

# UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Friday, April 25, 2008

Editor: Gerry Shapiro

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

## Recent Publications and Other Achievements

**Gwendolyn Audrey Foster** and **Wheeler Winston Dixon** delivered papers at The Alternative Visions in Cinema and Television Conference, at Plymouth State University, NH, on April 12; Gwendolyn's presentation was on "Yayoi Kusama's Self Obliteration: The Explosion of the Self," which discussed the work of the celebrated Japanese artist, with clips from films of her work; Wheeler delivered the plenary presentation for the conference, "Two Avant Gardes: The New York Underground in the 1960s, and Los Angeles' TVTV Collective in the 1970s." The conference brought together film scholars from as far away as England and Portugal, working in a variety of areas, making for a great event.

**Wheeler** and **Gwendolyn's** recently-published *A Short History of Film* received this "starred" review in the April 15, 2008 issue of *Library Journal*:

"This excellent introduction stands out in a crowded field with its lively, accessible writing, broad coverage, and particular focus on traditionally marginalized figures in film history. Dixon and Foster discuss the technical innovations that moved the art form forward, and their lucid descriptions of often complicated concepts convey the excitement of innovation in mechanical as well as creative processes. The most striking aspect of the book is the coverage of women, African Americans, and Third World filmmakers, which strongly complements its solid coverage of American and European film. Illustrations abound, and even the best-versed cineaste will find new films to track down after reading the breezy, enthusiastic analysis in this book. Highly recommended for all collections, this text would also make an excellent textbook for introductory film-studies courses."

**Ken Price's** essay "'Debris,' Creative Scatter, and the Challenges of Editing Whitman" has been published in *Walt Whitman, Where the Future Becomes Present*, ed. David Haven Blake and Michael Robertson (University of Iowa Press).

**Greg Kuzma** has had a second volume of his "longer" poems accepted, to be published by WordTech in 2010. As well, Greg's fine-arts-press book of poems, *A Day in The World*,

printed by Harry Duncan in 1976, is in proofs now and will be reprinted in paperback by Lewis-Clark Press. Greg says, "The poems in this book have more or less mislaid or ignored for over 30 years, so getting this book out seems to me like a fresh start."

**Maura Giles-Watson** will present her paper "Rhetorical Theater": Debate Poem and Interlude in Performative Perspective" at the International Medieval Congress next month. The topic derives from an independent study project with Professor Ruth Nisse. Maura also wishes to acknowledge the generosity of her entire committee — Professors Nisse, Schleck, Buhler, and Starr (Music)—and to thank Professor Carole Levin (History) and UNL's Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program for their support throughout the year and for the award of a Paul A. Olson Travel Grant for this conference.

**Tyrone Jaeger** has new work in *580 Split*.

**Pascha Stevenson's** creative nonfiction piece "Spanish Girls" has won the Salem College 2008 Penelope Niven Creative Nonfiction Award, which carries with it a cash prize of \$1200.

**Ted Kooser** recently read poems and/or taught workshops in Erie, PA; Cleveland, OH; Logan, OH; Salina, KS, and at the Kent School in western CT. He wrote the following note to himself in the Detroit airport, brooding on his good fortune of the past few years:

I have published of myself  
the Large Print Edition,  
and it takes up too much paper.

**Hilda Raz** recently read from her poetry, taught, and talked about *Prairie Schooner* at Wittenberg College in Springfield OH and at Wright State University in Dayton, where our Ph.D. Erin Flanagan is a tenure-track assistant professor getting ready for maternity leave in the fall. Hilda reports that she also saw Jan Dreisbach, past director of the Sheldon, who is now director of the fabulous Dayton Art Institute.

**Julia Schleck** recently returned from Chicago, where she gave a paper at the Renaissance Society of America's annual meeting. It was entitled, "Seeing Double: Humanist Learning and the Holy Land in George Sandys' *Relation of*

a *Journey begun in 1610*,” as part of the panel, “East and West in the Holy Land (1517-1713).” Next month Julia will be going to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England, where she’s been invited to give a paper at a conference on Richard Hakluyt, the editor of a huge collection of early modern travel narratives. That paper is simply entitled “Historical Formalism and Hakluyt.”

**Dave Madden, Sandra Tarabochia, and Michael Page** were given honorable mention in the campus-wide competition for the 2008 Graduate Council teaching award. Sandra and Michael also won Graduate Teaching Awards from the College of Arts and Sciences, as reported in the last newsletter.

The current issue of *Lake Effect* contains stories by **Michael Reid Busk**, M.A. from our department, and **Erin Flanagan**, a recent Ph.D.

The Spring 2008 issue of *Ploughshares*, guest-edited by poet B. H. Fairchild, will feature a long story by **Gerry Shapiro** and poetry by **Ted Kooser**.

**Jonis Agee** has won the 29<sup>th</sup> Mark Twain Award for distinguished contributions to Midwestern literature. The award, given by the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, will be given at a banquet at Michigan State University on May 9.

**Cody Lumpkin** recently presented his paper, “An American Life in Fragments and Poetic Modes: The Incidents and Events of Daniel Boone in Maurice Manning’s A Companion for Owls,” at the annual College English Association in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Laura Madeline Wiseman, Kelly Payne (incoming PhD grad student), Jaelyn Cruikshank Vogt, Rosemary Zumpfe, Timothy Schaffert, and DeAnn Allison** presented creative and/or critical writing at the 2008 Death, Murder, and Mayhem: Stories of Violence and Healing on the Plains conference in Omaha. Laura Madeline Wiseman also has a poem in the current issue of *Georgetown Review*.

**Brenda Friedman Ingraham** was one of the Nebraska participants in the TESOL Conference [Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages in NY City earlier this month. Brenda was also the Guest Speaker at the recent UNL Saudi Student Association annual banquet .

**Razia Sultana Khan**’s article on *Behind the Scenes of Hindi Cinema: A Visual Journey Through the Heart of Bollywood* by Johan Manschot and Marijke De Vos, appears in a recent issue of the *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*. Razia will be leaving Lincoln on May 31 after almost six years. She would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone (faculty, staff, students) who has befriended her and helped in making her “journey” so memorable. “I have truly enjoyed my time in Lincoln and will miss you all! If you ever come to my part of the world give me a call!”

**Hilda Raz** reports that Marc Fitten’s story, “Valeria’s Last Stand,” which appeared in the most recent *Prairie Schooner*,

led quickly to the sale of the novel from which the story was excerpted. Bloomsbury Books will bring out *Valeria’s Last Stand* next year. The advance was “in the six figures,” according to information from the publisher. And the book has also been sold to German television. Amazing what a publication in *Prairie Schooner* will bring!

## Upcoming Events

**TODAY! Friday, April 25: Very Special Alan Yates No-Name Reading**, 4 p.m., Sur Tango Bar ét Grill, 12<sup>th</sup> & P. This will be an open mic reading, and everyone’s encouraged to come and read, especially anyone who’s graduating this year. A sign-up sheet will be available before the reading. See you there!

**TODAY! Friday, April 25: Reading by Award-Winning Poets in the Sheldon Art Museum’s “Poets on Painters” Competition**, 5 - 7 p.m., Sheldon Art Museum.

**Monday April 28: Grace Bauer**, reading from her poetry, 3:30 p.m., Bailey Library. Book-signing and reception to follow.

**Wednesday, April 30: Literary Contest Winners’ Reading Extravaganza**, 3:45-5:30 p.m., Bailey Library.

**Thursday, May 1: English Department Awards and Recognition Celebration**, 3:30 p.m. in Bailey Library.

## News from the 2008 CCCC

As usual, our department sent a strong contingent to the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication, held this year in New Orleans. **Lesley Bartlett** presented paper entitled “Realities of Responsibility: Writing Trauma in First-Year Composition.” **Chris Gallagher** appeared on a panel with doctoral students **Dana Kinzy** and **Eric Turley**. Chris focused on assessment policy frameworks for higher education, Dana on our department’s assessment process, and Eric on the discourse of postsecondary accountability and assessment. **Amy Goodburn** presented a paper called “Making it Up as I Go Along: Administration, Motherhood, and Models for Scholarship.” **June Griffin** presented a paper called “Practicing Revision, or Walking the Walk” on a panel entitled “New Perspective on Revision: Discourse and Practice.” June shared the latest findings from a long-term research project she’s been working on with former colleagues from the University of Georgia. **Debbie Minter** appeared on a panel with UNL Ph.D. **Joy Arbor** and current doctoral student **Renee McGill**. Each panelist explored a different use of a life-story as a research tool. Debbie and a colleague from the University of Michigan focused on classroom inquiry, Joy

on ethnography, and Renee on archival work. **Shari Stenberg**, UNL Ph.D. **Katie Hupp Stahlnecker**, and current doctoral student **Sana Amoura-Patterson** presented papers on a panel called "Listening Rhetorically, Changing Realities: From Isolation to Dialogue."

### EGSA Update!

Thank you to everyone who voted in this year's EGSA Elections. Please join us in welcoming the newest members of the Executive Board: **Lesley Bartlett**, **DeMisty Bellinger**, **Emily Danforth**, **Cody Lumpkin**, and **Danielle Luther Luebbe** (MA).

**Carrie**, **Sandy**, **Leslie**, **Krista**, **Lupe**, **Dave**, **Alison**, **Mike**, and **Julie**

### Literary Contest Winners

Congratulations to all the winners of this year's literary contests:

**Vreeland**: Undergraduate - **Stacy Fox**; Graduate - **Dave Madden**

**Gaffney-Academy of American Poets** (Graduate):  
1st Place - **Cody Lumpkin**; 2nd Place - **Matthew Schumacher**; 3rd Place - **Amber Harris**

**Marjorie Stover Short Story** (Undergraduate)  
1st Place - **Eric S. Smith**; 2nd Place - **Jonathan Crowl**

**Mari Sandoz/Prairie Schooner** (Graduate)  
1st Place - **Laura Madeline Wiseman**; 2nd Place - **Francis Davis**; 3rd Place - **Julie Iromuanya**

**Undergraduate Student Awards for Poetry**  
1st Place - **Luke Hollis**; 2nd Place - **Jessica Millnitz**  
3rd Place - **Carlin Mackie**

**Susan Atefat Peckham Fellowship**  
**Megan Gannon**

**Gaffney Essay** (Undergraduate)  
1st Place - **Amanda R. Huckins**; 2nd Place - **Bill Fech**

**Ted Kooser Award for Outstanding First-Year Writers**  
**Katie Harris**  
Instructor: **Steve Edwards**

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

I've mentioned how important close observation is in composing a vivid poem. In this scene by Arizona poet, Steve Orlen, the details not only help us to see the girls clearly, but the last detail is loaded with suggestion. The poem closes with the car door shutting, and we readers are shut out of what will happen, though we can guess.

Three Teenage Girls: 1956

Three teenage girls in tight red sleeveless blouses and black Capri pants  
And colorful headscarves secured in a knot to their chins  
Are walking down the hill, chatting, laughing,  
Cupping their cigarettes against the light rain,  
The closest to the road with her left thumb stuck out  
Not looking at the cars going past.

Every Friday night to the dance, and wet or dry  
They get where they're going, walk two miles or get a ride,  
And now the two-door 1950 Dodge, dark green  
Darkening as evening falls, stops, they nudge  
Each other, peer in, shrug, two scramble into the back seat,  
And the third, the boldest, famous  
For twice running away from home, slides in front with the man  
Who reaches across her body and pulls the door shut.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) 2006 by Steve Orlen. Reprinted from *The Elephant's Child: New & Selected Poems 1978-2005* by Steve Orlen, Ausable Press, 2006, by permission of the author and publisher. Introduction copyright (c) 2008 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.

### A Note From the Publisher

**Gerry Shapiro** deserves our appreciation for serving as the department's newsletter editor for yet another year. This task takes a great deal of time and care, and it provides an important service to all of us to help sponsor a sense of community in our department. I've actually met people in the supermarket who say, "Thanks for putting the

newsletter on the department website. I read it every week and love keeping up with the department.” So thanks, again to Gerry. Gerry will be on Faculty Development Fellowship in the fall semester. Unless someone comes forward to take over the newsletter, we may not have one. Please talk with me if you’d like to volunteer.

– Joy Ritchie