

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

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Editor: Janet Carlson

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"Things are so tough in Chicago that at Easter time, for bunnies the little kids use porcupines." – Fred Allen

Retiring in His Way

"I want to announce my own retirement, which will take effect at the end of this spring semester. The rumor is about, so this publicly confirms it (with apologies that I have not been able to tell more of you directly).

"My decision is not sudden — you will notice I am not in the fall schedule — nor are there any unstated reasons other than a desire for the freedom to pursue long-deferred professional and personal goals. I delayed writing the official letter while I resolved several department and university commitments. Because late spring semester is so crowded, Joy Ritchie and I have agreed to mark my departure in a public way this fall.

"People still in the midst of their careers sometimes have a hard time understanding why anyone retires. Perhaps it would help to think of it not as pinochle at the Senior Center but a very long faculty development leave from which you never have to return.

"I am staying in Lincoln and see myself as a continuing member of the extended English Department and University communities. I am proud to have contributed to such a strong and inclusive Department and grateful for the support it has given me. From the sidelines, I will enjoy watching how the Department evolves and prospers in the coming decades. Where it might help, I stand ready to lend a hand."

– Steve Hilliard

Recent Publications & Other Achievements

If you find yourself wondering why jazz became a dominant popular music genre in the 1920s and rock 'n' roll in the 1950s; why heavy metal, punk rock, and hip hop found their way from sub-cultures to the established music industry; and what effects new communication technologies and the Internet have on the creation of music in the early 21st century — you might consult **Marco Abel's** translation of *Creativity and Innovation in the Music Industry* (New York, Berlin: Springer Press, March 2006) by Austrian professor of culture management Peter Tschmuck. Tschmuck answers these questions through an integrated model of creativity and innovation based on economic theory and an international

history of the music industry since Edison invented the phonograph in 1877.

Hilda Raz spent April 6–9 teaching in the MFA program at the University of Florida. She missed the Paul Olson Colloquium, dinner, and party as well as the Marilyn Chin reading but she met both the Nebraska and the Gainesville tornados.

Melissa Homestead recently spent two weeks in Durham, N.C., researching Edith Lewis's career as an advertising copywriter at the J. Walter Thompson Co. The Duke University Library holds the company's archive and provided Melissa with a travel grant. During her first week, Melissa returned to her motel room, turned on NPR and heard **Ted Kooser** being interviewed by the local NPR affiliate (he was interviewed alongside the poet laureate of North Carolina). During Melissa's second week, **Ruth Nissé**, nearing the end of her residence at the National Humanities Center in Durham, offered Melissa her townhouse and her Honda while Ruth was out of town, getting Melissa out of the motel and off the bus.

The new issue of *Fence* magazine, for which **Anthony Hawley** was poetry editor, is now available in bookstores.

Speaking of *Fence*, **Hadara Bar-Nadav** has a poem in the latest issue, and poems in the newest issues of *Indiana Review*, *Bellingham Review*, *Laurel Review*, and *Mid-American Review*.

Octopus, the online poetry magazine edited by **Zachary Schomburg** and **Mathias Svalina**, is featured in the current issue of *Publisher's Weekly* in an article called "Poetry Off the Books" concerning the legitimacy of online poetry magazines. It can also be read online at www.publishersweekly.com.

And speaking of **Mathias Svalina**, his poem "Egress" is also in the latest issue of *Fence*, and his poems "The Hospital," "The Stone Boy Has No Soul" and "The Man with His Brother Growing out of His Mouth" are in the latest issue of *Spinning Jenny*.

Jim Reese's Logan House Press launched its new website last month, www.loganhousepress.com. Check it out, "especially The Logan House Live Poets Society."

Jehanne Dubrow has poems appearing in the latest issue of *Burnside Review* and in the inaugural issue of the newly revived *Poetry Northwest*. She recently participated in a reading to honor winners of the Anna Davidson Rosenberg Awards for Poems on the Jewish Experience, which was held at the Jewish Community Center in San Francisco.

Mary K. Stillwell served as judge, along with State Poet Bill Kloefkorn, for the first annual "Poetry Out Loud" Nebraska-state high school recitation competition. Held April 4 at the Loft at the Mill, the competition was sponsored by The Poetry Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Nebraska Arts Council. The winning high school student, Shuqiao Song, an 11th grader from Lincoln East, will advance to the national finals scheduled for next month in Washington, D.C.

Benjamin Vogt presented his paper "Language as Sacred Land in the Midst of Ecological Diaspora: Vine Deloria Jr. and N. Scott Momaday" last week at the College English Association's annual conference in San Antonio.

Ramon Guerra presented two conference papers last month: "Re-examining the Use of "In Between" Space in Norma Cantu's *Canicula*" at the "Pushing Boundaries": Extreme Folklore and Ethnomusicology Conference at the University of Indiana on April 1; and "From Chicago to Mexico and Back: Translating Memory Over Space and Time in Cisneros' *Caramelo*" at the National Association for Chicano and Chicana Studies Midwest FOCO in Duluth, Minn., March 25.

Carmel Morse, third-year Ph.D. student, presented her paper "Patssi Valdez: Redefining the Domestic" at the Women and Arts Conference at Marquette University in Milwaukee on March 24.

Whitney Helms went to the Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language, and Media in Dekalb, Ill. on March 31-April 1 and presented a paper entitled "Economic Relationships in Edith Wharton's *The Custom of the Country*."

MA student **Joe Rein** has a short story, "Kindred's Mother," in the Spring 2006 issue of the *Concho River Review*, due out in early May.

Laureate Rounds

After taking in the Northern Arizona Book Festival in Flagstaff April 20-23 (he reads on April 22), **Ted Kooser** will be back in Omaha on April 24 to be a keynote speaker at the Magnet Schools of America 24th National Conference.

Then it's back to D.C., where, on April 29, he will join members of the Senate Cultural Committee and the Congressional Arts Caucus at the Folger Shakespeare Library to present "I, Too, Sing America: Lawmakers

Celebrate National Poetry Month." (Now *there's* a title for poem!)

Ted will close out the month in St. Petersburg, Fla., where he will read at Wesley Chapel on April 29.

English Department Literary Contest Winners

Congratulations to the following writers:

VREELAND AWARD: Graduate – **Jehanne Dubrow**
Undergraduate – **Amy Winkenwerder**

GAFFNEY GRADUATE POETRY AWARDS:
1st, GAFFNEY/ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS – **Carrie Shippers**

2nd – **Hadara Bar-Nadav**
3rd – **Zach Schomburg**

GAFFNEY UNDERGRADUATE POETRY AWARDS:
1st, KIRBY F. WOOD PRIZE – **Amy Jirsa**

2nd – **Teresa Franta**
3rd – **Travis Groves**

MARI SANDOZ PRAIRIE SCHOONER SHORT STORY AWARDS:

1st – **Dave Madden**
2nd – **Lisa Renfro**
3rd – **Razia Khan**

MARJORIE STOVER AWARDS FOR CREATIVE WRITING:

1st – **Shoshana Sumrall**
2nd – **John Ziegler**

SUSAN ATEFAT PECKHAM FELLOWSHIP IN CREATIVE NONFICTION/POETRY – **James Engelhardt**

Be sure to come here the winners read from their work on April 27 (see Upcoming Events).

Upcoming Events

Apr. 17, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – Longman Publishing Book Fair, Bailey Library.

Judging from the boxes in the mailroom, it should be a humdinger. Mexican food for lunch.

Apr. 17, 3:30 p.m. – Presentation by David Wishart, UNL professor of geography, chair of the Department of Anthropology, and editor of the *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*. Bailey Library

Apr. 17, 4:30 p.m. – War & Healing: Walt Whitman & Civil War Medicine, at the Great Plains Art Museum, 1155 Q Street/Hewitt Place.

Ken Price will speak on "Providing what 'drugs & bottles & powders are helpless to yield': Whitman's Care for Civil War Soldiers."

Dr. Jeff Reznick, senior curator at the National Museum of Health & Medicine, Walter Reed Army

Medical Center, will speak on "The Poet of Body and the Soul/The Bodies and Histories of His Men: Walt Whitman, Material Culture, and the National Museum of Health and Medicine."

Dr. Kendall Reed, dean of the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and professor of surgery, and former president of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, will speak on the implications of reconsidering Whitman's Civil War writing for contemporary thinking about medicine.

Free and open to the public. For more information contact **Debbie Minter**, 472-1846.

Apr. 18, 3:30 p.m. – Faculty meeting, Bailey Library

Apr. 19, 3 p.m. – Placement Workshop, Bailey Library

Apr. 20, 6:30 p.m. – Plains Song Review Reading, Reception, & Gallery Show

Volume VIII will be showcased. Readers from our department will include **Derek Driedger**, **Fran Kaye**, **Dan Leamen** (B.A. '05), **Michael Plouzek** (B.A. '04), **Christopher Schultz** (B.A. '01), **JC Reilly** (Ph.D. '05), **Marjorie Saiser** (M.A., '80), **Jillian Savage**, **Donald Welch** (Ph.D. '66), and **Amy Winkenwerder**.

The Center for Great Plains Studies will also present the Christine Pappas Award for Best Work by a University of Nebraska undergraduate. At the Great Plains Art Museum, 1155 Q Street/Hewit Place.

Apr. 21, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – "Cather, Journalism, & Periodicals" Symposium

In Love Library's library instruction room, with a reception following in Seaton Hall. Scholars from Nebraska and beyond will present on Cather's career as a journalist in Lincoln and Pittsburgh, her work as a magazine editor in Pittsburgh and New York City, and her writings published in newspapers and magazines. Keynote speaker is Ellen Gruber Garvey of New Jersey City University.

Presenters from our department will include **Susan Belasco**, **Andrew Jewell** (Ph.D. '04), **Kari Ronning**, and **Melissa Homestead**. Charles Johanningsmeier, of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, will also speak.

The symposium is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested. To register and for more information go to <http://cather.unl.edu/community/seminars/periodicals.html>, or contact Melissa Homestead at 472-0323 or mhomestead2@unl.edu.

Apr. 21, 4 p.m. – A Very Special No-Name Reading at Sur Tango Bar & Café, 1228 P St. For more information, see <http://www.unl.edu/noname>.

Apr. 21, 6:30 p.m. – Nebraska State AAUP Conference

At the East Campus Union. Two meal choices, meat and non-meat, \$15 and \$13. A social half hour (cash bar) precedes the 6:30 p.m. dinner, "so please arrive early enough to converse," says Dr. Bob. Call Miles Bryant at 402-472-0960 to RSVP and place your dinner choice, or let Bob Haller know. All faculty and partners are invited.

Members of the UNL Institutional Review Board will explain the impact of IRB regulations on faculty work and the reasons why these regulations have become more important. Discussion will follow.

Apr. 27, 3:30 p.m. – Winners of the English Department Literary Contests will read from their work. Bailey Library.

Everyone, especially family and friends, are invited. Refreshments will be served. Come celebrate the wonderful creative work our students are doing.

Apr. 28, 3 p.m. – Department of English Awards Reception. Bailey Library

American Life in Poetry: Column 055 By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate

A circus is an assemblage of illusions, and here Jo McDougall, a Kansas poet, shows us a couple of performers, drab and weary in their ordinary lives, away from the lights at the center of the ring.

What We Need

It is just as well we do not see,
in the shadows behind the hasty tent
of the Allen Brothers Greatest Show,
Lola the Lion Tamer and the Great Valdini
in Nikes and jeans
sharing a tired cigarette
before she girds her wrists with glistening amulets
and snaps the tigers into rage,
before he adjusts the glimmering cummerbund
and makes from air
the white and trembling doves, the pair.

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