

Prize poet performs

TSU Press and Sigma Tau Delta sponsor award-winning writer's reading and signing

Sara DeGonia

Assistant Features Editor

Contrary to her predecessor, Mona Lisa Saloy's smile is no optical illusion.

It appeared unmistakably to about 60 audience members who attended her reading and book signing at 7 p.m. Tuesday night in the SUB Activities Room.

Saloy, poet and New Orleans resident, read pieces from her first published collection of poetry, "Red Beans and Ricely Yours," just weeks after Hurricane Katrina stole much of her native city's identity. She read and sang poems from the work, including "Word Works" and "The N Word."

"Red Beans" speaks for the lost personality of Louisiana's pride and joy, Saloy said.

"It's a collection of verse that really describes a lot about New Orleans culture in the neighborhood, pre-Katrina," she said.

Saloy received a publishing deal from the Truman State University Press after winning the 2005 T. S. Eliot Prize for poetry in January for the "Red Beans" manuscript she submitted, said Nancy Rediger, director and editor in chief of TSU Press.

TSU Press released "Red Beans" in October, and Rediger said she is very pleased with the final product.

"It is a wonderful collection," she said. "It pretty much gives you a flavor of black New Orleans."

Rediger said the collection is very appropriate for the U.S. at this time because

of Hurricane Katrina and its destructive impact on New Orleans.

"It's even a more important collection because it captures the culture that may be lost," she said. "Certainly the communities that had been in New Orleans that made up the strong communities may not be able to come back like they were."

Barbara Smith-Mandell, copy editor and acquisitions editor for TSU Press, said she thoroughly enjoyed working with Saloy's poetry and agrees it creates vivid images for the reader to experience.

"I loved it," she said. "It was just a joy to read. As I was reading it, I felt like I was there and could see what she was talking about."

Smith-Mandell said she welcomed Saloy's Truman visit to hear "Red Beans" come to life.

"Some poetry is best sitting on the page, and you stare at it, and this really seems like poetry [that is] wonderful to hear," Smith-Mandell said.

Saloy said her poetry is drenched in local history and color.

"A lot of the poems are narrative, and they celebrate the day-to-day lives of black New Orleans," she said.

The content varies between language styles and uses some French and Creole words, Saloy said.

"There's contents that use black talk as well as formal verse form," she said. "I think that the poems are always rooted in my community, the African-American cultural views."

Saloy said that although it is far more difficult for many writers to talk about good times and joy, she wanted to capture the flavor of New Orleans culture in a meaningful way.

"Some writers write really strong collections that are sad, that are about tragedy, and I wanted to celebrate life," she said. "I wanted to capture what we call ... 'the joie de vivre.'"

Several other writers commented on Saloy's work, and she said she is grateful for that support.

"I'm first thankful and delighted that writers whose work I really respect respond so warmly to my work," Saloy said. "They get it. They get it. ... They only say what they really feel. They're not going to placate anyone or try to please anyone."

Pearl Cleage, author of "Babylon Sisters," complimented "Red Beans," Saloy said.

"[Cleage said,] 'Mona Lisa Saloy's poems are love songs to family and freedom and the magic of the city that continues to define her work and her life. 'Red Beans and Ricely Yours' is pure pleasure,'" Saloy said.

She said she has experienced many rejections during the past year and a half, but she prayed that it was only a matter of time before someone accepted her work. When she received the phone call announcing she had won the 2005 T.S. Eliot Prize for poetry, she said she truly thought it was a joke. But she is grateful to the 2005 T.S. Eliot Prize judge, Ishmael Reed.

"I'm fortunate to be selected because there are a lot of great writers out there," Saloy said. "And it's my turn, and I'm thankful."

She said she is working on several other things including a film script and a piece about her Hurricane Katrina experiences.

"Red Beans and Ricely Yours" can be purchased at the Truman Bookstore.



New Orleans poet Mona Lisa Saloy performs selections from her published collection "Red Beans and Ricely Yours" on Tuesday evening in the SUB Activities Room.

Cosmetology students study chemistry to pedicures

Local beauty school offers degree and uses customers to practice with supervision

Maggie Wolcott

Staff Reporter

Trichology, the study of hair, is not offered at Truman, but it is offered at another school in Kirksville.

The Hair Academy 110, located at 110 N. Franklin St., is a cosmetology school where students study everything from hair, skin and nails to anatomy and chemistry.

Amy Shahan, a Kirksville resident and Hair Academy student, said she received some criticism when she quit Truman after one semester to attend cosmetology school.

"[People] are like, 'Why did you quit school?'" Shahan said. "They don't realize that this is another type of college. It is just not a four-year university."

Shahan's mother, Tina Miller, is the owner of the Hair Academy, and Shahan said she grew up wanting to be a cosmetologist.

"It is fun being creative and being able to do lots of creative things to different people because it makes them feel good about themselves," Shahan said.

She said some of the students get a new hair color every other week.

"We do stuff on each other all the time," Shahan said. "If it is slow, we will just style each other's hair."

Shahan will graduate in five weeks and plans to open her own salon in Kirksville, she said.

Miller said 22 students are enrolled in the 12-month program. She said that after students go through 160 hours of basic training, they begin working on customers.

When students start on the client floor,

they are monitored closely, Miller said. She said that once the haircut is complete, the instructors check the cut to make sure it is even and balanced with the customer's face shape.

Despite the fact that the stylists aren't very experienced, business is usually good, Miller said.

"Typically all of the prices are about half price of a salon ... because they are students in training," she said.

Miller said Truman students are frequent customers at the salon, and the salon loves them because they are willing to try trendy styles.

She said Hair Academy students attend class for about two hours every morning after the basic training and cover a 15-chapter study book.

Miller said it is important for students to understand chemistry in order for them to know what happens when a certain chemical is applied to a type of hair.

Students study the bones and muscles to understand how to do massages and facials correctly, Miller said.

Another thing that can be difficult for students is learning how to communicate with customers, Miller said. She said it is important the stylist knows exactly what the customer wants.

After students complete the program and graduate, they take a state board exam that includes both written and practical sections, she said.

"Just like a nurse, a doctor, a lawyer, they're state-board certified," Miller said.

Amber Maley started at the school Aug. 31. She said that the first time she was on the client floor, she cut a little girl's hair with the girl's mother standing right behind her.

"I have to admit I was really nervous," Maley said. "My face turned bright red

— that is how nervous I was. But the haircut turned out great, and everything went fine."

The nervousness now has gone away, Maley said.

She said she really enjoys the school and working with the customers.

"I kind of like it when people come and they don't know what they want," Maley said. "Then you can be creative."

Maley said she always has wanted to be a stylist.

"After I worked at a gas station for about six months, I realized that is not what I want to do for the rest of my life, and I better get on the ball and go," Maley said.

She said that after she graduates from cosmetology school, she wants to take the nail technician classes also offered at the Hair Academy. Maley said she wants to own her own salon after she builds up her clientele.

Miller said the school stresses the importance of building a good solid clientele, which can take a year.

"There is a definite need for stylists because a lot of people don't have the patience to withstand building your clientele," Miller said.

She said people can make a lot of money in the business if they work hard.

After being in the business for 21 years, Miller said she still loves it because it is always changing. She said they attend the Chicago Midwest Beauty Show every year to learn the latest styles.

She said the instructors always try to make the school fun and real for the students.

"I have always loved hair and just to be able to teach people the passion that I have for hair and to inspire them to know that they can open their own salon and make it big," Miller said.

Miller said new classes begin every two months at The Hair Academy, and the school only accepts full-time students. Tuition is about \$7,400 and includes the kits and book, she said.

The Hair Academy 110 is open Tuesday through Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Cosmetology student Amy Mathews styles the hair of a customer at the Hair Academy 110 on Saturday.

The Hair Academy 110

• All services are performed by students under instructor supervision

- Haircut, shampoo and style \$6
- Specialty styles \$15
- Highlights \$20 to \$27
- Permanent color \$20
- Deep conditioning \$7
- Pedicure \$15
- Manicure \$6

Is a Crosby MBA in your future?

- Collaborate with business partners
- Create career opportunities
- Enter in fall, winter or summer
- Graduate Assistantships available
- All majors welcome

Visiting Truman State
Monday, November 14
Violette Hall Student Center
10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Also in attendance:
MU School of Law and
Truman School of Public Affairs

M Crosby MBA Program
University of Missouri-Columbia

573.882.2750 • mba@missouri.edu • http://mba.missouri.edu



AACSB International Accredited

Long shadows and sun-washed hues of autumn drift past the simple one-room schoolhouse. Within are unique rich-grained woods, decoys, baskets, dried flowers, paintings, heirloom gifts and toys.

CREATIVE WOODS

Now Open 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm*
Saturdays through Christmas

*after hours by appointment

Take Route 11 west to Highway 3, head south approximately 3 miles to Kohlmyre Trail, turn right. It's the first building on the right.

Charles & Sharon Pritchard, Proprietors