

# UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Friday, April 17, 2009

Editors: Gerry Shapiro and Judy Slater

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"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

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## Recent Publications and Other Achievements

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**Amanda Drake** and **Kathryn Kruger** attended the Indiana University "Transmission, Translation, Relocation" Graduate Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, at the end of March. Amanda presented her paper, "The Poet(ical) Works: Revising the Study of Ann Radcliffe"; and Katie presented her research on French/English translation, "Language of Darkness, Language of Sadness: John Fowles's Metaphorical (Re)Readings and (Mis)Translations of *Ourika*."

**Vanessa Steinroetter** has been chosen to receive a P.E.O. (Philanthropic Education Organization) Scholar Award. The award is for \$15,000 and will fund important archival research for her dissertation on "Representations of Readers and Reading in American Literature of the Civil War." She is one of 85 out of a total of about 650 applicants to receive this year's award, and would like to express her gratitude to Professors **Susan Belasco**, **Wendy Katz**, and **Ken Price** for their help with the application. Vanessa has also been accepted to two summer seminars and received tuition scholarships for both. She will be attending a course on electronic text analysis at the University of Victoria's Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI) from June 8-12, as well as the Summer Seminar in the History of the Book at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA, from June 22-26. A special thank you to **Melissa Homestead** for suggesting the latter opportunity and helping with the application letter. At the DHSI, Vanessa will be giving a presentation on "Expanding the Digital Research Collection across Linguistic Boundaries: the *Walt Whitman Archive* and the Future of Multilingual Electronic Editions" as part of the graduate student colloquium.

If you're looking for a good movie to watch you might want to check out [Yella](#) by Christian Petzold, which

New York's Cinema Guild just released on DVD. Included among its special features is **Marco Abel**'s essay on the film, "German Desire in the Age of Venture Capitalism." Marco also reports that his book, *Violent Affect: Literature, Cinema, and Critique after Representation*, is now available at a classroom-friendly paperback price.

Recently, **Joshua Ware**'s poems and economic analysis-graphs have appeared in *Lake Effect* and *With + Stand*; additionally, his "Ohio Letters" series was re-printed in its entirety in the current issue of *5\_Trope*. Wisconsin-Madison affiliate WSUM, in conjunction with the journal *Wordsalad*, aired an audio recording of his poem "The Salamander Speaks" (with vocal contributions from **John Chavez** and **Crystal Gibbons**). Collaborative poems with **Megan Gannon** and **Mile Waggner** appear in *Phoebe*, and *I,NE: Iterations of the Junco*, a collaborative chapbook with **John Chavez**, **Megan Gannon**, **Meghan Perry**, and **Rachel May** was released by Small Fires Press.

**Adrian Gibbons Koesters**' short story "While Eating Cold Cuts and Whole Cucumbers" appeared in the *Lunch Hour Stories Very Short Fiction Anthology* and was a finalist in their 2008 Very Short Fiction contest.

**John Schulze** has attended and presented at four conferences this semester. At the 2009 AWP Convention in Chicago he presented a paper at the pedagogy forum entitled, "Whose Story Is It?: A Common Misstep in Fiction Workshops." John also presented two papers in one weekend in March: "The Paradoxical Morality of the 'Noble Robber': Literary Depictions of Jesse James and Ned Kelly" at the College English Association's conference in Pittsburgh and "Fruit of the Loom: Threads of Fate in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*" at the Sigma Tau Delta convention in Minneapolis. And John just returned from New Orleans where he presented "Twain and Hurston: A Comparison of Dialectical Voices" at the Popular Culture Association/ American Culture Association conference.

**Joy Castro**'s short story "Whore for a Day" appeared in the most recent issue of *Afro-Hispanic Review*, Vanderbilt University's multilingual journal of Afro-Hispanic literature and culture.

**Carrie Walker** will be presenting her paper "The Hip Hop Diaspora: Visual Representations of Africa in the 21st century" at the annual African Literature Association in Burlington, Vermont on April 15th. Carrie also serves as the Chair of the ALA Graduate Student Caucus.

**Kelly Payne** attended the British Women Writers conference in Iowa City, Iowa the first week in April, where she presented her paper "'A puerile state of culture': Growing Pains and Culture Shock in *Daniel Deronda*."

**Zachary Schomburg** has two new chapbooks now available: *The Pond* (Greying Ghost Press) and *I Am a Small Boy* (Factory Hollow Press). The former is a section in his forthcoming book, *Scary, No Scary* (Black Ocean), which will be published in July, and the latter is a selection of poems from his third manuscript, *1977-2050*, which he is currently working on. In March, he read his poems at the Jubilat-Jones Reading Series at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Later this month, he will participate on a panel focusing on poetry translation theory at the Washington Poets Association spring festival at the Richard Hugo House in Seattle.

**Melissa Homestead** co-organized a symposium at the American Antiquarian Society on April 10 and 11. The symposium (entitled "Also by the author: E.D.E.N. Southworth Beyond *The Hidden Hand*") featured papers by 9 scholars, including **Vicki Martin** (a UNL doctoral student), who presented "Southworth's Serialized Novels, *Retribution* and *The Mother-In-Law* as Social and Political Vehicles for the *National Era*: Setting the Stage for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*." Melissa led the closing discussion on "Southworth and the Canon." Melissa is grateful to support for the symposium from the English Department and Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies.

**Susan Martens-Baker** presented a paper on April 10th at the National Conference for the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association in New Orleans. The paper was titled "*Yo Gabba Gabba!*: Redefining Children's Television through Cross-Generational Appeal." Her article "Fantasy Island Meets the Real World: Using Online Discussion Forums in Collaborative Learning" will appear in the May issue of *English Journal*.

**Fran Davis** will be attending a writing residency for three weeks in May at the Montana Artists Refuge in Basin, Montana, where he intends to work on a collection of short fiction entitled, *Working the Frog*. The stories are set in the late 80s and early 90s in Philadelphia, Montana, Seattle and San Francisco.

An edition of **Ted Kooser's** *Delights & Shadows* has been published under the interesting title, *Slasti & Strasti*, in Czech, in the Czech Republic. Ted also has a couple of new poems in the current *Great River Review* and has just done readings at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, and at the University of Missouri, Springfield.

On April 16, **Carrie Shippers** served as a panelist discussing "Poetic Elegy, Loss, and the Art of Grieving" at

the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling in Dallas, TX.

**Wheeler Winston Dixon** has published two new articles in *Senses of Cinema* 50: "Andrew V. McLaglen: Last of the Hollywood Professionals," and "Great Directors: Ida Lupino."

**Cody Lumpkin's** poems "Cooking Spam Outdoors" and "Skunk Hammock" will appear in the Fall 2009 Issue of *Tar River Poetry*.

**Michelle Menting** will have a nonfiction piece in an upcoming issue of *Superstition Review*.

**Susan Belasco** has published *Stowe in Her Own Time: A Biographical Chronicle of Her Life, Drawn from Recollections, Interviews, and Memoirs by Family, Friends and Associates*. The book is the sixth title in *Writers in Their Own Time*, a series of the University of Iowa Press.

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### Upcoming Events

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**April 16-19, April 23-26, and April 30-May 2:** Oscar Wilde's **The Importance of Being Earnest** will be performed at the Haymarket Theatre. Performances are at 7:30 p.m., except Sundays at 2:00 p.m. The Haymarket Theatre is located at 803 "Q" Street in Lincoln. Tickets may be reserved at 477-2600; student and group rates are available.

**April 19: Ariana Vigil**, speaking on "Jewish Characters, Subalternity and the Rewriting of the Foundational Narrative in Francisco Goldman's *The Divine Husband*," 3:00 p.m., in the Nebraska Union (room to be posted).

**April 22 & 23: Book sale Event:** With the help of EGSA, we will sell books from the collections of **Nick Spencer** and **Joy Currie**. The proceeds will go to the Nick Spencer Memorial Fund and the Joy Currie Memorial Graduate Fellowship Fund, both of which support our graduate students in a variety of ways.

**April 23: Hilda Raz** reading from her recent poetry, 7:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery, 12<sup>th</sup> and Q. Book-signing and reception to follow.

**April 24: Benjamin Vogt** and **Danielle Luther Luebbe**, reading from their work, as part of the No-Name Reading Series, 4 p.m, Sur Tango Bar *ét* Café, 12<sup>th</sup> and P.

**April 29: Literary Contest Winners Reading**, 3:00-5:00 p.m, Bailey Library.

**April 30: English Department Awards and Recognition Celebration, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., Bailey Library.**

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**Winners of this year's Literary Contests!**

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**Vreeland Awards:** Graduate, **Megan Gannon/Arra Ross**;  
Undergraduate, **Sinduja Sathiyaseelan**

**Mari Sandoz/Prairie Schooner Awards for Short Story:**  
First Prize, **Steve Edwards**; Second Prize, **Emily Danforth**

**Marjorie Stover Awards for Short Story:**  
First Prize, **Kaitlyn Ek**; Second Prize, **Kourtney Smith**

**Gaffney/Academy of American Poets Award for Poetry:**  
First Prize, **Laura Wiseman**; Second Prize, **Benjamin Vogt**

**Susan Atefat Peckham Fellowship: Lupe Linares**

**Undergraduate Student Awards for Poetry:**  
First Prize, **Rachel Wolfe**; Second Prize, **Amanda Huckins**;  
Third Prize, **Michelle Roberts**

**Gaffney Essay Contest:** First Prize, **Alex Houchin**, Second  
Prize, **James J. Morin/ Eric S. Smith**

**Ted Kooser Award for Outstanding First-Year Writers:**  
**Kristen Jackson**; instructor: **Megan Gannon**

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**American Life in Poetry – Column 212**

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**by Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006**

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We've published this column about American life for over four years, and we have finally found a poem about one of the great American pastimes, bowling. "The Big Lebowski" caught bowling on film, and this poem by Regan Huff of Georgia captures it in words.

**Occurrence on Washburn Avenue**

Alice's first strike gets a pat on the back,  
her second a cheer from Betty Woszinski  
who's just back from knee surgery. Her third—  
"A turkey!" Molly calls out—raises everyone's eyes.  
They clap. Teresa looks up from the bar.  
At the fourth the girls stop seeing their own pins wobble.  
They watch the little X's fill the row on Alice's screen—  
That's five. That's six. There's a holy space  
around her like a saint come down to bowl  
with the Tuesday Ladies in Thorp, Wisconsin.  
Teresa runs to get Al, and Fran calls Billy  
at the Exxon. The bar crowds with silent men.  
No one's cheering. No one's bowling now  
except Alice's team, rolling their balls

to advance the screen around to Alice, who's stopped  
even her nervous laugh, her face blank and smooth  
with concentration. It can't go on  
and then it does go on, the white bar  
reading "Silver Dollar Chicken" lowering and clearing  
nothing, then lowering and clearing nothing again.

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