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**PULITZER PRIZE WINNER TO BE FEATURED AT 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCISSORTAIL CREATIVE WRITING FESTIVAL**

The seventh annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, featuring Natasha Trethewey and Norbert Krapf, in addition to more than 50 regional, published and emerging authors is April 5 - 7, 2012, on the campus of East Central University in Ada, Okla. All sessions are free and open to the public.

Natasha Trethewey's first collection of poetry, *Domestic Work* was selected as the winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize for the best first book by an African American poet and won both the 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry.

Since then, Trethewey has published two more collections of poetry including *Bellocq's Ophelia* and the Pulitzer prize winning *Native Guard*. Her work has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Massachusetts Review* and *New England Review*, to name a few.

Trethewey's book of creative non-fiction, *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf* was released in the fall of 2010, and she has a new collection of poetry that will be released in the 2012.

Trethewey was born in Gulfport Miss. and has a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia, an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from Hollins University and an M.F.A in poetry from the University of Massachusetts. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the National Endowment for the Arts.

She has taught at Auburn University, the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill and Duke University where she was the 2005-2006 Lehman Brady Joint Chair Professor of Documentary and American Studies. Trethewey is the recipient of the 2008 Mississippi Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts for Poetry and was also named the 2008 Georgia Woman of the Year. She was recently inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame.

Norbert Krapf was born in Jasper Indiana, a German community. He received a B.A. in English from

St. Joseph's College and an M.A. in English from the University of Notre Dame and his Ph.D. in English and American Literature. He taught at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University from 1970 – 2004, where he is now emeritus professor of English. He twice served in Germany as a Senior Fulbright professor of American Poetry at the Universities of Freiburg and Erlangen-Nuremberg. In June 2008, Krapf was appointed to a two-year term as Indiana Poet Laureate.

Since 1976 Krapf has written or edited 23 books, two of which are his translations from German. Seventeen of these books are collections of his own poetry including *Bittersweet Along the Expressway: Poems of Long Island* and *Looking for God's Country*. In 2008, the Indiana Historical Society Press published Krapf's prose memoir, *The Ripest Moments: A Southern Indiana Childhood*. Also in 2008, the University of Indiana Press published *Bloodroot: Indiana Poems*, a selection of 175 of his Indiana poems written from 1971 – 2007. *Sweet Sister Moon*, which includes love poems and is a tribute to women, is Krapf's newest collection.

Krapf has received the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, an honorary doctorate of letters from his alma mater, the David Newton Award for Excellence in Teaching from Long Island University and a Trustees Award for Scholarly Achievement LIU. English artist Martin Donlin selected his poem *Back Home* to be part of a large stained glass panel for the new Indianapolis Airport.

The Scissortail Creative Writing Festival runs from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Each day is broken into several sessions. For a complete schedule of readers, visit [www.ecuscissortail.blogspot.com](http://www.ecuscissortail.blogspot.com)

The Darryl Fisher High School Creative Writing Contest winners will also be awarded during the festival. The Scissortail Creative Writing Festival is sponsored in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council. For more information, contact Dr. Ken Hada at 580-559-5557 or visit [www.ecuscissortail.blogspot.com](http://www.ecuscissortail.blogspot.com).

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