

4-2012

My Life as a Poet, Public Presentation

English Department

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Cultural Affairs Committee
and
Distinguished Lecture Series
c/o Wanda Madden-Carr
201 Alumni Hall
University of Maine

January 4, 2012

To: Judith Hakola

From: Melissa Mayard & Dan Sandweiss, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee and Distinguished Lecture Series, it gives us great pleasure to inform you that your proposal from the English Department for Maine's Poet Laureate, Wesly McNair, has been awarded \$600.00.

Please contact Wanda Madden-Carr at 1-1516 to discuss the procedures in place for the submission of financial expenses related to this award at your earliest convenience.

The following acknowledgement is required on ALL promotional material: ***This event was supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series.***

Attached is a form for your use to summarize the benefits derived from this grant. This form should be submitted within 30 days after the conclusion of the event. Timely submission of your summary will be considered as part of any future funding requests.

The Cultural Affairs Committee members congratulate you and wish you much success on this project.

cc: Suzanne Moulton

CULTURAL AFFAIRS/DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES
GRANT APPLICATION

I. Applicant/Organization: English Department

II. a. Responsible Organization Officer: Naomi Jacobs; Principal Organizer: Judy Hakola

b. Title: Chair (Jacobs); Lecturer (Hakola)

c. Campus Address (include Email and Telephone):

Jacobs: 304 Neville Hall; 581-3823; naomi.jacobs@umit.maine.edu

Hakola: 304 Neville; 866-4091 (preferred); judith.hakola@umit.maine.edu

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

Title: "My Life as a Poet" (public presentation)

Presenter: Wesley McNair, Maine Poet Laureate

Date (tentative): Wednesday, April 4, 11 or 18

This proposal requests \$600 in support of our effort to bring Maine Poet Laureate Wesley McNair to campus for a two-day visit Spring 2012 semester, most likely on a Wednesday-Thursday in April. McNair has expressed enthusiastic interest in doing a multi-media public presentation and book signing, as well as visiting Maine literature and creative writing courses and meeting informally with creative writing students. The English Department through the Lloyd Elliott fund and the University Bookstore will be contributing to the cost of this visit; the DLS grant would fund the portion of the honorarium devoted to the public presentation.

McNair's commitment as Poet Laureate is to return poetry to the kind of currency in everyday life it enjoyed in the 19th century. His own poetry is very accessible to readers of all kinds, and his column, "Take Heart: A Conversation in Poetry," which appears weekly in all the state's major newspapers, introduces such readers to the works of other Maine poets. These weekly columns, as well as the many appearances he has made around the state, have already established him as a recognizable name, and his public presentation—a multi-media event entitled "My Life as a Poet"—is likely to draw a number of attendees from this area.

McNair is the author of 11 books of poetry and two books of non-fiction as well as the editor of 5 literary anthologies. He is one of the founders of the highly regarded creative writing program at the University of Maine-Farmington and has been a visiting professor of creative writing at Colby College, which is in the process of digitizing his papers to make them publicly available. As well, his memoir, the basis of his presentation, will have been published by the time of his visit.

McNair's campus visit is intended to complement those of the writers who will appear under the aegis of the New Writing Series, for which CA/DLS support is being sought separately.

IV. Budget Proposal Form: See page 2 below.

**Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Fund
Budget Proposal Form**

Applicant/Organization: English Department
 Responsible Officer: Naomi Jacobs, Dept. Chair; Judy Hakola, Principal Organizer
 Event Title: "My Life as a Poet," Wes McNair
 Event Date: April 4, 11, or 18 (being negotiated)

Total Program Budget: \$2050
 Amount Committed by Applicant Organization: \$700
 Total Amount Requested from Other Funding Sources:
 University Bookstore \$750 (max.)
 Amount Requested from CA/DLS Committee: \$600*
 Revenues, if any, expected (fees, ticket sales): \$00

Budget Breakdown of Expenses and funds to be used:	CADLS	Other
Honoraria/Services (explain below)		
CADLS: share of honorarium	\$600	
English Dept.: share of honorarium		\$400
University Bookstore: reception; publicity		\$750
Travel: English Dept. 180 miles (rt Mercer, ME-Orono) @ \$.44)		\$80
Lodging/Meals: English Dept.		\$220
Event Promotion and support, including reception: Bookstore		\$750 (max.)
 Total Expenses from CA/DLS funds:	 \$600*	
Total Expenses from other funds:		\$1450
(These two totals should equal the "Total Program Budget" listed above)		

- *These amounts should be identical and should not exceed 50% of the total program/event budget. Please note that CA/DLS funds may not be used for receptions and do not normally fund UM employee wages. In addition, please refer to the updated Use of University Funds Administrative Practice Letter for guidance with expenditure allowances (<http://www.maine.edu/pdf/APLIV-I.pdf>). This APL applies to all sources of University funding not just CA/DLS funds. If an award is granted based on this proposal, reimbursement of expenses will not exceed the total CA/DLS request and will be limited to the types of expenditures outlined above.

Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Grant Report

Applicant Organization: English Department
Contact Name: Judith Hakola
Campus Address: 304 Neville
Phone: 581-3812 (home—preferred: 866-4091)
E-mail: judyhak@maine.edu

Summary of Program for which grant funds were awarded, including a brief description, place where the program was held; and date and time:

The Distinguished Lecture Series grant, combined with a grant from the Lloyd Elliott Fund, covered the stipend for a presentation by Maine State Poet Laureate **Wesley McNair**. The University Bookstore provided area-wide publicity and sponsored a reception after the presentation.

McNair gave an illustrated presentation entitled “The Making of a Poet” at 7:00 p.m. in 100 D. P. Corbett on April 4, 2012. He covered the influences from his personal life that led not only to his becoming the kind of poet he is but also to his attitude about the role of poetry in public life. Since he is by far the most active in promoting poetry of the four Poets Laureate that the state has had thus far, his views resonated with many in the audience who were not academics. McNair ended by reading several of his poems that illustrated not only his appreciation for “everyday” Mainers but also the accessibility of his poetry for a variety of audiences.

How many people attended the event(s)? If possible describe the different audiences that this program served (i.e. UMaine Students, general community, teachers, etc.).

Over 100 people were in attendance. Several English faculty either required or urged their students to attend, and some area high school English teachers and their students were there as well. Four students who take the ENG 244: Writers of Maine course at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast drove to Orono to hear McNair, as did people from as far away as Addison.

How was the event promoted? Please attach copies of promotional material.

The University Bookstore, through Tradebook Manager Diane Genthner and Marketing Coordinator Tom Diaz, contributed substantially to publicizing this event. Tom designed a 28" x 22" color poster*, which was distributed around campus and at area libraries. A color ad* and a press release* appeared in the Bangor Daily News two days before the event (the ad was responsible for the attendance of the guest from Addison). Judy Hakola delivered hand-addressed letters of invitation* to every high school English teacher at Orono, Old Town, Bangor, Brewer, Hampden, and John Bapst high schools. Announcements were circulated via FirstClass to all English Department faculty, graduate students, majors and minors and were posted on the CLAS conference. Circulars* were placed in every English Department mailbox, many of which were subsequently posted on office doors in Neville Hall. As well, members of the English Department circulated announcements widely through personal email lists.

*Samples attached.

Please describe any modifications to program or budget made after award:

No modifications.

Please attach a final budget to this form.

Attached.

Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series Grant
Budget: Wesley McNair

Campus Presentation and Visit, April 4 and 5, 2012

Funds available:

Lloyd Elliott Fund (English Department) 40% of honorarium for class visits and consultations; food; lodging; mileage	\$700.00
University Bookstore: Publicity; reception	\$750.00
Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series 60% of honorarium	\$600.00
TOTAL:	\$2050.00

Funds expended:

Lloyd Elliott Fund	\$631.37
University Bookstore: (estimate)*	\$887.00
Cultural Affairs/Distinguished Lecture Series	\$600.00
TOTAL	\$2118.37

*If necessary, Lloyd Elliott Fund will cover costs above and beyond original Bookstore commitment.

Letter (on dept stationery and placed in hand-addressed envelopes) were delivered to every individual high school English teacher in Orono, Old Town, Bangor, John Bapst, Brewer, and Hampden high schools.

March 23, 2012

Hello from the University of Maine English Department—

Maine's Poet Laureate Wesley McNair will be presenting a multimedia event, "The Making of a Poet," at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 4**, at the University of Maine. A reception and book signing will follow. This presentation is a fitting kick-off to National Poetry Month, and we invite you and your students—and anyone else you think would enjoy it—to attend. McNair is eager to share his affection for his adopted state, as embodied in his very accessible poetry, and we think that any of your students who are interested in creative writing and the forces that inform a poet's development will find this presentation fascinating.

The presentation will be held in 100 D. P. Corbett Hall near the Collins Center for the Arts; parking will be available in the Collins Center lot. See <http://www.umaine.edu/locator/> for a campus map and driving directions. Parking permits are not needed in the evening.

Reservations are not required, although it would be useful for planning purposes to know approximately how many people from your school might attend.

McNair's campus visit and presentation are sponsored by the Distinguished Lecturer Series, The Lloyd Elliott Fund, and the University Bookstore.

Please don't hesitate to call me at 866-4091 or (a better choice) email me at judyhak@maine.edu if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

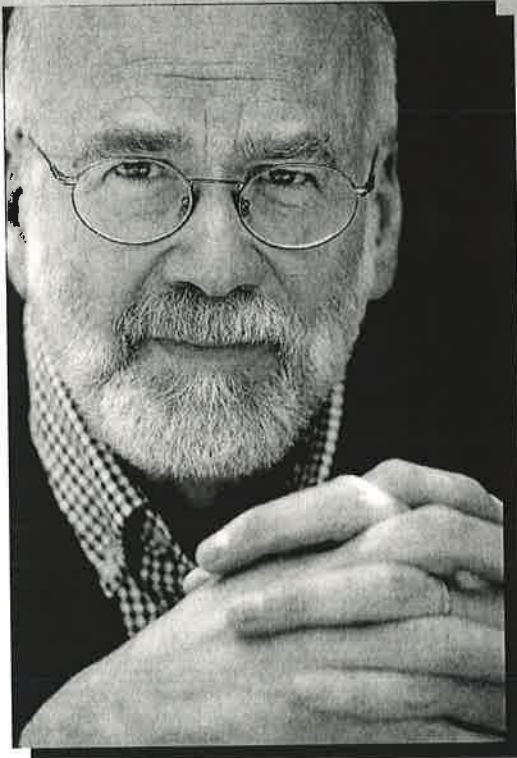
Judy Hakola
Chair, Speakers & Events Committee
English Department

22" x 28" posters were placed on campus and in several area libraries

Maine Poet Laureate Wesley McNair Lecture on April 4



*Cosponsored by The Distinguished Lecture Series, The
Lloyd Elliott Fund & the University Bookstore*



**Wed, April 4 at 7 pm
100 Donald P. Corbett Bldg**

The Making of a Poet

Join us as Wes McNair gives a multi-media presentation on his development as a nationally recognized and honored poet. The public is cordially invited & admission is FREE. McNair's books will be available for purchase for author signings after the presentation. Light refreshments will be available.

Wesley McNair is an American poet, writer, editor, and professor. He has authored nine collections of poetry, most recently, *Lovers of the Lost: New and Selected Poems* and three books of prose, including a memoir, *The Words I Chose* (forthcoming). He has edited several anthologies of Maine writing, and served as guest editor of the 2010 Pushcart Prize Annual.

As of 2011, McNair became Poet Laureate of Maine as well as Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Maine at Farmington and Writer in Residence at Colby College.

In a 1989 *Harvard Review* piece, former United States Poet Laureate Donald Hall praised McNair: "Because he is a true poet, his New England is unlimited. Whole lives fill small lines, real to this poet, therefore to us."

For more information, please contact
Judy Hakola: 207-866-4091
or
judyhak@maine.edu

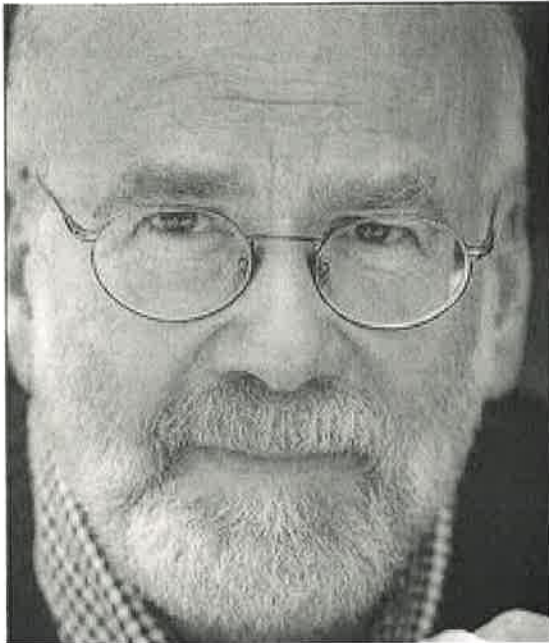


www.bookstore.umaine.edu

Printed on campus by University Printing & Mailing Services — Auxiliary Services.

Announcements placed in every English Dept.
Faculty mailbox

Please note and announce to your classes:



Maine Poet Laureate Wes McNair will be on campus this week, Wednesday and Thursday, April 4 and 5, under the auspices of the Lloyd Elliott Fund, the Distinguished Lecturer Series, and the University Bookstore.

Wednesday, April 4:

Multimedia Presentation: The Making of a Poet

7:00 p.m., 100 D. P. Corbett Hall

Reception and book signing to follow

(McNair's books will be available for purchase at the presentation.)

Thursday, April 5

"Open Office Hours"

11:30-1:00, Wicks Room, 304 Neville

Drop in any time to chat with Wes about poetry, mentoring, or Mercer, Maine. Encourage your students to come too. He's a wicked nice guy!