



2019-2020 Readings, Lectures, and Other Events

All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

FALL 2019

Thursday-Friday, September 12-13, 2019: Matthew Burnside and Jessie van Eerden

Reading: Thursday, September 12, 2019 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Q & A: Friday, September 13, 2019 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Lewis Reading Room, Library

Matthew Burnside is the author of *Postludes* (2018), a Small Press Distribution Handpicked selection, and *Rules to Win the Game* (2018). His work has appeared in *Best American Experimental Writing*, *Diagram*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Hobart*, *Pear Noir!*, and others. He is cofounder of Cloud Rodeo and has been a reader for *Pank*, *The Iowa Review*, and NPR's *3-Minute Fiction*. He has served as a regular contributor to the Ploughshares blog and as interviews editor for BOAAT Press. Burnside is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and is a visiting assistant professor in English and creative writing at Hollins during the 2019-2020 academic year.

A West Virginia native, Jessie van Eerden is the author of the novel *Glorybound*, winner of *ForeWord Reviews'* 2012 Editor's Choice Fiction Prize; the novel, *My Radio Radio* (2016); and a collection of portrait essays, *The Long Weeping* (2017), winner of the 20th annual Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Award in the essay category. Her work has been featured in *The Oxford American*, *River Teeth*, *Image*, *Gulf Coast*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *Ruminate*, and other publications. Her prose has been selected for inclusion in *Eyes Glowing at the Edge of the Woods: Fiction and Poetry from West Virginia*; *Walk Till the Dogs Get Mean*; *Red Holler*; *Dreams and Inward Journeys: A Rhetoric and Reader for Writers*, Seventh Edition; *Jesus Girls: True Tales of Growing Up Female and Evangelical*; and *Best American Spiritual Writing*. Van Eerden holds an M.F.A. in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa and is an associate professor of creative writing at Hollins.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speakers Fund.

Monday-Tuesday, September 23-24, 2019: Lisa Dillman and Yuri Herrera

Book Discussion – for Hollins students: discussing *Signs Preceding the End of the World*

Monday, September 23, 2019 ☞ 3:30 pm ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

The book discussion, for Hollins students, is limited to 20 people. Contact Alison Ridley (aridley@hollins.edu) to reserve your spot and receive a copy of the book.

Reading: Monday, September 23, 2019 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Visual Arts Center auditorium

Q & A with Lisa Dillman: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Library

Lisa Dillman, translator of more than 20 novels, translates from Spanish and Catalan and teaches in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Emory University. Her translation of Herrera's *Signs Preceding the End of the World* won the 2016 Best Translated Book Award. Other recent translations include *Such Small Hands*, by Andrés Barba; *Mourning*, by Eduardo Halfon; and *Salting the Wound*, by Víctor del Árbol. She lives in Georgia.

Born in Mexico, Yuri Herrera received his Ph.D. in Hispanic language and literature from the University of California, Berkeley. His English-language debut novel, *Signs Preceding the End of the World* (*Señales que precederán al fin del mundo*), was featured in many Best-of-Year lists, including *The Guardian's* Best Fiction and NBC News' Ten Great Latino Books. *Publishers Weekly* called it "a haunting book that delivers a strange, arresting experience." His latest novel, *The Transmigration of Bodies* (*La transmigración de los cuerpos*) (2016), prompted *Pop Matters* to proclaim, "Herrera is rapidly making a name for himself as one of the most exciting authors publishing in America today." He teaches at Tulane University.

Sponsored by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Series, departments of English & Creative Writing and Modern Languages, and offices of Inclusivity and Diversity and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Thursday, October 3, 2019: Linda Gregerson

Lecture: Thursday, October 3, 2019 ☞ 5:00 pm ☞ Talmadge Recital Hall, Bradley Building

Title: "Can We Talk to One Another? Poetry in an Era of Social Division"

Q & A: Friday, October 4, 2019 ☞ 10:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

A Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Linda Gregerson is the Caroline Walker Bynum Distinguished University Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan. She is the author of six books of poetry and two books of criticism and the coeditor of one collection of scholarly essays. Gregerson's poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Poetry*, *Granta*, *The Paris Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Best American Poetry*, and many other journals and anthologies. Among her honors and awards are grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim, Rockefeller, Mellon, and Bogliasco Foundations; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Institute for Advanced Study; the Poetry Society of America; and the National Humanities Center. In 2014, Gregerson was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Sponsored by the Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program and the department of English & Creative Writing.

Thursday, October 10, 2019: Cartooning Institute featuring KC Councilor and Ebony Flowers

Presentation: Thursday, October 10, 2019 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Visual Arts Center auditorium

KC Councilor is the author of *Between You and Me: Transitional Comics*, published by Drawbridge Press, and the comics “Dear Doctor I” and “Dear Doctor II,” which both appeared in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. He draws comics, teaches classes and workshops, and is an assistant professor at Southern Connecticut State University. He earned his Ph.D. in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Ebony Flowers is a cartoonist and ethnographer specializing in qualitative research and evaluation, picture-based methods, curriculum studies, and STEAM education. She began drawing comics while earning her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Her debut book, *Hot Comb* (2019), offers a poignant glimpse into black women’s lives and coming-of-age stories. *Publishers Weekly* calls it “rich with both sorrow and celebration as it champions black womanhood and family ties...” Her work appears in *Drawing Power: Women’s Stories of Sexual Violence, Harassment, and Survival*, edited by Diane Noomin. In 2017, she received a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speakers Fund and the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Thursday-Friday, November 7-8, 2019: Balli Kaur Jaswal

Reading: Thursday, November 7, 2019 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Q & A: Friday, November 8, 2019 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

A Hollins alumna, Balli Kaur Jaswal is the author of *Inheritance*, which won the *Sydney Morning Herald’s* Best Young Australian Novelist Award in 2014 and was adapted into a film at the Singapore International Festival of the Arts in 2017. Her second novel, *Sugarbread*, was a finalist for the 2015 inaugural Epigram Books Fiction Prize and the 2018 Singapore Literature Prize. *Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows*, her third novel, was released internationally to critical acclaim in 2017. Translation rights to this novel have been sold in France, Spain, Italy, Israel, Poland, Germany, Sweden, Greece, China, Brazil, and Estonia. Film rights have been acquired by Ridley Scott’s production company, Scott Free Productions, and Film Four in the U.K. *Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows* was also picked by Reese Witherspoon’s book club and The Girly Book Club in 2018. Her latest novel is *The Unlikely Adventures of the Shergill Sisters*.

Funding provided by the Beanstalk Fund.

Thursday-Friday, November 14-15, 2019: Amy Hempel

Reading: Thursday, November 14, 2019 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Q & A: Friday, November 15, 2019 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Amy Hempel is a short story writer whose books include *Sing to It* (2019), *The Dog of the Marriage* (2008), and *Tumble Home* (1997). In 2006, her *Collected Stories* won the Ambassador Award for Best Fiction of the Year, was named one of *The New York Times'* Ten Best Books of the Year, was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, and received an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her stories have appeared in *Harper's*, *Tin House*, *Subtropics*, *Vanity Fair*, and elsewhere, and have been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories*. Her nonfiction has appeared in *Esquire*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *O, the Oprah Magazine*, *Interview*, and *Bomb*. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the United States Artists Foundation and was given the PEN/Malamud Award for the Short Story and the REA Award in 2008 and 2009. She has taught fiction writing at Harvard, Bennington, Columbia, Duke, Princeton, the University of Florida, and New York University and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speakers Fund.

Thursday, December 5, 2019: Writers' Harvest Reading ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Visual Arts Center Auditorium

Hollins faculty writers read from their work to raise money for the hungry.

100% of the proceeds will be donated directly to Feeding America Southwest Virginia.

Tickets will be available at the door. If you wish to support this worthy project even if you can't attend, please contact Lisa Radcliff, administrative coordinator (phone: 540-362-6317; email: english@hollins.edu). General admission: \$10; students: \$5 or a non-perishable food item. Come and hear exciting new work by our Hollins writers and help a very good cause at the same time.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Series.

SPRING 2020

Thursday-Friday, February 13-14, 2020: Mercer University Press Authors and Director

Reading by Cathryn Hankla and Thorpe Moeckel:

Thursday, February 13, 2020 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Publishing Panel and Q & A: Director, Marc A. Jolley, and Authors, Cathryn Hankla & Thorpe Moeckel

Friday, February 14, 2020 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Gordh Room, duPont Chapel

Cathryn Hankla's 14 books include *Lost Places: On Losing and Finding Home*, *Galaxies*, *Great Bear*, *Fortune Teller*, *Miracle Fish: stories*, *Last Exposures: a sequence of poems*, and *Texas School Book Depository: prose poems*. She is Professor and Chair of English & Creative Writing at Hollins and served as the inaugural director of the Jackson Center for Creative Writing. Her poetry, fiction, and nonfiction appears regularly in literary journals and anthologies. She has presented her work at colleges and universities, conferences, bookstores, book clubs, and libraries across the U.S. and abroad in the U.K., Czech Republic, France, southern Spain, and Malta. Her work has been honored by a PEN Syndicated Fiction Prize, the James Boatwright III Prize for Poetry, and a New York Book Festival award, among others. She serves as Poetry Editor for *The Hollins Critic* and is also a visual artist.

Marc A. Jolley is the director of Mercer University Press and has been in publishing for 27 years (24 with Mercer). During his time at Mercer, the press has published roughly 800 books in the areas of philosophy, religion, Southern studies, literary fiction, poetry, and history. He is also a senior lecturer at Mercer University, where he teaches philosophy, religion, and Great Books. Jolley's areas of interest are Greek philosophy (especially ethics) and the philosophy of religion. With a background in biblical studies, he prefers to read the New Testament in the context of the philosophical and moral texts of the Greco-Roman world. He teaches philosophy of religion, ethics, Hellenistic philosophy, and, on occasion, Socrates and Jesus. He is an avid reader of Augustine, Rousseau, and Kierkegaard. His favorite writers are Jane Austen and Henry David Thoreau.

Thorpe Moeckel's most recent works are *Down by the Eno*, *Down by the Haw: A Wonder Almanac* (nonfiction); *Watershed Days: Adventures (A Little Thorny & Familiar) in the Home Range* (nonfiction); and a trilogy of long poems, *Arcadia Road*. He is author of three prior books of poetry: *Odd Botany*, *Making a Map of the River*, and *Venison*. Chapbooks include *Meltlines*, *The Guessing Land*, and *Off Owl's Head*. Recently he coedited the Virginia edition of *Best Creative Nonfiction of the South*. Moeckel's writings have appeared widely in journals, magazines, and anthologies. Awards include Jacob Javits Fellowship, the Henry Hoyns Fellowship, the George Garrett Award from The Fellowship of Southern Writers, the Kenan Visiting Writership at UNC-Chapel Hill, a Nonfiction Promise Award from the Sustainable Arts Foundation, and a National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship. He teaches in the M.F.A. Program at Hollins, where he has served as director of the Jackson Center for Creative Writing.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Series.

Thursday-Friday, February 27-28, 2020: Marilyn Chin

Reading: Thursday, February 27, 2020 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Q & A: Friday, February 28, 2020 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Marilyn Chin is the author of five collections of poetry, including most recently *A Portrait of the Self as Nation: New and Selected Poems* and *Hard Love Province*, which won the 2015 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. She is also the author of a novel, *Revenge of the Mooncake Vixen*. She has won numerous awards for her poetry, including a 2019 Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Radcliffe Institute Fellowship at Harvard, the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship at Bellagio, two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the Stegner Fellowship, the PEN/Josephine Miles Award, five Pushcart Prizes, and a Fulbright Fellowship to Taiwan. Her work has been featured in a variety of anthologies, including *The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry*, *The Norton Introduction to Poetry*, *The Oxford Anthology of Modern American Poetry*, *Unsettling America*, *The Open Boat*, and *The Best American Poetry of 1996*.

Funding provided by the Jackson Poetry Endowment.

Thursday-Friday, March 12-13, 2020: Heath Hardage Lee

Reading: Thursday, March 12, 2020 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Q & A: Friday, March 13, 2020 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Heath Hardage Lee's prize-winning book, *Winnie Davis: Daughter of the Lost Cause*, was published in 2014. Her second book is a narrative nonfiction work entitled *The League of Wives: The Untold Story of the Women Who Took on the U.S. Government to Bring Their Husbands Home from Vietnam*. Reese Witherspoon's film production company, Hello Sunshine, and Fox 2000 have optioned it for a feature film. Lee comes from a museum education and curatorial background, and she has worked at history museums across the country. She served as the 2017 Robert J. Dole Curatorial Fellow; her exhibition entitled *The League of Wives: Vietnam POW MIA Advocates & Allies* premiered at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics in 2017 and will travel to museums throughout the U.S., including the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum through 2020.

Funding provided by the Beanstalk Fund.

Thursday, March 19, 2020: Farah Jasmine Griffin

Lecture: 7:30 pm ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Title: "Radical Love in James Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk*"

Farah Jasmine Griffin is the author of *Who Set You Flowin': The African American Migration Narrative*; *If You Can't Be Free, Be a Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday*; and *Clawing at the Limits of Cool: Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and the Greatest Jazz Collaboration Ever*. She is the editor of *Beloved Sisters and Loving Friends: Letters from Addie Brown and Rebecca Primus*; coeditor, with Cheryl Fish, of *Stranger in the Village: Two Centuries of African American Travel Writing*; and coeditor, with Brent Edwards and Robert O'Meally, of *Uptown Conversations: The New Jazz Studies*. Her major fields of interest are American and African American literature, music, history, and politics. The recipient of numerous honors and awards for her teaching and scholarship, she is the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies at Columbia University.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Series.

Saturday, April 4, 2020: Literary Festival

All readings and the poetry panel will be held in the Wetherill Visual Arts Center Auditorium (Room 200).

- 9:30 – check-in and refreshments, 2nd floor lobby
- 10:30 – reading by Patricia Spears Jones
- 11:30 – poetry panel discussing student-submitted work
- 12:45 – luncheon, Moody Dining Hall (pay at the door)
- 2:00 – reading by Inara Verzemnieks
- 3:15 – reading by ZZ Packer
- 4:00 – reception, 2nd floor lobby

ZZ Packer's collection of stories, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*, was a National Book Award 5 under 35 winner and was a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2004. She is at work on a novel about the Reconstruction and Buffalo Soldiers entitled *The Thousands*, an excerpt of which appeared in *The New Yorker's* decennial 20 Under 40 Fiction Issue. Her stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Story*, *Ploughshares*, *Granta*, *Zoetrope All-Story*, *Best American Short Stories 2000*, *Best American Short Stories 2003*, and *100 Years of The Best American Short Stories*. Her nonfiction has been published in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, *The Believer*, *The American Prospect*, *The Oxford American*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Newsweek Digital Online*, and *The New Yorker Online*.

Patricia Spears Jones is author of the poetry collections *Painkiller*, *Femme du Monde*, *The Weather That Kills*, and *A Lucent Fire: New and Selected Poems*, which features her 2017 Pushcart Prize-winning poem, "Etta James at the Audubon Ballroom." In 2018, her poem, "Seraphim," was included in *The New Yorker's* Year in Poems. She is the 11th winner of the Jackson Poetry Prize, one of the most prestigious awards for American poets. She was a finalist for the William Carlos Williams Prize from the Poetry Society of America and the Paterson Prize from Passaic County Community College. She is a recipient of grants and awards from the NEA, NYFA, and a Barbara Deming Memorial Fund Award in 2015. *Essence.com* named her one of its 40 Poets They Love in 2010. Her work is widely anthologized.

Inara Verzemnieks is the author of the memoir, *Among the Living and the Dead: A Tale of Exile and Homecoming on the War Roads of Europe*. The book was named one of *The Times'* (of London) best history books of 2018, was named a *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice, and was awarded the Anšlavs Eglitis and Veronika Janelsina Literary Prize. The memoir retraces the steps of her grandmother, a war refugee, and her great-aunt, a Siberian exile, in the wake of World War II, and recounts Verzemnieks' own journey back to the remote Latvian village where her family broke apart. A Pushcart Prize winner and the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Writer's Award, as well as a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing, she previously worked as a newspaper journalist for 13 years. Her essays and journalism have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Tin House*, *The Atlantic*, *The Iowa Review*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. She is a graduate of Iowa's Nonfiction Writing Program.

Funding provided by the John Alexander and Mary Josephine Haynes Allen Literary Endowment, the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Series, the Benedict Fiction Fund, and the Louis D. Rubin Jr. Writer-in-Residence Fund.

Thursday-Friday, April 23-24 2020: Layli Long Soldier

Reading: Thursday, April 23, 2020 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Q & A: Friday, April 24, 2020 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

A resident of New Mexico, Layli Long Soldier is the author of *WHEREAS*, published by Graywolf Press, winner of the 2018 PEN/Jean Stein Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award and finalist for the National Book Award in poetry. She has received a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a National Artist Fellowship from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, and a Whiting Writers' Award. She has served as a contributing editor of *Drunken Boat* and poetry editor of *Kore Press*. Her poems have appeared in *The American Poet*, *The American Reader*, *The Kenyon Review Online*, and other publications. Long Soldier received a B.F.A. from the Institute of American Indian Arts and an M.F.A. from Bard College.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Series.

Thursday, May 7, 2020: Farewell reading by seniors and graduating M.F.A. students

"The Last Virginia Reel" ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

An open reading by Hollins seniors and graduating Creative Writing M.F.A. students. One last chance to hear our favorite student writers read before they depart.

Note to readers: readings should be brief (i.e., 1-2 pages of poetry or 1-2 pages of prose). A sign-up sheet for participants will be at the door.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Series.