



Department of Literature, College of Arts and Sciences
American University, Washington, D.C.

MFA PROGRAM IN CREATIVE WRITING 2002-2003

In a city long known for its creative activity and writers—including Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Katherine Anne Porter, Sterling Brown, William Meredith, and Doris Grumbach—we continue the tradition by serving as a lively venue for creative work by both established and emerging writers.

POETRY READING RONNY SOMECK

8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2002
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION



Born in Iraq in 1951, Ronny Someck emigrated to Israel as a child and spent his early years in a transit camp. He is the author of eight books of poems, including *The Fire Stays in Red*, his first collection in English, translated by American University alumna Barbara Goldberg (MFA, 1985) and Israeli poet Moshe Dor. Someck writes of his work: "I feel as if I live in a transit station. On the memory shelves are arranged candies from various cultures, but all of them are wrapped up in local tissue paper. My mother dreams in Arabic, I dream in Hebrew and speak in Hebrew, but sometimes, within the Hebrew, I can hear the sound track of a singer like Fairuz conducting a duet with Frank Sinatra or Elvis." Someck hosts his own radio show and travels, as a troubadour of old, with a singer who has set many of his poems to music.

Sponsored by the Center for Israeli Studies

FICTION READING PETER HO DAVIES

8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2002
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION



Peter Ho Davies is the author of two celebrated collections of stories, *The Ugliest House in the World*, which received the prestigious John Llewellyn Rhys Prize in 1999, and *Equal Love*, which was a 2000 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist and a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. His stories have appeared in *Best American Stories* and *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*, as well as in such magazines as the *Atlantic* and *Harpers*. Born in England to Welsh and Chinese parents, Davies now lives in the United States and teaches at the University of Michigan. As Chang-Rae Lee has written, Davies's "astonishingly brilliant stories . . . signal the debut of a major talent."

FICTION READING ANDREW HOLLERAN

8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2002
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION



Andrew Holleran is a "master storyteller," writes Michael Dirda of the *Washington Post*, whose remarkable work demonstrates "stylistic prowess and critical intelligence." He is the author of a collection of stories, *In September*, the *Light Changes*, and of three highly acclaimed novels: *The Beauty of Men*; *Nights in Aruba*; and the now classic *Dancer from the Dance*, which is widely regarded as one of the most important gay novels of the twentieth century. Novelist Edmund White describes *Dancer from the Dance* as having "accomplished for the 1970s what *The Great Gatsby* achieved for the 1920s . . . the glamorization of a decade and a culture." Holleran is our 2002-2003 writer in residence.

FICTION AND POETRY READING FACULTY BENEFIT READING

8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2002
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION

Our annual reading of fiction and poetry by members of American University's creative writing faculty features Richard McCann, author of *Ghost Letters*; Kermit Moyer, author of *Tumbling*; Myra Sklarew, author of *The Witness Trees*; and Henry Taylor, author of *Brief Candles: 101 Clerihews*. Proceeds from this reading will be donated to Food & Friends, a local nonprofit organization providing meals to people with HIV and AIDS. Suggested donation at the door is \$5.

POETRY READING NICK FLYNN

8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2002
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION



Nick Flynn's award-winning first collection of poems, *Some Ether*, is "a work of deep attention to the hellish passages of childhood memory" remembered "in lyrics of ringing clarity and strange precision," writes Mark Doty. A *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist, *Some Ether* received the 1999 PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry. Flynn's new collection, *Blind Huber*, is based loosely on the life of François Huber, the eighteenth-century beekeeper and blind savant who is alleged to have sat before a series of beehives for 50 years in order to enter deeply into an unknown world. A recent recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, Flynn is now completing a memoir about homelessness and his father.

FICTION READING THOMAS GLAVE

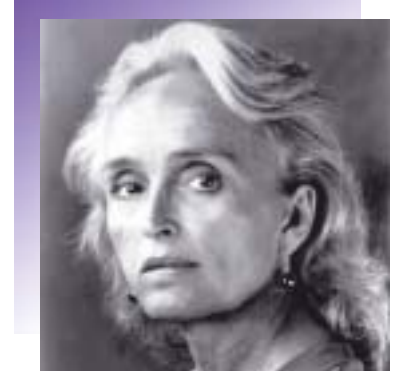
8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION



Thomas Glave is the author of *Whose Song? And Other Stories*. His stories have appeared in such important anthologies as *Prize Stories 1997: The O. Henry Awards*; *Ancestral House: The Black Short Story in the Americas and Europe*; and *Gay Fiction at the Millennium*. Glave was born in the Bronx and grew up there and in Kingston, Jamaica, where he returned in 1998-99 as a Fulbright Scholar studying Jamaican historiography and Caribbean literary traditions. He now teaches at the State University of New York at Binghamton. Of Glave's work, Gloria Naylor writes: "His voice is strong and his technique dazzling as he cuts to the bone of what it means to be black in America, white in America, gay in America, and human in the world at large."

CREATIVE NONFICTION READING BEVERLY LOWRY

8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2003
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION



Beverly Lowry is the author of *Crossed Over*, a brilliant and sensational nonfiction memoir based on the author's death-row visits with convicted murderer Karla Faye Tucker, who was put to death by the state of Texas in 1998, becoming the first woman to be executed in Texas since the Civil War. Lowry is also the author of six novels, including *The Track of Real Desires* and *Breaking Gentle*, and of numerous stories, essays, and profiles, which have appeared in such magazines as the *New Yorker*, *Granta*, and *Vanity Fair*. Lowry lives in Washington, D.C., and teaches at George Mason University. In March 2002, *Crossed Over* was released as a CBS movie starring Diane Keaton and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

CREATIVE NONFICTION READING LAUREN SLATER

8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2003
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION



Lauren Slater's gorgeously written *Lying: A Metaphorical Memoir* begins with a two-word chapter: "I exaggerate." From that point on, Slater daringly complicates the reader's understanding and experience of creative nonfiction, blurring standard distinctions among the imagined, the metaphorical, and the factual. A practicing psychotherapist and a 1999 National Magazine Award nominee, Slater is also the author of *Welcome to My Country: A Therapist's Memoir of Madness*; *Prozac Diary*; and *Love Works Like This*. Of *Prozac Diary*, the *Washington Post* writes: "With the playful mind of a philosopher and the exquisite, unique voice of a poet, Slater renders a self-portrait that challenges our understanding of illness and health—and illuminates both." Slater lives with her family in Massachusetts.

ALUMNI POETRY READING J. L. CONRAD

8:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2003
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR)
BUTLER PAVILION



A 2000 graduate of American University's MFA Program in Creative Writing, J. L. Conrad is the author of the newly published *A Cartography of Birds*, a brilliant debut collection of poems. Of *A Cartography of Birds*, Henry Taylor writes: "This collection draws me skillfully and deeply into a series of intensely realized moments. It is a remarkable book." As a student at American University, Conrad received the Myra Sklarew Award for Outstanding Thesis in 2000. She currently lives in Boston.

GRADUATING MFA STUDENT READING

3:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2003
BOARD ROOM (SIXTH FLOOR), BUTLER PAVILION

Experience our MFA program's rich diversity of voices at a group reading of fiction and poetry featuring our 2002-2003 graduates.