

# Newsletter

## English and foreign languages

October 2009



Welcome to the second newsletter of the fall semester. It brings some very positive news for our department which is related to the upcoming retirement of our former Department Head, **Joe Cash**. Below you will find an excerpt from a recent electronic news release by our new Department Head, **Jacob Blevins**:

“As you may or may not know, Joe Cash has officially submitted his letter of intent to retire after the 2009-2010 academic year. There can be no denying that Joe has given so much of his life to our department and to the university (Lydia might say he's given TOO much!!!). Well, to our great fortune, he has decided to continue that giving even after he has retired.

Joe and Lydia have decided to leave an endowment to fund an annual lecture in literature. The lecture series will be known as "The Joe and Lydia Cash Endowed Lecture in Literature and Culture." Because our departmental mission represents so many literatures and cultures, the lecture series will be comparative in nature and consider the importance of literature worldwide. The annual lecture will take place in September or October of each year.”

The first speaker to be invited in 2010 will be Professor Peter Barta, Program Chair of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Surrey, UK; his

lecture will be on “Representation, Racism and Anxiety: Literature and Failing Empire” (further details TBA).

**Joe Cash** has been elected to a three-year term for the office of English Representative on SCMLA Executive Committee. The SCMLA (South Central Modern Language Association) is a regional, professional organization of English and Foreign Languages professors from a five-state area that includes Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Dr. Cash is the first professor from McNeese ever to be nominated and elected to an office of the SCMLA. His election and the election of three other professors from St. Mary’s University, Rice University, and University of Louisiana-Lafayette will be announced at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting which will be held at the Hilton Capitol Center Hotel in Baton Rouge, October 29-31, 2009.

**Stella Nesanovich** and **Angelina Oberdan** will be reading and discussing the work of deceased poet and McNeese professor Leo Luke Marcello at the American Italian Historical Society Meeting in Baton Rouge, on October 31. (This meeting will be held in parallel with the SCMLA meeting, but at a different venue: Marriott Hotel).

**Stella Nesanovich** has three new poems published in the latest issue of *The Louisiana English Journal*: “I Want to Know About Words,” “Poetry in Summer,” and “This Feast of Losses.”

**Angelina Oberdan’s** poem “Virgil on his Death Bed” will be published in the forthcoming edition of *MOBIUS: The Poetry Magazine*.

**Michael Rather, Jr.**, had three poems published in October by *Galleys Online Journal of Literature* : “Before Eve,” “They Wait Till Morning,” and “Lament for the Lost Cat With Motley Paws.”

**Molly Martin** will be presenting a paper titled “Castles in Malory: The Architecture of Gender” at the upcoming meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) in Baton Rouge.

**Bärbel Czennia** will present a paper on Walter Scott in a panel on “The History and/of the Novel” at the same meeting. The title of her presentation is “Waverley’s Cousins in the South Pacific: History and Fiction in Maurice Shadbolt’s *Season of the Jew* and Other Postcolonial Novels from New Zealand.”

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the **South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA): Baton Rouge, October 29-31, 2009, Hilton Capitol Center Hotel.**

“La Chiacchiara”: The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the **American Italian Historical Association: Baton Rouge, October 29-November 1, 2009, Marriott Hotel** (for details contact Dr. Joseph Ricapito: 225-769-2762; ricapito@lsu.edu).

Recent issues of our “Departmental Newsletter” are also regularly posted online as part of our departmental web presence at:  
<http://www.languages.mcneese.edu/Latest%20News.html>.