

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

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Editor: Gerry Shapiro

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"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

Recent Publications and Other Achievements

Jim Ford's codirected production of *The Most Happy Fella* won the International Trophy (first place) and five other awards on September 30 at the Waterford [Ireland] International Festival of Light Opera. This was the first time an American company had placed first in the competition's 49 years. On October 4, Jim read a paper entitled "The Ontic Return in Europe" at the 32nd European Studies Conference at UNO.

Chris Gallagher moderated a national panel discussion of Nebraska's School-based, Teacher-led Assessment and Reporting System at the third annual Leadership for Classroom Assessment Conference in Omaha, October 17-19. Panel participants were George Wood, Executive Director of the Forum for Education and Democracy, Lewis Cohen, Executive Director of the Coalition of Essential Schools, and John Thatcher and Kaholo Daguman of Connections Charter School in Hilo, Hawaii. Chris is also co-facilitating the Nebraska Department of Education "STARS Enhancement Design Team," a task force consisting of educators and policymakers charged with updating the state assessment and accountability system in light of a new state law.

On October 26, **Shari Stenberg** and **Chris Gallagher** made a brief presentation to a group of Nebraska educators and Nebraska Department of Education staff charged with revising the state's Language Arts Standards. Shari and Chris shared their research on college writing and offered a set of recommendations for standards revision.

Anthony Hawley has had a busy October. Earlier this month, he traveled to Missoula, Montana where he read from forthcoming books at The New Lakes reading series, and this past weekend, he traveled to New York to read at the St. Mark's Poetry Project. In addition to reading his own work, he recently read poems of Robert Frost's with members of the Lincoln Symphony and the UNL student chorus for a performance of Randall Thompson's "Frostiana" in Kimball Recital Hall. That same day he delivered a lecture for Visiting Presidential Professor of the Visual Arts, Enrique Martinez Celaya, at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

This fascinating lecture, "Photography as Grief," was the first of six lectures Enrique will give during the course of his three years here and at UNO as Visiting Presidential Professor. And one more item: Anthony's poem, "P(r)etty Sonnet LXXIV" was just published in *The Hat*; it was featured in Poetry Daily (www.poems.com) on Tuesday October, 30.

Melissa Homestead spent fall break at the New York Public Library reading copies of *Every Week* (which Edith Lewis edited) and poking through the Crowell & Collier Publishing records looking for correspondence about the serialization of Willa Cather's *Lucy Gayheart* in the *Woman's Home Companion*. Her new introduction to the Signet Classic's edition of Cather's *Song of the Lark* just appeared, but please note that she disavows all responsibility for the jacket copy! Also appearing by the end of the semester will be her chapter on "The Beginnings of the American Novel" in the *Oxford Handbook of Early American Literature*. Her contribution to this comprehensive, multi-author history of American literature through the early 1790s focuses on early transatlantic novels by authors such as Charlotte Lennox and Edward Kimber and culminates with an extended analysis of Susanna Rowson's transatlantic fictions and career.

Timothy Schaffert read from new work at the Reader's Room at Mo Pitkin's House of Satisfaction, in New York City's East Village, on Oct. 22, along with memoirist Sean Wilsey and novelist Charles Bock. Timothy also has an essay in the newly released *Brothers & Beasts: An Anthology of Men on Fairy Tales*, from the Series in Fairy-Tale Studies of Wayne State University Press.

Ken Price recently gave two talks on campus to help mark the acquisition of the 3 millionth volume—a first edition of *Leaves of Grass* (1855)—by the University Libraries. He also gave a talk at on new developments in digital scholarship at Duke University. Earlier this term he traveled to Texas A&M University to serve as a consultant on a *Don Quixote* project.

Marco Abel's 1st book, *Violent Affect: Literature, Cinema, and Critique after Representation*, was just published by the University of Nebraska Press.

Congratulations, Marco!

Frankie Condon recently delivered the opening plenary address to the Midwest Writing Centers Association conference held this year in Kansas City. The title of her talk was "White: Writing Centers, Race, and Recognition." While at the conference Frankie also facilitated an anti-racism workshop for writing center directors and consultants and visited UMKC's Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence to facilitate a faculty dialogue, "Teaching the Conflicts: "Intellectual Diversity" and Pedagogical Responsibility."

Julia Schleck presented and participated in a roundtable discussion on Teaching Travel Narratives at the annual Sixteenth Century Society Conference in Minneapolis in late October. Amy Burnett chaired the evening event, which was sponsored by the Society for Reformation Research.

Zachary Schomburg has poems in the newest *Alice Blue Review* and *Bat City Review*. He and **Mathias Svalina** are featured in the latest issue of the Omaha Weekly Reader in an article about the *Clean Part Reading Series*, *Octopus Magazine* and *Octopus Books*, and their own publications. Zachary will be reading from his poetry as part of the Missouri Valley Reading Series on Wednesday night, Nov. 7, at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Mathias Svalina's chapbook, *Creation Myths*, is now available to purchase from New Michigan Press.

UNL had a strong presence at the Sixth Biennial Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference on "Civic Discourse," October 4-6, 2007 in Little Rock, Arkansas, including at the new Clinton Library. **Frankie Condon** presented a paper on "Queering Civic Discourse in Academic: Transcending Normativity and Accounting for the Other." **Eric Turley and Whitney Douglas** presented papers entitled respectively, "Rethinking Recovery: Moving Outside the University" and "Creating With: Communal Spaces for Civic Dialogue." **Leslie Bartlett's** paper was on "The Rhetoric of Responsibility: Civic Discourse, Teacher Affect, and Women Writers." **Allison Friedow, Mike Kelly, and Sandy Tarabochia** conducted a workshop: "Engaging Citizens, Engaging Students: Pedagogy and Rhetorical Performance." **Dana Kinzy** gave a paper entitled "Progressive Pedagogy, Assessment, and Accountability: Reclaiming Discourse Surrounding Schools." **Deborah Minter and Joy Ritchie** gave papers on a panel "Civic Discourses, Civic Identities: Feminists Constructing Collective Missions and Individual Identities in Academic Institutions." Several of our former students also gave papers including **Charlotte Hogg**, (TCU), **Jennifer Putzi** (College of William and Mary), **Ginny Crisco** (UC Fresno), **Rochelle Harris** (Central Michigan), and **Maria Monteperto** (Keane State).

Upcoming Events

November 2 (TODAY!): No Name Reading, featuring **Jehanne Dubrow** and **Lucas Stock**, 4 p.m., Sur Tango Bar, 12th and P Street, downtown.

November 6: Bedford St. Martin's Book Fair! 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Baily Library For you tenured faculty who still don't have your spring book orders in (ahem!) and you TAs who are drooling over the teaching prospects, be sure to check out the fare -- both books and food -- at this event.

November 7: Guy Vanderhaeghe, Canadian novelist and two-time winner of the Governor General's Award, reading from his work, 3:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery, 12th and Q Street. Reception to follow.

November 8: Harryette Mullen, author of *Recyclopedia* and the National Book Award Finalist *Sleeping with the Dictionary*, reading from her work at 7 p.m. in Nebraska Wesleyan University's Callen Conference Center.

November 15: David Mason, poet and author of *Ludlow: a Novel in Verse*, reading from his work, 7:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery, 12 and Q Street. Reception to follow.

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

When ancient people gathered around the fire at nightfall, I like to think that they told stories, about where each of them had been that day, and what that person had seen in the forest. Those were among our first stories, and we still venture into the world and return to tell others what happened. It's part of community. Here Kathleen Flenniken of Washington tells us about a woman she saw at an airport.

Old Woman With Protea Flowers, Kahalui Airport

She wears the run-down slippers of a local
and in her arms, five rare protea
wrapped in newsprint, big as digger pine cones.
Our hands can't help it and she lets us touch.
Her brother grows them for her, upcountry.
She's spending the day on Oahu
with her flowers and her dogs. Protea
for four dogs' graves, two for her favorite.
She'll sit with him into the afternoon
and watch the ocean from Koolau.
An old woman's paradise, she tells us,
and pets the flowers' soft, pink ears.

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