

3-25-2005

## Fall 2005 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

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: STEVE EVANS

b. Title: ASST. PROFESSOR, COORDINATOR OF NWS

c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): 215 NEVILLE ; 531-3807

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

**FALL 2005 NEW WRITING SERIES**

• **6 EVENTS**

• **9 POETS + FICTION WRITERS**

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: ..... > 12,584  
b. Amount committed by applicant organization: ..... > 5,584  
c. Amount committed by/requested of (please indicate which) other funding sources: ..... > 1,500  
d. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee: ..... > 5,500

Signature of responsible organization officer/date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Steve Evans*  
SIGNATURE

3-25-05  
DATE

SPACE BELOW FOR COMMITTEE USE:

5000

3

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



20 March 2005

Dear Members of the Cultural Affairs Committee,

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

The \$5,500 I am requesting for the fall term of 2005 represents less than one half of the Series' projected operating budget of approximately \$12,584 for the semester (please see attached budget; reception and/or meal costs are not factored into the quoted figure). The remainder of the required funding will be provided by the English Department, largely through the Lloyd H. Elliott fund (\$5,584), and by anticipated collaborations with the Honors College and the Canadian-American Center (\$1,500).

The primary objectives of the New Writing Series are (i) to make contemporary poetry and innovative 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.

With the Committee's past support, the Series has been able to host more than 90 events, featuring more than 120 writers, and it has earned a steady local audience (so far in the spring of 2005, our event attendance have ranged between 60 and 140 people) as well as a growing national reputation. A website has been designed for the Series and numerous materials of archival and pedagogical value (countless hours of sound recordings, videotapes of live readings, professional quality digital-video "Poet Profiles" of the past four semester's visitors) have been gathered.

One transition we'll hope to successfully manage in the fall is the loss of local filmmaker Jim Sharkey's collaboration on the "Poet Profile" films. I have budgeted for the continuation of this Series at the rates (well below market value) that Sharkey has charged in the past (roughly \$125 per writer). If it proves impossible to replace Sharkey at these nearly pro bono rates, I will be sure to inform the Committee and adjust any charges accordingly.

We'll make another, more welcome, transition in the fall by beginning to include innovative fiction writers with national reputations into our programming. Lydia Davis, a recent MacArthur "Genius" grant recipient, is a natural first choice in this regard. She is a brilliant novelist, a tireless translator (most recently, and to great accolades, of Proust's *Swann's Way*), and an excellent speaker. Less well known as yet, Bangor-born Alison Bundy, who now lives in Providence, has recently had stories published in *Harper's* and *Ploughshares* and is the author of two collections, *Dunce Cap* and *A Bad Business*.

Among the talented group of poets we seek support for bringing to campus in the fall are two west coast Canadian writers, Peter Culley (author of *Hammertown*) and Fred Wah (author of more than a dozen books). We'll also feature two talented young scholar-poets from the Bay Area, Sianne Ngai (whose *Ugly Feelings* just appeared with Harvard UP) and Judith Goldman (author of *Vocoder*). Hoa Nguyen and Dale Smith are based in Austin, Texas, by all accounts a vibrant cultural oasis, where they run a small press, edit a magazine, and, in Nguyen's case, teach. As the names in this list may suggest, there will be an interesting thread of Asian American and Asian Canadian experience in the fall programming (Wah, Ngai, Nguyen).

Along with Lydia Davis, our other featured solo reader will be Joan Retallack, a poet with six books to her credit, a widely-cited essayist, an admired John Cage Scholar, and John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Humanities at Bard College and co-director of the Language & Thinking program there.

I've attached a budget and some brief notes about the proposed writers below. If I can provide any further information to the Committee, I hope you will not hesitate to contact me.

Steve Evans   
Assistant Professor of English  
Coordinator of the New Writing Series

## BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON INVITED WRITERS

### JOAN RETALLACK

Joan Retallack's most recent books are *MONGRELISME* (Paradigm Press, 1999) and *How To Do Things With Words* (Sun & Moon, 1998). She is the author of four other books of poetry, including *AFTERRIMAGES* (Wesleyan, 1995). Her book on and with John Cage, *MUSICAGE* (Wesleyan, 1996), won the America Award for Belles-Lettres. Her book of essays, *The Poetical Wager*, is forthcoming from the University of California Press this Fall. Retallack is John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Professor of Humanities at Bard College and co-director of the Language & Thinking program there.

### FRED WAH

Fred Wah was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan in 1939, but he grew up in the West Kootenay region of British Columbia. He studied music and English literature at the University of British Columbia in the early 1960's where he was one of the founding editors of the poetry newsletter *TISH*. After graduate work in literature and linguistics at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and the State University of New York at Buffalo, he returned to the Kootenays in the late 1960's where he taught at Selkirk College and was the founding coordinator of the writing program at David Thompson University Centre. He now teaches at the University of Calgary. He has been editorially involved with a number of literary magazines over the years, such as *Open Letter* and *West Coast Line*. He has published seventeen books of poetry. His book of prose-poems, *Waiting For Saskatchewan*, received the Governor-General's Award in 1986 and *So Far* was awarded the Stephanson Award for Poetry in 1992. *Diamond Grill*, a biofiction about hybridity and growing up in a small-town Chinese-Canadian cafe was published in 1996 and won the Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Fiction. He also critiques contemporary Canadian and American literature.

### PETER CULLEY

Peter Culley, from Nanaimo, BC, has published four books of poetry, including *The Climax Forest* (Leech Books) and, most recently in 2004, *Hammertown*. Poems have also appeared in *Boo*, *Credentes*, *Hole*, *Ink*, *Jag*, *West Coast Line*, and *Writing*. He has published reviews and art criticism in the magazines *Vanguard* and *Parachute*.

#### LYDIA DAVIS

Lydia Davis lives in upstate New York and teaches at the Milton Avery Graduate School of Bard College. She is the author of a novel, *The End of the Story* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), and two collections of short stories, *Break It Down* (FSG) and *Almost No Memory* (FSG). She is the recipient of the Whiting Writer's Award (1988), the French-American Foundation Translation Award (1992), a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lannan Literary Award, was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Foundation Award for Fiction, and most recently was honored for her translation work with the French Insigna of the Order of Arts and Letters. In 2004 she was granted a MacArthur Fellowship (commonly referred to as a "genius" grant).

#### HOA NGUYEN

Hoa Nguyen lives in Austin, Texas where she teaches creative writing. She co-edits the magazine *Skanky Possum* (available from Small Press Distribution) with Dale Smith. Her work has appeared in various journals and in *An Anthology of New (American) Poets* (Talisman House, 1998). A chapbook, *Parrot Drum*, is from *Leroy* (2000), & *Your ancient see through* was published in 2002 by Subpress.

#### DALE SMITH

Dale Smith edits *Skanky Possum* with Hoa Nguyen. His poems, essays and reviews have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Poker*, *House Organ*, *Chicago Review* and *New American Writing*. Selections from his book *American Rambler* (2000) appeared in the *Best American Poetry 2002*. *The Flood and the Garden: A Daybook* (2002) was released by First Intensity and his election year contribution to both parties, *My Vote Counts (effing)*, was recently published to the scorn of Republicans and Democrats everywhere. He lives in Austin, Texas, and was born on the Day of the Dead, 1967.

#### SIANNE NGAI

Sianne Ngai teaches American literature, specializing in twentieth-century culture and theory, poetry, film studies, and feminist studies. Her writing includes cultural criticism, such as *Raw Matter: A Poetics of Disgust*, *Stuplimity: Shock and Boredom in Twentieth-Century Aesthetics*, and *Jealous Schoolgirls, Single White Females, and Other Bad Examples: Rethinking Gender and Envy*. At the same time, Prof. Ngai is an experimental poet, and her books in this area include *Criteria*, *My Novel*, and *Discredit*. Her current book projects include *Ugly Feelings: Literature, Affect, and Ideology*.

#### JUDITH GOLDMAN

Judith Goldman is author of *adversities of outerlife* (object editions, 1996) and *Vocoder* (Roof, 2001), which was chosen as a "Book of the Year" by Small Press Traffic. Her work has also appeared in *Object*, *Aerial*, *Shiny*, *Primary Writing*, *Boo*, *Arras*, *\$lavery*, *Onedit*, *How2*, *Enough* (O Books), and *An Anthology of New (American) Poetry* (Talisman). She is currently writing a dissertation on ethics, authority, and literary form in late eighteenth-century British contexts. A native Californian, she recently moved to the Bay Area after having lived in New York for about a decade.

#### ALISON BUNDY

Alison Bundy was born in 1959 and grew up in Maine. She has an MFA from Brown University and has worked both as a teacher and a plumber. Her prose has appeared in journals like *Ploughshares*, *Sulfur*, *Nimrod*. Her first collection of stories, *A Bad Business*, was published by Lost Roads in 1985. *Tale of a Good Cook* was a Paradigm chapbook in 1990.

New Writing Series  
Proposed Budget for Fall 2005

I. Event Expenses		date	writer	honorarium	travel	by	from	accomm.	meals	income	source
		15-Sep	Fred Wah	\$500	\$500	Plane	Vancouver	\$134	\$100	\$500	Can-Am Ctr.
		15-Sep	Peter Culley	\$500	\$500	Plane	Vancouver	\$0	\$100		
		29-Sep	Joan Retallack	\$500	\$500	Plane	New York	\$134	\$100	\$1,000	Honors College
		13-Oct	Sianne Ngai	\$500	\$500	Plane	San Francisco	\$134	\$100		
		13-Oct	Judith Goldman	\$500	\$500	Plane	San Francisco	\$134	\$100		
		27-Oct	Lydia Davis	\$1,000	\$500	Plane	New York	\$134	\$100		
		10-Nov	Hoa Nguyen	\$500	\$500	Plane	Austin	\$60	\$100		
		10-Nov	Dale Smith	\$500	\$500	Plane	Austin	\$60	\$100		
		1-Dec	Alison Bundy	\$500	\$500	Plane	Providence	\$110	\$100		
			<b>total</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>			<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	
II. Fixed Expenses											
	Agent		Service	Expense	Note						
	Staples		Paper and Toner	\$150	Broadsides						
	Sam's Club		DV tapes	\$60	16 tapes						
	MaJo Kaleshian		Poster Design	\$225	Fall Series Poster						
	Printer		Poster Printing	\$150	100 posters						
	Marketing Dept		Event Documentation	\$210	\$35 per event						
	Pulp & Paper		Soderberg Rental	\$300	\$50 per event						
	To Be Determined		Poet Profile Films	\$900	\$100 per writer						
	To Be Determined		Duplicates of Films	\$189	3 at \$7 ea.						
	<b>total</b>			<b>\$2,184</b>							
III. Total Series Exp.											
	Honoraria		\$5,000								
	Travel		\$4,500								
	Accommodations		\$900								
	Fixed		\$2,184								
	<b>total</b>		<b>\$12,584</b>	less	<b>\$1,500 (income)</b>					<b>\$11,084</b>	



