

ednesday, January 31, 2007, was the official publication date of Norman Mailer's most recent novel, *The Castle in the Forest*, and it was Mailer's 84th birthday. This novel, his first one in ten years, following *The Gospel According to the Son* (1997), is a fictional account of the ancestry and youth of Adolf Hitler, up to 1905. Demonstrating the importance of Mailer the writer, the *New York Times*, in its January 21, 2007, "Book Review" issue devoted five pages—with a half-page picture of Mailer—to a discussion of this literary event and Mailer's place in American literature. Mailer will discuss this novel and others and will be interviewed on stage about his writings by Philip Sipiora, Department of English, USF, when he appears at the University of South Florida on Thursday, September 27, 2007.

Mailer's list of publications is extensive, starting with his first novel, *The Naked and the Dead* (1948), which was based upon his World War II experiences, and includes not just novels but essays, interviews, poetry, short stories, and drama. As well, he has directed and/or appeared in

many motion pictures, directing, for example an adaptation of his novel *Tough Guys Don't Dance* (1987). Among his other major works are *Deer Park* (1955), *The White Negro* (1957), *Advertisements for Myself* (1959), *Why Are We in Vietnam?* (1967), *The Executioner's Song* (1979), *Ancient Evenings* (1983), *Harlot's Ghost* (1991), and *Oswald's Tale*. Mailer won the National Book Award for Arts and Letters in 1968 for *Armies of the Night*, the Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for the same novel and in 1980 for *The Executioner's Song*, and received the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters from the National Book Foundation in 2005 and in 2006 was awarded France's prestigious Legion of Honor. As Philip Sipiora has written, "Mailer has proved himself to be a literary genius, joining the half-dozen or so eminent American novelists of the 20th century, artists who have enchanted both popular and academic audiences."

Also this fall, the University of South Florida, through the Department of English, in

conjunction with the Norman Mailer Society, will publish its first issue of a new literary journal devoted to the life and work of Norman Mailer. The inaugural issue will feature among other articles an interview with author/journalist/director Lawrence Schiller, who collaborated with Mailer on *The Executioner's Song*, a novel based on the true life story of the convicted murdered Gary Gilmore; an essay by novelist William Kennedy, who discusses Mailer's place in contemporary American literature; previously unpublished work by Mailer; and three review essays of *The Castle in the Forest*. According to Sipiora, the editor of the new journal, the cover of the inaugural issue will reproduce the cover of *The Naked and the Dead* and include a picture of a young Mailer on the beach in Provincetown during the time of the publication of that novel.

The September 27

Women's Studies

Sara Crawley published *Gendering Bodies*
(Roman and Littlefield, 2007).

World Languages

n October 9, 2007 in the TECO room, College of Education, at 7:00pm the Humanities Institute will present poetry readings from the

Shall Knew Thee: Interviews with Southern Writers (1990), *The Ordinary Life of a Sculptor* (1993), and the *Conscience of My Other Being* (2005). His work has appeared in *Five Points*, the *Kenyon Review*, *Poets & Writers*, the *North American Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, the *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and elsewhere.

Erin Belieu has published three collections of poetry: *Infanta*, chosen for The National Poetry Series (1995) and named one of the Best Books for that year by The National Book Critics Circle, *The Washington Post Book World*, and *Library Journal*; *One Above and One Below*, winner of the Midlands Author and Ohioana prizes; and *Black Box*, a recent finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. She is an associate professor in the Creative Writing Program at Florida State University.

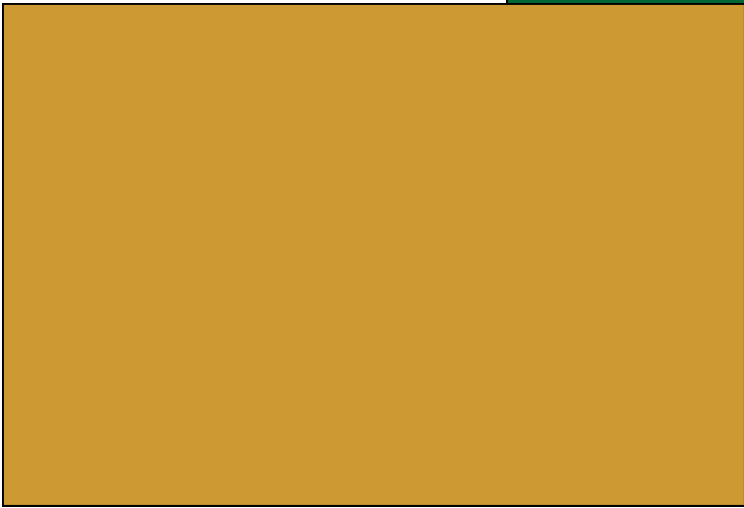
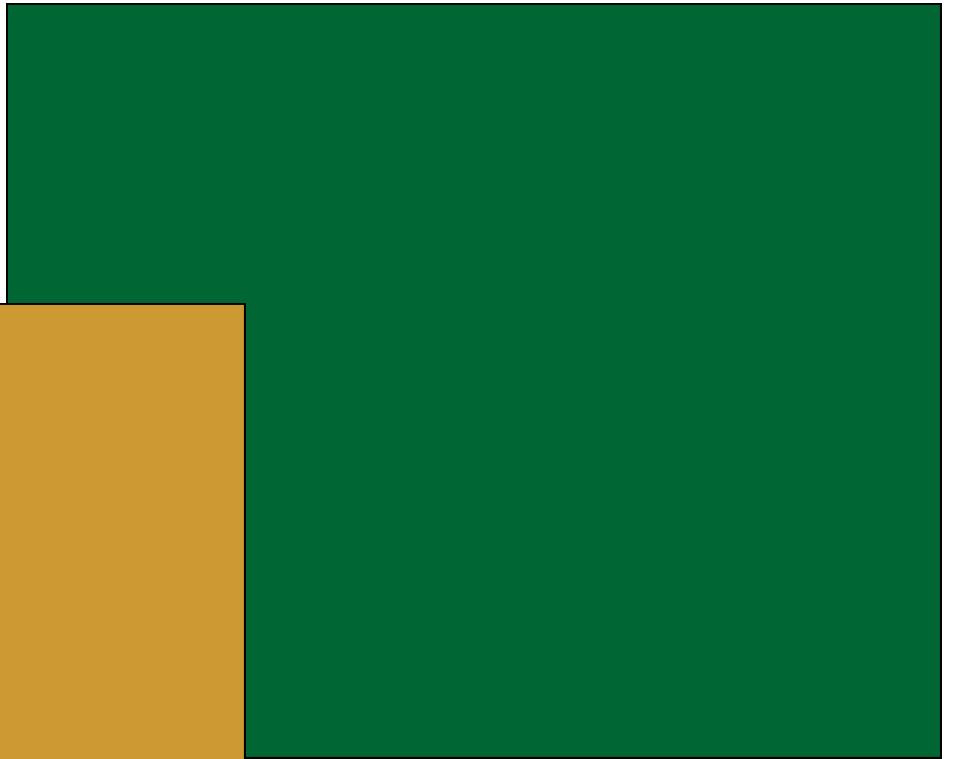
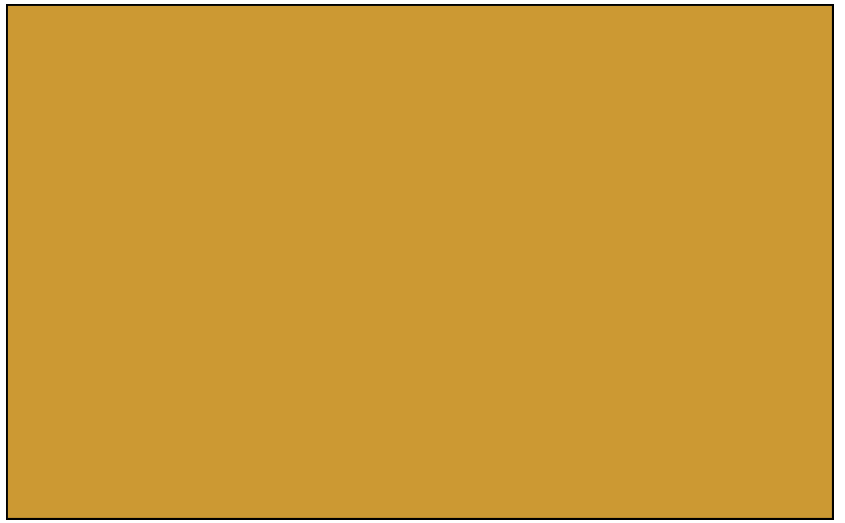
Allison Eir Jenks's first book, *The Palace of Bones*, won the Hollis Summers Prize selected by Pulitzer Prize winner Carolyn Kizer (Ohio University Press, 2002). Her poems have appeared most

recently in *Hotel Amerika*, *Meridian*, *New Letters*, *Poetry* and *Puerto Del Sol*. Her manuscript "The Lord is Easy to Please" was a runner up last year for Sarabande Book's Kathryn Morton Prize. She has an MFA from the University of Miami, where she was a James Michener fellow and an assistant professor before attending FSU, where she is currently a Ph.D. candidate.

Reginald Shepherd is the editor of *The Iowa Anthology of New American Poetries* (2004) and the author of five volumes of poetry, all published by the University of Pittsburgh Press: *Fata Morgana* (2007); *Otherhood* (2003), a finalist for the 2004 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize; *Wrong* (1999); *Angel, Interrupted* (1996); and *Some are Drowning* (1994), winner of the 1993 Associated Writing Programs' Award in Poetry. His collection of literary essays, *Orpheus in the Bronx*, will be published in the University of Michigan Press Poets on Poetry Series in 2008. He lives in Pensacola, Florida.

Schedule of Events

September
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Humanities Institute

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*“There are obviously two educations.
One should teach us how to make a
living and the other how to live.”
- James Truslow-Adams
Humanities are, without a doubt, the
core of that second aim of education.*

or Summer 2007, the Offices of the Provost and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences—through the Humanities Institute—awarded competitive research grants of \$5,000 (maximum) to 12 faculty members for research in the Humanities.

Giovanna Benadusi (History)

“Visions of the Social Order: Women’s Last Will, Notaries, and the State in Renaissance and Baroque Tuscany”

Rita Ciresi (English)

“Research and Writing of ‘Drama 70’”

Michael Gibbons (Government and International Affairs)

“Religion, Politics, and Post-Secularism”

Marty Gould (English)

“Imperial Theatrics: Theater and Empire in the 19th Century”

Alex Levine (Philosophy) “Toward an Interactivist Account of Epistemic Objects”

Patrizia La Trecchia
(World Languages)

“Looking South, Under
