A Whole New Class of Craft Classes

After two days of sign-up sheets and intense anticipation, Bread Loafers can breathe a sigh of relief, as craft classes begin today. These hour-long sessions provide faculty, fellows, and guests the opportunity to explore a topic of interest in an intimate setting. To ensure that intimacy, classes are limited to 25 participants.

Writing New Worlds, with Ramona Ausubel – Barn Classroom A
Grace and Transcendence Through Line Editing, with Shannon Cain – Barn Classroom 3
Order and Disorder, Pattern and Variation, Centripetal and Centrifugal, with Patrick Donnelly – Barn Classroom 6
The Poetic Line, with Linda Gregerson – Barn Classroom 1
The Essay as a Mode of Thought, with Scott Russell Sanders – Barn Classroom 2
Poetry and Place, with Bruce Snider – Barn Classroom 4
Structural Imitation: the Potential Creative Emancipation of Restrictive Form, with Brad Watson – Barn Classroom 5

Sign-up sheets for craft classes are posted by 8:00 a.m. two days in advance of the class. Spaces have been filling quickly, so if there’s a craft class you want to take, you had better make sure you sign up in advance.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAHN TALK: LOCATION CHANGE
Please note that the location for Jennifer Sahn’s special talk on Orion magazine has changed to Barn Classroom 2.

PLANNING AHEAD
Carpooling
A carpool list will be posted near the dining hall door on Sunday, August 19. If you are willing to take passengers along when you leave the mountain next week, please note your information on the list (name, e-mail, destination, number of spots available in your car). If you are looking for a ride, please get in touch with the driver directly by leaving a note for the person at the front desk or by sending an e-mail.

Middlebury Transit
A schedule of Middlebury Transit departure taxis will be posted near the Front Desk of the Bread Loaf Inn toward the end of the conference. If you have any questions in the meantime or still need to make your departure taxi arrangements, please contact Middlebury Transit directly (1-800-388-1002).

Please keep in mind that the large number of people who need to leave will make departure times early and somewhat inflexible. Due to the number of travelers, we cannot post individual travel requests in the “Community Items” in The Crumb.

Donnelly Survives Fiction Writers, Turns to Poets and Nonfiction Writers
Just one day after turning Bread Loaf fiction writers into stronger public readers of their own work, Patrick Donnelly, author of The Charge and Nocturnes of the Brothel of Ruin, aims to do the same for poets and nonfiction writers. Donnelly will offer a special talk entitled “How to Be a Good Public Reader of Your Own Writing” at 10:10 a.m. in the Little Theatre. The talk, which is aimed at poets and nonfiction writers, will provide strategies for dealing with nerves and tips for pleasing reading organizers and audiences.

Donnelly noted that participants should come prepared to read a short poem or passage. If time allows, two participants will be chosen to receive coaching, master-class style, while the audience learns from watching.

Waiter Reading Tonight
Tonight at 9:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre, the first of two waiter readings will give conference participants a chance to hear fiction, poetry, and nonfiction by this year’s waiters. These special readings are often the most raucous of the conference. “The quality of these waiters’ work is rivaled only by the speed with which they can pour you coffee,” said head waiter Cara Blue Adams. Tonight, Ari Banias, Molly Bashaw, Jeremiah Childers, Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Michael Copperman, Alexandra Kleeman, Jameelah Lang, Delaney Nolan, Jacques Rancourt, Matthew Salesses, Solmaz Sharif, Cam Terwilliger, and Nicholas Boggs will read their from their work.

WEATHER DOG

today: high 72°, low 46°
tomorrow: high 74°, low 48°
2012 Blue Parlor Debut a Success, More to Come

by Harriet Clark

Yesterday afternoon, the 2012 Blue Parlor Reading Series commenced with an absolutely amazing line-up of readers. Want to know what all the buzz is about? Come join us today at 5:30 p.m. in the Blue Parlor when we do it again. Lynn Stansbury, Penny Edwards, Dodds Musser, Paula Marais, Karen Soltero, Elizabeth Pienaar, Pam Diamond, Margaret DeAngelis, Tim Potter, and Miriam Camitta are going to bring down the house (which is really a room).

But enough about us, let’s talk about you. You weren’t sure if you wanted to read, but now you see the flushed, happy faces of the Parlorites and you know: you must read. Perhaps in next Thursday’s reading on Place or next Friday’s One Minute in Heaven. Perhaps you’re more of an “open theme” type of writer. Whatever works for you works for us. (As long as it is working for five minutes or less). So come out to the Blue Parlor bulletin board at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning for our next round of sign-ups.

Until then, I will see you today, I will see you tomorrow, I will even see you the day after that, at 5:30 p.m. in the Blue Parlor. Meet me there?

Questions, suggestions, affirmations? Contact Blue Parlor Coordinator Harriet Clark.

BARN PUB

Beer and wine are available for purchase most evenings in the Barn. The Barn Pub is located in the back, by the vending machines. Free soda, coffee, and water are also available. Complimentary beer and wine will be available on the nights when dances are held in the Barn.
**THURSDAY’S OLYMPIC RESULTS**

**BEST BREAD LOAF NICKNAME (WOMEN’S)**

**Gold:** Rachel “Flying Dog” Morganstern (GRE)

**Silver:** Melinda “Moose Tacos” Moustakis (PAR)

**Bronze:** Kim “Michael Phelps” Wang (SEN)

**CRAFT CLASS SIGN-UP DASH**

**Gold:** Wynne Morrison (BOL)

**Silver:** Hannah Newman (HOO)

**Bronze:** Mike Schiffman (HON)

**VISITORS**

Join us in welcoming the following visitors to the mountain:

Amy Holman
Ginger Murchison
Michael Wiegers

The following visitors have left the mountain:

Gabriel Fried
Liz van Hoose

**Moustakis Dominates Bread Loaf Olympics**

Bread Loaf Olympic action continued Friday, with fellow Melinda Moustakis, the harshest critic of BLOC chairman Michael Collier, emerging as one of the premier athletes of the 2012 games when she won a silver medal.

The day also featured the first major upset of the games. As craft class sign-ups began, all eyes were on Mike Schiffman, the favorite to win this year’s Craft Class Sign-Up Dash. However, for the second day in a row, Wynne Morrison topped the competition, signing up first for Troy Jollimore’s craft class after a top-five finish on Thursday. Schiffman finished with the bronze after Hannah Newman pulled ahead with an early-morning sign-up.

Collier held a private meeting with Moustakis Friday evening, in which the two discussed concerns that event scheduling heavily favored the poets. Though Collier would not speak with The Crumb, sources close to him indicated that he had offered Moustakis “a significant perk, such as her own personal waiter” if she would scale back her public criticism.

Grant Bergland contributed additional reporting to this article.

**New Work: Excerpts from the Worksheets**

The days were maddeningly small in the afternoon stillness: a rush of wind around the eaves, the dripping of an icicle, the plodding march of the clock in the front hall. Once I watched a mote of dust sail on the currents in my room for two hours. It rose and fell and I believed it to be joyful, sailing as it did with graceful, glowing abandon. When it finally soared upward and out of the sunlight, it disappeared and I felt despondent for having lost it.

— Adam Renn Olenn, from “Slippery Elm”

**TODAY’S TRIVIA QUESTION**

Which faculty member has attended Star Trek conventions and is a blood relative of fiction writer Charles Baxter?

*(The answer will be published in tomorrow’s edition)*

**YESTERDAY’S TRIVIA ANSWER**

Poetry fellow Matt Hart was a member of the band Squirtgun, which contributed the song “Social” to the *Mallrats* soundtrack.
Sign Up for Trail Walk with Elder

John Elder will lead two trail walks entitled “An Introduction to the Natural History of Bread Loaf for Writers” this week. The walks, which require advance sign-up, will explore the Robert Frost Interpretive Trail. “The walk is always a pleasant, relaxed event,” Elder said, “with lots of chances to connect names to the trees, flowers, and birds and to relate Frost’s poetry, and poetry in general, to all our observations.”

The Robert Frost Interpretive Trail is a National Recreation Trail that commemorates Robert Frost’s poetry; several of his poems are mounted along the trail in the woods and fields. Blueberries and huckleberries grow in an old field at the far end of the trail. The Forest Service maintains all of the old fields along this trail with prescribed fire to preserve the scenic, open appearance of the area. The trail is an easy walk, and the first 0.3 miles across a beaver pond boardwalk out to the South Branch of the Middlebury River is accessible and suitable for wheelchairs.

The first walk will be 11:20 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. on Sunday, August 19, and the second walk will occur on Tuesday, August 21. Each walk is limited to 15 participants. Vans will transport participants from the Bread Loaf Inn to the trail, and a bag lunch will be provided. Participants will be asked to practice Leave No Trace ethics, carrying out what they carry in to keep the trail beautiful.

Sign-up sheets will be posted outside the Back Office at 8:00 a.m. today. Participants must be signed up in advance to ensure that a lunch is provided.

Beware of Meteorites

Legend holds that Bread Loaf was named for a small meteorite in the shape of a charred loaf, which is on display in the Front Office. As you enjoy the Perseid meteor shower, the staff reminds you to be careful and avoid all objects falling from space.