

News Release

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Local angles: Asheville, Fayetteville, Greenville, Hickory, Wilmington, Winston-Salem

Literary Festival to send ‘Authors on the Road’

CHAPEL HILL – The 2009 North Carolina Literary Festival, set for Sept. 10-13 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, may be coming to a city near you.

The festival has added an Authors on the Road component, in which six North Carolina writers will read from their work and answer questions in six cities in August and September. The authors and free public gatherings will be as follows:

- Aug. 22, 3 p.m., Daniel Wallace, New Hanover County Public Library, Wilmington
- Aug. 25, 7 p.m., Allan Gurganus, Sheppard Memorial Library, Greenville
- Sept. 1, 7 p.m., Joan Medlicott, Patrick Beaver Memorial Library, Hickory
- Sept. 1, 6:30 p.m., P.T. Deutermann, Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center, Fayetteville
- Sept. 8, 7 p.m., Randall Kenan, Forsyth County Public Library, Winston-Salem
- Date and author to be announced, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville

“This new program helps include the rest of the state in the celebration,” said festival director Amy Baldwin. “The six program locations were identified with guidance from the State Library of North Carolina, and the host libraries helped choose their authors, who also will participate in the main festival on campus.”

Authors on the Road is presented in part by Our State Magazine. The State Library of North Carolina – an agency of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources – is helping support the festival and Authors on the Road with federal Library Services and Technology Act funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

“I’m delighted that the North Carolina Literary Festival is sending authors out on the road to meet with readers and fans across the state,” said Frannie Ashburn, director of the State Library of North Carolina’s Center for the Book.

“Bringing writers and readers together in public libraries is an excellent way to take the festival far beyond the boundaries of the 2009 host site and to engage public audiences in the celebration of our state’s outstanding literary heritage,” she said. “This is a guaranteed good time for everyone involved.”

Amy Wood, marketing director of Our State, said the magazine has celebrated stories of people and places across North Carolina for more than 76 years.

“Our sponsorship of the Authors on the Road portion of the festival is a natural partnership for us,” she said. “We are proud of our association and look forward to assisting in taking the love of literature to people all over the state.”

The free public festival, Sept. 10-13 at UNC, is funded entirely by gifts and grants. It is organized and sponsored by the libraries of UNC and N.C. State and Duke universities, with additional support from N.C. Central University. Held every other year, the location rotates among the Chapel Hill, State and Duke campuses.

More than 125 authors will participate in the festival, which will include readings, discussions, exhibits, performances, book signings, lectures and book sales. More authors for the event, to include locally and nationally known writers of all genres of books, will be named throughout the summer.

More than 100 volunteers will be needed for the festival. Those interested in helping may register at www.NCLiteraryFestival.org.

Wallace’s 1998 bestseller “Big Fish” was made into a movie released in 2003. The J. Ross MacDonald Distinguished Professor of English in UNC’s College of Arts and Sciences, Wallace has since written three more novels: “Ray in Reverse” (Penguin, 2000), “The Watermelon King” (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2003) and “Mr. Sebastian and the Negro Magician” (Anchor, 2007). He is creating illustrations for the literary festival Web site, and he has illustrated books including “Adventures in Pen Land: One Writer’s Journey from Inklings to Ink” (UNC Press, 2008), by his UNC creative writing colleague Marianne Gingher.

Gurganus’ 1989 novel “Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All” (Knopf) spent eight months on the New York Times bestseller list and received the 1990 Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The award recognizes the year’s best published first novel or story collection. The CBS adaptation, starring Diane Lane, Donald Sutherland and Cecily Tyson, won four Emmy Awards. Gurganus’ collection of stories and novellas, “White People” (Knopf, 1990), won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and was a finalist for the Pen-Faulkner Award. His latest book is “The Practical Heart: Four Novellas” (Knopf, 2001).

Known for her stories about Southern women and their lives in the country, Medlicott, of Barnardsville, has written eight books in her Ladies of Covington series, from “The Ladies of Covington Send Their Love” (St. Martin’s Paperbacks, 2001) to “Promises of Change” (Pocket, 2009). Her other two novels are “The Three Mrs. Parkers” (Pocket, 2005) and “Come Walk With Me” (Pocket, 2007). Medlicott, a former senior center staff member in Miami, never dreamed of becoming a writer until she and a fellow counselor became aware that many women lived in celibate marriages. The result of their research was “Celibate Wives, Breaking the Silence” (Lowell House, 1992).

Deutermann’s first novel, “Scorpion in the Sea” (George Mason University Press, 1992) landed him an agent, then a contract with St. Martin’s Press. St. Martin’s has published his novels “The Moonpool” (2008), “Spider Mountain” (2007), “The Cat Dancers” (2005), “The Firefly” (2003) and “Darkside” (2002). Deutermann graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963 and

served in the Navy for 26 years, rising to the rank of captain and receiving 19 military awards and decorations. While in the Navy, he published a textbook on naval operations. Deutermann and his family live in the Piedmont of North Carolina.

Kenan's first novel, "A Visitation of Spirits" (Grove Press, 1989), and a story collection, "Let the Dead Bury Their Dead" (Harcourt, Brace, 1992), were nominated for the Los Angeles Times Book Award for Fiction. "Let the Dead Bury Their Dead" was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and among The New York Times Notable Books of 1992. A nonfiction work by Kenan, "The Fire this Time," was published by Melville Publications in 2007. An associate professor of English in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences, Kenan has received the Sherwood Anderson Award, the John Dos Passos Award and the 2005 North Carolina Award for Literature.

For more about Authors on the Road, visit <http://www.ncliteraryfestival.org/page/authors-on-the-road>.

Web sites:

Daniel Wallace: : <http://www.danielwallace.org/home.cgi>

Allan Gurganus: <http://www.allangurganus.com/>

Joan Medlicott: <http://www.joanmedlicott.com/>

P.T. Deutermann: <http://www.ptdeutermann.com>

Randall Kenan: <http://english.unc.edu/faculty/kenanr.html>

2009 North Carolina Literary Festival: www.NCLiteraryFestival.org

Photos:

Daniel Wallace:

<http://uncnews.unc.edu/images/stories/news/humanities/2009/daniel%20wallace.jpg>

Allan Gurganus:

<http://uncnews.unc.edu/images/stories/news/humanities/2009/allan%20gurganus.jpg>

Joan Medlicott:

<http://uncnews.unc.edu/images/stories/news/humanities/2009/joan%20medlicott.jpg>

P.T. Deutermann: <http://uncnews.unc.edu/images/stories/news/humanities/2009/deutermann.jpg>

Randall Kenan:

<http://uncnews.unc.edu/images/stories/news/humanities/2009/randall%20kenan.jpg>

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