

Department of English, Rhetoric and Writing Reading Series, 2017-2018

Fall 2017:

Wednesday, September 20

The David James Poissant Endowed Creative Prose Reading Series

Jennifer Dubois Fiction Reading

7:30 p.m., College Chapel

Cultural Events Credit Pending

Jennifer Dubois is the recipient of a 2013 Whiting Writer's Award and a 2012 National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 award. Her debut novel, *A Partial History of Lost Causes*, was the winner of the California Book Award for First Fiction and the Northern California Book Award for Fiction, and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Prize for Debut Fiction. Her second novel, *Cartwheel*, was the winner of the Housatonic Book Award for fiction and was a finalist for a New York Public Library Young Lions Award. Jennifer earned a B.A. in political science and philosophy from Tufts University and an M.F.A. in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop before completing a Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University. Her writing has appeared in such publications as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Playboy*, *The Missouri Review*, *Salon*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Narrative*, and *ZYZZYVA*. A native of western Massachusetts, Jennifer currently teaches in the MFA program at Texas State University.

Monday, November 6, 2017

***Inspired Georgia* Reception and Reading**

A Collaboration between the Department of English, Rhetoric and Writing, the Department of Fine Arts, and the Georgia Council for the Arts

5:00 p.m., Moon Gallery

Cultural Events Credit Pending

Inspired Georgia (UGA Press, 2016), edited by Judson Mitcham, Michael David Murphy, and Karen L. Paty, is a unique collection of Georgia's contemporary poets and photographers that engages the history and culture of the state, while serving as a document of some of the best and most powerful pieces penned by Georgia poets and images shot by Georgia photographers in recent years. Representing a wide range of styles, attitudes, and backgrounds, the poets either hail from Georgia or have spent a considerable amount of time in their adopted state. Chosen from previously published collections, representing various stages of the poets' careers, these poems exemplify the great talent, insight, and creativity present in Georgia letters. A geographically diverse representation of Georgia photographers is included, showcasing a wide range of talent well versed in making insightful and intimate images. This event will showcase the original photography included in the collection, and a number of poets from across the state will read their work included in the book. The editors and participating photographers will also be in attendance.

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Ravi Shankar Poetry Reading

Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Circuit

Cultural Events Credit Pending

Ravi Shankar grew up in Virginia, earning a BA from the University of Virginia and an MFA from Columbia University. His collections of poetry include *Instrumentality* (2004), a finalist for the 2005 Connecticut Book Awards; the collaborative chapbook *Wanton Textiles* (2006), with Reb Livingston;

and *Deepening Groove* (2011), winner of the National Poetry Review Prize. With Priya Sarukkai Chabria, he translated *The Autobiography of a Goddess*, a collection of poems of the 9th century Tamil poet/saint Andal. With Tina Chang and Nathalie Handal he co-edited W.W. Norton's anthology *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia, and Beyond* (2008), and with Patricia Smith and Peter Kahn, he edited *The Golden Shovel Anthology: New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks* (2017). He has appeared on NPR, the BBC and on PBS, and has performed his work around the world. Shankar's honors include a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. In 1999, he founded the online arts journal *Drunken Boat*, one of the oldest electronic arts journals on the web. Shankar is a faculty member of the first international MFA program at City University of Hong Kong.

Chelsea Rathburn and James Davis May Poetry Reading

Sponsored by the Georgia Poets Initiative/Georgia Poetry Circuit
Thursday, November 16, 2017

Chelsea Rathburn's first full-length collection, *The Shifting Line*, won the 2005 Richard Wilbur Award and was published by the University of Evansville Press. Her second collection, *A Raft of Grief*, was published by Autumn House Press in the spring of 2013. Rathburn's poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *the New Republic*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *The Threepenny Review* and *Ploughshares*, among other journals and anthologies. In 2009, she received a poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

James Davis May's first book of poetry, *Unquiet Things*, published by Louisiana State University Press in 2016, was Finalist for the Georgia Author of the Year Award in Poetry. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Five Points*, *The Missouri Review*, *New England Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *The New Republic*, *Pleiades*, *The Southern Review* and elsewhere. Recipient of the Poetry Society of America's Cecil Hemley Memorial Award in 2016, he has received scholarships from The Sewanee Writers' Conference, Inprint, and the Krakow Poetry Seminar. Rathburn and Davis are married and both are assistant professors of English and creative writing at Young Harris College, where Rathburn also directs the creative writing program.

Spring 2018:

Friday, Feb. 9, 2018

Erica Dawson Poetry Reading

Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Circuit
7:30 p.m., College Chapel
CE Credit Pending

Erica Dawson is the author of two collections of poetry: *The Small Blades Hurt* (Measure Press, 2014) and *Big-Eyed Afraid* (Waywiser Press, 2007). Her poems have appeared in *Barrow Street*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Blackbird*, *Literary Imagination*, *Unsplendid*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and other journals. Her poems have been featured in several anthologies, including *Best American Poetry 2008, 2012, and 2015*, *American Society: What Poets See*; *Living in Storms: Contemporary Poetry and the Moods of Manic-Depression*; and *The Swallow Anthology of New American Poets*. She writes a bi-weekly column, *Dark and Sinful*, for *Creative Loafing Tampa*. Born and raised in Maryland, Dawson holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, an MFA from Ohio State University, and a PhD from University of Cincinnati. She is Director of The University of Tampa's Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing, and, at UT, an associate professor of English and Writing.

March, TBA: Fiction Reading (multiple local readers)

Thursday, March 29, 2018

Aimee Nezhukumatathil Poetry Reading

Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Circuit

7:30 p.m., College Chapel

CE Credit Pending

Aimee Nezhukumatathil, born in Chicago to a Filipina mother and South Indian father, is the author of *Miracle Fruit* (2003), winner of the *ForeWord Magazine* Poetry Book of the Year and the Global Filipino Literary Award; *At the Drive-In Volcano* (2007), winner of the Balcones Prize; *Lucky Fish* (2011); and *Oceanic* (forthcoming from Copper Canyon in 2018). A book of illustrated nature essays, *World of Wonder*, is also forthcoming in 2018. With Ross Gay, she cowrote the chapbook of epistolary nature poems, *Lace and Pyrite* (2014). Nezhukumatathil's work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *FIELD*, and *American Poetry Review*. She is poetry editor of *Orion* magazine. Her honors and awards include a Pushcart Prize, a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Angoff Award, the Boatwright Prize, the Richard Hugo Prize, and fellowships to the MacDowell Colony. She was the 2016-17 Grisham writer-in-residence at the University of Mississippi, where she is currently professor of English in the MFA program.

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Gabriel Fried Poetry Reading

7:30 p.m., College Chapel

CE Credit Pending

Gabriel Fried is the author of two books of poetry, *The Children Are Reading* (Four Way Books, 2017), and *Making the New Lamb Take* (Sarabande, 2007), winner of the Kathryn A. Morton Prize and named a top poetry collection of 2007 by *Foreword Reviews* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. His poems have appeared widely in magazines and journals, among them *American Poetry Review*, *The American Scholar*, *Kenyon Review*, *Paris Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Yale Review*. He is also the editor of an anthology, *Heart of the Order: Baseball Poems*. Longtime poetry editor of Persea Books, he teaches poetry and publishing in the graduate creative writing program at the University of Missouri and Sierra Nevada College.

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Senior Reading and Reception

7:30 p.m., Ford Living Room

Annual reading by Berry students graduating in creative writing.