



The Carbondale Branch of the
American Association
of University Women

Presents a Poetry Reading by:

SIUC POET AND PROFESSOR
ALLISON JOSEPH

February 13, 2008 - 6:00 PM

SIUC Student Center - Missouri Room

Aubade at the Train Station__

At 4 AM, these station lights glow bright,_
the "City of New Orleans" late again,_
delayed for some freight train derailed tonight._
You're here to see me off, awake to send_
me far away across the land, a trip_
I planned without a notion of how hard_
it would be to part, not to have your lips_
waking me up tomorrow, no reward_
from you to motivate me from my bed._
Around us sleepy passengers look grim,_
arms sagging on their suitcases, their heads_
as bent as wilted stalks, eyes dull, sight dim._
I look at you and hope the train remains
far from this town, still stuck out on the plains.

~Allison Joseph

Allison Joseph is the author of five collections of poetry: *What Keeps Us Here* (Ampersand Press, 1992), *Soul Train* (Carnegie-Mellon University Press, 1997), *In Every Seam* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1997), *Imitation of Life* (Carnegie-Mellon University Press, 2003), and *Worldly Pleasures* (Word Press, 2004). Her poems have appeared in journals and anthologies such as *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Southern Review*, *Giant Steps: The New Generation of African American Writers*, and *The Extraordinary Tide: New Poetry by American Women*. She has received fellowships from the Illinois Arts Council and the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers Conferences.

A faculty member at SIUC since 1994, Allison serves as editor and poetry editor of *Crab Orchard Review*, SIUC's national journal of creative works, and director of the Young Writers Workshop, an annual creative writing workshop held on the Carbondale campus each June for high school-aged writers.