

wellesleyweek



frank bidart wins bollingen prize in american poetry

Frank Bidart, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of English, has been chosen as the 2007 winner of Yale University's Bollingen Prize in American Poetry.

The judging panel described Bidart as "a poet whose work exemplifies consistent originality of theme, sustained linguistic and formal explorations and a strong sense of the profoundly serious and adventurous nature of the poetic calling."

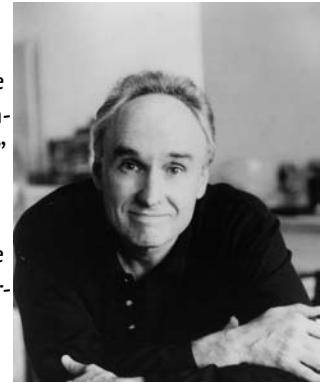
William Cain, head of the English Department, called Bidart "one of the most important, influential poets in the country. Only a small number of the many fine poets in the United States have been awarded the Bollingen Prize."

Bidart (at right) joined the faculty at Wellesley College in 1972. His volumes of poetry include *In the Western Night: Collected Poems, 1965-90* (1990), *Desire* (1997), *Music Like Dirt* (2002) and *Star Dust* (2005).

This year's judges were Langdon Hammer, professor of English at Yale, Nicholas Jenkins, professor of English at Stanford University and the poet Ellen Bryant Voigt of Vermont. They had further praise for Bidart's poetry, saying: "An un-

earthly mixture of the Dionysian and the Apollonian impulses, the terrifying and the humane, the wildly inspired and the minutely crafted, Bidart's poems—eerie, probing, sometimes shocking, always subtle—venture into psychic terrain left largely unmapped in contemporary poetry."

The Bollingen Prize in Poetry, established by Paul Mellon in 1949, is awarded biennially by the Yale University Library to an American poet for the best book published during the previous two years or for lifetime achievement in poetry. Previous winners include Wallace Stevens, Marianne Moore, W. H. Auden, E. E. Cummings, Louise Glück, Adrienne Rich and Jay Wright. The prize includes a cash award of \$100,000. For more on Bidart and the prize, go to www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/Releases/2007/022207a.html.



taking a look at gender, egypt and middle east politics

The domestic and international landscape of politics is being radically reshaped by the current 'war on terror' and reactions to it both at home and abroad. In this climate, what goes on in the Middle East seems more urgent to a wider range of Americans than ever before, yet much of what we hear and know about the Middle East and the diverse peoples who live in the region has



to do with terrorism, war and violence. In a series of lectures on Middle Eastern politics this week, American University Professor Diane Singerman will draw on her wide-ranging scholarship to explain much of the complexity and texture of daily life in the region.

Singerman will deliver three talks, all from 4:30-6 pm in Pendleton Atrium. On Thursday, March 8, she will present "Winning the Right to Divorce in Egypt:

Islam, Gender, and Coalition Politics."

A reception follows. On Friday, March 9, it's "The Networked World of Islamist Movements: Kinship, Solidarity, and Morality," and Monday, March 12, "Whose Cairo? Politics and Culture in the Globalized City."

"Professor Singerman's work joins the fields of comparative politics, Middle East and Egyptian politics, gender and politics in the Middle East, and scholarship on informal politics, political participation and social movements," said Roxanne Euben, political science. "The lectures range across all these dimensions and fields of study from the politics of gender, marriage and divorce in Egypt to the local and global forces that have reshaped Cairo politically, economically, culturally and spatially, to the organizational, cultural, moral and political dynamics of Islamist networks." For more information, call x2481.

in their own write

In a rare public appearance, celebrated author Julia Bolton Holloway will give a talk on women's creativity—both in work and in life—called "Women in Their Own Write: Finding Words, Crafting Books, Voices Medieval and Modern" Monday, March 5, at 4:40 pm in the Library Lecture Room. Now in her early 70's, she has written 16 books and is the innovator of the Fiore Mazzei library in Florence, Italy, which is dedicated to work on and by women's creative and spiritual lives. A renowned book maker, she also organizes the international symposium, "The City and the Book," in Florence, celebrating centuries of women's creative writing.

The event is sponsored by the Writing Program. For more information, call x3771.

WellesleyWeek is published each Monday during the academic year by the Office for Public Affairs. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For directions, go to www.wellesley.edu/CampusMaps/. Phone numbers are dialed 781 283-xxxx. Campus-sponsored event listings are welcome via an online form at www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/Forms/wellswkform.html or e-mail to wellesleyweekcalendar@wellesley.edu. Submissions can be mailed to WellesleyWeek, Office for Public Affairs, Wellesley College, 106 Central St., Wellesley, MA 02481. Deadline for calendar submissions is noon on the Monday prior to publication. For paid subscriptions, call 781 283 2373. View **WellesleyWeek** online at www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/WellesleyWeek/archiveweek.html. For more events, go to <https://calendar.wellesley.edu/wv3> for the online campus calendar.

first-year student wins spot on new reality show

The reality show genre gains a brainy new cousin this month when PBS television channel WGBH premieres “Design



Squad,” featuring Natasha Sivananjaiah ’10 (at left) on March 24. Viewers can also see an episode on the Web site at pbskids-go.org/designsquad.

In “Design Squad,” eight students compete to design and build quirky but functional machines for real-life clients. “Fun for people of all ages, this fresh, fast-paced PBS series is the fuel behind a national, multimedia initiative designed to attract kids to careers in engineering,” say its producers.

“These challenges are given by a client that needs a machine to do a specific task such as a machine that can make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches or fill up water balloons,” said Sivananjaiah. “The teams have 2.5 days to build and test their machines and then at the end of the third day, they show

it to their client and the hosts, who judge which machine is the best. Each member of the winning team gets 100 points.” Teams are remixed from one challenge to the next, and the final winner gets a \$10,000 college scholarship.

Sivananjaiah took part in two pilot episodes of the series as it was being developed. Then in February 2006, WGBH producers invited her to a huge casting call for “Design Squad.”

“Between 200-300 students arrived to audition for the eight spots,” Sivananjaiah said. “In March 2006 I found out that I made it to the show, and we started training at MIT and Olin. We became machine-shop certified and also took some cad drawing courses as well as some physics classes. Training ended in June and shooting started in July. We shot almost every day, 8-10 hours a day, from July to the end of August.”

Sivananjaiah feels her future career will benefit from “Design Squad,” saying, “Even though I have made up my mind to go to law school, the analytical skills you learn from engineering will help you in any field.”

whitney curator to talk about pioneer sculptor

Artist Eva Hesse will be the topic of the 2007 Bakwin Lecture by Elisabeth Sussman, curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Tuesday, March 6, at 4:30 pm in Collins Cinema. A reception will follow.

In her talk, “Eva Hesse: Past, Present, Future,” Sussman will illuminate the life of this German-born American sculptor known for her pioneering work in materials such as latex, fiberglass and plastics. “I remember I wanted to get to non art, non connotative, non geometric, non nothing, everything, but of another kind, vision, sort,” Eva Hesse said of her work.

“I will address Hesse’s biography, the interest in her in the past, how we have known her work since her death and what we anticipate will happen with her work in the future,” said Sussman. “I will relate my experiences as a curator of exhibitions that have confronted all these concerns.” Sussman is the curator of the exhibition *Gordon Matta Clark: You Are the Measure*, which opened at the Whitney on Feb. 21. “I [also] am writing an essay on [sculptor] Robert Gober for his upcoming retrospective at the Schaulager Museum in Basel,” she said. The Dr. Ruth Morris Bakwin Class of 1919 Lecture is sponsored by the Art Department. For more information, call x2042.

in the news

[marjorie agosín](#), Spanish, will receive an honorary degree from Illinois Wesleyan University during its commencement ceremony on May 5. The degree honors her work as a poet and human-rights activist. She has been a guest lecturer at Illinois Wesleyan on three occasions. She was nominated to receive an honorary degree by the Department of Hispanic Studies and students of the Spanish Club, who said Agosín “embodies the teacher/scholar/activist academician of a liberal arts institution.”

[lina chen](#), registrar’s office, founded the Century Chinese Language School with two other mothers to help American born, English-speaking children of Chinese immigrants bridge the gap between their ancestry and modern U.S. culture. “As parents, we feel responsible to teach them about language and their culture,” said Chen in a recent story in *The Boston Globe*. Read about the school at www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2007/02/15/new_year_old_ways/?p1=email_to_a_friend

[richard french](#), astronomy, is a co-investigator with colleagues at the University of Virginia and other institutions who have found that Enceladus, the sixth-largest moon of Saturn, is a “cosmic graffiti artist,” pelting the surfaces of at least 11 other moons of Saturn with ice particles sprayed from its spewing surface geysers. This ice sandblasts the other moons, creating a reflective surface that makes them among the brightest bodies in the solar system. The findings were reported in the Feb. 9 issue of the journal *Science* and reported on by a number of other publications. Anne Verbitser of the University of Virginia is the study’s lead investigator. Other co-investigators are Mark Showalter of the SETI Institute and Paul Helfenstein of Cornell University.

calendar

monday march 5

training. "Relational Leadership: It Makes All the Difference." 9:30 am-4 pm, College Club. Cost: \$250. Sponsor: JBMTI. Info: x3800.

german table. 12:30-1:30 pm, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: x1239.

lecture. "Women in Their Own Write: Finding Words, Crafting Books, Voices Medieval to Modern." Speaker: Julia Bolton Holloway, medieval studies emerita, U Colorado, Boulder. 4:40 pm, Library Lecture Room. (See story, page 1.) Sponsor: Writing Program. Info: x3771.

chai week event. "The Great Latke/Hamantashen Debate." 5 pm, Pendleton Atrium. (See story, page 4.) Sponsor: Hillel. Info: x2687.

service. Jumma. 5 pm, Muslim prayer room, Houghton Chapel. Info: x2656.

lecture. "Alternative Career Paths." Speakers: Tara B. Gibson, Physicians' Education Resource; Christine Birchwood, Genentech. 5 pm, SCI 278. Sponsor: Biological Sciences. Info: x3154.

meeting. CG Senate. 6 pm, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH.

esl tutoring. 6-8:15 pm. Sign up in PLTC small conference room. Info: x2480.

lecture. "The Mourning After: Mosques, Museums and the Iran-Iraq War." Speaker: Roxanne Varzi, anthropology, UC Irvine. 7:30 pm, PNE 239. Sponsor: Anthropology. Info: x2138.

tuesday march 6

info table. "Study in Italy." Noon-2 pm, Wang entrance level. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x3532.

chai week lecture. "Mystics, Mavericks and Merymakers: An Intimate Journey Among Hasidic Girls." Speaker: Stephanie Levine, author. 12:30 pm, Wang 210. Sponsor: Hillel. Info: x2687.

japanese table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: x7685.

president's open office hour. 12:30-1:30 pm, GRH 350. Info: x2243.

meeting. "Meditation." 12:30-1 pm, meditation room, lower chapel. Sponsor: Buddhist Community. Info: x2793.

discussion group. "Spiritual Parenting." 1 pm, Wang 415. Sponsor: Religious Life. Info: x2685.

lecture. "Eva Hesse: Past, Present, Future." Speaker: Elisabeth Sussman, curator, Whitney Museum of American Art. 4:30 pm, Collins Cinema. (See story, page 2.) Sponsor: Art. Info: x2042.

lecture. "From Compliance to Collaboration: Working With (Not Against) Our Children." Speaker: Stuart Ablon, Mass. General Hospital. 7-9 pm, Library Lecture Room. Sponsor: Child Study Center. Info: x2696.

wednesday march 7

application deadline. American Cities Internship Program, CWS Summer Stipend Program. Info: x2352.

sweatshop simulation. 8am-8 pm, Wang 219. Sponsor: WALRA. Info: rmiller@wellesley.edu.

spanish table. 12:30 pm, Tower Court private dining hall. Info: x3571.

chinese table. 12:30 pm, Bates private dining hall. Info: x7685.

russian table. 12:30 pm, FND 417. Info: x3549.

shop talk. "Dreamweaver." 12:30-1:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. For staff only. RSVP: www.wellesley.edu/NCH/Forms/invite.html.

lecture. "Hayabusa: The Mission to Near-Earth Asteroid Itokawa." Speaker: Faith Vilas'73, director, MMT Observatory. 4:45 pm, Observatory. Sponsor: Astronomy. Info: x2702.

alumnae panel. "Women in Islamic Society." 5:30 pm, Slater. Sponsor: Middle Eastern Studies. Info: x2609.

chai week film/discussion. *The Tribe*. 6 pm, Collins Cinema. Sponsor: Hillel. RSVP: eklein@wellesley.edu.

gathering. Unitarian Universalist worship circle. 6 pm, Little Chapel. Info: x3484.

thursday march 8

french table. 12:30 pm, Bates private dining hall. Info: x2415.

meeting. "Meditation." (See 3/6 listing.)

wcw lecture. "Battered Women's Continued Vulnerability to Intimate Partner Violence." Speaker: Pamela Alexander, research scientist. 12:30-1:30 pm, Cheever House. Info: x2500.

chai week event. "Lunch and Learn." Speaker: Veronica Darer, Spanish. 12:30-2 pm, Library Lecture Room. Sponsor: Hillel. Info: x2687.

info table. "IES Abroad." 1:30-3 pm, Wang entrance level. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x3532.

goldman lecture. "The Economy in a Changing World." Speaker: Edward Lazear, chair, Council of Economic Advisers. 4:15 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Economics. Info: x2156.

middle eastern studies lecture. "Winning the Right to Divorce in Egypt: Islam, Gender and Coalition Politics." Speaker: Diane Singerman, government, American University. 4:30-6 pm, PNE Atrium. (See story, page 1.) Info: x2481.

esl tutoring. (See 3/5 listing.)

senior soirée. 6:30-8:30 pm, Tishman Commons, Wang Center. Sponsor: Resources. Info: x2229.

meeting. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. 7-9 pm, Wang 413. Info: x4335.

save the date!

3/13/07: Mayer Lecture in the Life Sciences. Speaker: Aviv Regev, biology, MIT. 5 pm, SCI 277. Refreshments, 4:30, Sage Lounge. Sponsor: Biological Sciences. Info: x3154.

reading. *House of Childhood* by novelist Anna Mitgutsch, translated by David Dollenmayer. 7:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Sponsor: German. Info: x2584.

friday march 9

deadline. Class of 2009 major declaration forms.

info table. "Study in Spain." Noon-2 pm, Wang entrance level. Sponsor: International Study. Info: x3532.

middle eastern studies lecture. "The Networked World of Islamist Movements: Kinship, Solidarity and Morality." (See 3/8 listing and story, page 1.)

meeting. "Meditation." 5-5:30 pm. (See 3/6 listing.)

chai week event. "Quiet Shabbat." 5:30 pm, Hillel lounge. Sponsor: Hillel. Info, RSVP: psheinma@wellesley.edu.

films. *The Notorious Bettie Page*, 7 pm; *Mrs. Henderson Presents*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: FilmSociety@mail@wellesley.edu.

reading. "Tales from an UNsolitary Life." Speaker: Ann Velenchik, economics. 8 pm, Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre, Alumnae Hall. Cost: \$10; benefits Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Info: x2000.

saturday march 10

community service. Greater Boston Food Bank. Noon-4 pm. Bus leaves chapel at noon. Sponsor: Protestant Chaplaincy. Info, RSVP: x2655.

films. *Mrs. Henderson Presents*, 7 pm; *The Notorious Bettie Page*, 9 pm, Collins Cinema. Info: FilmSociety@mail@wellesley.edu.

concert. New England quarterfinals/collegiate a cappella groups with Blue Notes, Widows, Tupelos. 8 pm, Houghton Chapel. Cost: \$5 with Wellesley/MIT I.D.; \$10, other students; \$15, all others. Info: BlueNotesmail@wellesley.edu.

performance. CSA Culture Show. 7-9 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Chinese Students' Association. Info: CSAMail@wellesley.edu.

reading. "Tales from an UNsolitary Life." (See 3/9 listing.)

sunday march 11

worship service. 10:30 am, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Protestant Chaplaincy. Info: x2685.

(calendar continued on page 4)

don't miss ...

wellesley celebrates jewish life with chai week

Latkes or hamantashen—which do you like best? On Monday, March 5, at 5 pm in Pendleton Atrium, a surprise lineup of professors, students and alumnae will debate the merits of two popular Jewish treats: latkes (potato pancakes fried in oil and commonly eaten during Chanukah) and hamantashen (three-cornered pastries with sweet fillings, eaten during the celebration of Purim). “I am tickled pink to participate in a debate that has vexed luminaries from Lehi (who broke his jawbone on a sawdust latkes variant) to Hezekiah (whose divine strength enabled him to gobble up 55 hamantashen, beating posthumously Kobayashi’s record of 54 in 12 minutes) to Jahzeel (who wisely let the Lord decide),” said one faculty member who will take part in Monday’s debate. “I shall bring the latest computer science techniques (among them Kerckhoff’s principle, the Schickard machine and RFC 1149) to bear on this ancient Jewish question, and I have no doubt that in the end, the crowd will exclaim: Hosanna.”



The debate is part of Chai Week, a nine-day celebration of Jewish life at Wellesley sponsored by Hillel. The events begin Thursday, March 1, at noon with a chai tea meeting and discussion on the language and politics of the Torah with Torah scribe Neil Yerman. During the week, events include a hamantashen-baking and mishloach-making gathering; a “rock Shabbat” service with musician Steve Meltzer; a costumed bagel brunch to celebrate Purim; and a lecture on Hasidic girls living in New York. On Friday, March 9, at 5:30 pm, the week wraps up with a quiet Shabbat service and dinner. For more, see calendar or call x2687.

catholic mass. 4 pm, Houghton Chapel. Sponsor: Newman Ministry. Info: x2688.

meeting. Darshana. 4:30-6 pm, lower chapel. Sponsor: Hindu Community. Info: x2794.

asian awareness film/discussion. *Breaking the Heterotype*. 4:30 pm, Library Lecture Room. Sponsor: Multicultural Programs. Info: x2959.

concert. “Global Landscapes: A Jazz-World Music Faculty Concert.” 7 pm, Jewett Auditorium. Sponsor: Music. Info: x2028.

monday march 12

meeting. Administrative Council. 11 am, Academic Council Room, 4th floor, GRH.

german table. (See 3/5 listing.)

cws meeting. “Seniors, It’s Never Too Late: How Wellesley Can Support You.” 12:30 pm, Wang 104. Pizza included. Info: x2352.

middle eastern studies lecture. “Whose Cairo? Politics and Culture in the Globalized City.” (See 3/8 listing and story, page 1.)

lecture. “The Emergence of a Labor Rights Re-

gime.” Speaker: Tamara Kay, sociology, Harvard. 4:30-6 pm, PNE 339. Sponsor: Sociology. Info: x2137.

service. Jummah. (See 3/5 listing.)

meeting. CG Senate. (See 3/5 listing.)

esl tutoring. (See 3/5 listing.)

ongoing

exhibit. *The Betrayal of Srebrenica: A Commemoration*. Through 3/10, Jewett Arts Center. Info: x2042.

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