

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Friday, February 8, 2008

Editor: Gerry Shapiro

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

Recent Publications and Other Achievements

Wheeler Winston Dixon has published a review of the film "Notes on Marie Menken" by Martina Kudlacek in the latest issue of *Film & History*. He's also recently published two reviews (*The Frodo Franchise: The Lord of the Rings and Modern Hollywood* by Kristin Thompson, and *The New Film History: Sources, Methods, Approaches*, edited by James Chapman, Mark Glancey and Sue Harper, in the February issue of *Choice*.

Steve Edwards won 1st place in the UNL Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Writing Contest. Also, Steve's story "Long Winter" will appear in the next issue of *Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts*, due out in February.

This from **Steve Behrendt**: The New Norton Critical Edition of William Blake's writings, just published, contains in the "Criticism" section excerpts from the work of twelve 20th-century Blake scholars. I'm one of the chosen dozen (or is it the Dirty Dozen?) to be represented there, with an excerpt from an essay that was published in a collection called *Blake in the Nineties*.

Erica Rogers will be in Detroit March 12-15 to compete in the first "Women of the World Poetry Slam" sponsored by Poetry Slam, Inc. In January, Erica won the city-wide Star City Slam WOW event and earned an expenses-paid trip to the Detroit competition where she hopes her feminist persona poetry will earn her an international ranking on the slam poetry circuit.

Ken Price published "Electronic Scholarly Editions" in the *Blackwell Companion to Digital Literary Study*, edited by Susan Schreibman and Ray Siemens.

Maura Giles-Watson presented a paper, "Nation-building: Milton's Virgil and the Anxiety of Alterity," on the Virgil in the Early Modern Period panel at the MLA in Chicago in December. The talk originated as a term paper in Prof. **Stephen Buhler's** spring 2007 course "Milton: Political Prophet." In January, Maura returned to Chicago to read another paper, "Geosomatic Women in Premodern Comedy," at the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies' 26th Annual Graduate Student Conference; this year's conference theme was Mapping the Premodern. The

Newberry paper derived from discussions in Prof. **Ruth Nisse's** Medieval Seminar last fall. Thanks also to Prof. **Julia Schleck**, Prof. **Robert Brooke**, and **Alex Jenkins** for their critiques of the project at various stages.

Marco Abel published a critical review essay of *Trier on von Trier* by Stig Björkman in *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*.

"**Jehanne Dubrow's** poetry collection has won the Three Candles Press First Book Prize and will be published near the end of 2008. Some of Jehanne's poems have appeared recently in *Barrow Street*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Shenandoah*, and *Southeast Review*.

Cody Lumpkin's poem, "Preface" (which is dedicated to fellow UNL grad student **Zach Schomburg**), was accepted by the *Louisville Review*.

A selection from **emily danforth's** novel-in-progress has been selected by the International Astraea Foundation as one of the top six entries to their 2007 Emerging Lesbian Writers Competition, thereby receiving an Honorable Mention Grant and future publication.

Lew Kaye-Skinner has put together a cookbook entitled *A Slice of Life* of very tasty, fat-free, high-fiber breads (along with a few other favorites like "Almost Val's Pizza" and an essay, "You Are What You Eat"). The bread recipes can be made with a bread machine or with traditional methods. All of the proceeds from sales in Lincoln go to support the work of the Cornerstone-UMHE chapel; the suggested minimum donation is \$10. Elaine has a copy of the cookbook for you to preview, and Lew has copies for sale. Stop by his office (Andrews 328) or leave a note in his mailbox. Make checks out to Cornerstone-UMHE.

Anthony Hawley's second full-length collection of poetry, *Forget Reading*, has just been published. Of the book, Marjorie Perloff writes, "As in *The Concerto Form*, *Forget Reading* testifies to Anthony Hawley's perfect vocalic pitch, the ability few poets have to find precisely the right 'note'—whether syllable, word, or echoing phrase—to give his densely woven and arresting imagery a true electric charge." Anthony has also just returned from AWP where he read at the Bowery Poetry Club with Forrest Gander, Mei Mei Bersenbrugge, Peter Gizzi, Cole

Swenson, and others to celebrate new books from Counterpath Press.

Prairie Schooner brought five graduate students to AWP this year, a number dwarfed by the total number of attendees, 7,500. Our table was busy from 8:30 to 5:30 every day, even though the other attendees had 500 other tables to visit. **Hilda Raz** spoke on two panels. One was about the experience of starting a book series, the other addressed issues of gender and ambition over the length of a career. **James Engelhardt** was on a panel that attempted to "demystify" the submission and acceptance process. But perhaps the best news was that Moira Egan's two sonnets in the Fall 2007 issue were selected for Best American Poetry. We're all hoping for easier travel to next year's AWP in Chicago.

Shari Stenberg, in collaboration with Walt Stroup and Erin Blankenship from Statistics, received an ITLE-4 grant to extend the work of the Faculty Leadership for Writing Initiative. This will include new faculty inquiry groups and the development of a course for TAs in Statistics on writing pedagogy. Additionally, Shari's book *Professing and Pedagogy: Learning the Teaching of English* was reviewed in the December issue of *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*.

Upcoming Events

TODAY! February 8, John Chavez and Amber Harris Leichner, reading from their work, as part of the No Name Reading Series, 4 p.m., Sur Tango Bar *et* Café, 12th & P.

February 14, Nebraska Presence poets, reading from their work, 7:00 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery, 12th and Q. This will be a special Valentine's Day reading. Among the poets scheduled to read their work from the anthology along with poems celebrating love and romance wherever they occur are: **Marilyn Dorf, Charlene Neeley, Lucy Adkins, Kim Tedrow, Lorraine Duggin, Grace Bauer, Fred Zydek, Twyla Hansen, Terry Oberst, Paul Dickey, Mike Skau Marilyn Coffee, Rich Wyatt**, and the editors **Greg Kosmicki** and **Mary K. Stillwell**. Cookies and coffee will be served.

February 19, Pat Alderete, reading from her work, 7:30 p.m, Bailey Library. Alderete, a Chicana writer from LA, will be visiting UNL the week of Feb. 18-22. She has made electronic copies of some of her stories available for UNL instructors who want to use her work in their classes. For more information, contact **Barbara DiBernard** (bdbernard2@unl.edu) or **Amelia Montes** (amontes2@unl.edu).

Women's Lit Film Night Series

Monday, Feb 11: Women's Lit Film Night Series: *The Color Purple*(1985), 6:30pm, Bailey Library; hosted by **Barbara DiBernard**. Based on Alice Walker's novel, this film follows a young African-American girl, Celie, and her family in the first half of the twentieth century as Celie and other women around her struggle to overcome various forms of abuse, bond together, and realize their own power. Directed by Steven Spielberg, this film stars Whoopi Goldberg, Oprah Winfrey, and Danny Glover. Rated PG-13.

Monday, Feb 18: Women's Lit Film Night Series: *Boys Don't Cry*(1999), 6:30pm, Bailey Library; hosted by **Tamy Burnett**. This film tells the true story of a transgender teen in small-town Nebraska. Hilary Swank stars as Brandon Teena, who was born biologically female but preferred to live as man. When his biological sex was discovered, Brandon was raped and killed. Rated R.

All films in this series are free and open to the public, so bring a friend or two! Snacks will be provided, but bring your own soda, juice, or water.

American Life in Poetry by Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

Editor's note: forget about Groundhog Day; pitchers and catchers report for spring training in just a few weeks, the surest sign of spring around the corner, and in honor of the advent of baseball season and all the pleasures it brings with it, we offer this poetic double-header.

Column 148

I've written about the pleasures of poetry that offers us vivid scenes but which lets us draw our own conclusions about the implications of what we're being shown. The poet can steer us a little by the selection of details, but a lot of the effect of the poem is in what is not said, in what we deduce. Lee McCarthy is a California poet, and here is something seen from across the street, something quite ordinary yet packed with life.

Santa Paula

There's a woman kissing a cowboy
across the street. His eight-year-old son
watches from the bus stop bench.
She's really planting one on him,
his Stetson in danger.
It must have been some weekend.
Seeing no room in that embrace for himself,
the boy measures his future, legs
straight out in front of him.
Both hands hold onto a suitcase handle,
thin arms ready to prove themselves.

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Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) 1992 by Lee McCarthy, whose most recent book of poetry is *Good Girl*, Story Line Press, 2002. Reprinted from *Combing Hair with a Seashell*, by Lee McCarthy, Ion Books, 1992, by permission of the author and publisher. Introduction copyright (c) 2007 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

Column 149

Elsewhere in this newspaper you may find some advice for maintaining and repairing troubled relationships. Here, in a poem by Linda Pastan of Maryland, is one of those relationships in need of some help.

The Quarrel

If there were a monument
to silence, it would not be
the tree whose leaves
murmur continuously
among themselves;

nor would it be the pond
whose seeming stillness
is shattered
by the quicksilver
surfacing of fish.

If there were a monument
to silence, it would be you
standing so upright, so unforgiving,
your mute back deflecting
every word I say.

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This Semester's Comp Colloquium

Mark your calendars! Here's the schedule for the Spring 2008 Comp Colloquium:

Wed, Feb 13th @ 2:00
Tues, Feb 26th @ 3:30
Fri, March 28th @ 2:00
Wed, April 2nd @ 2:00
Tues, April 15th @ 3:30

All meetings are in the Dudley Bailey Library. Please contact Travis gadams3@bigred.unl.edu if you have any questions about Comp Colloquium.