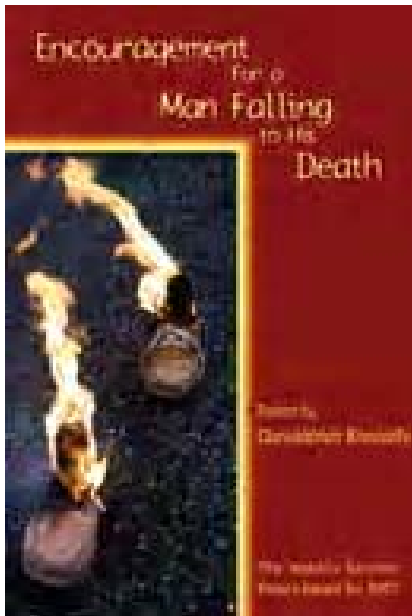


English Department SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY Newsletter

Volume 3, special issue # 1



Encouragement for a Man Falling to His Death

I'm sorry your parachute is made of cream cheese, but I think of the spectators and their stories, and the asphalt's loneliness until you arrive, abruptly and without pretense. You've heard of Jesus; now you get to be just like Him. Every eye that holds your image belongs to a person who will know, once and for all time, what it means to be alive. Those who loved you most will place a wreath on the exact spot where you became an exact spot. Footage of your fall will serve as an effective warning to all who believe cream cheese to be a healthy substitute for silk. I hope this isn't too much for you to learn on your return to our distant planet, where all is well as well as all is not so well, depending on where you're headed, the east and west of which you probably never stop and consider, obsessed as you are with the physics of the north and south.

Chris Kennedy wins The Isabella Gardener Poetry Award for 2007

English Faculty and Director of the Creative Writing Program, Chris Kennedy, has been awarded the prestigious Isabella Gardner Poetry Award for 2007 for his new volume of poetry, *Encouragement for a Man Falling to his Death* (BOA Editions, 2007).

Kennedy grew up in a working-class suburb of Syracuse, New York. He received a B.A. in English from LeMoyne College and a M.A. in Creative Writing/English from Syracuse University where he is currently the Director of the M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing. Kennedy has published two books of prose poems, *Nietzsche's Horse* and *Trouble with the Machine* and one chapbook of prose poems, *Greatest Hits*. His writing has appeared in print and electronic journals including *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Double Room*, and *Del Sol Review* among many others. Kennedy has received

fellowships and awards from the Onondaga County Cultural Resource Center, New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts. Kennedy's new collection is more varied in forms and more personal in tone and themes. *Encouragement* is a mix of verse and prose poems with an emphasis on the former. A number of poems are fourteen lines, contain an octet and sestet, and present an argument which is then reinforced or countered. This more formal style provides the necessary "architecture" for Kennedy to grieve his father's death. Having recently turned fifty himself, the age his father was when he died, Kennedy's poems also reflect his own obsession with the idea of transformation--from the ordinary to the extraordinary, from life to death.

One of Kennedy's recent accomplishments is an uncanny resemblance to the late French philosopher Michel Foucault (see opposite). When asked for comment, Kennedy replied that such likeness, if any, should not be understood to signal any defection from the Creative Writing faculty, and thus should be understood as being purely coincidental.

