

LENOIR~RHYNE UNIVERSITY

Visitor Writers Series

For more than three decades, the Visiting Writers Series has provided outstanding literary arts programming that is free and open to the public. Many communities have arts festivals or even more specifically literary festivals, but very few have literary arts series.

Every year, we invite authors to tell the stories behind their own works in a relaxed environment before university and community audiences. We believe the beauty and power of words help us make sense of the world.

Previous Authors

2020-2021

Jeremiah Castleman
Jeanine Cummins
Laura Hope-Gill
Alex Kotlowitz
John Martins III
Emily Nemens
Justine O'Neal Miller
Patrick Radden Keefe
Colm Tóibín
Jacqueline Woodson
Kao Kalia Yang

2019-2020

Jonathan Safran Foer
Tyson Stock
Richard Blanco
Radney Foster
Tommy Orange
Abigail DeWitt
Morgan Parker
Min Jin Lee
Eboo Patel
Sara Pennypacker

2018-2019

Laila Lalami
Li-Young Lee
Ken Liu

Matthias Göritz and Aaron
Coleman
Juan Felipe Herrera
Joshua Bennett
Armistead Maupin
Anne-Marie Fyfe and Cahal
Dallat
Louise Penny
Kao Kalia Yang
Naomi Shihab Nyb – Little Read

2017-2018

Colson Whitehead
Amor Towles
Iggy McGovern
Erik Larson
Angela Davis-Gardner
Patrice Gopo
Allison Hutchcraft
Jennifer Horne
Marie Heaney
Catherine Heaney
Zadie Smith
Nick Laird
Robert Beatty
Terry Gifford

2016-2017

Alina "Tita" M. Ramirez
Anna Lena Phillips Bell

Julie Funderburk
William Stribling
Marlon James
Sarah Vowell
Leslie Rindoks
Denise Kiernan
Reginald Dwayne Betts
Dan Santat - Little Read
Curriculum

2015-2016

Jaki Shelton Green
Jeff Hobbs
Chuck Klosterman
Garrison Keillor
Anne Lamott
Paul Muldoon
Will and Mary Pope Osborne

2014-2015

George Saunders
Joshua Bennett
Rebecca Skloot
Colum McCann
Jesmyn Ward
Katherine Howe
Nadia Bolz-Weber
Joyce Hostetter

2013-2014

Jon Meacham
 Martin Marty
 James Dodson
 Junot Diaz
 A.S. Byatt
 Lou Berney
 Belle Boggs
 Isabel Wilkerson
 Joseph Bathanti
 Sherman Alexie
 Mary Pope Osborne

2012-2013

Nicholas Sparks
 Nicholas Carr
 Bernice L. McFadden
 John Burnham Schwartz
 Sandra Beasley
 Philip Schultz
 Cynthia Lord

2011-2012

Wes Moore
 Natasha Trethewey
 Edward P. Jones
 Isaac Anderson
 Judy Goldman
 Sandra Cisneros
 Lynne Cherry
 Alexander McCall Smith

2010-2011

John Feinstein
 Cathy Smith Bowers
 Joan McBreen
 Rhett Iseman Trull
 A. J. Jacobs
 Luis Alberto Urrea
 John Granger
 W. S. Merwin
 Amina McIntyre
 Kevin Young

David Baldacci
 Deborah Wiles

2009-2010

Richard Rodriguez
 Marisha Pessl
 Tess Gallagher
 Paula Meehan
 Jeannette Walls
 Paula Vogel
 Mitchell Gold
 Abigail DeWitt
 Julia Alvarez

*The Spirit of Black Mountain
 College:*

Ted Pope
 Lee Ann Brown
 Lisa Jarnot
 Thomas Meyer
 Jeff Davis
 Michael Rumaker
 Thomas Rain Crowe

2008-2009

Galway Kinnell
 Anna Quindlen
 Jonathan Kozol
 Terry McMillan
 Julie Fay
 Geraldine Brooks
 Bruce Lansky

2007-2008

Thomas Rain Crowe
 Duchess of Abercorn
 Walter Isaacson
 Frank McCourt
 Tracy Kidder
 Mark Powell
 Jane Smiley
 Jon Scieszka

2006-2007

James Bradley
 John Updike
 Anthony S. Abbott
 Nikkey Finney
 Gary Snyder
 James McBride
 Christopher Paul Curtis

2005-2006

le thi diem thuy
 Frank Deford
 Joyce Carol Oates
 Kelly Link
 Naomi Shihab Nye
 Tim O'Brien

2004-2005

Ron Whitehead
 Anne Fadiman
 Jonathan Lethem
 Thomas Lynch
 Sharon Olds
 Bob Inman
 Alice Walker
 Adrian Rice
 Dale Bailey

2003-2004

Billy Collins
 Joan McBreen
 Kathy Reichs
 Richard Ford
 Michael Knight
 Karen Joy Fowler
 Martin Espanda

2002-2003

Coleman Barks
 Seamus Heaney
 Bill Bryson
 Marilyn Nelson

Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones)
Mary Hood
Saleem Peeradina

2001-2002

Richard Chess
Robert Conley
Nicolae Dabija
Bret Lott
Josephine Humphreys
John Stone, M.D.
Nikki Giovanni
R. T. Smith
Kyle Gann
Leroy Quintana

2000-2001

Carolyn Kizer
Ernest Suarez
Pat Conroy
Eavan Boland
Joe Connelly
Afaa M. Weaver
Ron Rash
Michael Strickland
Lucinda Roy
Benjamin Alire Saenz

1999-2000

Yusef Komunyakaa
Linda Beatrice Brown
Donald Hall
Adrian Rice
Nathalie Anderson
Jill Jones
Robert Morgan
Sue Ellen Bridgers
Luis Rodriguez
Orson Scott Card
Joseph Bathanti
Leslie Marmon Silko
Connie Briscoe

1998-1999

Lee Smith
Lee Eric Shackelford
Lewis Nordan
E. Ethelbert Miller
Jan Karon
Jorge Velasco Mackenzie
Jade Ngoc Quang Huynh
Shelby Foote
John Shelton Reed
Kathryn Stripling Byer

1997-1998

Jill McCorkle
Billy Collins
Paul Muldoon
Dori Sanders
Robert Inman
Saleem Peeradina
Ernest J. Gaines
J. California Cooper
Todd McEwen

1996-1997

Michael Longley
Clyde Edgerton
Wilma Dykeman
Eleanora E. Tat
Terry Gifford
Ron Whitehead
Peter Fallon
James Welch
Nigel Jenkins
Menna Elfyn
Iwan Llwyd

1995-1996

Steven Yount
Kathryn Stripling Byer
Julie Kate Howard
Betty Adcock
Kate Gibbons
Mark & Gail Mathabane

Todd McEwen
Marie Heaney
Ruthanne Lum McCunn

1994-1995

Ellen Gilchrist
Scott Owens
Bret Lott
Kate Daniels
Dannye Romine Powell
Ciaran Carson
R. S. Gwynn
Terry Gifford
Billy Collins

1993-1994

Reynolds Price
James Applewhite
Deborah Pope
Susan Ludvigson
Linda Lightsey Rice
Donald Davis

1992-1993

Lee Smith
Gerald Barrax
Chuck Sullivan
Fiona Cheong
Fred Chappell
Linda Lightsey Rice
John Montague

1991-1992

Michael Yeats
Declan Kiberd
Dori Sanders
Sarah Gilbert
Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill
Nola Richardson
Betty Adcock
Seamus Heaney

1990-1991

Derek Mahon
Helen Vendler
Eamon Grennan
David Bottoms
Olga Broumas
Charles Simic
Donald Seacrest
Linda Lightsey Rice
Eilean Ni Chuilleanain
John Skoyles
Linda Brown Bragg
Betty Adcock
Richard Murphy

1989-1990

Robert Hedin
Nathalie Anderson
Michael Waters
Jennifer Jordan

1988

Paul Muldoon