



*English Department*

## Poetry Readings, Fiction Readings, and Lectures 2009-2010

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

### Fall 2009

**Thursday, September 10, 2009 – 8:15 pm: David Huddle**  
**Green Drawing Room in Main Building**  
**Reception to follow in Turner Lounge.**

A native of Wythe County, Virginia, David Huddle is an alumnus of Hollins' graduate program in creative writing and joined the Hollins faculty this fall. He is the author of the following poetry collections, all published by Louisiana State University Press: *Glory River* (2008), *Grayscale* (2004), and *Summer Lake: New and Selected Poems* (1999). He also penned the novels *La Tour Dreams of the Wolf Girl* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002) and *The Story of a Million Years* (Houghton Mifflin, 1999). His poems, essays, and short stories have appeared in *Esquire*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Story*, *The Autumn House Anthology of Poetry*, and *The Best American Short Stories*, and in anthologies of writing about the Vietnam War. He is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships and previously taught creative fiction, poetry, and autobiography at the University of Vermont and at the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College.

**Monday, September 28, 2009 – 4:45 pm: Roberta Seelinger Trites**  
**Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library**  
**Reception to follow.**

Trites, a professor of English and director of graduate studies in English at Illinois State University, is co-editor of *A Narrative Compass: Women's Scholarly Journeys* (University of Illinois Press, 2009) and the author of the following scholarly books: *Twain, Alcott, and the Birth of the Adolescent Reform Novel* (University of Iowa Press, 2007); *Disturbing the Universe: Power and Repression in Adolescent Literature* (University of Iowa Press, 2000), winner of the Children's Literature Association Book Award; and *Waking Sleeping Beauty: Feminist Voices in Children's Novels* (University of Iowa Press, 1997), winner of the American Library Association's Choice Award. Her articles appeared in *Shattering the Looking Glass: Challenge, Risk, and Controversy in Children's Literature*, *Changing Concepts of Childhood and Children's Literature*, and *Beyond Babar: Touchstones of European Children's Literature*, among others.

Funding for this event is provided by the Dee Hull Everist Endowment. The endowment will bring writers and critics to the Hollins campus for readings, lectures, and interaction with students and faculty.

**Thursday, October 29, 2009 – 8:00 pm: Edward P. Jones Reading**  
**Wetherill Visual Arts Center Auditorium**  
**Reception to follow.**

**Friday, October 30, 2009 – 11:00 am: Edward P. Jones Q&A Craft Session**  
**Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library**

Jones, a *New York Times* bestselling author, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the National Book Critics Circle award, the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and the Lannan Literary Award for his 2003 novel *The Known World*; he also received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2004. His first collection of stories, *Lost in the City*, won the PEN/Hemingway Award and was short listed for the National Book Award. His second collection, *All Aunt Hagar's Children*, was a finalist for the Pen/Faulkner Award. He earned an MFA in writing from the University of Virginia and has been an instructor of fiction writing at a range of universities, including Princeton. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Support for this reading is provided by the Beanstalk Fund, a joint venture of the Creative Writing Program and the Wyndham Robertson Library to bring writers and readers together at Hollins University.

**Thursday, November 5, 2009 – 8:15 pm: Domnica Radulescu**  
**Green Drawing Room in Main Building**  
**Reception to follow in Turner Lounge.**

Radulescu was born in Romania and came to the United States in 1983. Arthur Golden, author of *Memoirs of a Geisha*, calls her debut novel, *Train to Trieste* (Knopf, 2008), “an unforgettable story that introduces a new and astonishingly fresh voice,” while the *San Diego Union-Tribune* describes it as “sweeping, gorgeous.” Radulescu is a professor of Romance languages and literature and chair of the women's studies program at Washington and Lee University. She has written and edited books and scholarly articles on European literature and theater, and is the founding director of the National Symposium of Theater in Academe. She lives in Lexington, Virginia.

**Thursday, November 12, 2009 – 8:00 pm: Writers' Harvest Reading**  
**Wetherill Visual Arts Center Auditorium**

Faculty writers taking part in Hollins University's annual Harvest reading are T. J. Anderson III, R. H. W. Dillard, Cathryn Hankla, David Huddle, Pauline Kaldas, Jeanne Larsen, Thorpe Moeckel, Marilyn Moriarty, Elizabeth Poliner, and Eric Trethewey.

100% of the proceeds will be donated directly to the Southwestern Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank. Tickets will be available at the door, but for advance tickets (or if you wish to support this worthy project even if you can't attend), please contact Lisa Radcliff, English Programs Assistant (phone: 362-6317; email: [creative.writing@hollins.edu](mailto:creative.writing@hollins.edu)). Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students. Please make checks out to SH Food Bank. Come and hear exciting new work by our Hollins writers and help a very good cause at the same time.

**Thursday, December 3, 2009 – 8:15 pm: Melanie Almeder**  
**Green Drawing Room in Main Building**  
**Reception to follow in Turner Lounge.**

Melanie Almeder's first book of poems, *On Dream Street*, was published in 2007 and won the Tupelo Press Editors' Prize. It was also among the final 25 books considered for the Walt Whitman Award, and individual poems from the book have received a number of honors, including an award from *The Comstock Review*. Universities' West Press recognized a poem with the Emily Dickinson Award and the Paris Writers Workshop presented her the Patricia Painton Memorial Fellowship for a group of poems. Her work has also appeared in a wide range of journals, including *The Georgia Review*, *Poetry*, *Five Points*, *Seneca Review*, *The Comstock Review*, and *American Literary Review*, and she has been nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize. Raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and southern Maine, she is an associate professor of English at Roanoke College, where she teaches poetry writing, Native American literature, contemporary novel, and special topics courses, including a contemporary culture and literature course, "The Writer in Politics."



Spring 2010

**Thursday, February 25, 2010 – 8:00 pm: Kevin Prufer**  
**Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library**  
**Reception to follow.**

Prufer, an alumnus of Hollins' graduate program in creative writing, is the author of four books of poetry, including *National Anthem* (Four Way Books, 2008), one of *Publisher's Weekly's* Five Best Poetry Books of 2008 and selected Best Book of the Year by *Virginia Quarterly Review*. Poems in *National Anthem* received the George Bogin Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America and the Pushcart Prize, and were the basis for a 2007 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. His other books include *Fallen from a Chariot* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2005), *The Finger Bone* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2002), and *Strange Wood* (Winthrop University Press/LSU Press, 1998). Prufer serves as editor of *Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing*, an international magazine of poetry, fiction, essays, and reviews; associate editor of *American Book Review*; and vice president/secretary of the National Book Critics Circle. He currently lives in Missouri.

## Saturday, March 6, 2010 – Literary Festival

All readings and the panel discussion will be held in the Frances Niederer Auditorium (Room 200), Richard Wetherill Visual Arts Center.

- 9:30 – Check-in and refreshments, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby
- 10:30 – reading by David Payne
- 11:30 – reading by Molly Peacock
- 12:45 – Luncheon, Moody Dining Hall (pay at the door)
- 2:00 – reading by Valerie Martin
- 3:15 – poetry panel discussing student-submitted work
- 4:15 – reception, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby

Valerie Martin is the author of three collections of short fiction, most recently *The Unfinished Novel and Other Stories*, and eight novels, including *Trespass*; *Italian Fever*; *The Great Divorce*; *Mary Reilly*, the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde story told from the viewpoint of a housemaid, which was filmed with Julia Roberts and John Malkovich; and the Orange Prize-winning *Property*. She is also the author of a nonfiction work about St. Francis of Assisi: *Salvation: Scenes from the Life of St. Francis*. Martin graduated from the MFA Program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has taught at Mount Holyoke College, Loyola University New Orleans, University of New Orleans, University of Alabama, and Sarah Lawrence College. She resides in upstate New York.

David Payne, the Louis D. Rubin, Jr., Writer-in-Residence at Hollins for 2010, has been called “the most gifted American novelist of his generation” by *The Dallas Morning News*. He is the author of five novels: *Confessions of a Taoist on Wall Street* (Houghton Mifflin, 1984, winner of the Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Award); *Early From the Dance* (Doubleday, 1989); *Ruin Creek*, A *New York Times* Notable Book (Doubleday, 1993); *Gravesend Light* (Doubleday, 2000), named one of the top books of the year by *The Christian Science Monitor*; and *Back to Wando Passo* (William Morrow, 2006), which Lee Smith describes as “astonishing.” Payne has also taught at Bennington, Duke, and in the Low-Residency M.F.A. program at Queens University. After many years living in Manhattan and in southwestern Vermont, he now resides in North Carolina.

Molly Peacock, a poet and a creative nonfiction writer, is the author of six books of poetry, including *The Second Blush* (W.W. Norton, 2008) and *Cornucopia: New & Selected Poems* (W.W. Norton, 2002). Among her other works are *How to Read a Poem and Start a Poetry Circle* and a memoir, *Paradise, Piece by Piece*, both published by Riverhead Penguin. She also wrote and performed in a one-woman staged monologue in poems, *The Shimmering Verge*, which she performed in theatres throughout North America, and conducts quarterly poetry circles on Wisconsin Public Radio’s *Here on Earth with Jean Feraca*. Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Best of the Best American Poetry*. Currently she is on the faculty of the low residency M.F.A. program at Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky, and works with poets and writers throughout North America privately one-to-one. A native of Buffalo, New York, she now resides in Toronto, Canada.

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

**Thursday, April 1, 2010 – 8:15 pm: Sarah Kennedy and R. T. Smith**  
**Green Drawing Room in Main Building**  
**Reception to follow in Turner Lounge.**

An associate professor of English at Mary Baldwin College, Sarah Kennedy holds an MFA from Vermont College and a PhD from Purdue University. She is the author of four books of poems, including *Home Remedies* (Louisiana State University Press, 2009), *A Witch's Dictionary* (Elixir Press, 2007), *Consider the Lilies* (David Robert Books, 2004), *Double Exposure* (Cleveland State University Press Open Competition Winner, 2003), and *Flow Blue* (Elixir Press Prize in Poetry Winner, 2002). She has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is a contributing editor for *Shenandoah* and *West Branch*.

R. T. Smith was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Georgia and North Carolina. His books of poetry include *The Hollow Log Lounge* (University of Illinois Press, 2003), *Brightwood* (Louisiana State University Press, 2003), *Messenger* (2001), *Split the Lark: Selected Poems* (1999), *Trespasser* (1996), *Hunter-Gatherer* (1996), *The Cardinal Heart* (1991), and *From the High Dive* (1983). He has also published a collection of stories entitled *Faith* (1995) and edited *Common Wealth: Contemporary Poets of Virginia* (2003) with Sarah Kennedy. *Trespasser* and *The Cardinal Heart* were both nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry; Smith's other honors include grants in literature from Arts International, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Virginia Commission for the Arts. He has taught at Appalachian State University; Auburn University, where he served as Alumni Writer-in-Residence and co-editor of *Southern Humanities Review*; and Washington and Lee University. He has been a resident at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig in Ireland, the Millay Colony, and the Wurlitzer Foundation, and in 1998 he was Artist-in-Residence at the National Historical Park at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Smith lives in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and has edited *Shenandoah: The Washington and Lee University Review* since 1995.

## **Friday, April 16, 2010 – Jackson Poetry Events: Mark Doty**

**Q&A Craft Session – 4:30-5:30 pm**  
**Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library**

**Reading – 8:15 pm**  
**Green Drawing Room, Main Building**  
**Reception to follow in Turner Lounge.**

Mark Doty's *Fire to Fire: New and Selected Poems*, won the National Book Award for Poetry in 2008. His eight books of poems include *School of the Arts*, *Source*, and *My Alexandria*. He has also published four volumes of nonfiction prose: *Still Life with Oysters and Lemon*, *Heaven's Coast*, *Firebird*, and *Dog Years*, which was a *New York Times* bestseller in 2007. Doty's poems have appeared in many magazines, including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The London Review of Books*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, and *The New Yorker*. Widely anthologized, his poems appear in *The Norton Anthology of Contemporary American Poetry* and many other collections. His work has been honored by the National Book Critics Circle Award, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, a Whiting Writers Award, two Lambda Literary Awards, and the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for First Nonfiction. He is the only American poet to have received the T.S. Eliot Prize in the United Kingdom. Formerly the John and Rebecca Moores Professor in the graduate program at the University of Houston, Doty joined the faculty of Rutgers University in the fall of 2009.

Support for this event is provided by the Jackson Poetry Endowment.

**Thursday, April 29, 2010 – 8:15 pm: Marjorie Garber Lecture**  
**Wetherill Visual Arts Center Auditorium**

**Friday, April 30, 2010 – 11:00 am: Marjorie Garber Informal Talk**  
**Hollins Room, Wyndham Robertson Library**

Marjorie Garber is the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of English and of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, where she is also Chair of the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies and Director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. She has written five widely admired books on Shakespeare, including *Shakespeare and Modern Culture* (Pantheon, 2008), *Profiling Shakespeare* (Routledge, 2008), and *Shakespeare After All* (Pantheon, 2004), which received the 2005 Christian Gauss Book Award from Phi Beta Kappa. Described by Jonathan Cutler as “consistently our shrewdest and most entertaining cultural critic,” Garber has also published a number of works of cultural criticism and theory: *Vested Interests: Cross-Dressing and Cultural Anxiety* (Routledge, 1992), *Vice Versa: Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life* (Simon & Schuster, 1995), *Dog Love* (Simon & Schuster, 1996), *Symptoms of Culture* (Routledge, 1998), *Sex and Real Estate* (Pantheon, 2000), and *Quotation Marks* (Routledge, 2002). In her recent book, *Patronizing the Arts* (Princeton University Press, 2008), Garber discusses the double meaning of the word “patronizing” and the way patronage (by government, by business, by individuals) has influenced the reception of the arts in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. She is currently at work on a collection of essays about the humanities, and on a new book about literature and its place in life.

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**Thursday, May 6, 2010 – 8:15 pm: “The Last Jitterbug”**  
**Farewell reading by seniors and graduating M.F.A. students**  
**Green Drawing Room in Main Building**  
**Reception to follow in Turner Lounge.**

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