



Tuesday, September 16, 2003

## Award-winning poet to read at OU

Award-winning poet Linda Gregerson will read from her work on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 4 p.m. at Oakland University. The reading, in Banquet Room B of the Oakland Center, is free and open to the public, and a book signing will follow.

Gregerson is the author of three poetry collections, including the acclaimed volume, "Waterborne," which recently earned her the \$100,000 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Prize. She also has been recognized with the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award and the Pushcart and Levinson Prizes.

"Her reading voice is extraordinary," says Professor Bruce Mann, chair of the Department of English. "She has had experience in theatre, and during a reading, her poems come to life through her clear, precise and expressive voice."

A professor of English at the University of Michigan, Gregerson teaches Renaissance literature and creative writing and directs the MFA program. She has been an editor for "**The Atlantic Monthly**" and, before that, an actor with the Kraken theatre company.

According to Professor Gladys Cardiff, assistant professor of English at Oakland, Gregerson's poetry is marked by "intelligence and clear-eyed empathy."

The title poem of "Waterborne" describes the river that runs through her Ann Arbor property, and the other poems in the volume — "Noah's Wife," "Father's Stand of Trees," "John Eliot and the Algonquians" — are branches that connect to this central image.

To hear her read "Waterborne," go to **The Atlantic Monthly** Web site.

This event, cosponsored by the **Department of English** and the **College of Arts and Sciences** Distinguished Programs Fund, is the 16th annual Maurice Brown Memorial Poetry Reading at OU, which pays tribute to Maurice F. Brown, a beloved professor who taught in Oakland's English Department from 1961 until his death in 1985.

One of Gregerson's poems, "Cranes on the Seashore," is a letter poem to poet/essayist Thomas Lynch, the first reader in the Maurice Brown series in 1988.

For more information on Gregerson's reading, call the Department of English at (248) 370-2250.

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