

Chalkboard

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WENDY WEBER, EDITOR

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Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for more than 99 years to support teachers of English and the language arts in Oregon elementary and secondary schools, community colleges and universities.

Chalkboard is our way of keeping our many members and friends informed about OCTE activities, programs of the National Council of Teachers of English, conferences and learning opportunities for students, research tidbits, book recommendations, and more.

Chalkboard is a member of the NCTE Information Exchange.

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OCTE Spring Conference April 19-21, 2013 - Ashland

Once again, the Spring Conference will be held at **Ashland High School**, and teachers are encouraged to combine their visit with play attendance at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.



Francine Prose, Keynote Speaker

Author of many bestselling books of fiction, including *Blue Angel* and *The Lives of the Muses* (National Book Award finalists) *Household Saints* and *The Glorious Ones* (adapted for movie and musical) *Goldengrove* (an award-winning novel of adolescence) *Anne Frank: The Book, the Life, the Afterlife* (Frank, the literary genius) *Reading Like a Writer* (a brilliant analysis of the craft of fine writing) President, PEN American Center (defends writers, opposes censorship)



OCTE Conference Strands: Conference, Saturday, April 20, 2013

- Common Core State Standards
- Writing, ELL
- Teaching Strategies
- Reading, Multicultural Lit
- Drama

OSF Plays in April:

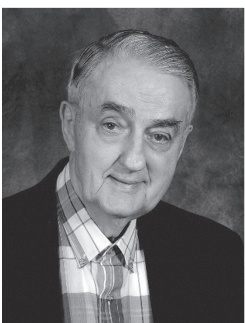
The Taming of the Shrew
King Lear
The Unfortunates
Two Trains Running
My Fair Lady
A Streetcar Named Desire

Tickets available in November
800-219-8161



In Memoriam

Roland Bartel - 1919 - 2012



OCTE mourns the death of **Roland Bartel**, OCTE President in 1967-68, and Professor of English at University of Oregon, 1951-86. At UO, Bartel taught English Education and other courses, and he served as department chair, 1968-77.

A productive scholar, Bartel published articles and books all of his life. After his retirement, the Oregon English Journal alone published twelve major articles of his, focused on such topics as the constructive uses of war poetry, the hidden hazards of technology, women peace pioneers of WWI, and on teaching ecology.

Ulrich Hardt, OCTE past president, spoke at the memorial service of Roland Bartel on October 12 in Eugene.



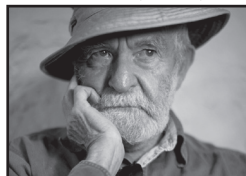
Profile Theatre Offer



Adriana Baer

Profile Theatre in Portland is offering free tickets to any full-time K-12 or college teacher. The offer is good for any of their performances this season, announces **Adriana Baer**, Profile's new Artistic Director.

This year, Profile is presenting the following plays of **Athol Fugard**, South African director, actor, and playwright of more than 30 plays, best known for creating works confronting the racial segregation of apartheid, and who continues to write thought-provoking plays about inequality and social justice:



Athol Fugard

Master Harold...and the Boys. The play's criticism of apartheid lost Fugard his South African passport for four years. The performances played at Profile Theatre in October.

The Road to Mecca, winner of New York Drama Critics' Award, a play about human relations and about an artist making her last stand for free expression in apartheid South Africa. Playing in January 2013.

Blood Knot. A play of two brothers with different fathers (white and black), a gripping parable about social justice. Showing in March next year.

My Children! My Africa! A testament to the power and potential of youth, hope, and ideas—set in a classroom. "Hope is a hungry beast..." This last play of the season, on stage next May, will also tour to local high schools.

To order a Teacher Ticket, please email cindy@profiletheatre.org indicating your school, subject and level taught, and which performance you want to attend.

Writing Achievement Scholarships

The following students were awarded OCTE scholarships, based on their participation and placement in the NCTE

Achievement Awards in Writing program:

Masha Demyaskevich - Lake Oswego High School

Hana Lee - Lakeridge High School

Sophia Nielsen - Oregon Episcopal School

Maya Zundel - Ashland High School

OCTE Executive Board Changes

John Golden, instructional specialist and teacher of English at Cleveland High School in Portland, joined the OCTE Executive Board in September. Prior to going to Cleveland High in 2011, Golden was Language Arts Curriculum Specialist for Portland Public Schools, 2008-11, and he taught at Grant High School in 1999-2008.



John Golden

Golden is the author of two NCTE books: *Reading in the Dark: Using Film as a Tool in the English Classroom* (2001) and *Reading in the Reel World: Teaching Documentaries and Other Nonfiction Texts* (2006), as well as numerous articles published in *English Journal*, *Journal of Media Literacy*, and the *Oregon English Journal*. He is a sought-after speaker across the country, and he produced the highly acclaimed *NCTE Centennial Film* in 2011.

Completing their three-year terms on the Executive Board are **Misty Onjukka**, Seventh-Day Adventist School, La Grande, and **Kirsten Parrott**, Beaumont Middle School, Portland. Both have been frequent presenters at OCTE conferences and will continue to be active in the Council. The board also said good-bye to **Debra Gaffney** of the Lincoln City School District and Oceanlake Elementary School. Debra, a 1998 Milken National Educator Award winner, has been a board member for 28 years!

Oregon Awarded Assessment Grant

As the lead state representing a consortium of thirteen states, Oregon was awarded a \$6.3 million dollar federal grant to update the English Language Proficiency Assessment. The consortium intends to build a flexible system of assessment, known as the ELPA 21, based upon a common set of English Language Proficiency/Development (ELP/D) standards corresponding with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

Oregon Department of Education staff are currently working with the U.S. Department of Education to meet the terms and conditions of the grant award. A key condition includes the development of common English language expectations. The consortium is consulting with Stanford University's Understanding Language Initiative and the Council of Chief State School Officers this fall on the development of these common learning expectations.

OWF Donation

The Oregon Writing Festival received a generous donation from FORTE Science Communications in Tokyo, Japan. The company president, William Stenson, heard about the Festival at the Oregon Book Awards ceremony in April, where festival chair Ulrich Hardt was given the Literacy Legacy Award. At the ceremony, Hardt described the life-changing effects the OWF—now in its 29th year-- has had on countless students across Oregon.

"This \$3,000 donation will allow us to give more than 80 scholarships to students who would otherwise not be able to attend," said Hardt. "I can't wait to make the awards! Bill and Leah Stenson have no idea how happy these students will be."

The Oregon Writing Festival will be held on May 4, 2013, at Portland State University.

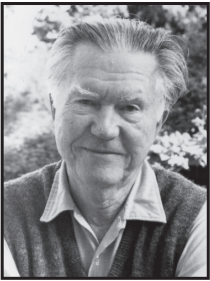
OCTE Centennial

Celebrating its centenary, OCTE is, among other things, planning a Northwest Regional NCTE Conference with 10 other affiliates, including three Canadian provinces. The conference is scheduled for Portland on March 1-3, 2014. OCTE members are encouraged to email suggestions of speakers and topics to octeorg@gmail.com. Ideas for other centennial events or projects are welcomed as well.





William Stafford Writing Project and Contest



William Stafford

In honor of former Oregon poet laureate William Stafford's centennial birthday, Ooligan Press is working with the William Stafford Archives to organize a statewide writing competition for seventh through twelfth graders. This contest aims to help students develop the habit of joyful daily writing that Stafford practiced throughout his life.

Ooligan Press will provide teachers with unit and lesson plans created by three Oregon teachers, an assortment of William Stafford's poems, and an essay on his writing process to inspire students to create their own essays and poems. The press will collect submissions of student writing throughout the year, compile the best works during the summer, and publish the students' work by January of 2014 to coincide with the year-long celebration of William Stafford's birth. This contest is free to all participants, requiring no entry fee from students, schools, or teachers.

To reach the William Stafford Project website and download the contest packet, please visit: <http://ooligan.pdx.edu/poetry/william-stafford-project/>

On this page, you can also sign up for e-mail updates and follow the project's progress throughout the year.

Call for Manuscripts

Oregon English Journal, Spring issue, 2013

"Old Literacies, New Literacies"

We are seeking submissions that will help teachers think from as many angles as possible about our notions of "literacy." Add your voice to this dynamic and evolving discussion.

Manuscript submission deadline: February 1, 2013.

For details, see our Website: octe.org/publications_oregonenglishjournal

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Join us on Facebook! This is the fastest way to stay in touch and see what the English community is doing across the state. "Like" us and share with a friend!



2011 Oregon Spirit Book Award Winners



Ensemble of 2011 Oregon Spirit Book Award Winners



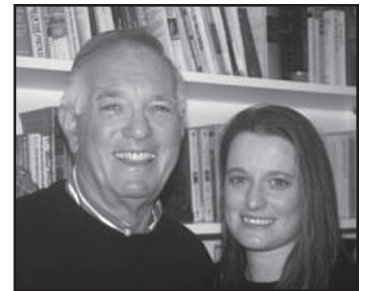
Allen Say & Dorothy Courtox



Karen Johnson & Tara Kelly



Susan Burnett wins the Kindle®



Phillip Margolin & Ami Margolin Rome



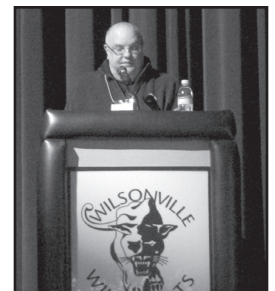
Laini Taylor



Elizabeth Rusch & Dorothy Courtox



Dorothy Courtox, Rosanne Parry & Karen Johnson



Roland Smith

Please Post

Fall Conference Keynote

Wendy Weber

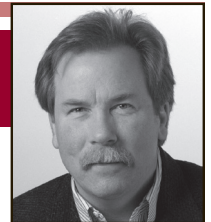
Steve Duin, Metro columnist for *The Oregonian*, was the keynote speaker at the OCTE fall conference on October 6. He spoke about his belief that “almost everything we do is a quest for community.”

He reminded teachers that every child needs a trustworthy adult outside of his or her family to be able to talk to about their stories. He said that storytelling frames our experiences by giving them a beginning, middle, and an end and that “storytelling is the heart of my job and the heart of yours.”

Duin described going to Roosevelt High School in Portland to cover a story which he thought was going to be about one talented girl basketball player stuck on a team of losers. What he found was a story about a girls’ basketball team facing the overwhelming challenges of poverty and isolation.

That experience among others led him to wonder how we can ensure that reading and writing mean as much to today’s students as they meant to earlier generations. The conclusion Duin has come to is that the best books will lead today’s students to community. He gave a list of books that will engage any reader. Among the list are *Lonesome Dove*, *Let the Great World Spin*, *Mink River*, *For the Time Being*, and *Beyond the Game*.

In reaction to Duin’s presentation Michael Schultz, English teacher at Springdale Job Corps Center, said, “Way to rally the troops!” Duin’s keynote address will be published in its entirety in the fall issue of the *Oregon English Journal*.



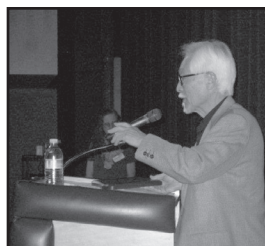
Steve Duin
Keynote Speaker



Roland Smith accepts award for *Storm Runners*.



Phillip Margolin & Ami Margolin Rome acknowledge award for *Vanishing Acts*.



Allen Say wins award with *Drawing from Memory*.



Keynote Speaker Steve Duin addressing the attendees at the 2012 OCTE Fall Conference.