

THE UNCW DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE WRITING presents

# WRITERS' WEEK 2017

October 30–November 3



# WRITERS' WEEK 2017

THE UNCW DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE WRITING is a community of passionate, dedicated writers who believe that the creation of art is a pursuit valuable to self and culture. Our faculty fosters a rigorous yet supportive environment in which writers grow as artists and individuals. The department is devoted to the pursuit of excellence in writing through an informed application of craft. We value versatility, and we encourage writers to explore aesthetics and methods across genre lines.

The department offers degree programs leading to the Master of Fine Arts and the Bachelor of Fine Arts, in addition to an undergraduate Certificate in Publishing. Our primary genres are fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction; classes in screenwriting are also available, as is the study of editing and publishing through The Publishing Laboratory.

Each fall the department hosts the Writers' Week symposium, a festival of workshops, panels, readings, and manuscript conferences. Writers' Week brings together graduate students, undergraduate students, and the community interested in the art of writing to promote the discussion of craft.

We invite our students, faculty, and guests to join together for our fall 2017 Writers' Week. Prepare to be delighted, challenged, and inspired as we welcome a distinguished group of poets, prose writers, and publishing professionals into our midst once more.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information on Writers' Week, or to learn more about the UNCW creative writing program, contact the office at (910) 962-3070 or visit [uncw.edu/writers](http://uncw.edu/writers).

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MON 30 OCT

**Fiction Craft Talk w/  
Kristen Iskandrian**

10 a.m.  
*Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1*

**MFA Reading**

12:30 p.m.  
*Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1*

**Ethics of Voice Panel  
w/ Melody Moezzi,  
Michael Ramos,  
& Robert Anthony  
Siegel**

2 p.m.  
*Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1*

**Reading w/  
Kristen Iskandrian  
& Robert Anthony  
Siegel**

7 p.m.  
*Cameron Hall, 105*

TUES 31 OCT

**Generative Writing  
Exercises**

10 a.m.  
*Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1*

**BFA Reading**

12:30 p.m.  
*Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1*

**Poetry Craft Talk w/  
Tarfia Faizullah**

2 p.m.  
*Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1*

**Reading w/  
Kristen Radtke  
& Tarfia Faizullah**

7 p.m.  
*King Hall, 101*

WED 1 NOV

**Graphic Nonfiction  
Book Design Talk w/  
Kristen Radtke**

10 a.m.  
Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1

*Special thanks to the Department of  
Art and Art History for co-sponsoring  
this event.*

**Literary Agent Talk w/  
Julie Barer**

12:30 p.m.  
Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1

**Publishing Panel w/  
Julie Barer,  
Kristen Radtke,  
& Parneshia Jones**

2 p.m.  
Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1

**Reading w/  
Nick Neely  
& David Jauss**

7 p.m.  
Cameron Hall, 105

THURS 2 NOV

**Craft Talk w/  
David Jauss**

10 a.m.  
Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1

**Nonfiction Craft  
Talk w/  
Nick Neely**

12:30 p.m.  
Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1

**Alumni Career Panel**

2 p.m.  
Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1

**Buckner Keynote  
Reading and Q&A  
w/ Ross Gay**

7 p.m.  
Dobo Hall, 103

FRI 3 NOV

**Poetry Craft Talk w/  
Ross Gay**

10 a.m.  
Warwick Center,  
Ballroom 1

# WRITERS



BUCKNER KEYNOTE  
READER

**ROSS GAY** is the author of three books: *Against Which*, *Bringing the Shovel Down*, and *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*. *Catalog* was winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Poetry, and nominated for an NAACP Image Award. He is a cofounding editor of the online sports magazine *Some Call it Ballin'*, and editor with the chapbook presses Q Avenue and Ledge Mule Press. He has received fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and the Guggenheim Foundation. Ross teaches at Indiana University.



**TARFIA FAIZULLAH** is the author of a poetry collection, *Seam*, winner of a GLCA New Writers Award, the Binghamton University Milt Kessler Poetry Book Award, and other honors. Her poems have been published and translated in periodicals and anthologies both in the United States and abroad, have been featured at the Smithsonian, the Rubin Museum of Art, and elsewhere, and are the recipients of multiple awards, including three Pushcart Prizes, the Frederick Bock Prize, and others. In 2016, she was recognized by Harvard Law School's Women Inspiring Change. She teaches in the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program.



**KRISTEN ISKANDRIAN's** work has been published or is forthcoming in *Tin House*, *Zyzyva*, *Crazyhorse*, *McSweeney's*, and *Ploughshares*, among others. Her story "The Inheritors" was included in *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2014* as a juror favorite. She was a juror for *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2015* along with Tessa Hadley and Michael Parker. She has a BA in English from the College of the Holy Cross, and an MA and PhD in literature and creative writing from the University of Georgia. Born in Philadelphia, Kristen currently lives in Birmingham, Alabama, with her husband and two daughters.



**DAVID JAUSS** is the author of four collections of short stories, including the newly released *Nice People: New & Selected Stories II*. He has also published two collections of poems, a collection of essays, and, as editor, three anthologies. His short stories have been reprinted in *The Best American Short Stories 1991*, *The O. Henry Prize Stories 1983*, and, twice, *The Pushcart Prize*, as well as in *The Pushcart Book of Short Stories: The Best Short Stories from the Pushcart Prize*. A professor emeritus at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, he teaches in the low-residency MFA in Writing program at Vermont College of Fine Arts.



**MELODY MOEZZI** is an award-winning writer, speaker, activist, and attorney. Her latest book is the critically acclaimed memoir *Haldol and Hyacinths: A Bipolar Life*. Her first book, *War on Error: Real Stories of American Muslims*, earned her a Georgia Author of the Year Award. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Guardian*, among other outlets. Moezzi is also a United Nations Global Expert and an Opinion Leader for the British Council's Our Shared Future initiative. She has appeared on CNN, BBC, NPR, and other programs, providing commentary on issues ranging from mental health to Iran to feminism to Islam in America. She is a visiting assistant professor in the UNCW Department of Creative Writing.



**NICK NEELY's** debut book of essays, *Coast Range: A Collection of the Pacific Edge*, was a finalist for the 2017 John Burroughs Medal for Natural History Writing and CLMP's Firecracker Award in Creative Nonfiction. He holds MFAs in nonfiction and poetry from Hunter College and Columbia University. He is the recipient of a UC Berkeley-11th Hour Food and Farming Journalism Fellowship, PEN Northwest's Boyden Wilderness Writing Residency, and the 2015 John Burroughs Nature Essay Award. His nonfiction has appeared in journals such as *Orion*, the *Georgia Review*, and the *Kenyon Review*. He lives in Hailey, Idaho.



**KRISTEN RADTKE** is the author of the graphic nonfiction book *Imagine Wanting Only This*. She is the art director and New York editor of the *Believer* magazine.

\*Kristen is also a visiting publishing professional.



**MICHAEL RAMOS** spent nine years, ten months, and twenty-eight days in the Navy, most of those with First Marine Division, which included a tour in Iraq. He holds a BFA ('12) and MFA ('16) in creative writing from UNCW. His work has appeared in the *Sun* and *Fourth Genre*. His essay, "A Long but Incomplete List of Some of the Things You Can't (Don't) Talk About," was named a Notable Essay in *The Best American Essays 2017*. He is a lecturer in the UNCW Department of Creative Writing.



**ROBERT ANTHONY SIEGEL** is the author of the two novels, *All the Money in the World* and *All Will Be Revealed*. A collection of autobiographical essays, *Criminals*, is forthcoming from Counterpoint Press in July, 2018. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Smithsonian*, the *Paris Review*, the *Oxford American*, and *Tin House*, among other venues. He's been a Fulbright Scholar at Tunghai University in Taiwan and a Mombukagakusho Fellow at the University of Tokyo in Japan. Other awards include O. Henry and Pushcart Prizes and fellowships from the North Carolina Arts Council, the Fine Arts Work Center, and the Michener-Copernicus Society. He is an associate professor in the UNCW Department of Creative Writing.

# PUBLISHING PROFESSIONALS



**JULIE BARER** is a partner at The Book Group, a boutique literary agency in New York City, where she represents a variety of writers across a literary spectrum, with a special emphasis on fiction. Her clients include Celeste Ng (*Little Fires Everywhere*), Joshua Ferris (*To Rise Again at a Decent Hour*), Madeline Miller (*Song of Achilles*), Nicole Dennis Benn (*Here Comes the Sun*), Cristina Henríquez (*The Book of Unknown Americans*), Paula McLain (*The Paris Wife*), Kevin Wilson (*The Family Fang*), Bret Anthony Johnston (*Remember Me Like This*) and many others. Julie is particularly interested in representing a diversity of voices from around the world.



**PARNESHIA JONES** is the author of *Vessel: Poems* (Milkweed Editions), winner of the Midwest Book Award and an *Oprah.com* pick for 12 Poetry Books to Savor. A member of the Affrilachian Poets, Jones currently serves as the Poetry Editor for Northwestern University Press/TriQuarterly Books and holds the position Sales and Community Outreach Manager. She serves on the advisory board for ShoreFront Legacy and is President of the Board of Directors for Cave Canem Foundation.





# ALUMNI



**NICOLA DeROBERTIS-THEYE** is a foreign rights agent at Trident Media Group. She received an Emerging Writing Fellowship from The New York Center for Fiction in 2015, and her work has appeared in *Agni* and on *Electric Literature* and *LitHub*. She received an MFA in creative nonfiction from UNCW in 2014.



**RYAN KAUNE** received an MFA in fiction from UNCW in 2016. She is the managing editor of Autumn House Press, a freelance editor, and the former fiction editor of *Ecotone*. When she isn't editing, she's reading, writing, or hiking. She lives in Pittsburgh, PA, with her partner, Matt, and their cat.



**EMILY McCRARY-RUIZ-ESPARZA** received her BFA from UNCW in 2011 and has since worked as an editor and writer. Her writing has appeared in *theNewerYork*, *Deep South*, the *Bohemyth*, and *Blunderbuss*, among others. Emily is currently the editor at *housemethod.com*.



**MATT TULLIS** is an assistant professor of English and the director of the Digital Journalism program at Fairfield University. His book, *Running With Ghosts: A Memoir of Surviving Childhood Cancer*, was published in August by The Sager Group. Tullis is also the host and producer of *Gangrey: The Podcast*, which focuses on narrative journalism and the reporters who write it. He has been noted in *The Best American Sports Writing* three times and *The Best American Essays* once. Tullis completed his MFA in creative nonfiction at UNCW in 2005. He lives with his wife and kids in Sandy Hook, Connecticut.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Thanks are also due to the many students of CRW course 540/320 who are helping to host these events: Austin Brown, Jessica Cohn, Chase Culler, Katelyn Freund, Kinzy Janssen, Meghan Larson, Ashley Monique Lee, Beasley Nester, Jeff Oloizia, Becca Spiegel, Sarah Wall, and Daniel Willis.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of Mr. Charles F. Green, III. The Buckner Lecture Series was established to fund bringing the most distinguished writers, speakers and artists of our generation to UNCW as guests. The lecture series is named in honor of Mr. Green's friend Katherine K. Buckner.

Special thanks to the Department of Art and Art History for co-sponsoring the graphic nonfiction writing and book design craft talk with Kristen Radtke.

Keepsake broadsides are available at each visiting writer's reading. Broadsides, posters, and programs were designed and produced in The Publishing Laboratory by Morgan Davis, Katy-Whitten Davidson, Kinzy Janssen, Ashley Monique Lee, Jeff Oloizia, and Alexis Olson.



University of North Carolina Wilmington

601 South College Road, Wilmington NC 28403

UNCW is an EEO/AA institution. Accommodations for disabilities may be requested by calling 910-962-3500.

# CAMPUS MAP



CH Cameron Hall  
DO Dobo Hall  
KE Kenan Hall

KI King Hall  
MO Morton Hall  
WC Warwick Center

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