

University of Rhode Island English Department

READ/WRITE ANNUAL READING SERIES Spring 2008

Special Event URI Faculty Colloquium
Thursday, February 21, 2008, 4-6pm

Professor Mary Cappello

Mary Cappello, Professor of English at the University of Rhode Island, is the author of *Night Bloom: A Memoir* and, most recently, of *Awkward: A Detour*, a book-length essay on awkwardness that was a Los Angeles Times Bestseller. Her literary nonfiction and experimental prose appear in *Salmagundi*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Southwest Review*, *Raritan*, *American Letters and Commentary*, and elsewhere. Currently, she is completing *Swallow: Foreign Bodies, their Ingestion, Aspiration and Extraction in the Age of Chevalier Jackson* forthcoming from The New Press. and a book forged out of breast cancer: *Rituals in Transfigured Time*, the first part of which will appear in an upcoming issue of *The Georgia Review*.

Thursday, March 6, 2008, 4-5:45pm
Memorial Union, Atrium A

**URI Professor, Karen Stein &
RI Poet Laureate, Lisa Starr**

Karen Stein, Professor of English and Director of Women's Studies, earned her PhD in 1982 from University of Connecticut. She publishes on contemporary North American women writers, is the author of *Margaret Atwood Revisited*; and currently she is writing a book on Toni Morrison. As Director of the Women's Studies Program, she has transformed the curriculum, and developed a new graduate certificate program in Women's Studies available to URI graduate students and non-matriculated students. Her talk will focus on the work of Nobel Laureate, Doris Lessing.

Lisa Silverberg Starr was recently named Poet Laureate for the state of Rhode Island. She has published two full-length collections of poetry: *Days of Dogs and Driftwood* (1993) and *This Place Here* (2001), and her individual works appear in journals and publications around the country. Starr is the founder of the Block Island Poetry Project, where along with her husband she owns and operates the Hygeia House.

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 4-6pm
Hoffmann Room, 154 Independence Hall

**Poet, Stephen Cramer &
Fiction Writer, Jody Lisberger**

Stephen Cramer's first book of poetry, *Shiva's Drum*, was selected for the 2004 National Poetry Series by Grace Schulman. His second, *Tongue & Groove*, was published by University of Illinois Press last year. His work has appeared in journals such as *Green Mountains Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and *Southwest Review*. He teaches poetry and writing at the University of Vermont and is currently writing under a grant from the Vermont Arts Council.

Jody Lisberger's story collection, *Remember Love*, has just been published by Fleur-de-Lis Press. Her prizewinning fiction has appeared in *Confrontation*, *Fugue*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Louisville Review*, and *Thema*. She teaches in the Women's Studies Program at the University of Rhode Island, and is also on the faculty of the brief-residency M.F.A. in Writing Program at Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky. Originally trained as an anthropologist, she received her Ph.D. in English at Boston University (1991), where she was a University Fellow. She also has an M.F.A. in Writing (1999) from Vermont College. She has taught at Holy Cross, Tufts, Harvard, and Brown and also worked as an editor, grant writer, and journalist.

Fiction Writer, Chris Cleave

Monday, April 14, 2008, 7pm – Kingston, Independence Hall Auditorium
Thursday, April 17, 2008, 7pm – URI Feinstein Providence Campus

Chris Cleave, bestselling author of the controversial novel *Incendiary*, about a suicide bomber at a soccer game, joins us all the way from Europe, for two special events jointly sponsored with the Honors Program. Bookmarks Magazine calls the work "an all-around stunning novel. Even if *Incendiary* hadn't eerily predicted the bombings on the London Tube (and hit British bookstores that same day), it would rank as one of this season's novels to be missed at your own peril." Chris Cleave took a degree at Oxford and worked for *The Daily Telegraph*. He lives in Paris with his wife and son.

All events are free, open to the public, and followed by a reception.

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