

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Thursday October 29, 2009

Editor: Gerry Shapiro

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"Because the people have the right to know, more or less."

Recent Publications, Awards, and Other Achievements

From the Fever-World, the second poetry collection by **Jehanne Dubrow**, a recent PhD in poetry from our creative writing program, has won the 2009 Washington Writer's Publishing House Prize in Poetry, and has just been released. More information available at: www.washingtonwriters.org.

Gwendolyn Foster has published a new review essay, "*The Persistence of Whiteness: Race and Contemporary Hollywood Cinema*" edited by Daniel Bernardi," in *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*.

Last week, **Marco Abel** delivered an invited guest lecture at Columbia University. His talk, "Wither Germany? The Minor Cinema of the 'Berlin School' and the Question of a German *People*," was part of the "Freedom without Walls! Fall of the Berlin Wall 1989-2009" symposium commemorating the 20th anniversary of this event. The conference was cosponsored by New York University and the German Consulate General New York. At the same event, Marco also conducted a public interview with Jochen Alexander Freydank, the Academy Award winning director of the short film, *Spielzeugland (Toyland)*.

Ken Price recently gave a talk on "Walt Whitman, the American Civil War, and the Trajectory of *The Walt Whitman Archive*" at the University of Wuerzburg in Germany. He also consulted there with editors who have begun work on a genetic edition of Goethe's *Faust*. More recently, Ken travelled to Springfield, Illinois, where he moderated a panel on editing non-canonical texts and began his term as President of the Association for Documentary Editing.

Laura Madeline Wiseman's poem "Chanticleer" appears in the anthology *Lavanderia: A Mixed Load of*

Women, Wash, and Word (San Diego City Works Press, 2009). Three of her poems appear in *Poemeleon's* special issue on gender. *Illuminations* nominated her poem "Wife Brand" for the 2010 Pushcart Prize.

Last week, **Vanessa Steinroetter** traveled to the fourth conference of the Society for the Study of Women Writers in Philadelphia and presented her paper "Modeling the African American Woman Reader: Depictions of Women Readers in the *Christian Recorder* during the 1850s and 1860s." She also spent two days at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania doing research for a dissertation chapter.

Aubrey Streit King (UNL master's student) and **Kristin Van Tassel** (Bethany College) presented their collaborative paper, "Can Port Williams Save Port Royal? The Role of Wendell Berry's 'Remember' in the Salvation of the Small Town," on October 24 at "This is Nowhere: Local, Regional and Provincial Spaces in World Literature," a conference hosted by the University of California-Berkeley Graduate Program in Comparative Literature.

Several people from our department gave papers at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers in Philadelphia, October 21-24: **Maureen Honey, Melissa Homestead, Timothy Jackson, Megan Peabody, Liz Lorang, Vanessa Steinroetter, Shannon McMahan** and **Kari Ronning**. Past members of the department who were also presenting included **Sherry Harris**, who founded the organization and is now at the University of Connecticut, **Jennifer Putzi**, who is an assistant professor at William and Mary College, and **Norma Cantu**, who is at the University of Texas-San Antonio and who was part of the conference's plenary session, reading her creative work.

"Time Topics," a project of the *New York Times Online* now includes a page devoted to Harriet

Beecher Stowe, written by **Susan Belasco**. The page is available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/info/harriet-beecher-stowe/>. Susan's essay "The Responsibility is Ours: The Failure of Infrastructure and the Limits of Scholarship" appears in the new issue of *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*.

JC Reilly (Ph.D. -- Creative Writing - Poetry, 2005) has had a chapbook, "Le Petite Mort" accepted by *Finishing Line Press*. JC is an Academic Advisor in the School of Language, Communication, and Culture at Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Carrie Shipers has poems forthcoming in *The Los Angeles Review*, *Pearl*, and *Salamander*.

This bushel-basket full of good news from **Jonis Agee**: She taught week-long novel master classes this past summer at the Taos Summer Writers Conference and the Nebraska Summer Writer's Conference; in September Jonis was a featured writer, along with Larry Watson and Scott Russell Saunders, at the Bridgewater, PA Book Festival, where she gave two talks about writing novels and read from her work; Jonis has an essay, "Fences," forthcoming in an anthology of writers of the west, from University of Texas Press, edited by Lynn Stegner. Included in the anthology are sixty writers including Larry McMurtry, Rick Bass, William Kittredge, Barry Lopez, Louise Erdrich, and Rudolfo Anaya.; "Everlasting," a screenplay Jonis wrote in collaboration with Brent Spencer, won 3rd place in the Silver Screenwriting Competition, and was a semi-finalist in the Page International Screenwriting Awards; this summer she was the final judge for the BkMk Press Chandra Prize for publication of a collection of short fiction.

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 29: Screening and Discussion of "Mary Shelley's Frankenstein," Bailey Library, 6 p.m.. Join us for an evening of Halloween fun and classic literature! Free and open to the public. Snacks provided, bring your own (campus appropriate) beverage.

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*.

Friday, November 6: Michelle Menting and Julie Iromuanya, reading from their work, as part of the **No Name Reading Series**, 4 p.m., Sur Tango Bar, 12th and P Streets.

Monday, November 9: noted fiction writer **Charles Baxter**, lecturing on "Lush Life," 3 p.m. in **Bailey Library**; **Baxter will be reading from his recent work at 7 p.m. this evening, also in Bailey Library.**

Charles Baxter is the author, most recently, of *The Soul Thief* (2008) and *Saul and Patsy* (2003). His novel, *The Feast of Love* was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2000 and has been made into a film by Robert Benton, starring Morgan Freeman. He has published two other novels, *First Light* and *Shadow Play*, and four books of stories, most recently *Believers*. He has also published essays on fiction collected in *Burning Down the House* and *Beyond Plot*, and has edited or co-edited several books of essays, *The Business of Memor*, *Bringing the Devil to His Knees*, and *A William Maxwell Portrait*. He has received the Award of Merit in the Short Story and the Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Prix St. Valentine in France, and the Catalan Booksellers' Association Award for book of the year in Spain. A native of Minneapolis, he has a B.A. from Macalester College and a PhD from the State University of New York at Buffalo. For many years Charles Baxter taught in the MFA program at the University of Michigan. He now lives in Minneapolis and is currently the Edelstein-Keller Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Minnesota. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, and *Harper's*, among other journals and magazines. His fiction has been widely anthologized and translated into many languages. Charles Baxter's visit is sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and **Jonis Agee's** Adele Hall Professorship.

Wednesday, November 11: Susan Belasco will talk about her new book, *Stowe in Her Own Time*, at the University of Nebraska Bookstore, 7:00 p.m.