

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

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Editors: Gerry Shapiro and Judy Slater

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"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

Recent Publications and Other Achievements

Timothy Schaffert's short story "The Young Widow of Barcelona" is in the current issue of *Fairy Tale Review*. The issue is accompanied by a limited-edition CD of new music.

Two of **Amber Harris Leichner's** poems about Queen Elizabeth I have just been published in the collection *Queens and Power in Medieval and Early Modern England* (University of Nebraska Press).

Benjamin Vogt has received a \$1,000 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize for three of his poems. He also has two essays forthcoming from his hybrid memoir, *Morning Glory: A Story of Family and Culture in the Garden*, in *Amoskeag* and *Sou'wester*.

Guy Reynolds has posted his 2001 essay on *The Great Gatsby*, 'The "Constant Flicker" of the American Scene,' on the university's 'Digital Commons' site:
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/englishfacpubs/56/>

Rhonda Garelick's book, *Electric Salome: Loie Fuller's Performance of Modernism* was re-issued in paperback by Princeton University Press.

Last week **Steve Behrendt** was at UN-Kearney to give the inaugural Martin Family Distinguished Lecture, jointly sponsored by English and Women's Studies. He gave a talk on Romantic-era women poets and the hazards faced by women poets as both public, professional writers and as private authors.

Serving as a representative of the Women and Gender Studies' Transnational Feminism group, **Carrie Walker** will be attending the Commission on the Status of Women Conference at the United Nations in New York from February 28th - March 7th, 2009. The CSW is dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. Representatives from member states gather to identify problems and issues affecting women internationally. CSW meetings are typically attended by thousands of women affiliated with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from around the world. Along side the official discussions and reports, these NGOs sponsor

hundreds of "side events" such as panels, workshops and performances addressing local and international issues affecting women.

As in the previous three years, **Marco Abel** once again attended the Berlin Film Festival where he watched about thirty German films and a terrible adaptation of Naomi Klein's *Shock Doctrine*.

Susan Belasco, who is spending a semester in London, reports that she didn't manage to escape heavy snow and ice this year. The worst winter weather in twenty years hit London a couple of weeks ago, bringing the city to a completely standstill. The entire transport system shut down, as did the theatres. Conditions have improved, however, and, on February 11, Susan gave a lecture, "Walt Whitman and the Transatlantic Literary Marketplace," at the Victorian Studies Centre of the University of Leicester.

Grace Bauer recently returned from the National AWP Conference, where she chaired and participated in a panel: "The Sister Arts: Toward a Feminist Ekphrasis. The panel included UNL grad Christine Stewart Nunez, among others. The contingent of present and former grad students at the conference was impressive!

Jacqueline Harris's proposal for a book chapter entitled "Fernand Léger and Willa Cather's "Coming Aphrodite!" has been accepted for the prospectus for the new Cather volume *Willa Cather and the Aesthetic Movement* edited by Sarah Watson and Ann Moseley. In October, she presented the creative essay "Walking Home" during the panel entitled "Shared Obsessions: Research-Based Literary Nonfiction Narratives" at the 2008 Western Literature Association Conference in Boulder, Colorado.

Hilda Raz read from her new book, *All Odd and Splendid*, for Bookslut at the Hopleaf Bar in Chicago on February 11th and again with other Wesleyan poets at AWP where she was a member of another panel, "Women of a Certain Age," that included Janet Burroway, Linda Pastan, Alicia Ostriker, and Rosellen Brown; she also did two book signings while in Chicago.

In Memoriam

Our colleague **Joy Currie** passed away on Friday, February 6, 2009. Joy came to UNL in 1996, when she returned with her husband, Alex, to their home town of Lincoln. She entered our graduate program after having taught at Minot State University, North Dakota. While a graduate student, she received the Robinson Award twice, Emley and Fling Fellowships, and the PEO Scholars Award. She completed her doctorate in 2006 and was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, as well as a Lecturer here. Her publications include essays and book chapters on topics ranging from Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde* to Willa Cather, from Mary Queen of Scots to poet Anne Hunter. She completed a final essay, "Sensibility, Gothic, and Satire: Shakespearean Allusions in Charlotte Smith's *Emmeline*," five days before she died. Based on her dissertation work, it will be submitted for publication posthumously. During Joy's memorial service, Alex expressed Joy's deep appreciation for UNL English – faculty, staff, and students – and our role in helping Joy participate fully in the scholarship and teaching she loved. Special thanks were given to six mentors: **Kate Ronald**, Graduate Chair at the time Joy entered the program; **Sue Rosowski**, who guided her toward publishing her work; and also **Paul Olson**, **Carole Levin** of History, **Stephen Behrendt**, and **Steve Buhler**, who comprised her doctoral committee. Her sharp curiosity and her generosity of spirit will be missed.

Alumni News

Jehanne Dubrow (PhD in poetry) is a post-doctoral fellow at Washington College in Chestertown, MD and has accepted the offer of a tenure track Assistant Professorship there. Her good news includes winning the Three Candles Press First Book Award (selected by Peter Pereira) with recent publication of *The Hardship Post* (her dissertation). Northwestern University Press has accepted her second book, *Stateside*, and -- hold on -- her third book just has won the annual Washington Writers' Publishing House Book Competition: *From the Fever-World*, her collection of poems by her "nonexistent Yiddish poet," will be published in the fall of 2009.

Naca (PhD in poetry) is a post-doctoral fellow at Macalester College in St. Paul, where she has accepted the offer of a tenure track Assistant Professorship. Her dissertation, *Bird Eating Bird*, was selected by Yusef Komunyakaa as a winner of the National Poetry Series and will be published soon by HarperCollins.

LSU Press will publish **Constance Merritt's** third book, *Two Rooms*, this coming spring. Constance is also a PhD alum in poetry.

Upcoming Events

Please put these dates on your calendar:

TODAY! February 20: Monica Rentfrow and Erica Rogers, reading from their work, as part of the No Name Reading Series, 4 p.m., Sur Tango Bar, 12th and P Street, downtown Lincoln.

February 25: poet **Craig Arnold** (author of *Shells*, which won the Yale Younger Poets Prize, and *Made Flesh*, just published by Ausable Press), reading from his new work, 7:30 p.m., Bailey Library. Book-signing to follow.

March 1: Marco Abel will give a Movie Talk at the Ross after the screening of the German-language film, *Yella* (dir. Christian Petzold, 2007). Time TBA.

February 23: "Teaching in a Politically Charged Atmosphere," sponsored by the Committee on Teaching and Research, 12 noon, Bailey Library.

March 25: poet, essayist and teacher **Naomi Shihab Nye**, author of more than twenty books, reading from her work, 7:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery. Reception and book-signing to follow.

April 2: "Three Wars: Henry James and Others," this year's Robert Knoll Lecture, will be given by Professor **Wai Chee Dimock**, the William Lampson Professor of American Studies and English at Yale University, 7:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery, 12th and Q. Reception to follow.