. If you would like to contribute to the drive, please put your donations into the bin in the mail room.

The most-needed items are coffee, canned fish and meats, canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, soups, fruit juices, peanut butter, paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, dish soap, bath soap, laundry detergent. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help provide Thanksgiving dinner baskets, please make your check payable to Food Bank of Lincoln and give it to Linda Mahloch or Elaine Dvorak in Andrews 202.

Alumni News

"Remembering the Bear," a poem by **Gaynell Gavin** (Ph.D. '03), was selected by Eric Pankey for inclusion in *Best New Poets 2006*, published by Samovar Press in October. The poem is from Gay's chapbook, *Intersections*, (Main Street Rag, 2005). Gay is reading at The Tattered cover in Denver on Nov. 13.

Charlotte Hogg (Ph.D. '01), assistant professor of English at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, has recently published *From the Garden Club: Rural Women Writing Community* through the University of Nebraska Press. Weaving elements of memoir with scholarly theory, the book explores how older women in Charlotte's rural hometown of Paxton, Neb., use literacy to shape their lives and community.

Lynn Hawkins, (Ph.D. '98) has an article, "Zora Neale Hurston: On and Off the Houseboat," in *Florida Studies* (Cambridge Scholars Press, Steve Glassman, ed. 2006). She presented a paper, "Zora in Daytona Beach," at the College English Association meeting in San Antonio

last April, and she's presenting "Writing: It's Not What You Think!" at the Florida College English Association scheduled for this weekend in Lakeland, Fla. Lynn is an assistant professor at Daytona Beach Community College.

She writes, "I feel immense gratitude to **Robert Brooke, Joy Ritchie, Paul Olson, Les Whipp**, and so many others at UNL!"

Upcoming Events

Nov. 10, 4 p.m. – No-Name Reading featuring **Tyrone Jaeger** and **Scott Winter**. At Sur Tango Bar et Café, 1228 P St. See <http://www.unl.edu/noname> for more information.

Nov. 10, 5 p.m. – Deadline for UNL Combined Campaign Pledges & Contributions

Linda Mahloch and **Bob Haller** have, for the umpteenth year, promised that everyone in the Department would return their UNL Combined Campaign cards, so whether you participate or not, please write your name on the envelope, enclose the pledge form, and return the sealed envelope to Linda or Dr. Bob.

Nov. 13, 1:15 p.m. – Graduate-student reception for **Joy Castro**, candidate in creative non-fiction and ethnic literatures. All graduate students are encouraged to attend. Bailey Library

Nov. 13, 3:30 p.m. – Joy Castro will speak on "The Definitional Difficulties of Ethnicity in Life-Writing." Bailey Library

Nov. 14, 11 a.m. – Joy Castro meets with the **Eco-Critical Studies and Place Studies** group informally in the Classics lounge (Andrews 237).

Nov. 14, 3:30 p.m. – Department meeting, Bailey Library.

Nov. 16, 3:30 p.m. – English Department Social, Bailey Library

Great food, great prizes for undergraduate English majors. Faculty and grad students, come meet and greet them!

Nov. 16, 6 p.m. – Resumé Workshop, Andrews Hall Rm. 27.

Sponsored by the **Writing Assistance Center**, and featuring strategies for fitting a resumé to a specific application and with the reader in mind, how to write relevant job descriptions, and more. Bring your resumé for practice. Handouts and pizza will also be provided. Please **RSVP by Nov. 14** to jrivera4@bigred.unl.edu.

Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. – Ruth Nissé lecture, "Romance of the Jewish East: The Ten Lost Tribes and the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs in the Middle

Ages," Bailey Library.

The fourth in the Medieval/Renaissance Studies series on Jewish/Christian/Muslim Relations, 1100-1700. Free and open to the public. Refreshments!

Nov. 29 & 30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – *Prairie Schooner* Book Sale, Bailey Library.

New and recent poetry, fiction, and non-fiction: \$5 hardback, \$3 paperback. Great deals on *Prairie Schooner* subscriptions. Free treats.

Nov. 30, 3:30 p.m. – Reading by Kim Roberts, Bailey Library

Roberts is editor of *Beltway Poetry Quarterly* and author of *The Wishbone Galaxy*. For the past five years her writing has focused on medical themes, as she cared for a close friend dying of cancer and was treated for cancer herself – although her poems tend not to be "confessional" in style but are, rather, concerned with the history of medical care, and grounded very much in awe and wonder at how our bodies work – and don't work. Co-sponsored by the Humanities in Medicine Program and UNL's Creative Writing Program.

Nov. 30, 7:30 p.m. – Novelist David Treuer reads from his work. Bailey Library

Half Ojibwe Native American and half Austrian, David Treuer grew up at Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota, where he currently resides. A graduate of Princeton University, he holds an MA degree from the University of Michigan, where he was taught by Toni Morrison. He was a Fulbright Fellow at a Canadian university and currently teaches at the University of Minnesota.

His first novel, *Little*, won the 1996 Minnesota Book Award and the 1996 Pushcart Prize, and is available as a Granta paperback.

There will be a reception following his reading. Treuer's visit is sponsored by the English Department, Creative Writing, The Institute for Ethnic Studies, and *Prairie Schooner*. He will be here all day Thursday and half of Friday; anyone interested in meeting him should contact Tom Gannon, Fran Kaye, or Gerry Shapiro.

Dec. 1, 4 p.m. – A Special No-Name Reading at Sur Tango Bar *et* Café, 1228 P St.

Dec. 1, 5 p.m. – Julie Schleck sings with the newly formed UNL Chamber Singers at the Sheldon Gallery's "Winter Festival," in the Great Hall.

The Singers will perform Benjamin Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" with harp accompaniment along with other seasonal pieces. Admission is free; there will be appetizers and a cash bar "to further enhance the music and the gallery's art collection."

American Life in Poetry: Column 085 By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

The Illinois poet, Lisel Mueller, is one of our country's finest writers, and the following lines, with their grace and humility, are representative of her poems of quiet celebration.

In November

Outside the house the wind is howling
and the trees are creaking horribly.
This is an old story
with its old beginning,
as I lay me down to sleep.
But when I wake up, sunlight
has taken over the room.
You have already made the coffee
and the radio brings us music
from a confident age. In the paper
bad news is set in distant places.
Whatever was bound to happen
in my story did not happen.
But I know there are rules that cannot be broken.
Perhaps a name was changed.
A small mistake. Perhaps
a woman I do not know
is facing the day with the heavy heart
that, by all rights, should have been mine.

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