

Fall Issue 1983

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXVI, No. 1

USL

Carmen Cramer, Editor

New Home for Journal

The Cript is now housed at USL's English Department, with Ousseynou Traore as editor and Cliff DuRousseau as associate and book review editor. These two new faculty members expect Volume III to be out in February.

Weathers to USL

In March, the USL English Department will host a lecture by the nationally reputed Winston Weathers from Tulsa University. Weathers' innovative ideas are found in such publications of his as Alternate Style and "Grammar B." His topic for the lecture will be "Teaching Style to Freshmen," a subject sure to be as enlightening as his personality is interesting.

Reporting to the Regents

The USL English Department created--in two months--a three hundred page report on its Ph.D. program for the state regents. This is only the first stage in the Ph.D. review by the regents which will take almost two years to complete; however, the department has shown itself capable by its cooperative effort in compiling the self-study report.

Webb Award

The Bernice and Robert M. Webb Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching in English, established in tribute to Robert Webb, was awarded to two departmental graduate students in 1983. Paula Killingsworth received the first year teaching award, and Patricia Morgan received the advanced teaching award.

Phi Kappa Phi

The nominees for membership in Phi Kappa Phi are Mark Robson, Susan LeJeune, and Ingrid Pruss, with Bill D'Aguin and Martin Anderson as alternates. Congratulations.

American Themes in Iberia

Barbara Cicardo, Hal Peterson of the History Department, and Milton Pickels are leading a seven-week program of readings, films, discussions, and lectures titled "Readings in American Themes." Funded by the Louisiana Committee for the Humanities,

Newsletters Fall Issues 1983

the project has attracted about forty people who meet Wednesday evenings in the Iberia Parish library to discuss such topics as American myths and ideals, the pioneer experience, and women and social roles. At the November 2 meeting the theme was the ethnic experience and Mr. Ernest J. Gaines discussed his short story, "The Sky is Gray."

Sigma Tau Delta

The Department's English honor society has had several excellent programs involving talks by Dr. Milton Rickels and Dr. Gloria Fiero of the History Department. In addition, the chapter applied for and received special funds to bring Cajun author Chris Segura back to campus for the second time this semester to discuss and read from a book-in-progress, Bayou Phantasia, a retelling of South Louisiana ghost legends, which will be illustrated by artist George Rodrigue and published next spring for the start of the Louisiana World's Fair. The local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta will travel to Athens State College (Alabama) in March for the National Convention, featuring poet James Dickey as the Conference's special guest speaker.

Gaines Contest

Again, this year, the English Department judged the Ernest J. Gaines/Pointe Coupee Parish Literary Contest. Coordinated by Pat Rickels, the judges were Darrell Bourque, Carmen Cramer, Herb Fackler, John Fontenot, Carol MacCurdy, Milton Rickels, Pat Rickels, Kathy Pugoff, Gilman Tracy, and Barbara Lymon of Special Services. Gaines presented the awards to the winners on October 21.

Dramathon

Seven department playwrights will have their one-act plays produced at the Quai Theatre from December 30 through January 2 as part of the New York City Dramathon. The Dramathon is more than 56 continuous hours of theatre, with each play performed only once. The USL playwrights are Mark Robson, Bruce Bradley, Paul T. Nolan, David Thibodaux, Sonny Hyles, John Fiero, and Susan Haga. Also, Melody Faul, Denise Wenner, Jackie Dees, Margot Hasha, and Glenn Wilson will be accompanying the group to New York as actors.

Ernest Gaines

Ernest Gaines' new novel, A Gathering of Old Men, had its debut at a champagne party which closed the 1983 Deep South Writers' Conference. The novel has received excellent reviews in newspapers and journals from San Francisco to New York. Gaines, now living in a house which the university and Ray Mouton established for a writer-in-residence, has been invited to stay

at USL permanently.

Eavesdropping

The Eavesdrop Theatre's fall, 1983, season had one-act plays written by the following members of the English Department: David Thibodaux ("Genesis II"), Susan Haga ("Rockefeller Square"), Sonny Hyles ("At the Way Station"), Mark Robson ("Home at Last"), Gilman Tracy ("Sonny's Blues"), Bruce Bradley ("Veterans' Organization"), and a collaborative effort by Sonny Hyles, Mark Robson, Randy Holmes, Melody Faul, David Thibodaux, Joe Andriano, and Bruce Bradley ("The First Annual Eavesdrop Salute to the News").

Deep South Writers

The Deep South Writers' Conference, in September 1984, will have the pleasure of Robert Cormier as its primary speaker (due to the efforts of Sylvia Iskander), along with several other speakers. Another point of interest is the new Deep South Writers' Contest Award for \$1,500 to be given to the best play concerning the Earl of Oxford, a prize endowed by Ruth Miller, president of the LSU Board of Regents.

We Saw That It Was Good

The second volume of *In the Beginning* . . . has been published and distributed this fall. Editor Gilman Tracy and Design Editor Jack Ferstel, along with Sharon Baudoin and the enormous assistance of other faculty members, produced a journal which is encouraging 90 students to write and submit their work for publication in future volumes of *In the Beginning* . . .

The Reading Afternoon

In conjunction with Festivals Acadiens and the Deep South Writers' Conference, several USL English Department members participated in a Reading Afternoon at the Art Center September 17. Melody Faul directed the event, with P. J. Woodside as assistant director. Although the weather was miserable, the Reading Afternoon drew a good audience for the poetry and fiction readers: Bernice Webb, David Thibodaux, P. J. Woodside, Calvin Harland, Darrell Bourque, Melody Faul, Denise Wenner, Carmen Cramer, Tim Viator, Susan Haga, Vernon Hyles, Joe Andriano, Glenn Wilson, Jude Roy, Kathy Pugoff, Herb Fackler, and Carl Wooton.

Bar Theater

At the meeting of the Louisiana College Theater Association in Ruston in October, John Fiero, Jane Fiero, Glenn Wilson and Mark Robson conducted a workshop entitled "Bar Theater and Experimental Drama." The workshop featured a staging of John