

3-31-2006

Fall 2006 New Writing Series

English Department

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**THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED
LECTURE SERIES COMMITTEE
GRANT APPLICATION**

PROVIDE 10 (TEN) COPIES, INCLUDING THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE PLACE A COPY OF THIS COVER SHEET ON TOP OF EACH COPY

I. Applicant/Organization: New Writing Series, UMaine English Department / National Poetry Foundation

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Steve Evans

b. Title: Associate Professor of English, Coordinator of New Writing Series

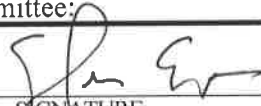
c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): 215 Neville Hall, Steven.Evans@maine.edu,
581-3809 (office), 356-5921 (cell)

III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s):

The Fall 2006 New Writing Series will consist of six events featuring nine writers in all, six poets (Susan Howe, James Thomas Stevens, Catherine Wagner, Philip Jenks, Allison Cobb, and Pam Rehm) and three fiction writers (Lydia Davis, Christina Milletti, and Dimitri Anastasopolous). Events take place on Thursday afternoons at the Soderberg Auditorium and are always free & open to the public.

Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with detailed, itemized budget. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.

IV. a. Total funding required for program:	\$ 10, 865
b. Amount committed by applicant organization:	\$ 5,000
c. Amount committed by Honors College	\$ 1,500
d. Amount requested from other funding sources	\$ 0
e. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee:	\$ 4,185

Signature of responsible organization officer/date:  3/31/06
SIGNATURE DATE

\$3000

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
C/O PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
200 ALUMNI HALL, CAMPUS



31 March 2006

Dear Members of the Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the English Department and the National Poetry Foundation to seek the Committee's continued support of the UMaine New Writing Series.

The \$4,185 I am requesting for the fall term of 2006 represents less than one half of the Series' projected operating budget of \$10, 865 (please see attached budget). The remainder of the required funding will be provided by the English Department, largely through the Lloyd H. Elliott fund, the National Poetry Foundation, and the Honors College.

I have provided a detailed budget for the fall Series, along with brief biographical statements about the writers we would like to invite and a descriptive statement about the history and objectives of the New Writing Series.

The fall 2006 NWS schedule was reviewed by the English Department's Speakers and Special Events Committee prior to submission to your committee. It received unanimous support from that Committee and also has the approval of the Department Chair, Margaret Lukens. I will note that a team of external reviewers evaluating the English Department this spring made repeated reference to the excellence, vitality, and distinctiveness of the New Writing Series. We were grateful to have confirmation that the programming we have done with your committee's generous support does indeed bring distinction not just to our department but to the university as a whole.

In light of rising travel expenses, the present proposal includes honoraria of \$250 for five of the writers, \$500 for two, and \$1000 for two. These are roughly scaled to work accomplished to date. The new base-level honorarium of \$250 is lower than we would wish, but is necessary if the Series is to continue to offer to cover travel and accommodation for the writers it hosts.

In the spring of 2006 we shifted our travel policy in light of the rising costs of flying people into Bangor International Airport. Our standard invitation for out of state, U.S.-based writers now speaks of covering "up to \$500 of travel expenses." We then work with writers to arrange for the least costly itineraries that can be identified.

Accommodation expenses are estimated on the basis of a two-night stay at the University Inn near campus (between September and October, \$67 for a single, dropping to \$55 in November and December). In keeping with Cultural Affairs Committee policy, no meal or reception expenses are included in this budget.

In the event that one or more of the writers here proposed proves unable to accept our invitation, the New Writing Series will select a writer of comparable accomplishments to fill the slot in conformity with the budget outlined in this application, as has been our practice in the past.

If I can provide any further information to the Committee, I hope you will not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Evans", with a stylized, flowing script.

Steve Evans
Associate Professor of English
English Undergraduate Studies Coordinator
Coordinator of the New Writing Series
581-3809

NWS Fall 2006 Proposed Budget

I										
Event Expenses										
date	attend.	writer	honorarium	travel	by	from	accomm.	meals	income	source
Slot 1-Fiction		Lydia Davis	\$1,000	\$500	plane	New York	134	100		
Slot 2-Poetry		Susan Howe	\$1,000	\$500	plane	Connecticut	134	100	1500	Honors
Slot 3-Fiction		Dimitri Anastasopolous	\$250	\$500	plane	Rochester	134	100		
Slot 3-Fiction		Christina Milletti	\$250	\$500	plane	Buffalo	134	100		
Slot 4-Poetry		Philip Jencks	\$250	\$500	plane	Portland OR	134	100		
Slot 4-Poetry		Cathy Wagner	\$250	\$500	plane	Ohio	110	100		
Slot 5-Poetry		James Thomas Stevens	\$500	\$500	plane	Buffalo	110	100		
Slot 5-Poetry		Pam Rehm	\$500	\$500	plane	New York	110	100		
Slot 6-Poetry		Allison Cobb	\$250	\$500	plane	Brooklyn	110	100		
totals			\$4,000	\$4,000			1000	800	-1500	

II			
Fixed Expenses			
Agent	Expense	Service	Note
MaJo Kaleshian	\$225	Poster Design	Series Poster
Printer	\$150	Poster Printing	100 posters
Marketing Dept	\$210	Event Documentation	\$35 per event
Pulp & Paper	\$300	Soderberg Rental	\$50 per event
total	\$885		

III	
Total Series Exp.	
Honoraria	4000
Travel	4000
Accommodations	1000
Meals	800
Fixed	885
total	10685

IV	
Overview	
Elliott Commitment	\$4,000
Honors Commitment	\$1,500
NPF Commitment	\$1,000
Cultural Affairs Request	\$4,185
total	\$10,685

About the New Writing Series

The New Writing Series was inaugurated in the spring of 2000 when a proposal by Steve Evans received unanimous formal approval from the department's Speaker and Special Events Committee, then chaired by Welch Everman. In the twelve semesters of its existence, it has served as an instrument for investigating the state of contemporary writing here in Maine, in the U.S. and Canada more broadly, and to some extent the world (Nigerian, Australian, Jamaican, English, Chilean, and other writers have come to Orono through the Series). The Series receives primary funding through the English Department's Lloyd H. Elliott fund and has received steady administrative support from the National Poetry Foundation, matching funds through the Cultural Affairs Committee, and co-sponsorships from a wide variety of departments and programs (the Honors College, Art, Multicultural Programs, Women in the Curriculum, Wilde Stein, Modern Languages & Classics, and others).

The primary objectives of the New Writing Series are (i) to make contemporary poetry and fiction a valued part of the cultural life at the University of Maine, (ii) to broaden the University's local, national, and international reputation as a site of vibrant cultural exchange and creativity, and (iii) to cultivate links within the University as well as between the University and area secondary schools that foster imaginative approaches to thinking about contemporary literary practices. Whereas developing an audience for individual events can be difficult, a Series creates an ongoing context for the exploration of contemporary writing and signals a more serious level of commitment to the inclusion of the literary arts in the cultural repertoire of campus and community life.

Since 2000, the Series has hosted more than 90 events, featuring more than 120 writers, and it has earned a steady local audience (typical event attendance ranges between 40 and 150 people) as well as a growing national reputation. Extended residencies by Robert Creeley (between 2000-2003) and Alice Notley (2004) have been coordinated in conjunction with the Series, as has a Libra Professorship that brought four African American poets—Jay Wright, Jayne Cortez, Lorenzo Thomas, and Amiri Baraka—to campus in 2001.

A Series website is in the works and numerous materials of archival and pedagogical value (countless hours of sound recordings, videotapes of live readings, forty professional quality digital-video "Poet Profiles" of NWS participants) have been carefully gathered. While all modes and methods of writing fall within its ambit of curiosity, care is taken to ensure that writers whose work departs from, and perhaps even challenges, dominant commercial and aesthetic assumptions are given a fair hearing.

Bio-bibliographical profiles of proposed writers (alphabetical)

Dimitri Anastasopoulos is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Rochester where he teaches Fiction and the Contemporary Novel. His fiction and essays have appeared most recently in *3rd Bed*, the *Black Warrior Review*, and *Callaloo* (among other journals). His first novel, *A Larger Sense of Harvey*, was published by Mammoth Books in 2001.

Allison Cobb was born in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and now lives in Brooklyn, New York. She is the co-editor of *POM2* literary magazine, an editor of *BabySelf* Press and the author of *The Little Box Book (Situation)*, *The J Poems (BabySelf)*, *Polar Bear and Desert Fox (BabySelf)* and *One-foot A History Play (BabySelf)*. Her full-length collection *Born Two* was published by Chax Press in 2004.

Lydia Davis is well known in literary circles for her extremely short and brilliantly inventive short stories. Her newest collection, *"Samuel Johnson is Indignant"* (2002) is a book of 56 short, sharp meditations on life, language, and such miscellaneous topics as lawns, funeral homes and jury duty. Her previous works include *"Almost No Memory"* (stories, 1998), *"The End of the Story"* (novel, 1995) and *"Break It Down"* (stories, 1986). In 2003, Davis was awarded a MacArthur "genius" grant. She is a celebrated translator of French literature into English. The French government named her a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters for her distinguished translations of works by Maurice Blanchot, Pierre Jean Jouve and others. In the fall of 2003, she published a new translation (the first in more than 80 years) of Marcel Proust's masterpiece *"Swann's Way."* Davis earned her B.A. from Barnard College.

Susan Howe is the author of numerous books of poems and two books of criticism. Her collections of poetry include *The Nonconformist's Memorial* (New Directions, 1993), *Frame Structures; Early Poems 1974-78* (New Directions, 1996), and *Pierce-Arrow* due from New Directions in the spring of 1999. Her books of criticism are *My Emily Dickinson* (North Atlantic Books, 1985), and *The Birth-mark: unsettling the wilderness in American literary history* (Wesleyan University Press, 1993). In 1996 she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and in the winter of 1998 she was a distinguished fellow at the Stanford Institute of the Humanities. She is currently a professor of English at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Philip Jenks grew up in West Virginia. He completed a master's degree in creative writing at Boston University, and his ongoing engagement with Appalachian culture and politics led him to the University of Kentucky, where he worked at the Appalachian Center. In 2002, Jenks received his doctorate in political science. He is currently an assistant professor and freshman inquiry coordinator at Portland State University. Jenks has published two volumes to date, *On the Cave You Live In (Flood)* and *My First Painting Will Be "The Accuser"* (*Zephyr*).

Christina Milletti's fiction has appeared in several journals and anthologies, such as *The Cincinnati Review*, *The Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Chicago Review*, and *Harcourt's Best New American Voices* among others. She teaches at the University of Buffalo where she directs the Exhibit X Fiction Series, and her collection of short stories, *The Religious and Other Fictions*, is forthcoming from Carnegie Mellon University Press in 2005.

Pam Rehm is the author of six volumes of poetry including *To Give It Up*, a winner of the 1994 National Poetry Series award. She currently lives in New York City with her husband and two children. Her most recent books, *Gone to Earth* and *Small Works*, were published by Flood Books. Robert Creeley said of her work: "She makes each edge of sound, of a word's various meaning, articulate with impeccable art. Her insistent intelligence is a great light in the all-too-surrounding darkness."

James Thomas Stevens is a member of the Akwesasne Mohawk nation in upstate New York. Born in New York and raised between three reservations in Canada and the U.S., he received a Gerald Red Elk Scholarship to attend the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa Institute. A 2000 Whiting Award Winner, Stevens taught at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas before taking up his current position in the English Department at the State University of New York at Fredonia. His books to date include *Tokinish (First Intensity)*, *Combing the Snakes from His Hair (Michigan State UP)*, and *Mohawk/Samoa: Transmigrations (Subpress)*.

Catherine Wagner was born to military parents in Burma and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. Wagner is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, and the University of Utah's Ph.D in Literature program. Her books to date are *Macular Hole (Fence 2004)* and *Miss America (2001)*. She edits a poetry column for *Radical Society* and until recently lived and taught in Boise, Idaho. She's now in Baltimore.