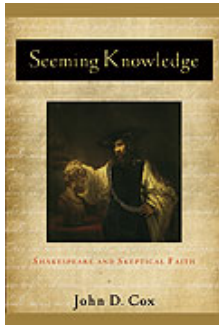


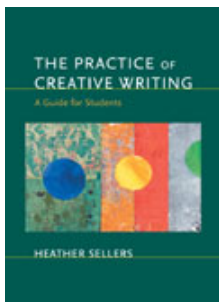
Et Cetera

English Department
Hope College

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“Engaging and incisive throughout, *Seeming Knowledge* is impressive not only for its vast, in-depth coverage of Shakespeare’s works, but also for its compelling argumentation....Cox profoundly re-defines our view of Shakespeare’s relation to faith and religion. This work is a major contribution to the field.” —Dr. Jean-Christophe Mayer



“It is a long haul hauling the abstract scratchings of ink on paper into the light of the concrete visible visceral world of telling writing, but Heather Sellers has the strength of **ten Strunks**. This is a busy box of a book studded with an artful array of effervescent empirical imperatives.” —Michael Martone

Hot off the Press(es): Faculty Books out in September 2007

Greg Rappleye was relishing the quiet of Easter Sunday before he got the call. Heather Sellers did a little jig in her living room after she got the call. When a writer picks up the phone and it’s a publisher with good news, *quiet* might indeed turn into *jig*. Yes, it’s a happy day, and perhaps a happier one is when that book arrives to line bookstore shelves. While many Hope English Department faculty experience these joys, John Cox, Greg Rappleye, and Heather Sellers are enjoying such moments right now: September saw the release of their three new, full-length titles.

Certainly it’s exciting for a writer to hold the manuscript she’s worked so hard to complete and revise in her hands. For Cox, Sellers, and Rappleye, however, the most exciting part of the writing and publishing process happened well before this moment. “I suppose it’s the old story of banging one’s head against a wall,” Rappleye confesses, “it feel so good when you stop.” After three years of sending the manuscript out and seven nods as a finalist, Rappleye won the University of Arkansas Press Series with his book of poems, *Figured Dark*. For Cox, the best moment came when “I realized that I’d figured out a way to revise that would make the book work much better.” And when Michael Martone said of *The Practice of Creative Writing* that it’s “worth a thousand Strunks,” Sellers exulted. She says, “I love the image—a vil-lage of Strunks milling around, what could be better? But my editor was frightened.”

Though none of these authors are new to publishing, the process of writing and pub-

lishing each book is often quite different. “Textbook publishing,” Sellers comments, is “a completely different world from the trade and literary publishing worlds....It’s a much more collaborative process.” And while Cox admits there’s not the same rush as when he published his first book, he hopes his view of Shakespeare in *Seeming Knowledge: Shakespeare and Skeptical Faith* has matured since first writing a book about his plays. For Rappleye the primary difference is that “(so far!) things have gone so well. My book has even come out several months sooner than originally predicted.”

Congratulations to these three English Department faculty for their (very) recent publications. Hope students, alumni, and faculty will no doubt want a copy of these books in their own hands—still toasty from the printers’ press.



“These poems are by turns wise, elegiac, and wickedly funny. This is a poet who refuses easy categories. If these poems are anything, they are affidavits of a heart at work, building out of darkness a kind of wild redemption, hard-earned in the real world.” —University of Arkansas Press

Ex Bibliotheca

by Jane Currie



Jane Currie

I've heard it said that only librarians like to search; everyone else likes to find. Better still, everyone (librarians included) like to have things delivered right to them. A glance at the phone book under "pizza" proves it! So, it's not surprising that technology experts figured out a way to deliver the content you want directly to you. This delivery service is called Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary, depending on who you ask, and is commonly referred to as RSS for short.

RSS has two components: the aggregator that collects the content you want delivered to you and the content you've asked it to watch for. Lots of freely available aggregators are available for downloading to your computer. As for the content, look to the library's databases. Many article databases now allow users to create a RSS feed from a search. After setting up the RSS feed, each time a new article that meets your criteria is added to the database, your aggregator will deliver it to you.

For example, I like to read Anna Quindlen's columns in *Newsweek* magazine. The full text of *Newsweek* is available in our OneFile databases. I can set up a search for Anna Quindlen as an author and *Newsweek* as a publication title, add the RSS feed URL that the database provides to my aggregator, and then each time OneFile adds a new column by Anna Quindlen I'll be the first to know – infinitely easier than searching the database every two weeks or so.

Contact me (currie@hope.edu or x7124) for help choosing an aggregator, setting up a RSS feed, or if what you've just read leaves you curious to know more but you're not sure where to start.

Alumni News

Mike Theune's book is on the shelves--*Structure and Surprise: Engaging Poetic Turns* edited by Michael Theune and published by Teachers & Writers Cooperative. He also has an article, "Redefining Structure: The Poetic Turn," and a poem in the Spring 2007 issue of *American Poet*, the journal of The Academy of American Poets.

Anna West has been accepted to the MFA program at Spalding U, the low residency program that Priscilla Atkins is now attending.

Christine Trinh has passed the bar exam, and is working with Adkison, Need & Allen, PLLC, a law firm in Bloomfield Hills, MI.

Katie Bode-Lang has had work accepted at such top notch places as *New Letters*, *The Bloomsbury Review*, *Rattle*, *Subtropic* (where they pay a hundred bucks per poem and they accepted two of hers. She's rolling in poetry dough), and *The Cincinnati Review*.

Visiting Writers Series, Fall 2007

October 18 — Joy Hopley and Nahid Rachlin

November 12-13 — Marjorie Agosin

Dear Poets . . . Hi, Jack . . .

As many professors do, Jack Ridl sends notes of encouragement to his classes after they've met a few times. Here's an exchange between Jack and one of this semester's English 355 students, Allison Rivers (re-printed with permission)

Dear Poets,

Yes, it's September 11, an event that has marked us all. And while we remember it, let's also remind ourselves that while it can be good to do good and good to combat what destroys the good, it is also crucial that we continue to create good. We are creative beings. We arrived with that as a given. And when you create a poem, you have placed good into the world. "And it was good" is an important Biblical pronouncement. It implies that creating, the act of creating, is good. This is what you are doing. This is also, alas, severely overlooked. We artists are questioned over and over again about our "usefulness." We are useful. Our use is to heal, to comfort, to lead to realization, to bring laughter, to sing the blues, to celebrate, to be of soul-filling USE. This is a great good thing we do.

The Christmas after 9/11 Sharon Dolin, Billy Collins, and I were asked to read our poems in NYC. Can you imagine how we felt? What could we possibly do to be of any "use"? We told those present that we would do what we could do to give them two hours for their hearts, souls. That's all, and that's what, we could do. After the reading, the audience lingered and said how much that two hours mattered.

And that's what we have two days a week--two hours together to give one another what really matters. Already each of you is doing that. I leave you soul-filled and very very grateful.

I was complaining one time to a surgeon about how he does such important work while I just write these silly poems. I said, "You heal people." He all but grabbed me by the throat and said, "I do NOT heal people. I fix people physically. Artists heal people. You heal people."

Thank you all for understanding what we are doing. Thank you for laughing. And for caring for one another. We have already created a temple that delights in our differences and distinctiveness. Thank you for your soulfulness.

Remember THAT 9/11, and also place a poem into THIS 9/11. Or maybe two poems in places where they can be found and touch someone who, as Quincy Troupe said, "YOU don't even KNOW."

See you 9/12.

Jack

Hi Jack

Thanks for your e-mail. It's definitely good to have a reminder now and again that what we do is worthwhile. Your experience with the surgeon is fantastic, and it gives me a new motivation to incorporate poetry into today's culture. It's disappointing how lacking it is, especially in a culture that needs it so much.

I wanted to share with you kind of a funny story about how putting the poems around on campus has affected my life. My freshman year, when I was going through the crisis of trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, I started seeing all of these poems around campus. I had no idea that poetry students were putting the poems out. Maybe it was the delirium of getting over mono, but I just figured they appeared out of nowhere everywhere I was going. I would see them here and there—every time I walked to class there would be a new one on my way. Whenever I expressed amazement to my friends, they never knew what I was talking about. Everyone I passed seemed totally oblivious to them. For some reason, they never saw them. It was then that I developed the idea that these poems were

Continued on page 4

FACULTY NEWS

Heather Sellers gave readings and presentations at Ball State University for the Midwest Writers Conference (luncheon keynote speaker) and Up North Books (Torch Lake). A chapter of her memoir is included in *The Best Creative Nonfiction* edited by Lee Gutkind, Norton; an AWP paper on her former teacher, Jerome Stern, was accepted by *The Sun* magazine; her poetry has appeared in *Field*, and *St. Ann's Review*, and an essay, *Essay in Blue* appeared in west michigan magazine. And not least, she completed a 100K bike ride!

Dianne Portfleet, one of two of Hope College's Mortar Board advisors, received one of only three "Excellence in Advising Awards" presented nationwide, during the national organization's annual conference in Ohio this summer. For the second consecutive year, the Alcor chapter received both the "Golden Torch Award" (one of this year's top five recipients) and the "Project Excellence Award."

David James' second chapbook, *Lost Enough* (Finishing Line Press), came out in July, and he just received word in mid-August that Pudding House Press has accepted his third, *Psychological Clock*. The fall/winter 2007 issue of *Diner* contains his contest honorable mention poem, "I Don't Know the Biochemistry of a Hummingbird."

William Pannacker had several publications since April: "Leaves of Grass (1855) and the Cities of Whitman's Memory," in *Leaves of Grass: The Sesquicentennial Essays*, University of Nebraska Press; "Walt Whitman" (12,000-word review of the year's publications) in *American Literary Scholarship 2005*, Duke University Press; "Looking into Walt Whitman: American Art, 1850-1920 (2006) by Ruth Bohan" in *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*; five essays by "Thomas H. Benton" in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*; "The Inescapability of Your Past" in *Chronicle Review*; and "The Walt Whitman Archive: The Body of Work Electric," *Resources for American Literary Study*, a review of electronic resources on Whitman with comments on opportunities for future projects.

Susanna Childress had a group of poems chosen as winner of *Fugue's* annual poetry contest. *Fugue* is published by The University of Idaho; Jake Adam York judged the contest. She has poems forthcoming in *Indiana Review* and *Georgia State Review*.

Hi, Jack! Continued from page 3

following me. They were in the hallway leading to the basement darkroom in DePree, on the pipes I passed outside of Lubbers, on the sign to Nykerk...the freakiest part was one even found its way underneath the windshield wiper of my car way out in remote parking lot. Admittedly, I was pretty weirded out, but I declared myself a Creative WRting major not too long after that—haha.

And I wanted to thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! for your words of encouragement yesterday. Heather Sellers quoted someone to our May term class that really stuck with me. It was something along the lines of, "Writing is easy. You just sit down and open up a vein..." It was nice to hear that this kind of vulnerability can have an impact on someone. I feel blessed to be talented in an area I'm passionate about--I feel that that's somewhat rare. Your words of encouragement definitely made me feel like I'm doing something worthwhile. Thank you!

Anyway, I could probably go on forever, but this e-mail is already incredibly long and probably all over the place--sorry about that. See you in class tomorrow!

--Allison

