

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Friday, March 28, 2008

Editor: Gerry Shapiro

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"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

Recent Publications and Other Achievements

Grace Bauer's essay, "Getting Around," appears in the latest issue of *Palo Alto Review*. A review of her books, *Retreats and Recognition* and *Beholding Eye*, is just out at www.thecafereview.com.

Guy Reynolds gave a talk as part of the Paul A. Olson Seminars at the Center for Great Plains Studies (2/20/08). 'Permanence and Transmission: Willa Cather's Entropology' is also available as a podcast: <http://www.unl.edu/plains/semnar/media/centerpodcasts.shtml>.

Oddly enough there are several items related to **Wheeler Winston Dixon** in this issue of the newsletter: Wheeler presented an invited paper, "Not Whether But When: Post 9/11 Nuclear Terrorism in the Cinema" at the 2008 Society for Cinema and Media Studies International Conference, Philadelphia, PA on March 7. Wheeler has published "The Power of Resistance: Les Dames de Bois du Boulogne," *Senses of Cinema* 46 (Spring, 2008), at <http://www.sensesofcinema.com/contents/08/46/dames-du-bois-de-boulogne.html>, an essay on the classic French film by Robert Bresson and Jean Cocteau. The latest issue of *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* contains a number of contributions from the UNL English department; **Robert Stock** wrote an excellent review of Peter C. Rollins' book *The Columbia Companion to American History on Film*; **Joshua Call** wrote two reviews, one on *Framing Monsters: Fantasy Film and Social Alienation* by Joshua Berlin, and another on *Screening the Gothic* by Lisa Hopkins; and our former colleague **Alpana Sharma** contributed an essay, "Paradise Lost in Mission Kashmir: Global Terrorism, Local Insurgencies, and the Question of Kashmir in Indian Cinema."

The "No Limits" Conference, which took place in February at the University of Nebraska-Kearny, featured several of our graduate students in starring roles. The theme of the conference was "Transnational Feminism: Feminism and Gender Issues Across National Boundaries." **Tosha Sampson-Choma** presented a paper, "Transgressing National Boundaries: Searching for Home and Self in Buchi Emecheta's *Kehinde*." **Julie Iromuanya**, presented a paper

titled, "Ken Saro-Wiwa: A Feminist Rhetoric and Methodology of Protest." **Tamy Burnett** presented a paper entitled, "Heroic Women and Violent Spectacle: Questions of Visual Pleasure, Gender, and the Foundations of Today's Violent Woman in Film." Amber Harris Leichner presented a paper as well.

Tosha Sampson-Choma attended the 17th Romance Languages and Literatures Conference at Binghamton University, entitled "Women, Home, & Nation: Private & Public Spaces" where I presented "Navigating the Tides of Scrutiny from the Pier to the Banana Boat: Faith Jackson's Journey Home in *Fruit of the Lemon* by Andrea Levy."

Melissa Homestead participated in a roundtable on "Nineteenth-Century American Women and Print Culture" at the Organization of American Historians annual meeting in New York City in late May. She also has been awarded a Knopf fellowship by the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas-Austin, which will fund a month in residence in summer 2009 to hunt through the Alfred Knopf Papers for Willa Cather and Edith Lewis materials. In other Edith Lewis related news (and readers of the newsletter know that there is *almost always* Edith Lewis related news), Melissa is pleased to announce that her article co-authored with Anne L. Kaufman, "Nebraska, New England, New York: Mapping the Foreground of the Willa Cather and Edith Lewis's Creative Partnership" is appearing in the March issues of *Western American Literature*. The gestation period for this first installment from the larger project was long -- some of you may recall Melissa lurking about Lincoln in the summer of 2004 researching this article, months before she even knew that she would be applying for a job at UNL, and some portions of this article may sound strangely familiar to those of you who attended her job talk in 2005.

Amber Harris Leichner was invited to read at a special session of the Queen Elizabeth I Society at the 2008 South Central Renaissance Conference in Kansas City, MO on March 11. Amber read from *Shadow in the Sun*, her manuscript of poems about Elizabeth and her court.

At the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) in Austin, Texas (March 19-22) three of our own presented papers: **Dr. Amelia M.L. Montes** gave a paper regarding Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton's importance in the twenty-first century on the panel,

“Transnational Discourses: Los Pasos Iniciales de/for the Chicana/o Novel.” **Ramon Guerra** gave a paper on testimonio for the panel “Literary Innovations.” And **Eduardo Blanco** gave a paper on “Midwest Testimonio” for the panel, “Testimonios of Navigating the Workplace as a Chicano/Latina.” Our brand new faculty member, **Ariana Vigil** also attended the conference and gave a paper on “Latino Cultural Production and the Sandinista Revolution” for the panel, “Latino Literature and the Disarticulation of (Trans)Nationalism.” Ariana expressed her thanks for all the wonderful e-mails she received from the faculty after she accepted our offer. She looks forward to being with us this fall.

Tyrone Jaeger's story “These Are My Arms” is in the Winter 2008 issue of *The Literary Review*.

Ruth Nissé was invited to deliver a paper entitled “From Polemic to Performance: *The Play of Adam* and the Supersession of Holy Language” at a conference of the Working Group on Performance Studies at Duke University.

Carrie Shippers has a poem in the latest *Barrow Street*.

Whitney Helms will be soon be delivering a paper, “Appropriating Authority and Celebrating the Mother: Anna Barbauld and Children's Literature” at UC Riverside's (dis)junctions 2008 Conference.

Susan Belasco has been on the road with *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature*. She and her co-editor, Linck Johnson, gave a presentation, “Making Literature Matter to the 21st Century Student,” to a general literature section meeting at the Texas Community College Teachers Association convention in Dallas, February 22-23. On March 12, Susan gave a workshop on teaching literature at Boise State University, arranged by Bedford/St. Martin's and hosted by **Dora Ramirez Dhoore** (PhD 03). **Matt Hansen** (PhD 05) also attended the workshop, and Susan reports that both Dora and Matt are flourishing at Boise State and send their greetings to their friends at UNL.

Rachel May will have a story in the spring issue of *Meridian*, and a collaborative piece that she and **Joshua Ware** wrote together will be published in *Sleeping Fish* this spring.

Tamy Burnett has received the 2008 Outstanding Student Contribution to the Status of Women on Campus Award, given annually by the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women. Tamy has served as a graduate student representative on the Chancellor's Commission and has been invaluable as a teacher and mentor in the Women's and Gender Studies Program as well as in English.

The Society for Textual Scholarship conference in Boston (March 13-15) featured a panel on “Editing Walt Whitman.” **Brett Barney** delivered “On Record: Editing the Whitman Interviews”; **Vanessa Steinrötter** discussed “Editing Reisiger's Version of Whitman's *Grashalme*: Translation and

Selection as Interpretation”; and **Ken Price** explored “Problems and Possibilities in Editing Walt Whitman's Civil War Writings.” In recent weeks Ken gave additional talks on editorial theory and on the question of genre in digital scholarship at the University of Georgia and the University of Maryland, respectively.

Steve Buhler's essay, “Politicizing *Macbeth* on U. S. Stages: Garson's *MacBird* and Greenland's *Jungle Rot*,” appears in *Macbeth: New Critical Essays*, edited by Nicholas Moschovakis and published by Routledge.

Upcoming Events

Today! Friday March 28: Sigma Tau Delta Spring Induction of Members, 3:30, pm, Bailey Library.

Today! Friday March 28: The No Name Reading Series continues with Krista Ferguson and Madeline Wiseman reading from their work, 4 p.m., Sur Tango Bar and Grill.

Thursday, April 3: Women's Lit Film Night Series: *Yesterday* (2004), 6:30pm, Bailey Library; hosted by **Julie Iromuanya**. This independent film tells the story of Yesterday, an HIV-positive South African woman, who struggles to raise her daughter and fights for her daughter's education. The film is in Zulu, with English subtitles. Not rated. All films in the Women's Lit Film Night Series are free and open to the public, so bring a friend or a date. Snacks will be provided, but bring your own soda, juice, or water.

Thursday, April 10: Women's Lit Film Night Series: *To Die In Jerusalem* (2004), hosted by **Carrie Walker, Andrews 102. (NOTE ROOM CHANGE.)** After two 17-year old girls—one an Israeli, the other a Palestinian suicide bomber—die in a Jerusalem market, their mothers confront each other, revealing a microcosm of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the complexity of reconciliation. Through the personal stories of the two families' losses and by contrasting the lives and deaths of these two teenage girls, *To Die In Jerusalem* offers a personal human perspective that is all too often eclipsed by the political issues. Not rated.

CANCELLED READING – PLEASE NOTE! The reading by **Carole Simmons Oles**, scheduled for Thursday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Bailey Library, has been cancelled. Please note this on your calendar.

Monday April 14: novelist **Frances Washburn**, reading from her work, 3:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery, 11th and Q Street. Book-signing and reception to follow.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE TWO IMPORTANT DATES!!

Wednesday, April 30: Literary Contest Winners' Reading Extravaganza, 3:45-5:30 p.m., Bailey Library.

Thursday, May 1: English Department Awards and Recognition Celebration, 3:30 p.m. in Bailey Library.

EGSA Update!

This past Wednesday, March 26, EGSA held its second open meeting of the school year. Students sat down with Debbie Minter to discuss the department's teaching request forms. If anyone was unable to attend the meeting, see one of us representative for a copy of the minutes.

It's also time for the annual EGSA elections. Nominations are now open for four PhD students to serve a two-year term and one MA representative to serve a one-year term on the EGSA executive board. Important EGSA activities include the fall welcome picnic and Tea & Empathy socials throughout the year, representing the interests of graduate students at department meetings and on several important committees, and sponsoring the peer networking program that connects incoming graduate students with people already in the department. Please email Carrie Shippers (hera6201@hotmail.com) if you'd like to nominate yourself, your office mates, or your friends. We'll be accepting nominations until 5pm Friday afternoon.

EGSA still needs graduate students who have been in the department at least one year to serve as peer network leaders to incoming students. This is an opportunity to serve as a resource person for a new graduate student and to form new relationships. If you are interested in becoming a network leader, please email Carrie Shippers.

That's all for now. Be on the lookout for information on happy hours and other social events.

Your EGSA Executive Board:
Carrie, Sandy, Leslie, Krista, Lupe, Julie, Dave, Alison, and Mike

English Department Scholarships Available!

Reminder to Faculty: The English Department has scholarship money for English majors who are eligible for financial aid and will be fulltime students for at least one

semester of the 2008-09 school year. Apply by 5 PM on 15 April to **Elaine Dvorak**, 202 Andrews Hall, UNL 0333.

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

We greatly appreciate your newspaper's use of this column, and today we want to recognize newspaper employees by including a poem from the inside of a newsroom. David Tucker is deputy managing editor of the New Jersey "Star-Ledger" and has been a reporter and editor at the "Toronto Star" and the "Philadelphia Inquirer." He was on the "Star-Ledger" team that won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news. Mr. Tucker was awarded a Witter-Bynner fellowship for poetry in 2007 by former U. S. Poet Laureate, Donald Hall.

Today's News

A slow news day, but I did like the obit about the butcher who kept the same store for fifty years. People remembered when his street was sweetly roaring, aproned with flower stalls and fish stands. The stock market wandered, spooked by presidential winks, by micro-winds and the shadows of earnings. News was stationed around the horizon, ready as summer clouds to thunder-- but it moved off and we covered the committee meeting at the back of the statehouse, sat around on our desks, then went home early. The birds were still singing, the sun just going down. Working these long hours, you forget how beautiful the early evening can be, the big houses like ships turning into the night, their rooms piled high with silence.

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