

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Thursday September 3, 2009

Editor: Gerry Shapiro

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Recent Publications, Awards, and Other Achievements

Amelia M.L. Montes has published a new edition of Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton's nineteenth-century novel, *Who Would Have Thought It?* for Penguin Classics. The edition includes eight personal letters Ruiz de Burton wrote regarding the drafting and marketing of her writing, her reflections on women in nineteenth-century American society, political observations on the Civil War, on her attendance at President Abraham Lincoln's inauguration and at Senate hearings. Publishing the book with Penguin Classics firmly places Latina literature within the tradition of nineteenth-century American letters. To celebrate the publication, Penguin has scheduled Amelia on a book tour at various bookstores and universities in September and October. In Lincoln, she will be giving a reading at our UNL bookstore in the union, September 9 at 6p.m. and on September 20, she will be the featured reader for the John H. Ames Reading Series at the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors (2p.m.) at the Bennett Martin Public Library (136 S. 14th St., 3rd floor).

Marco Abel spent this summer in Germany where he continued his research on his book project on the "Berlin School" with the help of a Fling Faculty Research Fellowship. He also published a critical review essay of David Clarke's *German Cinema since Unification* in *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 26.3 (2009).

Susan Belasco was an invited speaker for *Women in the Archives: Using Archival Collections for Research on U.S. Women Writers*, a symposium commemorating the Maine Women Writers Collection's 50th anniversary, held at the Westbrook College Campus of the University of New England in Portland, Maine, June 12-14. A revised version of Susan's presentation, "The Responsibility is Ours: The Failure of Infrastructure

and the Limits of Scholarship," will be published in the forthcoming 25th anniversary issue of *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*. On July 16, Susan gave an illustrated talk about her new book *Stowe in Her Own Time* at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, Connecticut. Susan has recently accepted an invitation from the *New York Times Online* to develop a webpage on Harriet Beecher Stowe for *Times Topics*, an archive of historical material from the *Times*, dating back to the beginning of the newspaper in 1851.

Shari Stenberg published her essay "Chaos is the Poetry: From Outcomes to Inquiry in Service-Learning Pedagogy" (co-authored with Darby Arant Whealy) in *College Composition and Communication*. Her personal essay "Flying with Peter" is forthcoming in *The Sunnyside Review*.

A Short History of Film by **Wheeler Winston Dixon** and **Gwendolyn Audrey Foster** went through a fourth printing July, 2009. The Spanish translation is forthcoming from Ediciones Robinbook, in Barcelona, Spain. An audio book of *A Short History of Film* is forthcoming from University Press Audiobooks in late 2009.

Vanessa Steinroetter's article "The Politics of Humor: Max Cohnheim's *Columbia* (1863–1873), A German Newspaper in the Nation's Capital" has been published in the most current issue of *American Periodicals*. Over the summer, Vanessa also attended two five-day seminars, the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria and the Summer Seminar in the History of the Book at the American Antiquarian Society.

Melissa Homestead delivered a paper at the International Cather Seminar in Chicago in June, "Rejecting and Embracing: Willa Cather, Edith Lewis, and the Advertising Culture of the 1920s." She spent the month of July as a Knopf fellow at the Harry Ransom Center, where she was delighted to find nearly 200 Edith Lewis letters in the archive of

the Alfred Knopf publishing house. She was not so delighted with the weather in Austin, where high temperatures exceeded 100 degrees for 28 of the 30 days she was there.

Dave Madden sold his nonfiction book, *The Authentic Animal: Inside the Odd and Obsessive World of Taxidermy* to St. Martin's Press in what *Publishers Lunch* calls "a nice deal." St. Martin's bought world English rights; no publication date has been set.

Mary K. Stillwell's manuscript, *Absolute Danger*, was a semi-finalist in this year's Crab Orchard Series in Poetry. Natasha Trethewey was the judge. Her poem, "Piano Four Hands," was a finalist for the 49th Parallel Poetry Award at the *Bellingham Review*. It will be published by *BR* later this year.

Melissa Homestead is pleased to report that her M.A. advisee **Diane K. Sylofski**, who received her degree in 2009, has been accepted into a Ph.D. program in Heath Promotion at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Kristen Elias Rowley, who completed her M.A. in 2008 under **Maureen Honey**, has been promoted to the position of Humanities Editor at the University of Nebraska Press.

Zach Schomburg's second book of poems, *Scary, No Scary* has just been published by Black Ocean Press. Zach is currently on a little book tour up the east coast to promote it. Zach learned from Small Press Distribution that *Scary, No Scary* is close to breaking some first week sales records there (for small press poetry).

Kathleen Lacey was awarded a bibliographer fellowship with the Modern Language Association, and will work for three years as a field bibliographer for the *MLA International Bibliography*. She attended a day-long training session at the MLA offices in New York on August 14th and also learned how to successfully hail a cab during rush hour.

Ember Schrag, a recent graduate of our department and winner of our undergraduate Vreeland Award, just put out her first official CD, on Lone Prairie Records. The CD is called *A Cruel, Cruel Woman*, and if anyone would like to buy one, they're available for \$10 on the store page of [ww.loneprairierecords.com](http://www.loneprairierecords.com). Amber also started a Monday night series for singer songwriters, called Songwriter Power Ranger, at the Bourbon

Theatre, the Clawfoot House concert series for folk, blues, and experimental music, and the Clawfoot Salon for female musicians, a monthly jam session for all women. (The house shows are open to all!)

Howard Norland, retired from our department, has published a new book, *Neoclassical Tragedy in Elizabethan England* (University of Delaware Press). If anyone would like to borrow a copy of the book, it's available in Joy Ritchie's office.

Megan Black, a 2009 English major who graduated *Phi Beta Kappa* and With Highest Distinction, will be a doctoral student in the American Studies Department at George Washington University this fall, and will have an interdisciplinary specialization in Literature and Film Studies.

On May 16th, **Joy Castro**, **Amelia M.L. Montes**, and **Ariana Vigil** participated in El Mundo Zurdo: An International Conference on the Life and Work of Gloria E. Anzaldúa at the University of Texas at San Antonio in San Antonio, TX. Under the panel titled, "Movimientos de Rebeldía: Teaching Gloria Anzaldúa," Joy gave a paper called "'Come, Little Green Snake': Teaching *Borderlands/La Frontera* in the Resistant Classroom," Amelia discussed "Loquería in the Classroom: Teaching Queer," while Ariana addressed "Moving Beyond Anzaldúa: Emphasizing Polyvocality in *Borderlands/La Frontera*." In addition, Amelia treated conference attendees and community members to a reading at Trinity University.

In mid-August, **Carrie Shippers** attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in Middlebury, VT, where she studied poetry with Natasha Trethewey and Leslie Harrison. In July, her book of ghost poems, *Ordinary Mourning*, was chosen by Mark Halliday as the winner of the third annual ABZ Press Poetry Prize. In addition to publication in May 2010, the prize includes \$1,000 and 50 copies of the book. Carrie also has poems forthcoming in a number of journals, including *North American Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *The Antigone Review*, *American Poetry Journal*, *Blue Collar Review*, *Chiron Review*, and *Comstock Review*, and an essay forthcoming in *Zone 3*.

This summer, **Joshua Ware's** poems appeared in the most recent issue of *Dislocate*. Additionally, Scantly Clad Press released his e-chapbook *A Series of Ad Hoc Permutations*.

John Chavez's poems "On Subjectivation," "Winter w/ Empty Scene," "The Topology of Need," and "This Nude City" recently appeared in the Summer 2009 issue of *Puerto del Sol*, and a review of his chapbook *Heterotopia* appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of the *Latino Poetry Review*.

Jim Reese, a Ph.D. from our department, is now an Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota, and Editor-in-Chief of *PADDLEFISH*. Reese's poetry and prose have been widely published, most recently in *New York Quarterly*, *Poetry East*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *South Dakota Review*, *Caduceus*, *Connecticut Review* and elsewhere. His latest collection of poetry is *These Trespasses* (Backwaters Press, 2005, 2006) which includes Pushcart Prize nominated poems. Reese is also the 2008 and 2009 National Endowment for the Art's Writer-in-Residence at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp. His second book, *Ghost on Third* is forthcoming from Louisiana Literature Press, 2011.

From **Frankie Condon**, these items:

Writing Center Announces Online Scheduling for Consultations

The Writing Center is pleased to announce that its new online scheduling system is now operational. Writers wishing to make an appointment can now do so online. To check out our new online scheduling service or to schedule an appointment, point your browser to www.rich65.com/unl. Create an account and *voila!* You will be able to choose the Andrews Hall Center and our satellite locations in the Star Center, Abel Hall or the City Union Tutoring Lab and schedule your own appointments. You only need to create an account once and then you need simply log-in to the system to schedule additional appointments. You will receive an email confirming the date, time, and location of your appointment. You may also reach wconline through the Writing Center website: www.unl.edu/writing.

The Writing Center is pleased to announce its first writing competition of the 2009 - 2010 academic year:

Someone stole Jimi. No, really. Someone stole our Jimi Hendrix poster right off our wall. Where is Jimi, we wonder? We miss Jimi. Imagine where he might have gone and send the UNL Writing Center a postcard

from Jimi. Submission Deadline (extended!): October 9, 2009.

Grace Bauer started her summer off by wrapping-up the special "baby boomer" issue of *Prairie Schooner* she guest edited while Hilda Raz was on leave (look for it soon) and serving as final judge for this year's *Prairie Schooner* Book Prize in Poetry (won by Shane Book for *Fourth World*). Grace read this summer with a group of local poets at Deer Springs Winery, as well as at the Wednesday Words Reading Series sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council in Omaha, and the Nebraska Summer Writers Conference here in Lincoln, where she also participated in a panel on writing and the visual arts at the Sheldon Art Gallery. Her poem "Perceptive Prayer" appeared in the Spring issue of *Natural Bridge*; "Close Calls" appeared in *Paperstreet On-Line*; and "Snow White Redux," "Rumpelstiltskin On MTV," and "Woman Commits Suicide Walking Naked Through Snow Storm" appeared in *Pif* Magazine, another on-line publication. In conjunction with the boomer issue, she is appearing as an occasional "guest blogger" on the *Prairie Schooner* blog site with witty anecdotes on boomerhood and her own errant youth.

Steve Buhler's adaptation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* was staged last May at California State University, Fullerton. In June, Steve took part in a panel discussion on Shakespearean adaptation with David Wroblewski, author of *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, at Creighton University. He was also the dramaturg and sound designer for Flatwater Shakespeare's June production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, appearing in the show as Master Page (the non-jealous husband of a Merry Wife).

Janet Harkness spent the summer finishing a monograph on multinational, multiregional, and multilingual survey research methods (called 3MC for short!). The book is related to an international conference held in Berlin last year ([/www.3mc2008.de/](http://www.3mc2008.de/)) and will be published by John Wiley and Sons. Over the summer she was appointed to the Advisory Panel for the Methodology, Measurement and Statistics (MMS) Program, Division of Social and Economic Sciences at the National Science Foundation and to the Advisory Board of the German Youth Institute in Munich as well as to the Scientific Board of the Bulletin de Methodologie Sociologique (BMS), now to be published by Sage. An accident prevented her at the

last minute from presenting a paper on interpreted survey interviews at the European Survey Research Association meeting in Warsaw in June, at which she had organized a session of four papers--but happily a co-author was able to present instead.

Over the course of the summer **Jeff Alessandrelli** had poems accepted at the *Denver Quarterly* (2) and *Corduroy Mtn.* (1). Recent work will also soon appear in the *Cream City Review*.

In July, **Timothy Schaffert** taught a week-long fiction-writing course in the Prairie Writers' Workshop in Red Cloud, Nebraska. He also read from his novel-in-progress, which is partly set in the Red Cloud-y childhood home of a fictional author named Myrtle Kingsley Fitch. He wrote about (part of) his experience for the Willa Cather Foundation website: www.willacather.org.



Upcoming Events

Friday, September 11: The No-Name Reading Series resumes with readings by Dave Madden and Dana Brauning, 4:00 p.m., Sur Tango Bar, 12th and P.

Friday, September 11: The Flatwater Shakespeare Company presents *Julius Caesar* in the open-air Swan Theatre at Wyuka Cemetery and Park, 3600 "O" Street in Lincoln, opening tonight at 7:30 p.m. Performances continue Friday - Sunday, September 11-13; and Thursdays - Sundays, September 17-20 and 24-27. The production is directed by **Bob Hall** and features our former colleague **Dick Nielsen** in the title role. **Steve Buhler** is the dramaturg and sound designer. Tickets: \$18 Adults; \$15 Seniors; \$10 Students; group rates available. For information call (402) 473-2897. The Flatwater Youth version, as adapted by Steve, will be staged Monday-Wednesday, September 21-23; tickets are \$8.

Monday, September 14: Hannibal Hamlin, Associate Professor of English at the Ohio State University, will join **Carole Levin**, UNL Professor of History, at 3:30 p.m. for a workshop on Fellowships in the Humanities for graduate students and faculty; this event is co-sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. At 7:30 p.m., Professor Hamlin will present a lecture, "King Lear: Shakespeare's Answer to the

Bible's Job"; this event is co-sponsored by the Department of English, the Department of Theatre Arts, and the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. The workshop and the lecture will both take place in the Dudley Bailey Library, 228 Andrews.

Saturday, September 19: Memorial Service for Lou Crompton at the Roper & Sons Funeral Home 4300 "O" Street in Lincoln, 2:00 p.m. There will be a reception immediately following the service at Roper & Sons. To assist us in preparing the reception, please RSVP via e-mail to Craig Eckhardt. (cjackhardt00@yahoo.com) if you will be able to attend the service.

Monday, September 21: poetry reading by Stephen Elliott, 7:30 p.m., Clawfoot House, 1042 F Street.

Wednesday, September 23: As part of the Olson Seminar series in Great Plains Studies, **Melissa Homestead** will present a lecture on "Plains Regional Fiction and the National Literary Market: The Case of Bess Streecher Aldrich's *A Lantern in Her Hand*" Great Plains Art Museum. 3:30 p.m. (Aldrich's novel is this year's "One Book, One

Tuesday, September 29: Amber Harris Leichner hosting a screening of *Becoming Jane*, 6:00 p.m., Dudley Bailey Library, as part of the Women's Film Series.

October 5-7: Academic Program Review. The review team will be here on campus for those days, so please keep your calendar as free as possible in order to be able to participate in the process.

Thursday, November 5: The Robert Knoll Lecture, 7:30 pm in the Van Brunt Visitor Center. **Achsah Guibbory**, Professor and Chair, Barnard College will speak on "Christian Identity and Israel: The Case of 17th-Century England." Professor Guibbory's lecture will be drawn from her current book, *Imagined Identities: The Uses of Judaism in Seventeenth-Century England*.