

UNL ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

Thursday September 17, 2009

Editor: Gerry Shapiro

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Recent Publications, Awards, and Other Achievements

Laura Madeline Wiseman has poems in the recent issues of *Zaum*, *The Broken Plate*, *Colere*, *Roanoke Review*, *Lady Jane Miscellany*, *Untamed Ink*, and the anthology *Eating Her Wedding Dress: A Collection of Clothing Poems* (Ragged Sky Press, 2009). Her short story, "Hands like Drowned Stars," appears in the spring issue of *A cappella Zoo*. In July she was the artist-in-residence at the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in Iowa. Her poem "Hulda Hoover Considers the Friends Meetinghouse," written during the residency, and an article about the residency appear in *West Branch Times* (westbranchtimes.com). Paul Lisicky selected her essay "Hunger" as the Honorable Mention in the Arts & Letters/Susan Atefat Prize in Creative Nonfiction. "Hunger" will appear in the spring 2010 issue of *Arts & Letters*. Her chapbook *My Imaginary* (Dancing Girl Press) is forthcoming next month.

Arra Ross's poem, "Learn to Sing by Singing" was featured last week on *Linebreak*; it was read aloud by Taylor Mali. *Linebreak* is an online journal with a bias for good poetry; it looks for poems that we wish we had written and that take us somewhere we didn't even know we wanted to go. *Linebreak* is updated each Tuesday and features a single poem for the entire week. Published poems are archived indefinitely. You can listen and read Arra's poem here: <http://linebreak.org>

Tom Lynch's book *Xerophilia: Ecocritical Explorations in Southwestern Literature* has won the 2009 Thomas J. Lyon award from the Western Literature Association. The award honors the year's best book of literary and cultural criticism on the North American West. The award will be presented at the WLA annual conference in early October in Spearfish, SD. This is the second time a member of this department has won the award. Sue Rosowski won in 2000.

Wheeler Winston Dixon has just published several reviews: "Andy Warhol's Blow Job" by Peter Gidal, in the September issue of *Screening the Past* 25), available at <<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/screening-the-past/25/andy-warhols-blow-job.html>>; "The Secret Life of Romantic Comedy" by Celestino Deleyto, in the September issue of *Choice*; and "Framing the Fifties: Cinema in A Divided Germany," edited by John Davidson and Sabine Hake, and "Ghostlife of Third Cinema: Asian American Film and Video" by Glen M. Mimura," both appearing in the August issue of *Choice*.

The following English Department faculty were honored this year for their years of continuing service to the university: **Greg Kuzma** (40 years); **Hilda Raz** (40 years); **Maureen Honey** (30 years); **Robert Brooke** (25 years); **Wheeler Winston Dixon** (25 years); **Joy Ritchie** (25 years); **Stephen Buhler** (20 years); **Carol Ochsner** (20 years); **Grace Bauer** (15 years); **Tim Janda** (15 years); **Laura White** (15 years); **Michael Harpending** (10 years); **Marco Abel** (5 years); **Thomas Lynch** (5 years); **Jack Vespa** (5 years). Congratulations to all our colleagues!

Timothy Schaffert has been named as guest editor for the forthcoming "brown" issue of the *Fairy Tale Review*. He has served as contributing editor for the aquamarine issue, to be out this year, and next year's red issue.

The seventh annual Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference, which took place in Lincoln in June, 2009, had nearly 100 participants from 23 states, and included workshops and/or panels with UNL faculty **Jonis Agee**, **Grace Bauer**, **Joy Castro**, and **Hilda Raz**; and PhD students **Kelly Grey Carlisle**, **Emily Danforth**, **James Engelhardt**, and **Cody Lumpkin**. Other faculty/panelists were: **Daphne Beal**, **Lauren Cerand**, **Meghan Daum**, **Anna deVries**, **Zach Dodson**, **Sean Doolittle**, **David Ebershoff**, **Chris**

Hallman, Anthony Hawley, Aaron Raz Link, Glenna Luschei, Jonathan Messinger, Jessica Regel, Curtis Sittenfeld, and Daniel Venciano. Curtis Sittenfeld spoke of her experience at UNL in the New York Times Book Review. The eighth annual conference will be held June 12-18, 2010.

Graduate student **Maura Giles-Watson's** essay "The Singing 'Vice': Music and Mischief in Early English Drama" will appear in the winter issue of *Early Theatre*, the semiannual peer-reviewed journal associated with the Records of Early English Drama program in the Centre for Renaissance and Reformation Studies at the University of Toronto, where she read an earlier draft of the paper in a colloquium last October. She would like to thank **Stephen Buhler, Pamela Starr** (Music), **Peter Lefferts** (Music), **Kurt Knecht** (Music), and **Timothy McGee** (Music-Toronto) for their interest in and support of this project at various stages.

Crystal S. Gibbins' poetry recently appeared in *Sage Trail, Literary Bohemian, Yellow Medicine Review, Red Weather*, and is forthcoming in *Canary*.

The Kalima project in Abu Dhabi is publishing an anthology of fifteen American poets, including **Ted Kooser**, and is advertising this by saying that heretofore there has been very little American poetry accessible to the Arabic reader. Ted says it's an eclectic selection, with everything from Langston Hughes to Kim Addonizio.

In other **Ted Kooser** news, Candlewick Press, which will be publishing two of Ted's children's books, the first in Spring, 2010, is donating 150 different titles from their list to the library at the newly opened Kooser Elementary School. Ted is working on a project to display original art by Nebraska artists at the school. The art would be hung there on long-term loan. This will be the first opportunity for many of the children to see and live with work like this.

Carrie Shipers has three poems forthcoming in the poetry magazine *ABZ*.

Trey Moody's poems appear in the current issues of *American Letters & Commentary* and *Quarterly West*. Other work has been accepted recently by *Barn Owl Review, Denver Quarterly, Lake Effect*, and *Best New Poets 2009*, edited by Kim Addonizio.

Maggie Christensen was part of a panel at the 4C's last March in San Francisco. The title of her presentation:

"Implementing a Professional Promotion Process: One Step toward Consistent Contract, Review, and Reward for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty."

Maureen Honey appeared on CNN's News Room with Kyra Phillips on September 3 for a live five minute interview on the historic shift occurring in the labor force that places women in the majority for the first time. The interview was prompted by a USA Today article that same day with the story in which journalist Dennis Cauchon quoted Maureen on her thoughts concerning parallels with women workers in World War II.

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Upcoming Events

Thursday-Saturday, September 17-19: the fifth annual (**downtown**) **omaha lit fest** will be held at various Omaha venues, including the W. Dale Clark Library, KANEKO, Joslyn Art Museum, and Nomad Lounge. This year's theme is "The Sordid Arts of the Cheap Paperback," and addresses the impact of genre fiction on contemporary authors, readers, and artists, among other topics. Among the participants are UNL faculty members **Joy Castro, Ted Kooser**, and **Amelia Montes**; and PhD students **Emily Danforth** and **Cody Lumpkin**. An art exhibit features work inspired by the paperback cover art of the novels of Jim Thompson, an early figure in *Prairie Schooner's* history. For a complete list of writers and events, visit www.omahalitfest.com

Sunday, September 20: Amelia Montes, reading from her recent work, as part of the John H. Ames Reading Series at Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th and N Street, 2 p.m.

Friday, September 25: Josh Ware and Arra Ross, reading from their work, as part of **The No-Name Reading Series**, 4:00 p.m., Sur Tango Bar, 12th and P Street.

Thursday-Sunday, September 17-20 and 24-27: **The Flatwater Shakespeare Company** continues its production of *Julius Caesar* in the open-air Swan Theatre at Wyuka Cemetery and Park, 3600 "O" Street in Lincoln. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. The

production is directed by **Bob Hall** and features our former colleague **Dick Nielsen** in the title role. **Steve Buhler** is the dramaturg and sound designer. Tickets: \$18 Adults; \$15 Seniors; \$10 Students; group rates available. For information call (402) 473-2897.

Tuesday, September 29: Amber Harris Leichner hosting a screening of *Becoming Jane*, 6:00 p.m., Dudley Bailey Library, as part of the Women's Film Series.

October 5-7: Academic Program Review. The review team will be here on campus for those days, so please keep your calendar as free as possible in order to be able to participate in the process.

Thursday-Friday, October 15-26: Steve Woodall, Director of the Columbia College (Chicago) Center for Book and Paper Arts, will be visiting our department to discuss book arts (the making of handmade books, chapbooks, broadsides, etc.) and paper arts. On Thursday October 15, he will speak to students of **Tim Schaffert** and **Tom Lynch** on the intersection of book arts and literature in Bailey Library from 2 p.m. to 3:15. On Friday morning he'll speak on the history of book-making in **Carole Levin's** Renaissance History class; and on Friday afternoon he'll be in Love Library's Special Collections Department with **Karen Kunc** and her student in Fine and Performing Arts, talking about Love Library's Blue Heron collection of artists' books. This visit is sponsored by the English Department, the Creative Writing Program, the Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference, and *Prairie Schooner*. For more information, contact Gerry Shapiro (gshapiro1@unl.edu).

Thursday, November 5: The Robert Knoll Lecture, 7:30 pm in the Van Brunt Visitor Center. **Achsah Guibbory**, Professor and Chair, Barnard College will speak on "Christian Identity and Israel: The Case of 17th-Century England." Professor Guibbory's lecture will be drawn from her current book, *Imagined Identities: The Uses of Judaism in Seventeenth-Century England*.