

9-24-2004

Fall 2004 New Writing Series

English Department

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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: <u>NEW WRITING SERIES, ENGLISH DEPT + NPF</u>
II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: <u>STEVE EVANS</u> b. Title: <u>ASST. PROFESSOR, COORDINATOR OF NEW WRITING SERIES</u> c. Campus Address (include EMail and Telephone): <u>215 NEVILLE, 1-3809, STEVEN.EVANS@MAINE.EDU</u>
III. Summary of program requiring funding (title; featured artist(s); speaker(s); scheduled date (s)): <p align="center">the <u>NEW WRITING SERIES</u> • FALL 2004</p> <p>21 SEPT MARJORIE WELISH > 4:30 Soderberg Auditorium</p> <p>30 SEPT FANNY HOWE > 8PM Neville 100</p> <p>07 OCT COLE SWENSEN > 4:30 Soderberg</p> <p>19 OCT TONY LOPEZ & GEOFFREY YOUNG > 4:30 Neville 100</p> <p>29 OCT TOMSON HIGHWAY > 5PM Minsky Recital Hall</p> <p>04 NOV ALICE NOTLEY > 8PM Minsky Recital Hall</p> <p>18 NOV DEVIN JOHNSTON & ANDREW JORON > 4:30 Soderberg</p> <p>Expand in fuller detail, a supporting statement with <u>detailed, itemized budget</u>. Funding for current application is contingent upon submission of detailed budget and attendance report for any previous years' grants.</p>
IV. a. Total funding required for program: > <u>16,446</u> b. Amount committed by applicant organization: > <u>7,261</u> c. Amount committed by/requested of (please indicate which) other funding sources: > <u>2,185</u> d. Amount requested of Cultural Affairs/DLS Committee: > <u>7,000</u>
Signature of responsible organization officer/date: _____ <u><i>Steve Evans</i></u> _____ <u>9-24-04</u> <div style="text-align: center; margin-left: 150px;">SIGNATURE</div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-left: 350px;">DATE</div>

SPACE BELOW FOR COMMITTEE USE:

\$5,000

Need to change date proposal

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

Department of English



5752 Neville Hall, Room 304
Orono, Maine 04469-5752
Tel: 207-581-3822
Fax: 207-581-3886
english@maine.edu
www.umaine.edu/english
www.umaine.edu

24 September 2004

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 established in the spring of 2000. The **\$7,000** I am requesting for the fall of 2004 represents less than one half of the Series' operating budget of approximately **\$14,261** for the semester (please see attached budget; reception 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, with secondary help from the Honors College (\$1500), the Canadian American Center (\$500), and the School of Performing Arts (waived fees equivalent to \$185).

The primary objectives of the New Writing Series are (i) to make contemporary poetry 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 poetry. Whereas developing an audience for individual poetry 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.

The fall 2004 New Writing Series comprises seven events featuring nine writers, all of national or international stature. In an attempt to make events accessible to as many people as possible, we have diverged from the Thursday afternoon schedule of past years by using evening slots for three events likely to draw (and reward) larger audiences and by mixing up the days of the week on which events occur. Publicity posters for the Series

began going up in early September and a detailed Public Affairs press release on the events was picked up by the Bangor Daily News on 23 September 2004. A Series website is maintained at <http://www.thirdfactory.net/nws-fall2004.html>. The past support of the Cultural Affairs Committee is acknowledged in all Series publicity.

This fall, we enter the third semester of a project in collaboration with local filmmaker Jim Sharkey of Folk Films. The "Poet Profiles" films that are the fruit of this collaborative effort (20 films to date, with eight more projected this semester) extend the necessarily brief campus visits into contexts where a conventional visit/reading could not reach (e.g. libraries, high school classrooms, public access cable television), thus further broadening the audience for UMaine-supported poetry in the state and across the country. By virtue of Mr. Sharkey's generous willingness to work at greatly reduced rates on this project, we are able to turn a modest financial commitment (\$1500 for eight films) into a lasting testimony as to the diversity and excellence of the contemporary literature supported by the University of Maine.

In the following pages I have included a full schedule of events, detailed expense estimates, and thumbnail bio-bibliographical descriptions of Series participants. 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
581-3809

Event Expenses

poet	honorarium	travel by	from	accomm.	meals	income source
Marjorie Welsh	500	512 plane	NYC	120	150	
Fanny Howe	1000	475 plane	Cape Code	120	150	750 Honors
Cole Swensen	500	600 plane	Iowa City	120	150	
Tony Lopez	500	0 n/a	n/a (touring)	120	100	
Geoffrey Young	500	150 car	Great Barrington MA	120	100	
Tomson Highway	1500	697 plane	Toronto	120	150	685 Can Am, Perf Arts
Alice Notley	2000	779 plane	Paris	300	150	750 Honors
Devin Johnston	500	600 plane	St. Louis	120	100	
Andrew Joron	500	448 plane	San Francisco	120	100	
total	7500	4261		1260	1150	2185

Fixed Expenses

Agent	Service	Expense Note
Staples	Paper- broadsides	100
Sam's Club	DV tapes	60 16 tapes
Majo Kaleshian	Poster Design	225
Printer	Poster Printing	150 100 posters
BDN, Penobscot T	Advertising	500
Marketing Dept	Spring Videotaping	250 \$35 per event
Pulp & Paper	Soderberg Rental	150 \$50 per event
School of Perf Arts	Minsky Recital Hall	185 Highway
School of Perf Arts	Minsky Recital Hall	125 Notley
Folk Films	Poet Profiles	1000 \$100 per poet
Folk Films	Materials	500 vhs dupes
		3245

Total Expenses

Honoraria	7500
Travel	4261
Accommodations	1260
Fixed	3425
(Income)	-2185
total	14261

School news

UM announces poetry readings

English department brings 'adventurous' New Writing Series to campus

ORONO — Nine poets from around the country and abroad will highlight the New Writing Series at the University of Maine this fall. Sponsored in part by the English department at UMaine, the New Writing Series has taken pride in bringing poets to campus who favor an "adventurous and innovative" take on poetry, said Steve Evans, assistant professor of English and coordinator of the series. This year promises to be no exception, he said.

"We're trying to foster a diverse culture on the campus and in the community," Evans said. "We do that, first, by insisting that poetry become part of the dialogue. And then we make sure to invite poets who provide unique and sometimes oppositional visions of their art and of the world. Poets who shake things up and whose activities aren't restricted to 'poetry as usual.'"

This fall's poets have earned reputations in other fields as well. Among them are playwrights, novelists, small-press publishers and translators.

"We talk often of the 'creative

economy' in Maine nowadays," said Evans. "Well, poets have lived in that economy for generations now and are our foremost experts on it. We should listen to their experiences and learn from their examples.

"Usually, we work hard to emphasize younger writers, people who are maybe one book into their careers. This semester we do have Devin Johnston and Andrew Joron. But the real center of this series happens to be four women writers — Marjorie Welish, Fanny Howe, Cole Swensen, and Alice Notley — who are farther along in their careers and writing at the absolute top of their game," Evans said.

The schedule of readings and locations on the UMaine campus are:

Sept. 21

Marjorie Welish will read at 4:30 p.m. in Soderberg Auditorium, Jenness Hall. Most recently, Welish published "The Annotated 'Here': New and Selected Poems," which won Best Book of the Year from The Village Voice and was an Academy of American Poets Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize finalist.

Sept. 30

Fanny Howe will read at 8 p.m. in 100 Neville Hall. Howe is the author of "Tis of Thee" and "Selected Poems." Howe was the recipient of the 2001 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize for her "Selected Poems." She also has won awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Poetry Foundation, the California Council for the Arts and The Village Voice.

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form a one-man show at 5 p.m. in Minsky Recital Hall, Class of 1944 building. Highway is an accomplished and award-winning Canadian playwright. Highway's play "The Rez Sisters" was performed at UMaine by The Penobscot Players.

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The New Writing Series also is sponsored by the National Poetry Foundation, the honors college, the cultural affairs committee and the Lloyd H. Elliot Fund.

To obtain more information about authors and events, visit <http://www.thirdfactory.net/news-fall2004.html>.

Columbia provost, panel to discuss civil liberties

ORONO — Alan Brinkley, Columbia University provost and noted historian, will give this year's Senator Margaret Chase Smith Lecture on Public Affairs from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, at the Minsky Recital Hall, University of Maine.

Brinkley's lecture, "Civil Liberties After 9-11: Lessons from Past Assaults on Freedoms," will trace the struggle in the United States between what Brinkley calls "the demands of liberty and the demands of order and security."

"Brinkley's remarks will provide much-needed historical context to current debates over

whether the legislation for homeland security implemented in the wake of 9-11 is warranted or goes too far," said Kathryn Hunt of UMaine's Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy.

Author of numerous books, Brinkley won the National Book Award in 1983 for "Voices of Protest: Huey Long, Father Coughlin, and the Great Depression." His essays, articles and reviews have appeared in scholarly journals and periodicals including The New Yorker, the New York Review of Books and the London Review of Books.

Brinkley has published recently on the struggle for civil

liberties throughout this country's history.

Brinkley's lecture will be followed by a short reception and from 4 to 5:30 p.m., a panel presentation: "Balancing Security at Home and Civil Liberties in an Age of Terrorism." Shannon Martin from the department of communication and journalism at UMaine, Zachary Heiden of the Maine Civil Liberties Union and U.S. Attorney Paula Silsby will discuss homeland security policies that have been implemented since 9-11 — most notably the USA Patriot Act.

After remarks from each panelist, the forum will be open to questions from the audience.

Martin is a member of Maine's new Judicial Branch Task Force on Electronic Court Records Access. She said Brinkley's lecture is not only important but timely because of the "sunset clauses" on policies concerning homeland security. "It's important for us at this time to examine homeland security not just in the abstract but in the present," she said.



640 Wilson Street, Brewer
Next door to Main Building

THE UMAINE **NEW WRITING SERIES** FALL 2004

The Dates

21 September	MARJORIE WELISH ≥ 4:30 Soderberg Auditorium
30 September	FANNY HOWE ≥ 8PM Neville 100
07 October	COLE SWENSEN ≥ 4:30 Soderberg
19 October	TONY LOPEZ ≥ & GEOFFREY YOUNG ≥ 4:30 Neville 100
29 October	TOMSON HIGHWAY ≥ 5PM Minsky Recital Hall
04 November	ALICE NOTLEY ≥ 8PM Minsky Recital Hall
18 November	DEVIN JOHNSTON ≥ & ANDREW JORON ≥ 4:30 Soderberg

All poetry events are free and open to the public. • The New Writing Series is supported by the English Department of the University of Maine, the National Poetry Foundation, the Honors College, and grants from the Cultural Affairs Committee. • A map of the University of Maine campus can be found [here](#).

The Poets



Poet, painter and critic [Marjorie Welish](#) is the author of several books, most recently [The Annotated 'Here'](#) and [Selected Poems](#) (an Academy of American Poets Lenore Marshall Prize finalist) and [Word Group](#), both from Coffee House Press. The subject of an all-day conference at the University of Pennsylvania, her writing and art and the papers they inspired have now become a book: [Of the Diagram: The Work of Marjorie Welish](#), published by Slought Foundation. She has taught at Brown University, The New School University and at Pratt Institute. In 2005 she will be Judith E. Wilson Poetry Fellow at Cambridge University.

Photo credit: Star Black



[Fanny Howe](#) is the author, most recently, of [Tis of Thee](#) (Atelos, 2003), [Gone](#) (U of California, 2003), [Economics](#), and a collection of essays, [The Wedding Dress: Meditations on Word and Life](#) (U of California, 2004). Of the latter, Mark Jay Mirsky, editor of *Fiction*,



writes: "Fanny Howe's latest book is a primer for the mind America does not know it has. Her prose is utterly simple and truthful yet rings with the formal elegance of past centuries. These pages are a dazzling handbook on the riddles of language, breath and speech. At every moment in the book Fanny is present, precise, mischievous, awesome, a companion in arms to her readers. When she turns with us to address the Unknown, she brings us face to face as no other writer I know can do." *Thanks to the UMaine Honors College for cosponsoring Howe's visit.*



Cole Swensen has published nine volumes of poetry, the most recent being Goest from Alice James Books, 2004. Others include Such Rich Hour (U of Iowa, 2001), and Try (U of Iowa, 1999), which won the 1998 Iowa Poetry Prize and the 2000 San Francisco Poetry Center Book Award. She also translates contemporary French poetry, prose, and art criticism. Books include *Art Poetic* and *Future, Former, Fugitive* by Olivier Cadiot; *Natural Gaits* and *OXO* by Pierre Alferi; *Bayart* by Pascale Monnier, and *The Island of the Dead* by Jean Fremon, which won the 2004 PEN West Award for Literary Translation. Swensen teaches in the Writers Workshop at the University of Iowa, where her courses focus on contemporary poetry and book arts. She divides her time between Iowa, Washington DC, and Paris.



Tony Lopez is the author of Devolution (The Figures), Data Shadow (Reality Street), False Memory (Salt) and many other books. A freelance fiction writer for newspapers and magazines in the early 1970s, he published five crime and science fiction novels with New English library between 1973 and 1977, after which he returned to school and focused his efforts as a poet. He attended the University of Essex (BA 1980) and Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge (PhD 1986). During the 1980s he made a series of performance art events that were staged in Cambridge, Liverpool, Edinburgh, London and Amsterdam. Since the mid-1990s, Lopez's poetry has won an increasing readership in the US. Lopez was appointed the first professor of poetry at the University of Plymouth in 2000.



Geoffrey Young is the author of *Subject to Fits*, *Pockets of Wheat, Rocks and Deals*, and, most recently, of *Lights Out*. He was until last year the publisher of the legendary press *The Figures* and responsible in that capacity for bringing into the world scores of sharply-designed volumes by innovative writers like Clark Coolidge, Michael Gizzi, Stephen Rodefer, and Elaine Equi, to mention only some poets who have already appeared in the New Writing Series. Long involved in the arts, Young currently runs the *Geoffrey Young Gallery* in the Berkshires.



Fourth son (and eleventh child) of legendary caribou hunter and world championship dogsled racer, Joe Highway, *Tomson Highway* is a Cree Indian born and raised in far north Manitoba. Musically educated (as a pianist), he writes, these days, plays, novels, and music for a living. Among his best known of many works to date are the plays, *The Rez Sisters*, *Dry Lips Outghta Move to Kapuskasing*, *Rose*, and the novel, *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, all award winners or nominees or hits or bestsellers of one sort or another. He speaks, in order, the languages Cree, music, French, and English and divides his year equally between a cottage in northern Ontario and an apartment in the south of France.



Alice Notley, who first read in the NWS in the fall of 2001, returns this fall for a week-long residency. Notley is the author of *Disobedience* (which won the international *Griffin Prize* in 2002), *The Mysteries of Small Houses*, and *The Descent of Alette* (all from Penguin), along with many other volumes. With Douglas Oliver, Notley edited the magazine *Gare du Nord*. In the past two years, Notley and her sons Anselm and Edward Berrigan have co-edited *The Collected Poems of Ted Berrigan*, which is forthcoming from the University of California in 2005. For a conversation between Notley and Claudia Keelan recently published in the *APR*, click [here](#). *Thanks to the UMaine Honors College for cosponsoring Notley's visit.*



poetry, *Aversions* (Omnidawn, 2004) and *Telepathy* (Paper Bark, 2001). He has also published a book of criticism entitled *Precipitations: Contemporary American Poetry as Occult Practice* (Wesleyan University Press, 2002). From 1995-2000, he served as poetry editor for *Chicago Review*, and with Michael O'Leary, he now directs a small press called *Flood Editions*. Raised in North Carolina, he currently lives in Saint Louis, Missouri, where he teaches at Saint Louis University.



Andrew Joron's *Fathom* (Black Square, 2003) was a VLS favorite book for 2003. He is also the author of *The Removes* (Hard Press, 1999). His essay "Neo-Surrealism; or, the Sun at Night: Transformations of Surrealism in American Poetry, 1966-1999" was published as a chapbook by Hard Press earlier this year. Of *Fathom*, the *Village Voice* says: "Joron's second book is a startling series of language games and meditations, committed to the political possibilities of new poetry and the terrors of a long fall where 'the last line listens to its endlessness.' Hermetic as in Hermes, of the swift and mysterious messages."



University of Maine News

New Writing Series Announces Fall Poetry Readings at UMaine

Please note: an incomplete version of this news release was inadvertently sent yesterday. Please use this copy. Thank you.

Sept. 15, 2004

Media Contact: Joe Carr at (207) 581-3571, Steve Evans at 581-3809

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"We're trying to foster a diverse culture on the campus and in the community," Evans says. "We do that, first, by insisting that poetry become part of the dialogue. And then we make sure to invite poets who provide unique and sometimes oppositional visions of their art and of the world. Poets who shake things up and whose activities aren't restricted to 'poetry as usual.'"

This fall's poets have earned reputations in other fields as well: among them there are playwrights, novelists, small-press publishers, and translators. "We talk often of the 'creative economy' in Maine nowadays," says Evans. "Well, poets have lived in that economy for generations now and are our foremost experts on it. We should listen to their experiences and learn from their examples.

"Usually we work hard to emphasize younger writers, people who are maybe one book into their careers, and this semester we do have Devin Johnston and Andrew Joron. But the real center of this series happens to be four women writers—Marjorie Welish, Fanny Howe, Cole Swensen, and Alice Notley—who are farther along in their careers and writing at the absolute top of their game," Evans says.

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Visit the [New Writing Series Web site](#) for more information about authors and events.

Resources for: [Prospective Students](#), [Current Students](#), [Researchers](#), [Visitors & Alumni](#), [Faculty & Staff](#), [Outreach](#), [News & Events](#), [Athletic News](#)

Media Contact: [Joe Carr](#), Director of Public Affairs,
Dept. of Public Affairs, (207) 581-3571

Web site Questions: [Christopher Smith](#), Web Content
Developer, Dept. of Public Affairs, (207) 581-3744

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