

Department of English, Rhetoric and Writing Reading Series, 2018-2019

Fall 2018:

Thursday, October 4

The David James Poissant Endowed Creative Prose Reading Series

Alyssa Hollingsworth

7:30 PM, College Chapel

Cultural Events Credit

Alyssa Hollingsworth was born in small-town Milton, Florida, but life as a roving military kid soon mellowed her (unintelligibly strong) Southern accent. Wanderlust is in her blood, and she's always waiting for the wind to change. Stories remain her constant. Alyssa received her BA in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing from Berry College and her MA with honors in Writing for Young People at Bath Spa University. In 2013, she won a prize from the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity for her creative non-fiction essay, *Naan in the Afghan Village*. She is represented by Amber Caraveo at Skylark Literary. Her debut *The Eleventh Trade* will launch September 18, 2018 with Macmillan: Roaring Brook Press (U.S.) and Piccadilly Press (U.K.).

Thursday, November 9

Elena Karina Byrne Poetry Reading

Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Circuit

4:00 PM, the College Chapel

Cultural Events Credit

Elena Karina Byrne, author of three books of poetry, most recently *Squander*, is a freelance professor, editor, the Poetry Consultant / Moderator for The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Literary Programs Director for The Ruskin Art Club, and one of the final judges for the Kate/Kingsley Tufts Prizes in poetry. Her publications include the *Pushcart Prize XXXIII*, *Best American Poetry*, *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Slate*, *Poetry International*, *OmniVerse*, *The Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, and *BOMB*. Elena just completed *Voyeur Hour: Meditations on Poetry, Art & Desire*. Her website is www.elenakarinarbyrne.com

Thursday, February 7

Juliana Gray Poetry Reading

Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Circuit

7:30 PM, the College Chapel

Cultural Events Credit

Juliana Gray is the author of three poetry collections, *Honeymoon Palsy* (Measure Press 2017), *Roleplay* (Dream Horse Press 2012, winner of the 2010 Orphic Prize), and *The Man Under My Skin* (River City Publishing 2005), as well as the chapbook *Anne Boleyn's Sleeve* (Winged City Chapbook Press 2013). Her poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *32 Poems*, and other journals, and her humor writing has appeared in *McSweeney's Internet Tendency* and elsewhere. An Alabama native, she lives in western New York and teaches at Alfred University.

Thursday, February 28

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Ian Stansel Poetry Reading

7:30 PM, the College Chapel

Ian Stansel is the author of the novel *The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017) and the short story collection *Everybody's Irish* (Five Chapters, 2013), a finalist for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in numerous venues such as *Ploughshares*, *Salon*, *Joyland*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Poets & Writers*, and elsewhere. He holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a PhD from the University of Houston. He currently teaches creative writing at the University of Louisville.

Thursday, April 11

Adrian Matejka Poetry Reading

Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Circuit

7:30 PM, the College Chapel

Cultural Events Credit

Adrian Matejka was born in Nuremberg, Germany and grew up in California and Indiana. He is a graduate of Indiana University and the MFA program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He is the author of *The Devil's Garden* (Alice James Books, 2003) which won the New York / New England Award and *Mixology* (Penguin, 2009), a winner of the 2008 National Poetry Series. *Mixology* was also a finalist for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature. His third collection, *The Big Smoke* (Penguin, 2013), focuses on Jack Johnson, the first African American heavyweight champion of the world. *The Big Smoke* was awarded the 2014 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was also a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award, 2014 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and 2014 Pulitzer Prize in poetry. His most recent book, *Map to the Stars*, was published by Penguin in 2017. Among Matejka's other honors are the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award, the Julia Peterkin Award, a Pushcart Prize, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, and a Simon Fellowship from United States Artists. He teaches in the MFA program at Indiana University in Bloomington and is the Poet Laureate of Indiana.

Wednesday, April 24

Creative Writing Seniors Reading

7:00 PM, Ford Living Room