

# UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Friday, April 3, 2009

Editors: Gerry Shapiro and Judy Slater

Publisher: Joy Ritchie

"Speaking Truth to people in varying states of powerlessness"

## Recent Publications and Other Achievements

**Liz Lorang** has been awarded a Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for her dissertation, "American Newspaper Poetry from the Rise of the Penny Press to the New Journalism." Part of the Andrew W. Mellon/ACLS Early Career Fellowship Program, Dissertation Fellowships assist graduate students in the final year of Ph.D. dissertation writing. The fellowship carries an award of \$25,000, plus research funds of up to \$3,000, for the 2009-2010 academic year. Liz would like to acknowledge Professors **Susan Belasco, Ken Price, Joy Ritchie,** and **Laura White** for their help and support with this fellowship application and others. Liz has also received a tuition scholarship and travel/lodging award to attend the 2009 Digital Humanities Summer Institute, June 8-12, in Victoria, BC. She will attend a week-long course on "Large Project Planning and Management." Congratulations, Liz!

On March 18, **Michael Page** gave a talk on Lincoln's pioneering science fiction writer, Dr. Miles J. Breuer, at the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association board meeting at Bennett Martin Library.

The Writing Circle at the Nebraska Women's Correctional Center at York has just published its second chapbook, *Words from Within 2*, containing writing by fifteen authors, **Fran Kaye** reports. The authors thank the English department for technical support and especially thank **Monica Rentfrow** and **Jennie Case**, for reading and critiquing poems, and **Sarah Knight** and Sigma Tau Delta for entering the poems and for writing a grant to Students Beyond Boundaries to subsidize publication and to post *Words from Within 2* on a student social networking site.

Fran Kaye and Joy Ritchie have copies of the chapbook for your perusal. Here are two samples from the poetry in *Words from Within 2*:

**"I'm trailer trash and my son's a b\*\*\*\*\*d."**

B\*\*\*\*\*d you say, what about the night that I laid down willingly allowing my man to part my legs and love me wide

open? The result was he, he my son when I bared him, beautiful my love. Our love we shared, just one night. I bared. The trailer rocked and rolled like kneading dough, forming my son, not a b\*\*\*\*\*d. Not a mother who you call trailer trash. I'm a queen, a princess. Where I laid to create him was my fortress.

--Julia Stubblefield

## That Great White Cloud of Smoke

The fumes of Butane ignite my escape.  
Flames dance a Brazilian Tango before my eyes.  
Crackling sounds connect with my temporary heaven at the end of my pipe.  
A sweet and sour plume of smoke permeates a halo around my head.  
It encompasses my thoughts, and my mind is stampeded with stagnation.

It's the thief of my sleep  
the bandit of my appetite.  
A robber of my self-esteem, holding me hostage. I'm AWOL from my children.

It's my Genesis. My nadir. My Apex.  
My Abyss.

For when I am graced with the pleasure  
this great white cloud of smoke brings,  
I become its addict, its slave, its dopefiend.

-- S. Allen

**Joy Castro** delivered the keynote lecture, "Lopez from Stage to Screen: Disciplining Borders in *Real Women Have Curves*," an analysis of the transformation of Josefina Lopez's stage play into a critically and commercially successful HBO Films production, at the tenth annual Conference on the Americas in Grand Rapids, Michigan on March 20.

**Franz Blaha** has published a research article on the Austrian post-modernist novelist and playwright "Thomas Bernhard" in *Magill's Survey of World Literature*, vol. I., Pasadena (Salem Press).

At the beginning of spring break, **Marco Abel** spent 36 hours in London--London, Ontario, that is. The Department of Film Studies at the University of Western Ontario had invited him to deliver a lecture based on his research on the "Berlin School."

**Steve Behrendt's** *Longman Cultural Edition* of Percy Shelley's writings has just been published by Longman/Pearson Publishers. It's 400 pages and is the first critical edition that has set out deliberately to represent Shelley in the terms in which he saw himself -- as a committed social and political activist. Steve hopes that presenting him in this light will help rekindle interest in the "political" Shelley. Steve's essay, "'Peter Bell the Third': Contempt and Poetic Transfiguration," appears in a collection called *The Unfamiliar Shelley* recently published by Ashgate. Steve recently learned that he's been elected to the Advisory Board of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism for a 3-year term. Congratulations, Steve!

**Bob Stock** published a detailed review of Adam Potka's *The Story of Joy from the Bible to Late Romanticism* in the Winter 2009 issue of *Christianity & Literature*. Offprints are available from him upon application.

A Spanish/English edition of **Ted Kooser's** book, *Delights & Shadows* has been translated by Hilario Barrero and published by Coleccion la Cruz Del Sur, Madrid, Buenos Aires, and Valencia. On March 27, Ted read poems at Washington College in Maryland, where Jehanne Dubrow teaches.

**Ken Price** recently delivered an invited talk on "Editing Walt Whitman's Civil War Writings in Context" at the London Seminar on Digital Text at King's College. In addition, Ken reports that his article "Digital Scholarship, Economics, and the American Literary Canon" has appeared in the most recent issue of Blackwell's *Literature Compass*.

**John Chávez's** poems "Anecdote on Silence," "Journal at Belle Isle," and "Neither the Setting Sun, Nor the First Star" recently appeared in the Winter/Spring 2009 issue of *The Portland Review*, and his review of Joseph Lease's *Broken World* is forthcoming in April in Issue 5 of EOAGH, an online Journal of the Arts.

**Julia Schleck** will be presenting on "New Directions in Travel Methodologies" at the Shakespeare Association of America annual meeting in Washington DC April 9-11.

**Benjamin Vogt's** poem "Little Deep Creek--Oklahoma, 1984" was one of four works recently nominated by *Hayden's Ferry Review* for a Pushcart Prize. **Carrie Shippers** was also nominated for her poem "Four Ways to Lose a Father." Both poems appeared in issue 42.

**Maura Giles-Watson** will be presenting a paper on the performative semiotics of sin in premodern Protestant-polemical drama--"Signs of Vice in the C-Text of John Bale's *King Johan*"--in May at the Sixteenth-Century Society meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. This year's meeting is taking place in Geneva to celebrate--rather to observe soberly--the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth.

**Carrie Walker** will be giving a talk entitled "Constructing Meaningful Spaces for Women in Hip Hop" at the 2009 MELUS conference in Spokane, Washington. In addition, along with **Greg Rutledge**, Carrie will be part of a panel discussion entitled "Poetic Justice, Eco-Criticism, and Hurricane Katrina's 'Diaspora.'" Her paper will be "Ain't Nobody Gon' Move Me:" Community Building, Democracy and Ecological Justice in *Trouble the Water*."

**Kelly Payne** and **Janel Cayer** attended the Nineteenth Century Studies Association conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the end of March, where

they presented their paper "'Myself plus the bicycle equaled myself plus the world': Exploring the 'New' in Frances Willard's *A Wheel within a Wheel: How I Learned to Ride the Bicycle*."

**Seanna Oakley** reports that **Dae-Joong Kim** delivered a paper, "Trans-spatiality," at the 2009 American Comparative Literature Association at Harvard University. Part of a fourteen-person seminar on global literary theory and terminology, D.J. was joined by professors from the universities of Limoges, Paris, Sorbonne, Firenze, Quebec, and Regensburg. The organizer Jean-Marie Grassin has requested D.J.'s paper for possible inclusion in a future volume on the topic.

**Joy Arbor** (recent Ph.D.) and her partner, Robert O'Brien, had a baby, Sean Ben O'Brien, on October 22 in Los Angeles (where Joy has been since leaving American U in Cairo). Congratulations, Joy and Robert! In July Joy will be starting at Kettering U in Michigan as an assistant professor of communication.

**Carrie Shippers** has a poem forthcoming from *Tar River Poetry* and a critical essay about Irish poet Medbh McGuckian forthcoming in *Michigan Feminist Studies*. Additionally, her poem "Last Time," has been reprinted in *Don't Leave Hungry: Fifty Years of Southern Poetry Review*.

The department was well represented at this year's Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Francisco (March 11-14). Current graduate students **Josh Call**, **Erica Rogers** and **DeAnn Allison-Cudly** spoke on "Reframing Resistance: 'Critical Thinking,' Student Identity and Alternative Spaces with **Chris Gallagher** serving as session chair. **Travis Adams** and **Maggie Christensen** contributed to a panel on composition's use of contingent labor. **Sandy Tarabochia** spoke on "Multigenre Pedagogy for Inter-

curricular Relationships.” **Mike Kelly** presented on “Pedagogical Identity in the Classroom.” Also on the program were former graduate students **Maria Montaperto** (now at Kean University), **Rochelle Harris** (at Central Michigan University) and **Ginny Crisco** (Cal State-Fresno). Chris Gallagher spoke on assessment and **Debbie Minter** contributed to a panel regarding on-line writing instruction.

---

### Upcoming Events

---

**TODAY! April 3: Naomi Shihab Nye**, talking about her career, 9:30 a.m. Bailey Library.

**TODAY! April 3: Barnes and Noble**, 5150 O

Street, a fund-raising event for the **Nebraska**

**Summer Writers' Conference**.

Creative writing graduate students

**Krista Ferguson, Megan Gannon**, and

**Cody Lumpkin** will lead a workshop

for children at 4 pm; there will be

readings by undergraduate students 5-

6:30 pm; at 7 pm, there will be a panel

discussion about publishing and the

editorial process, with **Jonis Agee**,

**Grace Bauer, Joy Castro, James**

**Engelhardt, Anthony Hawley, Hilda**

**Raz**, and **Timothy Schaffert**. Look for

vouchers in your mailboxes soon; if you

use the voucher, your purchases made at

the Barnes and Noble at 5150 O Street

on April 3 will raise money for the

Conference.

**April 5: UNL Chamber Singers**

(including our very own **Julia Schleck**),

performing selected short pieces under

the direction of Dr. Therees Tkach

Hibbard, 3:00 pm in the Nebraska State

Capitol Rotunda. The event is free and

open to the public. Selections will

include several pieces by John Tavener,

including “Song for Athene” and a

setting of Blake’s “The Lamb,” Biebl’s

“Ave Maria,” Gabrielli’s “Jubilate De,”

and a collection of spirituals set by very

British composer Sir Michael Tippett.

**April 5: Cody Lumpkin**, reading and discussing his work on the Joe Milford Poetry Show at 4 p.m. (<http://joemilfordpoetryshow.com>).

**April 8: Tamy Burnett**, speaking on “Just an Object”: Dystopic Futures and

Weaponized Women in *Firefly/Serenity* and *Dark Angel*, 12:00-1:30 p.m.,

Bailey Library. This mock job talk is

sponsored by the Committee on

Research and Teaching and the

Placement Committee.

**April 9: Ken Price**, lecturing on “‘I

Pass So Poorly With Paper and Types”

– The Making and Remaking of Walt

Whitman in a Digital Age,” 3:30 p.m.,

Nebraska Union Auditorium; this

lecture, part of the Nebraska Lectures

Series, is sponsored by the UNL

Research Council, the Office of the

Chancellor, the Office of Research and

the Nebraska Humanities Council.

Reception following the lecture.

**April 10: Megan Gannon and Danielle**

**Luther Luebbe**, reading from their

work, as part of the **No Name Reading**

**Series**, 4 p.m., SUR tango bar *et* café,

12<sup>th</sup> and P Streets.

**April 16:** Brown Bag Discussion

honoring **Paul A. Olson**, Professor

Emeritus of English. 12 noon - 1 p.m.

in Bailey Library. Paul will be talking

about his new book, *Beyond a Common*

*Joy: An Introduction to Shakespearean*

*Comedy* (University of Nebraska Press,

2008). His remarks will focus on

writing about Shakespeare for a general

audience, with special attention to the

play *A Comedy of Errors*. Dessert and

beverages will be provided.

**April 16-19, April 23-26, and April**

**30-May 2:** Oscar Wilde’s **The**

**Importance of Being Earnest** will be

performed at the Haymarket Theatre.

The show is directed by Bob Hall and is

a co-production of the Flatwater

Shakespeare Company and the

Haymarket Theatre. English major **Rob**

**Burt** appears as Jack Worthing and

**Steve Buhler** is the dramaturg.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m., except Sundays at 2:00 p.m. The Haymarket Theatre is located at 803 Q Street in Lincoln. Tickets may be reserved at 477-2600; student and group rates are available.

**April 19: Ariana Vigil**, speaking on

“Jewish Characters, Subalternity and the

Rewriting of the Foundational Narrative

in Francisco Goldman’s *The Divine*

*Husband*,” 3:00 p.m., in the Nebraska

Union (room to be posted); as part of

the “Literary Representatives” panel at

the “Returning to Babel: Jewish Latin

American Experiences and

Representations” conference, sponsored

by the Norman and Bernice Harris

Center for Judaic Studies and the

Department of Modern languages and

Literatures.

**April 22 & 23: Book sale Event:** With

the help of EGSA, we will sell off the

books **Nick Spencer** left behind in his

office. The proceeds will be added to

the Nick Spencer Memorial Fund,

which provides support for our graduate

students with travel funds, etc.

**April 23: Hilda Raz** reading from her

recent poetry, 7:30 p.m., Great Plains

Art Gallery, 12<sup>th</sup> and Q. Book-signing

and reception to follow.

---

### Deadline Extension for Tag-Line Contest!

---

There’s still time to enter your pithy tag-

line ideas for our new website! The

winning entry will be concise (no more

than ten words, please), and will capture

the essence of our department’s mission

and spirit in a catchy phrase. **New**

**deadline is TODAY, April 3.** The

lucky winner will be chosen by Joy

Ritchie and the Chair’s Advisory

Committee, and will receive \$50 in

books from the vendor of your choice.

Don’t be shy! Don’t hide your light

under a pile of student papers! Enter

today! Multiple entries encouraged.

I've gotten to the age at which I am starting to strain to hear things, but I am glad to have gotten to that age, all the same. Here's a fine poem by Miller Williams of Arkansas that gets inside a person who is losing her hearing. **Going Deaf** No matter how she tilts her head to hear she sees the irritation in their eyes. She knows how they can read a small rejection, a little judgment, in every *What did you say?* So now she doesn't say *What?* or *Come again?* She lets the syllables settle, hoping they form some sort of shape that she might recognize. When they don't, she smiles with everyone else, and then whoever was talking turns to her and says, "Break wooden coffee, don't you know?" She pulls all she can focus into the face to know if she ought to nod or shake her head. In that long space her brain talks to itself. The person may turn away as an act of mercy, leaving her there in a room full of understanding with nothing to cover her, neither sound nor silence.

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 ©1995 by Miller Williams, whose most recent book of poems is *Time and the Tilting Earth*, Louisiana State University Press, 2008. Poem reprinted from *Points of Departure: Poems* by Miller Williams, by Miller Williams, University of Illinois Press, 1995, and reprinted by permission of the author and publisher. Introduction copyright © 2009 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.

