

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Special Post-Valentine's Day Issue!

Friday, February 16, 2007

Interim editor: Gerry Shapiro

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

Recent Publications and Other Achievements

Derek Driedger has accepted a tenure-track position in English at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. Derek will teach courses in expository writing, women writers, Victorian literature, and journalism (but not all at once). Derek wishes to thank Dr. Bergstrom and Dr. Minter for their assistance. Derek also appreciates the effort put forth by the Job Placement Committee members over the past four years. Congratulations, Derek!

Dave Madden's story, "The Single Father," just won the 2006 Sherwood Anderson Fiction Award given by *Mid-American Review*. The judge this year was Aimee Bender, and the story should be published sometime in April. Congratulations, Dave!

Kalenda Eaton attended the Fourth Annual Association of African American Historical Research and Preservation Society (AAHRP) conference in Seattle, Washington, February 2-4, 2007. While at the conference, she chaired a lively panel titled: "Extraordinary Women: Let Us Not Forget Them!" The presenters on the panel spoke on African American "hair culturalists," Women's community activism in Reconstruction-era Texas, and Grace Morris Jones, the co-founder of Piney Woods School in Mississippi—"the flagship of the four remaining historically African-American boarding schools in the United States." Kalenda has been chosen to represent UNL in a faculty exchange program with the Universidad de Sevilla, in Seville, Spain. This is the first year of the exchange program involving Modern Languages, History, English and the University of Seville. She will teach a 5-week course she proposed titled: "The Aesthetics of Spirituality, Rhythm, and Blues in African American Literature." The course will run throughout May 2007.

Timothy Schaffert will attend a luncheon on February 28 at the historic 24 Fifth Avenue restaurant in New York City, hosted by Barnes and Noble Booksellers in honor of the authors in the 2006 "Discover Great New Writers" program. Each season (in February, May, August and November), the "Discover" program selects 10-15 books, and features those books prominently in all of Barnes and Noble's 800 stores across the country. Timothy's second novel, *The Singing and Dancing Daughters of God*, was on the Discover list in the spring of 2006. His third novel, *Devils In the Sugar Shop*, will available later this spring.

John Chavez's poem, "The Soul of Things," appears in the Spring issue of *Xantippe*.

Judith Slater's story, "Night of the Gypsies," appears in the current issue of *Ascent*.

Benjamin Vogt's poem, "How We Came to Be Here," appears in the December 2006 issue of *Anthropology and Humanism*.

Barbara Tracy's essay "The Red-Black Center of Alice Walker's Meridian: Asserting a Cherokee Womanist Sensibility" has been published in SUNY Press's February release: *Cultural Sites of Critical Insight: Philosophy, Aesthetics and African American and Native American Women's writing*. Eds. Angela Cotton and Christa Davis Acampora.

Grace Bauer's book, *Retreats and Recognitions*, which won the 2006 Idaho Poetry Prize Competition, is just out from Lost Horse Press.

Marco Abel published "Tender Speaking: An Interview with Christoph Hochhäusler," in *Senses of Cinema* 42 (January-March 2007). This interview, expanded by an introductory essay, is Marco's

Alumni Updates

translation of the original interview with the German director, which he published in German with *Filmtext.com* in May 2006. The translated interview can be accessed at www.sensesofcinema.com. From March 30-April 4, Mr. Hochhäusler will be in Lincoln to attend the screenings of his two films, [This Very Moment](#) (2003) and [Low Profile](#) (2006), which will be screened as part of the "Retrospective of German Cinema." Marco will curate this through the Ross (March 23- April 5).

On February 2nd, **Ted Kooser** and Debra Winger read selections from American literature at the Zeitirion Theater in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and on the 7th and 8th read from his own work at Longwood University and St. Mary's College, in Virginia and Maryland.

Wheeler Winston Dixon participated in the 2006 Senses of Cinema World Poll for 2006, listing his top ten films of the year, at <http://www.sensesofcinema.com/contents/07/42/2006-world-poll-2.html#Dixon>.

Upcoming Events

February 20: Panel discussion related to the Sheldon Art Gallery's exhibits "Chris Ware" and "Comic Art" will feature **Timothy Schaffert**, UNL history professor Patrick Jones, Sheldon curator Dan Siedell, and UNL librarian Richard Graham, discussing the cultural influence of comic books. 5-7 p.m. Sheldon Art Gallery.

February 23: No Name Reading featuring **James Engelhardt** and **Joe Rein**, 4:00 p.m., Sur Tango Bar, 1228 P Street.

February 27: Informal discussion with **Houston Baker**, Bailey Library, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

February 27: The 2007 **Robert Knoll Lecture: Houston Baker**, Distinguished University Professor at Vanderbilt University, 7:30 p.m., Center for Great Plains Studies, 12th and Q Street. Professor Baker's lecture will be titled "Black Neoconservatism Shelby Steel Style: How the Civil Rights Movement Has Been Betrayed." Reception to follow.

March 5: Teaching & Research Committee Panel Session on "New Trends in 20th/21st Century Studies." Participants will be **Marco Abel**, **Aaron Hillyer**, **Steve Ramsey**, **Amelia Montes**.

Mary Ann Melfi (formerly **Mary Ann Gauthier/Kelly**) writes to say: "I enjoyed getting last spring's Alumni Newsletter and seeing the old coffee room--and hearing about those still there and those retiring from my days at UNL. I'm still teaching at The College of William and Mary (since '83), have published a recent article on Graham Greene in *The South Atlantic Review*, and have created a course this year called "Narcissism in Literature." On a personal note, my daughter Heather is now a college sophomore (and an English major)."

John McNally's (Ph.D. 1999) new anthology, *When I Was a Loser: True Stories of (Barely) Surviving High School*, will be published in March by Free Press/Simon and Schuster. The same publisher will reissue his novel *America's Report Card* in paperback this summer. He is presently Visiting Writer at Columbia College Chicago.

Tony Farrington (Ph.D. 2002), **Sherrie Flick** (M.A. 1996), and **Nancy McCabe** (Ph.D. 1995) have all won \$5,000 fellowships from the Pennsylvania Arts Council. Tony and Sherrie's fellowships are in fiction; Nancy's is in creative nonfiction. Congratulations to Tony, Sherrie and Nancy on winning these very competitive fellowships!

Cindy Struloeff (Ph.D. 2006) and **John Struloeff** (Ph.D. 2005) announce the arrival of William Carver Struloeff on February 13. Congratulations, Cindy and John!

Belated good news from **Tony Farrington** and **Chauna Craig** (Ph.D. 1999): Wynston Craig Farrington was born last May. Wyn is now nine months old, babbling and crawling. Congratulations to Chauna and Tony!

An Important Alert from the Bowels of the University's Operations Center!!

Due to the need to expand the Electrical Power grid in our Operations Center here at CSN and allow for the addition of new Electrical circuits, we have found it necessary to schedule a **complete Power Outage** in the Operations Center on **March 4, 2007** from **04:00am until between 10:00am-Noon**. During this installation, the Operations Center will be completely without power, and ALL Systems and most

Networking will be unavailable. We hope that this does not create any undo hardship or problems for anyone, and will attempt to have all Systems operational again as soon as possible on that day. **Note: this applies to computer servers, not to building power.** Any questions or comments, feel free to contact the UNCSN Helpdesk at 472-7373. Thank you.

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

Though parents know that their children will grow up and away from them, will love and be loved by others, it's a difficult thing to accept. Massachusetts poet Mary Jo Salter emphasizes the poignancy of the parent/child relationship in this perceptive and compelling poem.

Somebody Else's Baby

From now on they always are, for years now
they always have been, but from now on you know
they are, they always will be,

from now on when they cry and you say
wryly to their mother, better you than me,
you'd better mean it, you'd better

hand over what you can't have, and gracefully.

Reprinted from *New Letters*, vol. 72, no. 3-4, 2006, by permission of the poet. Copyright (c) 2006 by Mary Jo Salter, whose most recent book of poetry is *Open Shutters*, Knopf, 2003. 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.