

Spring 2022 Readings and Lectures

Events may or may not be open to the public in person, depending on COVID guidelines at the time of the event. If they are not open to the public in person, we hope you'll join us through the below livestream links.

Thursday-Friday, February 10-11, 2022: Yiyun Li

Reading: Thursday, February 10, 2022 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Livestream:

<https://hollins.zoom.us/j/84491896124?pwd=WkF1VkdRc0JCUVJFa09WY0pJN1paUT09>

Passcode: 245726

Q & A: Friday, February 11, 2022 ☞ 11:00 am ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Yiyun Li is the author of six works of fiction—*Must I Go*; *Where Reasons End*; *Kinder Than Solitude*; *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*; *The Vagrants*; and *Gold Boy, Emerald Girl*—and the memoir, *Dear Friend, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life*. She is the recipient of many notable literary awards, including a PEN/Hemingway Award, a PEN/Jean Stein Book Award, a MacArthur Foundation fellowship, and a Windham-Campbell Prize, and she was featured in *The New Yorker's* 20 Under 40 fiction issue. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *A Public Space*, *The Best American Short Stories*, and *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, among other publications. She teaches at Princeton University.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.

Thursday-Friday, February 24-25, 2022: Nazera Sadiq Wright

Lecture: Thursday, February 24, 2022 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Lecture title: "DIGITAL GI(RL)S: Mapping Black Girlhood in the Nineteenth Century"

Livestream:

<https://hollins.zoom.us/j/85338212424?pwd=LzI2Q01ueFR1Q3VHMk40b1FhSmgwQT09>

Passcode: 111008

Nazera Sadiq Wright is an associate professor of English at the University of Kentucky. Her book, *Black Girlhood in the Nineteenth Century* (2016), won the 2018 Children's Literature Association's Honor Book Award for Outstanding Book of Literary Criticism. Her research is supported by the Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. During 2017–18, she was in residence at the Library Company of Philadelphia as a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellow and an Andrew W. Mellon Program in African American History Fellow to advance her second book on the influence of libraries on the literary careers of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century African American women writers.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.

Thursday-Friday, March 10-11, 2022: Forrest Gander

Reading: Thursday, March 10, 2022 🌀 7:30 pm 🌀 Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library
Livestream:

<https://hollins.zoom.us/j/85193788508?pwd=OURnb3pxcUIKQytTNDV4b0Q1TUo4Zz09>

Passcode: 031890

Q & A: Friday, March 11, 2022 🌀 11:00 am 🌀 Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Forrest Gander's poetry collection, *Be With*, was awarded the 2019 Pulitzer Prize. Another book, *Core Samples from the World*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. He is the author of numerous other books of poetry, including *Redstart: An Ecological Poetics* and *Science & Steepleflower*. Gander also writes novels (*As a Friend*, *The Trace*), essays (*A Faithful Existence*), and translates. Gander has collaborated frequently with other artists, including photographers Sally Mann, Graciela Iturbide, Raymond Weeks, and Lucas Foglia; glass artist Michael Rogers; ceramic artists Rich Hirsch and Ashwini Bhat; artists Ann Hamilton, Tjibbe Hooghiemstra; dancers Eiko & Koma; and musicians Vic Chesnutt and Brady Earnhart.

Funding provided by the Jackson Poetry Fund.

Saturday, April 2, 2022: Literary Festival

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

9:45 – refreshments, 2nd floor lobby

10:30 – reading by Akhil Sharma

11:30 – poetry panel discussing student-submitted work

12:45 – luncheon, Moody Dining Hall (pay at the door)

2:00 – reading by Jenny Bouilly

3:15 – reading by A. Van Jordan

4:00 – reception, 2nd floor lobby

Livestream of readings:

<https://hollins.zoom.us/j/86824116882?pwd=bi9iTVlNVmlKRXBtSHJ2RjFQUHJDUT09>

Passcode: 736983

Jenny Bouilly is the author of *Betwixt-and-Between: Essays on the Writing Life*. Her previous books of creative nonfiction include *not merely because of the unknown that was stalking toward them*; *The Book of Beginnings and Endings: Essays*; *[one love affair]**; *of the mismatched teacups, of the single-serving spoon: a book of failures*; and *The Body: An Essay*. She attended Hollins University, where she double majored in English and philosophy and then went on to earn an M.A. in English criticism and writing. Her other degrees include an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. in English from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She currently teaches creative writing at Bennington College and the Bennington Writing Seminars, and in 2020 she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for her creative nonfiction.

A. Van Jordan is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *The Cineaste*, which Terrance Hayes described as “dazzling.” His other books include *Quantum Lyrics*; *M-A-C-N-O-L-I-A*, which was listed as one the Best Books of 2005 by *The London Times*; and *Rise*, which won the PEN/Oakland Josephine Miles Award. His poetry is influenced by music, film, race, history, and pop culture. Jordan has been awarded a Whiting Writers Award, an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, and a Pushcart Prize. He is also a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a United States Artists Fellowship, and a Lannan Literary Award in Poetry. He currently serves as the Robert Hayden Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan.

Akhil Sharma was born in Delhi, India, in 1971 and immigrated to the United States in 1979. His most recent novel, *Family Life*, won the 2015 Folio Prize for Fiction. His first novel, *An Obedient Father*, set in Delhi during the period of Rajeev Gandhi’s assassination, won the PEN/Hemingway prize. He is also an award-winning short story writer whose work has appeared in the *New Yorker* and the *Atlantic*, among others. Sharma’s stories have been anthologized multiple times in *Best American Short Stories* and in *The O. Henry Award Winners* and have been collected in the critically acclaimed *A Life of Adventure and Delights*. He was included in Granta’s 2007 list of Best Young American novelists. Sharma is a Professor of Practice in the Duke University English Department, and he is the Spring 2022 Louis D. Rubin Writer-in-Residence at Hollins.

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

Thursday, April 21, 2022: Anna Caritj and Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry

Q & A: 4:30 pm ☞ Janney Lounge, Moody Center

Reading: 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Livestream:

<https://hollins.zoom.us/j/87333108748?pwd=REl2OWlRSnZzK1dDdE5yUGZkU0RQUT09>

Passcode: 333043

Anna Caritj holds a B.A. from the University of Virginia, where she studied Spanish and English literature, and an M.F.A. in creative writing from Hollins University. She received the Wagenheim Fiction Prize in 2012 and was a winner of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs' 2016 Intro Journals Project. Her debut novel, *Leda and the Swan*, was published in May 2021 by Riverhead Books. *TIME* called the collegiate coming-of-age tale mixed with classic suspense an “affecting narrative about consent, power and loneliness”

Kristina Gorcheva-Newberry earned an M.F.A. in creative writing from Hollins University. Her fiction was selected as a finalist for multiple awards, including eight Pushcart nominations, the 2016 Dundee International Book Prize, the 2019 Prairie Schooner Book Prize, and the 2020 Indiana Review Fiction Prize. Gorcheva-Newberry is the winner of the 2013 Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction and the 2015 Tennessee Williams scholarship from the Sewanee Writers' Conference. Her first collection of stories, *What Isn't Remembered*, won the 2020 Raz/Shumaker Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction. Her debut novel is *The Orchard*.

Funding provided by the Benedict Fiction Fund and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.

Thursday, May 5, 2022: Farewell reading by seniors and graduating M.F.A. students

“The Last Twist” ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library

Livestream:

<https://hollins.zoom.us/j/86204340581?pwd=dHNTYXhZMDQ2L1NtY09hRlVMWUhiQT09>

Passcode: 628838

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). Readers will sign up to read at the event.

Funding provided by the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund.