

## **Gray's poem featured in 'American Life in Poetry'**

5/07/07

A poem by Dr. Juliana Gray, assistant professor of English at Alfred University, is cited by former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooster in his most recent "American Life in Poetry" column, which is distributed free to newspapers and online publications weekly. Kooster, who was America's Poet Laureate from 2004-06, introduces Gray's poem, "Summer Downpour on Campus," by writing, "I've talked a lot about poetry as celebration, about the way in which a poem can make an ordinary experience seem quite special." Gray's poem, he says, is a "celebration of a moment on campus somewhere, anywhere I especially like the little comic surprise with which it closes." "Summer Downpour on Campus" was originally printed in "The Louisville Review." (No. 59, Spring 2006). The column - 110 in the series - is available online at <http://www.americanlifein...> Life in Poetry is a project of The Poetry Foundation with support from The Library of Congress and the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Gray, who teaches creative writing (poetry) in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Alfred University, is completing her first year as a member of the AU faculty. She received her B.A. degree in English from the University of Alabama, which she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, in 1994. She earned a master's degree in English and creative writing from the University of Tennessee in 1997, and a Ph.D. degree in English and creative writing from the University of Cincinnati in 2001. Gray has written a book, "The Man Under My Skin," which was published in 2005 by River City Publications, Montgomery, AL, and two chapbooks, "History in Bones," which won the Kent State University Wick Poetry Chapbook Competition in 2001, and "Human Engines," which is forthcoming from Aralia Press. Her work has appeared in numerous poetry journals, including "Sou'wester," "Poetry East," "Southern Humanities Review," "The Formalist," "Blackbird," "Alabama Literary Review," and "River City." She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships, and has presented at several conferences, including several times at the Sewanee Writers Conference at the University of the South. For more, see <http://las.alfred.edu/fac...>