

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Friday, March 6, 2009

Editors: Gerry Shapiro and Judy Slater

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Recent Publications and Other Achievements

Melissa Homestead's essay "Middlebrow Readers and Pioneer Heroines: Willa Cather's *My Antonia*, Bess Streeter Aldrich's *A Lantern in Her Hand*, and the Popular Fiction Market" has just appeared in *Crisscrossing Borders in Literature of the American West*, edited by Reginald Dyck and Cheli Reutter (Palgrave Macmillan).

Wheeler Wiston Dixon has published a new book, *Film Noir and The Cinema of Paranoia* (Edinburgh University Press / Rutgers University Press). On February 23, 2009, Wheeler conducted an interview with director Andrew V. McLaglen, the last of the major 20th century Hollywood western directors, covering his life and work in complete detail, to be published in the near future. Wheeler was part of a Panel Discussion, "Editors Panel: Publishing in the 21st Century," at The Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association 30th National Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico last month. At the same conference, he also chaired a panel on "Violence and Genre Cinema," and presented a paper, "Peter Collinson's 'The Penthouse' and the Origins of the Home Invasion Film." Wheeler found time to deliver a guest lecture on "Highlights on Creativity in the Sciences and Arts," for the UNL Honors Class 198H last month as well. The final volume in Wheeler's series of books on film and digital media from State University of New York Press, "Cultural Studies in Cinema/ Video," Anna Everett's *Digital Diaspora: The Race for Cyberspace*, has just been published to excellent reviews, ending a series of 28 books that began in 1995.

Each year *The Atlantic Monthly* sponsors a nationwide competition seeking the best fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction from creative writing programs around the country. This year, in the creative nonfiction category, **Danielle Luebbe** of our M.A. program won first place (\$1,000) – and **Kelly Gray Carlisle** of our Ph.D. program won second place (\$500). *Atlantic Monthly* is now considering both Danielle's and Kelly's work for publication. Congratulations, Danielle and Kelly!

Gwendolyn Audrey Foster served as a panelist for "Publishing in the 21st Century," Representing *QRV* as Co-Editor, at the Popular Culture and American Popular Culture Association Annual Meeting in Albuquerque last month. At the same conference, she also served as the

Chair of a panel on "Film Noir," and read a paper, "Born to Kill: Queering Film Noir."

Jacqueline Harris was accepted for the second year to serve as a reader at the College Board's 2009 AP English Language Reading in Daytona Beach, Florida this June. At the reading, Jacqueline will work among other university faculty and upper-level high school teachers selected from across the United States to evaluate and score the free-response AP English Language essays submitted in the last year.

Ruth Nissé delivered a paper on "Power and the Prophets" at a symposium on "The Performance of Power" at the Center for Cultural Analysis at Rutgers University on February 27.

Rhonda Garelick will present a paper later this month at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association at Harvard, on "antiquity's body in French modernism."

On March 1, **Marco Abel** gave a "Movie Talk" at the Ross. The focus of his talk and the ensuing discussion was the German-language film *Yella*.

Joy Castro's short story "Liking It Rough" appeared in *Texas Review* 29. Her essay "Grip," forthcoming from *Fourth Genre*, was distributed on *Fourth Genre* brochures at AWP in Chicago last month, where she gave a paper on memoir, trauma, and invention.

Judy Slater, Jonis Agee, and Timothy Schaffert presented a panel at the recent AWP conference in Chicago, "Signing Your Life Away: Protecting Your Rights in the Age of Electronic Publishing," dealing with the legal and moral implications of the electronic publishing of creative theses and dissertations.

Laura Madeline Wiseman has poems in the recent issues of *Zoland Poetry* and *Bird Dog*. Her essay "A Puddle, 1991" appears in the anthology *My Little Red Book* (Twelve, 2009). Her essay "How to Care for Your Pets," was a finalist in the Mary C. Mohr Nonfiction Award from *Southern Indian Review*. Her short story "Tornado" was a finalist for the *American Short Fiction* award for fiction.

Upcoming Events

TODAY! March 6: Krista Ferguson and Lupe Linares, reading from their work, as part of the No Name Reading Series, 4 p.m., Sur Tango Bar, 12th and P Street, downtown Lincoln.

March 23: "Teaching in a Politically Charged Atmosphere," sponsored by the Committee on Teaching and Research, 12 noon, Bailey Library.

March 24, 9-ish - 11-ish a.m. -- How would you like some books for breakfast? Well, okay, breakfast rolls and stuff while you browse through the books at the **W. W. Norton Book Fair** in Bailey Library.

March 25: poet, essayist and teacher **Naomi Shihab Nye**, reading from her work, 7:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery. Reception and book-signing to follow.

March 26, 8:30-11:30 a.m. -- More books for breakfast, at the **Cengage Learning Book Fair**; if you like the Heath anthologies, don't miss this. (Cengage took over Houghton Mifflin's College Division, publishers of the Heath series.)

Thursday, April 2: "Three Wars: Henry James and Others," this year's Robert Knoll Lecture, will be given by Professor **Wai Chee Dimock**, the William Lampson Professor of American Studies and English at Yale University, 7:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery, 12th and Q. Reception to follow.

Thursday, April 23: Hilda Raz, reading from her recent poetry, 7:30 p.m., Great Plains Art Gallery, 12th and Q. Reception to follow.

Name That Tag-Line Competition

Please help the department "re-brand" itself with a new tag-line for our department webpage. The tag-line should capture the ethos of the department and communicate our strengths to multiple audiences within and beyond the university. Entries should be no more than 10 words in length--shorter is better. The winner, selected by the chair's advisory committee and its designated experts, will receive \$50.00 for book purchases from the vendor of their choice. Deadline is April 1.

American Life in Poetry – Column 204

by **Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006**

Memories form around details the way a pearl forms around a grain of sand, and in this commemoration of an anniversary, Cecilia Woloch reaches back to grasp a few details that promise to bring a cherished memory forward, and succeeds in doing so. The poet lives and teaches in

southern California. **Anniversary** Didn't I stand there once, white-knuckled, gripping the just-lit taper, swearing I'd never go back? And hadn't you kissed the rain from my mouth? And weren't we gentle and awed and afraid, knowing we'd stepped from the room of desire into the further room of love? And wasn't it sacred, the sweetness we licked from each other's hands? And were we not lovely, then, were we not as lovely as thunder, and damp grass, and flame?

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