

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR

Friday, September 22, 2006

Editor: Janet Carlson

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"All the news we can beg, steal or borrow."

Recent Publications & Other Achievements

Oyekan Owomoyela delivered the keynote address on "Proverbs and African Modernity: Defining an Ethics of Becoming" at the conference on "Contemporary Perspectives on African Proverbs" at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, which took place from Aug. 1-5. His participation was sponsored by the U.S. Department of State in its Speaker Program, for which he also gave a public lecture on proverbs at the U.S. Consulate in Lagos on August 7.

On Sept. 8, **Seanna Oakley**, **Gregory Rutledge**, and **Patrick Jones** (History/Ethnic Studies) wrapped up "After the Storm: Hurricane Katrina — A One-Year Retrospective" (Aug. 28 and Sept. 5-8) on a rich note at the Champions Club. The conference activities — consisting of four keynote speakers from New Orleans, local experts and volunteers from Nebraska, evacuees now living in Lincoln and Omaha, UNL and Lincoln clean-up volunteers, multiple lectures, poetry performances, a jazz quartet, panels, high school assemblies, and other events designed to bring the academic and lay communities together — reached more than 2,000 participants around the city (UNL, the Malone Center, Southeast Community College, and most of the high schools). Please note that although the conference proper is over, fundraising to benefit ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) still continues. "Thanks to all of our colleagues for supporting us in this immense, but worthwhile, effort." — *Patrick, Seanna, and Greg*

Noting that "it is so odd, the department that doesn't 'do' surveys has a survey person," **Janet Harkness** sends news of her far-ranging activities over the summer, most notably for us, her appointment in August as director of the UNL Survey Research and Methodology Program and the UNL Gallup Research Center.

Other highlights: In May she presented her paper "Why Respondents Understand What They Understand" at the American Association of Public Opinion Research conference in Montreal; in July she was an invited keynote speaker at the Fifth

International Test Commission conference in Brussels, where she gave a talk entitled "What Happens When You Work on Adaptation Guidelines." And in August she organized a session with five presenters on "New Developments and Challenges in Cross-national and Comparative Research" at the Joint Statistical Meetings (the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America). Janet also presented in another JSM session on quality issues related to oral translation in multilingual surveys.

Kalenda Eaton attended two conferences this summer: At the Association of Caribbean Writers and Scholars Annual Conference, in Ft. Lauderdale (May 31-June 4), she presented her paper "Something That's Been Up Has to Come Down: Black Female Consciousness and Grassroots Organizing in Paule Marshall's *The Chosen Place, The Timeless People*." And she presented "At Home on the Range: African American Travel, Migration, and the Allure of the Great Plains" at the American Literature Association Annual Conference, held May 25-28 in San Francisco.

Out this month from the University of Nebraska Press is the Bison edition of **Ted Kooser's** *The Blizzard Voices*. First published in 1986, the book relates in poetry the tales of those who survived the devastating blizzard of 1888. This edition features a new introduction by Ted. For more information, see <http://unp.unl.edu/bookinfo/5152.html>.

Steve Buhler's essay "'Soft Lydian Airs' Meet 'Anthems clear': Intelligibility in Milton, Handel, and Mark Morris" appears in the *John Donne Journal* 25 (2006), a special issue devoted to literature and music.

Steve also reminds us that the Flatwater Shakespeare Company production of *Romeo and Juliet* is onstage at the Swan Theatre. Steve is the show's dramaturg. Also, the Flatwater Shakespeare Youth Ensemble will present its version of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Swan Oct. 2-4. Steve adapted the script for this production. See Upcoming Events for more details on both productions.

Wheeler Winston Dixon has published an encyclopedia entry on *Brokeback Mountain*, in *1,001*

Movies You Must See Before You Die (ed., S. J. Schneider. London: Cassell Illustrated, 2006.)

Marco Abel published the critical review essay "*Prosthetic Memory: The Transformation of American Remembrance in the Age of Mass Culture*" by Alison Landsberg" in *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 23.4 (2006).

Grace Bauer's poem "A Soldier's Story: 1945" appears in the latest issue of *Café Solo*. Her short story "Sibling Rivalry" appears in the latest issue of *Flint Hills Review*.

Also in that issue is a poem by **Madeline Wiseman**. But frankly, we're more curious about Madeline's entries in the *Encyclopedia of Prostitution and Sex Work*, released in August by Greenwood Press.

Benjamin Vogt's poems "Apparitions on High Street" and "Miscarriage" appear in *Ellipsis* (vol. 42, 2006). Ben also received honorable mention in the Seventh Annual First Book Award from Tupelo Press for his poetry manuscript, "Afterimage."

Alumni News

Theodore Wheeler (BA, '05) has a short story, "The Scythian Defense," in the fall 2006 *GSU Review*.

Bookmarks

From **Paul Olson** to **Joy Ritchie**:

"The terms of my faculty development leave a couple of years ago required that I report on the outcomes of the leave. At the end of the leave, I reported that I had finished certain of the chapters of my Shakespeare book. Since then I have worked on the book and submitted it this spring. The book has now been reviewed and accepted [by the University of Nebraska Press]. I will recognize the leave in my forward, and I wish now to thank the department for the leave. I will give the department a copy of the book when it is published. Please inform the appropriate authorities that I have completed my report so that I am square with the university. Thank you and **Linda Pratt** for your support as I finished the book.

"The title of the book is *Beyond a Common Joy: An Introduction to Shakespeare's Comedies*. The book is about 300 pages long and has chapters on method, on Shakespeare's reconfiguration of the new comedy form, his comedies' employment of classical iconology,

another on his use of Biblical iconology, one on the comedies' discourse on the theme of empire, and a summative chapter on *Measure for Measure*. Each chapter has an appendix on primary resources from Shakespeare's period that the student may wish to use.

The book would not have been possible without the department's support and, in particular, the critiques of the medieval/Renaissance group."

– Peace, Paul

(Editor's note: He also said, "I think it's not too bad," and "I don't think I'll be flogged.")

Upcoming Events

Sept. 22, 7 p.m. – Clean Part Poetry Reading featuring **Grace Bauer**, along with **Gabriel Gudding** and **Nathan Bartel**. Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery.

Gudding is an assistant professor of literature and creative writing at Illinois State University; and **Bartel** teaches at Bethel College, Newton, Kan.

This is the second of six Clean Part readings scheduled for the Sheldon this academic year. Go to www.thecleanpart.blogspot.com for more information.

Sept. 22-24, Sept. 28-Oct. 1 & Oct. 5-8 – Romeo & Juliet, at the Swan Theatre at Wyuka Cemetery and Park, 3600 O St.

This Flatwater Shakespeare Company production is directed by Bob Hall. **Steve Buhler** is the show's dramaturg. If you've never been to the Swan, you owe it to yourself to catch this production as it plays out by starlight – and hope there's no star-crossed weather.

All shows are at **7:30 p.m.** Non-subscriber tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. Call 484-7640 or go to www.flatwatershakespeare.org.

Sept. 27, 3:15-5 p.m. – Department of English Planning Meeting, Bailey Library.

All members of the department are welcome to attend. This two-day meeting reconvenes Sept. 28.

Sept. 28, 1:30-3 p.m. – Department of English Planning Meeting, Bailey Library.

Continued from Sept. 27. All members of the department are welcome to attend.

Sept. 29, 4 p.m. – No-Name Reading featuring **Arra Ross** and **Benjamin Vogt**. At Sur Tango Bar et Café, 1228 P St. See <http://www.unl.edu/noname> for more information.

Oct. 2-4, 7:30 p.m. – Flatwater Shakespeare Youth Ensemble presents its version of *Romeo & Juliet*.

Script adaptation by **Steve Buhler**; directed by Tom Crew. Tickets are \$5 and may be reserved at 484-7640. At the Swan Theatre.

American Life in Poetry: Column 078
By Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

Mothers and fathers grow accustomed to being asked by young children, "What's that?" Thus parents relearn the world by having to explain things they haven't thought about in years. In this poem the Illinois poet Bruce Guernsey looks closely at common, everyday moss and tries to explain its nature for us. I admire the way the poem deepens as the moss moves from being a slipcover to wet dust on a gravestone.

Moss

How must it be
to be moss,
that slipcover of rocks?—
imagine,

greening in the dark,
longing for north,
the silence
of birds gone south.

How does moss do it,
all day
in a dank place
and never a cough?—

a wet dust
where light fails,
where the chisel
cut the name.

Reprinted from "Peripheral Vision," published by Small Poetry Press, Pleasant Hill, CA. Copyright © 1997 by Bruce Guernsey and reprinted by permission of the author, whose latest book is "The Lost Brigade," Water Press and Media, 2005. This weekly column is supported by The Poetry Foundation, The Library of Congress, and the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This column does not accept unsolicited poetry.

American Life in Poetry Gets Around

"The Poetry Foundation of Chicago, our column's primary sponsor, has just given us some new statistics about the reach of American Life in Poetry. . . . The column has appeared in more than 105 newspapers and on over 1000 blogs since April 2005. It regularly appears in the neighborhood of 30 newspapers and reaches over two million readers each week. These numbers do not include a number of smaller newspapers that receive the column through mailings and emails from their state press associations. We have no way of tracking these latter numbers but believe them to be significant.

"The column has recently exceeded 100 million media impressions, i.e., opportunities for the column to be read. This number is calculated by multiplying the number of appearances by the combined circulation of newspapers running the column. We are putting the name of the University of Nebraska and our English Department in front of a lot of people. The estimated advertising value of this number of media impressions is in excess of one million dollars.

"None of this would be possible without the cooperation and support of the English Department. "

— With thanks, *Ted*