

Fall 2025 Readings and Lectures

Matthew Burnside & Jessie van Eerden

Reading: Thursday, September 11, 2025 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Matthew Burnside is the author of *Prospectus of Ambient Wonders* forthcoming from kith books. He is also the author multiple full-length books and several chapbooks, most recently *Centrifugal: Unstories*, a short story collection, and the poetry collection *Skull Kingdoms: An Imaginary Omnibus*. His work has appeared in *Best American Experimental Writing*, *Los Angeles Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Passages North*, *DIAGRAM*, *PANK*, *Post Road*, and others. He is not permitted to have an indoor cat where he currently lives so he has many stray cat friends.

Jessie van Eerden is the author of two essay collections, *Yoke & Feather* (new from Dzanc Books in November 2024) and *The Long Weeping*, and three novels: *Glorybound*, *My Radio Radio*, and *Call It Horses* which won the 2019 Dzanc Books Prize for Fiction. Her work has appeared in *Best American Spiritual Writing*, *Oxford American*, *AGNI*, *Image*, *New England Review*, and other magazines and anthologies. She has been awarded the Thomas and Lillie D. Chaffin Award, the Michael Steinberg Memorial Essay Prize, the Gulf Coast Prize in Nonfiction, the Milton Fellowship, and a Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Fellowship. Van Eerden holds an MFA in nonfiction from the University of Iowa and has taught for over twenty years in college classrooms and adult literacy programs.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing

Jaquira Díaz

Reading: Thursday, September 25, 2025 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Visual Arts Center Auditorium

Jaquira Díaz was born in Puerto Rico, she was raised between Humacao, Fajardo, and Miami Beach. She is the author of the forthcoming novel *This Is the Only Kingdom* and *Ordinary Girls: A Memoir*, winner of a Whiting Award and a Florida Book Awards Gold Medal, and finalist for a Lambda Literary Award and the B&N Discover Prize. *Ordinary Girls* was optioned for television and is currently in development. In 2022, she held the Mina Hohenberg Darden Chair in Creative Writing at Old Dominion University's MFA program and a Pabst Endowed Chair for Master Writers at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. She lives in New York and teaches at Columbia University.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund

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Mary Favret

Reading: Thursday, October 9, 2025 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Mary Favret is Professor of English at John Hopkins University. Professor Favret has been teaching literature for over 30 years to undergraduate, graduate and continuing education students. Her research often considers how experiences that seem distant or beyond our grasp nevertheless penetrate our everyday life and shape our felt reality. A scholar of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, she has studied how the disruptions of political revolution inflect the exchange of private letters (*Romantic Correspondence: Women, Politics and the Fiction of Letters*) and distant warfare filters into the rhythms of home (*War at a Distance: Romanticism and the Making of Modern Wartime*). This work is inter-disciplinary, drawing on literature, feminist and political theory, history and visual culture. She has written extensively on Jane Austen's fiction, its reception history and translation into film and TV. Currently she is delving into an untold story within the history of reading: the circumstances that make reading hard, painful or nearly impossible.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing, the Department of Modern Languages, the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund, and Phi Beta Kappa

Heather Christle

Reading: Thursday, October 30, 2025 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Heather Christle is the author of *In the Rhododendrons: A Memoir with Appearances by Virginia Woolf* (Algonquin) and *The Crying Book* (Catapult), a *New York Times* Editor's Choice, Indie Next selection, and national bestseller that was translated into eight languages, awarded the Georgia Book Award for memoir, and adapted for radio by the BBC. An Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University, Christle is also the author of four poetry collections including *The Trees The Trees*, which won the Believer Book Award and was adapted into a ballet by the Pacific Northwest Ballet. Her writing has been published in *The Believer*, *Elle*, *Granta*, *London Review of Books*, and *The New Yorker*, and she recently received a George A. and Eliza Gardner Howard Foundation Fellowship in nonfiction.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund

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Crystal Hana Kim

Reading: Thursday, November 13, 2025 ~ 7:30 pm ~ Hollins Room, Library

“Translation vs. Transliteration vs. Multilingual Texts” Workshop

Friday, November 14, 2025 ~ 10:00 am -12:00 pm ~ CLE Classroom, Library

Crystal Hana Kim is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *The Stone Home* (2024), a finalist for the Maya Angelou Book Prize and longlisted for the Joyce Carol Oates Award, and *If You Leave Me* (2018), which was named a best book of 2018 by over a dozen publications. Kim is the recipient of the 2022 National Book Foundation’s 5 Under 35 Award and the winner of a 2017 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her family.

Sponsored by the Beanstalk Fund, a collaboration between Wyndham Robertson Library and the Department of English and Creative Writing

Writers’ Harvest Reading

Thursday, December 4, 2025 ~ 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 Southwest Virginia. Come hear exciting new work by our Hollins writers and help a very good cause at the same time!

Students: \$5 or a nonperishable food item; general admission: \$10

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing

Spring 2026 Readings and Lectures

Remica Bingham-Risher

Reading: Thursday, February 12, 2026 ~ 7:30 pm ~ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Remica Bingham-Risher, a native of Phoenix, Arizona, is an alumna of Old Dominion University and Bennington College. She is a Cave Canem fellow and Affrilachian Poet. Among other journals, her work has been published in the *New York Times*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, *New Letters*, *Callaloo* and *Essence*. She is the author of *Conversion* (Lotus, 2006) winner of the Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award, *What We Ask of Flesh* (Etruscan, 2013) shortlisted for the Hurston/Wright Award, and *Starlight & Error* (Diode, 2017) winner of the Diode Editions Book Award. Her first book of prose, *Soul Culture: Black Poets, Books and Questions that Grew Me Up*, was published by Beacon Press in 2022. Her book of poems along with family and historical photographs, *Room Swept Home*, published by Wesleyan in February 2024, won the Los Angeles Book Prize. She is currently the Director of Quality Enhancement Plan Initiatives at Old Dominion University and resides in Norfolk, VA with her husband and children.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing and the Jackson Poetry Fund

drea brown

Reading: Thursday, February 26, 2026 ~ 7:30 pm ~ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

drea brown is a Hollins Alumna queer Black feminist poet-scholar whose writing has appeared in journals and anthologies such as *Stand Our Ground: Poems for Marissa Alexander and Trayvon Martin*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Southern Indiana Review*, *Bellingham Review*, and *About Place Journal*. drea is the author of *dear girl: a reckoning*, winner of the Gold Line Press 2014 chapbook prize, and co-editor of *Teaching Black: The Craft of Teaching on Black Life and Literature* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021). Their newly released monograph *Conjuring the Haint: The Haunting Poetics of Black Women* (University Press of Mississippi, 2025), explores the role of haunting in Black women's literature and lived experiences.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund

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MFA Thesis Readings

Reading: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 ☞ 6:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 ☞ 6:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 ☞ 6:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Second year MFA in Creative Writing students will read from their work. Each night will consist of three or four students reading for fifteen minutes in a variety of genres. There will be a small reception following each reading on the Porches of Main.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing

64th Annual Lex Allen Literary Festival 2026

Saturday April 11, 2026 ☞ 9am-4pm ☞ Visual Arts Center Auditorium and Second Floor
Schedule details forthcoming.

Readers: Julian Talamantez Brolaski, Rajia Hassib, and Nina MacLaughlin

Julian Talamantez Brolaski (it / xe / them) is a poet and country singer, the author of *Of Mongrelitude* (Wave Books, 2017), *Advice for Lovers* (City Lights, 2012), and *gowanus atropolis* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2011). Julian is a 2023 Bagley Wright lecturer, a 2021 Pew Foundation Fellow, and the recipient of the 2020 Cy Twombly Award for Poetry. Its poems were recently included in *When the Light of the World was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry* (2020) and *We Want It All: An Anthology of Radical Trans Poetics* (Nightboat, 2020). With its band Juan & the Pines, it released an EP *Glittering Forest* in 2019; Julian's first full-length album *It's Okay Honey* came out in August 2023.

Rajia Hassib was born and raised in Egypt and moved to the United States when she was twenty-three. Her first novel, *In the Language of Miracles*, was a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and received an honorable mention from the Arab American Book Awards. She holds an MA in Creative Writing from Marshall University, and she has written for *The New York Times Book Review* and *The New Yorker* online. She lives in West Virginia with her husband and two children.

Nina MacLaughlin is the author of *Wake, Siren: Ovid Resung* (FSG/FSG Originals), a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award and the Massachusetts Book Award, as well as *Summer Solstice* and *Winter Solstice* (Black Sparrow), winner of the Massachusetts Book Award. Her first book was the acclaimed memoir *Hammer Head: The Making of a Carpenter* (W.W. Norton), a finalist for the New England Book Award. Formerly an editor at the *Boston Phoenix*, she worked for nine years as a carpenter, and is now a books columnist for the *Boston Globe*. Her work has appeared on or in *The Paris Review Daily*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *n+1*, *The Believer*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Agni*, *American Short Fiction*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Meatpaper*, and elsewhere. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Sponsored by the Lex Allen Literary Endowment, Department of English and Creative Writing, and the Dee Hull Everist Visiting Speaker Fund

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Thomas J. Anderson III

Reading: Thursday, April 23, 2026 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

Professor T.J. Anderson III was born in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and is a poet and musician. He is the author of several works, including *t/here it is* (Omnidawn Press, 2023), *Devonte Travels the Sorry Route* (Omnidawn Press, 2019), *Cairo Workbook* (Willow Books, 2014), *River to Cross* (The Backwaters Press, 2009), *Notes to Make the Sound Come Right: Four Innovators of Jazz Poetry* (University of Arkansas Press, 2004), *Blood Octave* (Flat Five Recordings, 2006), and the chapbook *At Last Round Up* (lift books, 1996). A former Fulbright Scholar at Cairo University, Anderson currently resides in Roanoke, Virginia. He began teaching at Hollins University in 1998 and celebrates his retirement at the end of this year.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing

Farewell Reading – The Last Tango

Reading: Thursday, May 7, 2026 ☞ 7:30 pm ☞ Green Drawing Room, Main Building

An open reading by Hollins seniors and graduating Creative Writing MFA 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 prior to the event.

Sponsored by the Department of English and Creative Writing