

## THE BFA IN CREATIVE AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Converse College's BFA in Creative and Professional Writing is the only degree of its kind in South Carolina, and one of only sixteen in the country. For the committed writing student, the BFA offers professional, comprehensive, and rigorous training in the art of writing as well as preparation for careers and graduate study. The program is designed to offer students an exciting, sound liberal arts education based on the belief that writers develop by understanding the historical and intellectual contexts of the traditions in which they work. The program will prepare students seeking careers as professional writers or in other literary professions, such as editing, publishing, journalism, or arts management. The program also prepares students to pursue a graduate degree in creative writing, communications, or other professional programs. The BFA requires a total of 42 semester hours beyond the College of Arts and Sciences GEP requirements. Major requirements include 27 hours in writing, 12 hours in literature, and 3 hours in an additional art. Students may declare a major in Creative and Professional Writing after achieving a minimum GPA of 2.75 in Introduction to Creative Writing, and receiving a recommendation from the creative writing faculty.

## THE BA IN ENGLISH WITH A CONCENTRATION IN CREATIVE WRITING

In addition to the BFA program, the English Department offers students committed to a comprehensive foundation in literature, literary criticism, and writing an opportunity to focus a portion of their studies on creative writing through the English major with a Concentration in Creative Writing. The student pursuing this option will take 21 hours in literature and 15 hours in writing courses, including Introduction to Creative Writing, Poetry Writing Workshop, and Fiction Writing Workshop.

## THE BA IN ENGLISH

The English Department also offers a historically strong literature major in English designed to develop the abilities and skills needed to comprehend literature's diversity and scope, with emphasis on British and American literature. The English major will have opportunities to read with insight and write with critical facility and imagination.

## THE STUDENTS

With such notable graduates as Julia Peterkin, the only South Carolinian to win the Pulitzer Prize for literature; and Ellen Bryant Voigt, a major American poet who has been a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, our students excel beyond the classroom. Recent graduates have received fellowships to attend prestigious Masters of Arts and Masters of Fine Arts programs at institutions such as Brown University, Emerson College, Vermont College, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Pittsburgh, and Indiana University.

## FRIENDS OF LITERARY ARTS

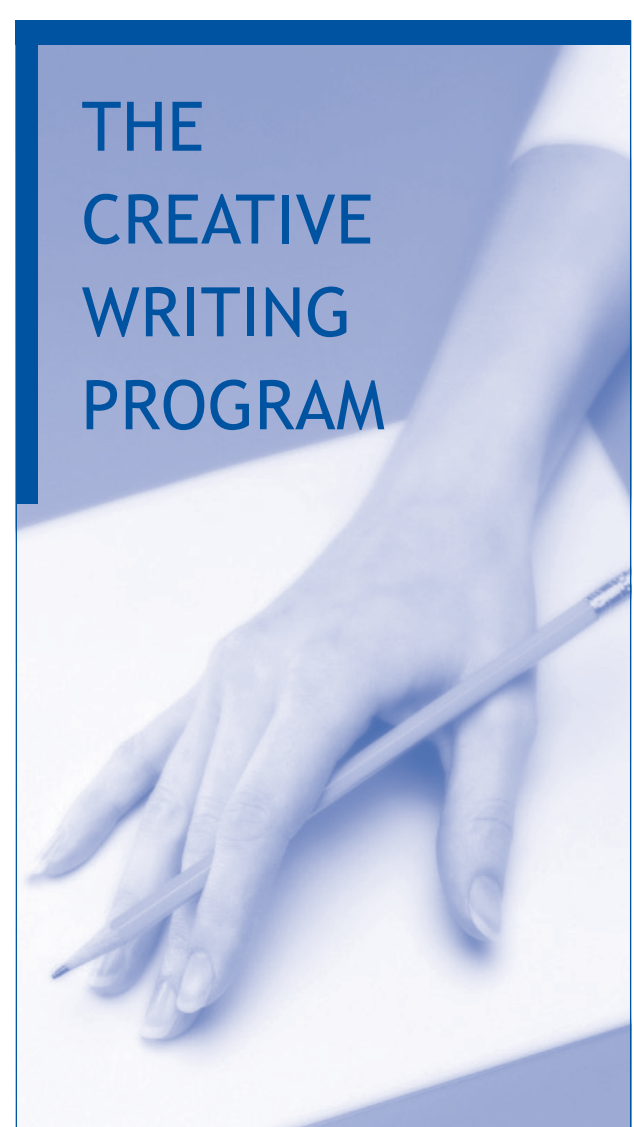
Through the support of the Elizabeth Boatwright Coker Endowment and the Self Foundation, the Converse College English Department has developed a program of academic and artistic excellence for our students and our community. In order to preserve and ensure that these exciting programs at the heart of our college's mission survive and thrive well into the 21st century, we have initiated the Friends of Literary Arts at Converse College. Friends provide gifts that may support specific projects or general programming. Friends' gifts help fund events such as visiting scholar and writer presentations, our writer-in-residence program, literature festivals, student publishing initiatives, and our Young Writers Summer Workshop. For more information on how to support the Friends of Literary Arts, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (864) 596-9018.

## YOUNG WRITERS SUMMER WORKSHOP

For a week each June, the Converse College Creative Writing program offers a co-educational program which fosters and empowers a writing community of intellectually curious and motivated high school students who value writing and wish to develop their talents in poetry, fiction, and imaginative prose. For information concerning the 2006 workshop, contact Sam Howie, or Rick Mulkey. Or call: (864) 596-9099.



# THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM



# CONVERSE COLLEGE

580 EAST MAIN STREET  
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302  
WWW.CONVERSE.EDU

## THE CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

The Converse College Creative Writing Program, led by professional writers, provides serious, aspiring women writers an intensive and challenging apprenticeship in creative and professional writing enriched by the study of literature. Students in the BFA and BA programs master the techniques of good writing and thorough reading while preparing for careers as creative writers, journalists, editors, publishers, and public relations specialists. Throughout the student's undergraduate career, visiting writers and permanent writing faculty conduct workshops and seminars in all aspects of creative and professional writing in a program that is highly individualized and designed to maximize her potential.

All readings will be followed by a reception and book signing. Events are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Rick Mulkey, Director of Creative Writing, at [rick.mulkey@converse.edu](mailto:rick.mulkey@converse.edu) or call 864-596-9099.

## THE ELIZABETH BOATWRIGHT COKER VISITING WRITERS SERIES

The English Department's Creative Writing Program invites several writers to campus each year to give readings and meet informally with writing and literature students. During 2005-06, the following poets and fiction writers will read at Converse College.

**Ann Pancake**  
Julia Peterkin Award Winner  
October 4 · 8:00 pm  
Cleveland Hall



Ann Pancake's short story collection, *Given Ground*, received the 2000 Bakeless Award sponsored by the Bread Loaf Writers Conference. Other prizes she has received include the Whiting Award, a Pushcart Prize, the Glasgow Prize, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and writing fellowships from West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Her fiction and essays have appeared in *Shenandoah*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Glimmer Train*, and *New Stories from the South*. Pancake completed her BA in English at West Virginia University, her MA at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and her PHD in English literature at the University of Washington. She teaches in the low-residency MFA program at Pacific Lutheran University. Currently, she is finishing a novel about mountaintop removal in southern West Virginia.

### Robert Wrigley

November 8 · 8:00 pm  
Cleveland Hall



Robert Wrigley is the author of six books of poetry, including *Lives of the Animals* (Penguin, 2003), and *Reign of Snakes* (Penguin, 1999), winner of the 2000 Kingsley Tufts Award in Poetry. His book, *In the Bank of Beautiful Sins* (Penguin, 1995) won the San Francisco Poetry Center Book Award, and his poems have appeared in many periodicals, including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Poetry*, and *The American Poetry Review*. Recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Idaho Commission on the Arts, Wrigley is Professor of English and director of the MFA Program in Writing at the University of Idaho.

### Denise Giardina and Diane Gilliam Fisher

Writing in Past Tense

Symposium

March 14-15 · 8:00 pm  
Daniel Recital Hall



Readings by novelist, Denise Giardina, and poet, Diane Gilliam Fisher, and presentations by scholars Dr. Grace Edwards and Dr. David Corbin are part of a two day symposium— Writing in Past Tense: A Dialogue Between Scholars and Creative Writers. This symposium, sponsored by the Converse College English Department and the History Department, will bring together scholars and writers to explore the relationship between literature and history. Primarily, the symposium will focus on the literature and culture of southern Appalachia.

Giardina has published five novels including *Storming Heaven*, a Discovery Selection of the Book of the Month Club and *Unquiet Earth*. Her fifth novel *Fallam's Secret*, was recently released. She is a former writer-in-residence at Hollins University.

Fisher, winner of the Wick Poetry Prize, is the author of three collections of poetry, *Kettle Bottom*, *One of Everything*, and *Recipe for Blackberry Cake*. She is a graduate of the MFA program at Warren Wilson.

Funded in part by The National Endowment for the Humanities and the South Carolina Humanities Council.

### Joyce Carol Oates

April 18 · 8:00 pm  
Daniel Recital Hall



Joyce Carol Oates is one of America's most versatile, serious writers, the author of a number of distinguished books in several genres, all published within the past twenty-five years. In addition to numerous novels and short story collections, she has published several volumes of poetry, several books of plays, five books of literary criticism, and the book-length essay *On Boxing*. John Gardner has called her "one of the greatest writers of our time."

Her writing has earned her much praise and many awards, including the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in short fiction, the Rosenthal Award from the American Academy - Institute of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the O'Henry Prize for Continued Achievement in the Short Story, the National Book Award for her novel *Them*, and in 1978, membership in the American Academy-Institute. *What I Lived For* was nominated for the 1995 PEN/Faulkner Award. In 1999 she was nominated for the Nobel Prize for the third time.

Event sponsored by Friends of Literary Arts at Converse College.

## THE SARA LURA MATHEWS SELF WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

In addition to the permanent creative writing faculty, the Converse College program features the Sara Lura Mathews Self Writer-in-Residence, a visiting writer who serves on the faculty for one semester (Winter Term) each year. The writer's primary responsibility is to teach the *Advanced Tutorial in Creative Writing*, a course that combines weekly one-to-one tutorials with a series of masterclass workshops.

### Anita Skeen

January 17 · 8:00 pm  
Montgomery Student Center



Award winning author of *Each Hand a Map*; *Portraits*; *Outside the Fold*, *Outside the Frame*; and *The Resurrection of the Animals*, Skeen is Professor of English at Michigan State University where she teaches Poetry Writing, Women's Studies, and Canadian Studies. Her poems, short fiction and essays have appeared widely in numerous magazines and anthologies, including *Prairie Schooner*, *Mid-America Review*, *Kansas Quarterly* and elsewhere. In addition to her public reading, Skeen will teach the *Advanced Tutorial in Poetry* as part of her month-long residency.