

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Friday, September 7, 2007

Interim editor: Gerry Shapiro

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"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

Recent Publications and Other Achievements

Timothy Schaffert has two articles in the current issue of *Poets & Writers*: an interview with book reviewer Teresa Weaver and a feature story titled "The Big Cover-Up: A Writer's Role in Book Jacket Design."

Mathias Svalina's chapbook-length poem *Why I Am White* is now available from Kitchen Press. Also, Mathias won the New Michigan Press / Diagram chapbook contest for a manuscript called *Creation Myths*.

Carrie Shippers's poems can be found in the latest issues of *Crab Orchard Review*, *Meridian*, *Mid-American Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Faultline*, *Roanoke Review*, and *Pleiades*. Also, her essay about Lincoln poet William Reed Dunroy appears in the most recent *Great Plains Quarterly*.

Lew Kaye-Skinner's essay, "Inheritance," appears in the September/October issue of *Nebraska Life* magazine.

In June, **Marco Abel** gave an invited guest lecture, "Innen sicher und aussen mobil: Das Kino der Berliner Schule" at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany. As part of his stay in Germany, he also interviewed four directors—Markus Mischkowski, Kai Maria Steinkühler, Bernhard Marsch, and Rainer Knepperger—who are members of the so-called "Kölner Gruppe" ("Cologne Group"), a little-known, underground group of contemporary German filmmakers based in Marco's hometown.

Wheeler Winston Dixon has published *Film Talk: Directors at Work*, from Rutgers University Press, 2007, which was featured by Turner Classic Movies' book club as one of their "summer picks" for 2007. He also published an article, "Vanishing Point: The Last Days of Film," *Senses of Cinema* 43 (2007), at <http://www.sensesofcinema.com/contents/07/43/last-days-film.html>. He also published three reviews: "Cartographic Cinema by Tom Conley," *Choice* (August 2007); "Filmosophy by Daniel Frampton," *Choice* (June 2007); and "Women Filmmakers in Early Hollywood by Karen Mahar," *Choice* (June 2007). In August, he became a founding member of the SCMS Experimental Film and Media Special Interest Group, sponsored by The Society for Cinema

and Media Studies Interest Group, sponsored by The Society for Cinema and Media Studies.

Linda Pratt's essay, "Passionate Reporting: Arnold on Elementary Schools, Teachers, and Children," has been published in the Fall 2007 issue of *Nineteenth-Century Prose*.

Ken Price and his colleagues have been selected for a \$10,000 grant for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, to help fund their proposal, "Abraham Lincoln, Walt Whitman, and Washington, D.C. During the Civil War." This award was given as part of the highly competitive UNL Strategic Research Cluster Grants Competition.

Laura White published "Domestic Queen, Queenly Domestic: Queenly Contradictions in Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*" in *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* and "The 'Positioning Systems' of *Persuasion*" in *Persuasions On-line*, as well as a shorter piece, "Another Response to 'Across the pale parabola of Joy': Wodehouse Parodist" in *Connotations*.

Tyrone Jaeger's short story collection, *Graffiti Mouth*, was selected as a finalist for the Tartts First Fiction Award, sponsored by Livingston Press (University of West Alabama). A story from the manuscript, "Liar's Lullaby," will appear in the anthology *Tartts: Incisive Writing by Emerging Writers*. Ty's short story "Ghost Image" appeared in *Portland Review*, Summer 2007.

Tamy Burnett contributed a chapter to a critical collection titled *The X-Files and Literature: Unraveling the Story, Unweaving the Lie to Find the Truth* published August 2007 by Cambridge Scholars Press. Tamy's essay explores connections between Edgar Allan Poe's work and narrative strategies in *The X-Files*.

Carmel Morse has published two poems in *Pudding Magazine*, vol. 53. Carmel is working this year as a Visiting Assistant Professor in English at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio, teaching one composition and two literature courses each semester for 2007-08.

Grace Bauer gave several readings this summer, including readings at The Maple Leaf Bar and the 17 Poets Reading Series at the Goldmine Saloon in New Orleans, The Bowery Poetry Club in NYC, The Moonstone Reading Series at Robin's Bookstore in Philadelphia, and the

Upcoming Events

Sheldon Art Gallery (as part of the Sheldon Connections Series) here in Lincoln. (See item below.) Her poem "The Cruellest Month" appeared in the latest issue of *Southern Indiana Review* and was also featured on Verse Daily. *Umpteen Ways of Looking at a Possum: Critical and Creative Responses to Everette Maddox* (the anthology Grace co-edited with Julie Kane) was one of three finalists for the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance (SIBA) "Book of the Year Award" in Poetry. Grace is on leave this semester, and is off to find her duende in Spain--or maybe New Jersey.

Cody Lumpkin's poem, "Two Views on Catastrophe," will be published in the Fall/Winter 2007 issue of *New South* (formerly *The GSU Review*).

Joy Castro delivered the conference paper "Refusing to Pass" at AWP last spring on a panel entitled *Trashy Women*. Joy's poem, "Not," appeared in the Young Adult anthology *Faith & Doubt*, edited by Patrice Vecchione (New York: Henry Holt, 2007).

Dave Madden's story, "The Single Father," is in the current issue of *Mid-American Review*.

In July, **Grace Bauer** and **Mary K. Stillwell** participated in the "Third Friday Poetry Reading" which featured 2006 Nebraska Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship awardees at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. In August, Grace and Mary K. read their ekphrastic poems at "Art/Speaks: Poems Inspired by Paintings," which also took place at Sheldon.

Laura Madeline Wiseman has an essay in the recent issue of *The South Loop Review: Creative Nonfiction*, a short story in *Pebble Lake Review*, and two poems in *The Spoon River Poetry Review*.

Greg Kuzma has two poems in the latest issue of *The Iowa Review* (Fall 2007).

Steve Buhler's essay, "Musical Shakespeares: Attending to Ophelia, Juliet, and Desdemona," appears in the new *Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare and Popular Culture*, edited by Robert Shaughnessy. Steve served as dramaturg for the Flatwater Shakespeare Company *Love's Labor's Lost* in June, also crafting an adapted script and original music for a youth production of the play.

Important Personnel Changes at *Prairie Schooner*

Prairie Schooner had a number of changes over the summer. **Kelly Grey Carlisle** moved out of the Managing Editor position to focus on Ph.D. work and try her hand at teaching. **James Engelhardt** has moved into the Managing Editor position to replace her. He, in turn, is being replaced by **Carrie Shipers** as the new *Prairie Schooner* Book Prize Coordinator. Please join us in congratulating each of them on their new positions.

September 7-8: Loren Eiseley Centennial. There are a number of events over two days, notably a keynote address by **Dr. Scott Slovic**, University of Nevada-Reno. At 10:00 on Friday September 7, Dr. Slovic will take part in an open discussion in Bailey Library, organized by **Tom Lynch**. For more information about the Eiseley Centennial, contact Tom Lynch, or go to www.eiseley.org

September 13-16, 20-23, 27-30: Don't miss **Flatwater Shakespeare Company's fall production of *King Lear***, directed by Bob Hall. 7:00 p.m. showtimes at the open-air Swan Theatre at Wyuka Cemetery and Park, 3600 O Street. Call 484-7640 for reservations or visit www.flatwatershakespeare.org Tickets: Adults \$18, Students/seniors \$12, Groups of ten or more \$10. The production features Stephen Gaines in the title role and includes such Flatwater favorites as George Hansen, Dick Nielsen, Brad Boesen, Matt Lukasiewicz, Andrea Swartz, and Sasha Dobson. **Steve Buhler** is the dramaturg.

September 14-15: The (downtown) omaha Lit Fest. This year's Lit Fest will be held at the Omaha Public Library, 215 S. 15th St., and includes readings and panel discussions featuring writers from the region and across the country. The Lit Fest has also partnered with Film Streams, Omaha's new nonprofit art cinema, for a month-long repertory series of films with literary origins that includes "Naked Lunch," "Masculin Feminin," "East of Eden," and many more. Visit www.omahalitfest.com for a schedule of events.

September 20: The Fall 2007 Women's Lit Film Night series opens with the showing of Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* at 6:30pm in the Dudley Bailey Library. The film will be followed by a discussion. The event is free and open to all. Bring your friends and family for an evening of manners, high-society intrigue, and illicit substances (in the movie!). Refreshments will be provided; bring your own beverage.

Welcome New Faculty!

I'm very pleased to welcome everyone back and hope the new semester has begun successfully for each of you. I am also very pleased to introduce three new faculty members, all of them joining us as tenured associate professors.

Professor Joy Castro comes to us from Wabash College in Indiana, where she was Chair of the Department of English. Professor Castro joins English and the Institute for Ethnic Studies, teaching creative writing, ethnic and modernist literatures. Her most recent book is the *Truth*

Book and she has new projects underway: *Notes Against Serotiny: How Race, Class, Family, Religion, and Gender Affect Our Love for the Natural World*; a collection of short stories: *On Earth As It Is*; and her critical book: *This Is My Body: The Life and Work of Margery Latimer*.

Professor Frankie Condon recently arrived from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. Her research and teaching are in composition and rhetoric, with specific research is on race, whiteness, and writing center theory and practice. Dr. Condon will be the Coordinator of the Writing Center. Her most recent book is *The Everyday Writing Center*, and she has two forthcoming articles: "Dynamic Complexity: Teach, Learning, Politics" and another article: "Beyond the Known: Writing Centers and the Work of Anti-Racism."

Professor Shari Stenberg comes to us from Creighton University, where she was director of composition and associate director of the honors program, is the department's coordinator of the Program of Excellence Initiative for Faculty Leadership in Writing. She was already been at work in the spring and summer meeting with faculty from across the university. Professor Stenberg's most recent book is *Professing And Pedagogy: Learning The Teaching Of English*. She has forthcoming articles in *College Composition and Communication* and in a volume entitled *Preservation and Transformation in English Studies*.

– **Joy Ritchie**, Chair

EGSA Update!

The annual start-of-the-year picnic was a great success---one of the highest turnouts in recent memory. EGSA thanks Amy Goodburn and her family once again for being such gracious hosts.

Congratulations to, the English department's Graduate Student Association representative for the 2007-2008 school year. Please see if you have anything to take up with the GSA, an organization for graduate students in all departments at UNL.

Also, please don't forget to vote for graduate students to fill the Teaching & Research, Chair's Advisory, and Grade Appeal committees. All graduate students should have received an email ballot earlier this week. If you didn't, email Dave Madden (dmadden@unlserve.unl.edu) and let him know. Ballots are due by 5pm on Friday, Sept. 7.

That's all for this time. In the coming weeks EGSA will be holding an open meeting, to which all graduate students are invited. Check your inboxes and this newsletter for more details.

--Alison, Carrie, Dave, Julie, Krista, Leslie, Lupe, Mike, and Sandy
Your EGSA committee

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

The British writer Virginia Woolf wrote about the pleasures of having a room of one's own. Here the Vermont poet Karin Gottshall shows us her own sort of private place.

The Raspberry Room

It was solid hedge, loops of bramble and thorny as it had to be with its berries thick as bumblebees. It drew blood just to get there, but I was queen of that place, at ten, though the berries shook like fists in the wind, daring anyone to come in. I was trying so hard to love this world--real rooms too big and full of worry to comfortably inhabit--but believing I was born to live in that cloistered green bower: the raspberry patch in the back acre of my grandparents' orchard. I was cross-stitched and beaded by its fat, dollmaker's needles. The effort of sliding under the heavy, spiked tangles that tore my clothes and smeared me with juice was rewarded with space, wholly mine, a kind of room out of the crush of the bushes with a canopy of raspberry dagger-leaves and a syrup of sun and birdsong. Hours would pass in the loud buzz of it, blood made it mine--the adventure of that red sting singing down my calves, the place the scratches brought me to: just space enough for a girl to lie down.

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Alumni Updates

Amy Knox Brown (Ph.D.) Is now an assistant professor of English and creative writing at Salem College in North Carolina, and also the director of the creative writing major. (And pre-law advisor. Yes, she's a little busy!) Amy's story collection, *Three Versions of the Truth*, will be released on Sept. 1. She'll be in Lincoln and will give a reading at A Novel Idea on Wednesday., Sept. 12 at 7:30.

John Struloeff (Ph.D.) has taken a tenure-track position at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, where he'll direct the creative writing program.