

Volume 37, No. 2, Spring 2012



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Chalkboard is the newsletter of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, an organization that has existed for more than 98 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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NCTE
National Convention
Nov. 15-18, 2012
Las Vegas, Nevada

MGM Grand Hotel Convention Center
Theme:
"Dream – Connect – Ignite"
www.ncte.org/annual

Chalkboard

WWW.OCTE.ORG

JANNA E. REID, WENDY WEBER, CO-EDITORS



Steve Duin
Keynote Speaker



OCTE Fall Conference at Wilsonville High • Saturday, October 6, 2012

Hey. You. Teachers. Got something for you!

Puzzled by the Common Core State Standards? By proficiency-based grading? Then come to the October 6 OCTE conference, back at the ever-popular Wilsonville High School, and get caught up and all set for the coming year. Experts will explain the requirements, and practitioners will demonstrate applications in the classroom.

Steve Duin, Metro columnist for The Oregonian for 18 years, will give the keynote address. He has twice been named the nation's best local columnist by the Society of Professional Journalists. Duin has authored or co-authored six books, including Comics: *Between the Panels*, a history of comics; *Oil and Water*, a graphic novel on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and *Father Time*, a collection of his columns on family and fatherhood. Duin lives in Lake Oswego with his wife, Nancy, communications director for the Lake Oswego School District.

Winning authors of the Oregon Spirit Book Award will be introduced and speak about their work and autograph their books.

OSBA Shortlist Announced

The Oregon Spirit Book Award Committee has chosen a short list of books being considered for the 2011 book awards. Winners will be announced in June, and authors will receive their awards at the OCTE Fall Conference on October 6, 2012, at Wilsonville High School.

The finalists are:

Children's Books: *Bandits* by **Johanna Wright**; *The Big Wish* by **Carolyn Conahan**; *Brownie Groundhog and the February Fox* by **Susan Blackaby**; and *Charlotte Jane Battles Bedtime* by **Myra Wolfe**.

Middle Reader: *Between Two Ends* by **David Ward**; *Second Fiddle* by **Rosanne Parry**; *Storm Runners* by **Roland Smith**; *Vanishing Acts* by **Phillip Margolin** and **Ami Margolin Rome**; and *Wildwood: The Wildwood Chronicles, Book I*, by **Colin Meloy** and **Carson Ellis**.

Young Adult: *Amplified* by **Tara Kelly**; *Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by **Laini Taylor**; *Putting Makeup on Dead People* by **Jen Violi**; and *Recovery Road* by **Blake Nelson**.

Non-fiction: *For the Love of Music: The Remarkable Story of Maria Anna Mozart* by **Elizabeth Rusch**; *Drawing from Memory* by **Allen Say**; *Magic Trash* by **Jane Shapiro**; and *The Voyage of Turtle Rex* by **Kurt Cyrus**.

This year, the committee considered 67 books in the categories of Children's, Middle Reader, Young Adult, Graphic Novels, and Non-fiction. The awards are given to Oregon authors who make "a distinguished contribution to children's literature or young adult literature that engage and encourage readers' imagination, discovery, and understanding, reflecting the spirit and values held by Oregonians."

Winners will be announced June 1, 2012. Please check the OCTE Website or look for a link on our Facebook page.



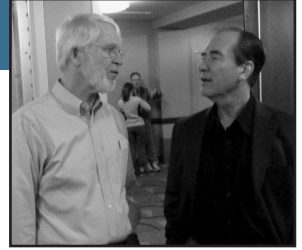
Left to right, OSBA winners/honor 2010
Tara Kelly- Inara Scott-Graham Salisbury- Eric Kimmel- Barbara Kerley- Winnie Mack- Barry Deutsch- Lori Ries



Writing Festival Success

The 28th annual Oregon Writing Festival at Portland State University on May 5 was a huge success, with participants coming from as far away as Reedsport and Pendleton. Those students had to travel on Friday already to be there on Saturday morning at 8:00. Others closer in rolled out of bed at 4:30 or 5:00 to make it in time.

Awaiting them at PSU were 150 teachers, writers, and festival helpers who made sure that these student writers had a safe, enjoyable, and profitable day. In small groups of ten, students read and critiqued a piece of writing each had brought to the festival. All participated in two powerful workshops, and they listened to these award-winning writers:



Rick Hardt, Festival Chair, and Randy Hitz, Dean of Education, PSU



Kenzy Seifert

Portland author **Bart King** (*The Big Book of Boy Stuff; The Big Book of Girl Stuff; Pocket Guide to Brilliance; The Big Book of Spy Stuff*) addressed the 4th and 5th graders and talked about the important role of reading in a writer's life.

David Ward, professor of children's literature and language arts at Lewis & Clark, had the middle schoolers engaged in thinking about story worlds while discussing his award-winning *Grassland Trilogy* and the books based on his Canadian childhood and hockey.

National Book Award and Oregon Book Award finalist **Laini Taylor** (*Lips Touch: Three Times*) spoke to the high schoolers about moving "from fantasy to reality and the creative life" and about her new book, *Daughter of Smoke and Bone*.

Kenzy Seifert of Lebanon, Oregon, holds the record of attending the Festival eight years, starting when she was in fourth grade at Riverview Elementary. Her teacher told the class: "You know, the best readers are the best writers." Kenzy had always been "an enormous reader, and coming to the festival just made sense." She continued attending while at Wood Middle School and Wilsonville High when her family moved there, and she came this year as a senior from Lebanon High. "The Writing Festival has been a great influence on me and has changed my life. It is the reason I started writing, and it helped me to become a better student. This year, I participated in a national novel writing contest online, and I produced a 50,000-word novel in November. I'm convinced that my experiences and writing abilities helped me get into Barnard College," said Seifert.

The Writing Festival is generously co-sponsored by the Graduate School of Education at PSU and by the Oregon Council of Teachers of English. Next year's festival will be on May 4, 2013.

Hardt Given Literary Award



Ulrich Hardt, Festival Chair

Long-time Executive Board member and three-time OCTE president **Ulrich Hardt** was honored by Oregon Literary Arts with the Walt Morey Literary Legacy Award on April 23. The citation read in part:

"Ulrich Hardt was among the creators of the Oregon Writing Festival, and he has chaired the festival for the last 25 years. The festival recognizes and encourages the efforts of Oregon students and teachers to improve writing and is co-sponsored by the Oregon Council of Teachers of English and the Graduate School of Education at Portland State; it is one of the longest-running festivals for students in the United States, has served tens of thousands of students across Oregon, and has featured hundreds of Oregon authors...."

Hardt is past State Coordinator for the International Reading Association, past president of OCTE, and since 1988 he has served as editor of the award-winning Oregon English Journal, a publication focused on the teaching of English and literature at all grade levels. He also served as managing editor of the Oregon Literature Series, a six-volume anthology of the best of Oregon writers. He serves as co-editor-in-chief of The Oregon Encyclopedia of History and Culture...."

In accepting the award, Hardt quoted **Tim Gillespie**, one of the visionary creators of the Festival, who recently wrote: "I cannot begin to explain how important this event has been for nurturing and encouraging our state's young writers. Year after year, I've had students tell me how transforming it was when they were selected to attend at a young age and had the opportunity to learn from prominent Oregon authors, sit in workshops to hone their skills, and bring a favorite writing project to share with other young writers."

Among the student stories Hardt related at the awards ceremony was that of award-winning Oregon author **Anne Osterlund**, finalist of the Oregon Book Award and winner of OCTE's 2009 Oregon Spirit Book Award (*Academy 7*), who attended the Festival "all four years I was in high school in my small school of 50 students. These were fabulous conferences that helped launch my professional writing career."

Another story was that of Charlotte who spent the last two years in a wheelchair while undergoing corrective surgeries. Her teacher wrote: "Being selected to attend the Festival is the biggest positive event in all of her ten years! Her parents were so proud, they cried!"

"Multiply these stories hundreds of times, and you have the Oregon Writing Festival," Hardt said.

He accepted the award "for the visionaries who conceived of this event, for the hundreds of co-workers and for his family who have supported it so enthusiastically, and for the Graduate School of Education at PSU and the Oregon Council of Teachers of English that so generously continue to co-sponsor it."



Photo Gallery of Oregon Writing Festival



Getting the PSU Ballroom ready for the onslaught



PSU Ballroom, OWF crowd



Book sales by A Children's Place; Laini Taylor in back



Bart King, keynote, autographing for 4th and 5th graders



David Ward, keynote, with Adrian Hardt, Wood Middle School



A Sharing Group at work



Laini Taylor, keynote for high schoolers



Barbara Wiegele, Registrar, talking to Nurse Peggy Sedlak; Jay Rishel



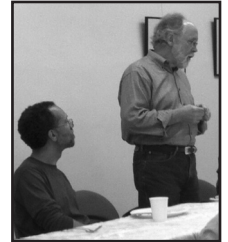
Christopher Shotola-Hardt, Red Vest Captain, with son Oliver, 4th grade



OWF Adult Workshop

Lopez Challenges Teachers

Barry Lopez, author of *Arctic Dreams* (National Book Award) and *Of Wolves and Men*, among other works, was the keynote speaker at the OCTE Spring Conference in Ashland on April 21. Lopez is an essayist and fiction writer with a focus on social and environmental concerns. He began his address by thanking the English teachers for their hard work in the classrooms. Teachers are “keeping alive a set of ideas about what it means to be a human being” and are teaching students that there is more than one way of knowing the world. Lopez said the study of literature helps us understand our differences from and similarities to others.



Barry Lopez & Manual Mateo

Lopez is concerned with the shift in education to standardized testing and benchmarks for all students. Further, he worries about our future as human beings on this planet. “One way of knowing, and only one way, is not going to prevent our demise.” He asserts that it is the teachers’ jobs to *educate* people—not teach them how to take tests. Our real work is to train good citizens, discriminating voters, students who are able to see beneath the surface. Lopez said that teachers have a difficult task because our political leaders seem to value war over education, but teachers must continue to ask their students the question: “What do we think about this, and what have others thought about these things through time?”



Keeping Creativity Alive



Karen Johnson

OCTE President Elect **Karen Johnson** was interviewed by the National Education Association (NEA) for the April issue of *NEA Today* for an article titled, “Keeping Classroom Creativity Alive in the NCLB Era.” The piece illustrates how savvy teachers are finding ways to keep things creative in the classrooms, despite the strictures imposed on them by NCLB.

Johnson, a middle school teacher in Tigard, asks students to share a favorite book that they’ve read recently for pleasure. “It teaches me who they are as readers, and it gives other kids ideas—‘Maybe I’ll read that,’” she says. “Can I point to the standard that lesson covers? Probably not. But it has so much value.”

Last year for the first time, many of her students couldn’t think of a book they’d read on their own—only those assigned in class. “I was appalled. So this year, I’m putting a big focus on getting kids to learn to choose books, because that’s part of the human experience, and they’ll have a better life if they do!”

Johnson is cautiously optimistic about the Common Core State Standards movement – which will be a program strand featured in the OCTE fall conference in Wilsonville, October 6, 2012. Much is yet unknown about CCSS, however, and that is why belonging to a professional organization like the Oregon Council of Teachers of English is so vital.

Link to complete article: <http://neatoday.org/2012/04/01/keeping-classroom-creativity-alive-in-the-nclb-era/>

OCTE Is Turning 100!

Watch for news of our centennial NW Regional NCTE Conference in Portland March 1-3, 2014

Oregon Authors Mapped

As part of its centennial celebration in 2013-2014, OCTE has launched a project to create a new, Web-based Oregon Literary Map. The database will include names and dates of authors and their works--locating them by zip codes--awards, genre information, as well as brief biographical information. The map is intended as a compelling discovery tool for readers, and the digital format will allow easy updating.



Co-chairing the committee are Bob Hamm, OCTE Executive Board and past president, and Jim Scheppke, recently retired Oregon State Librarian. Also on the committee are Abbey Gaterud and Dennis Stovall, Ooligan Press, Portland State; Katie Anderson, Oregon State Library; Cartographer David Banis, Portland State Geography Department; and Rick Hardt, OCTE Executive Board and Portland State University.

