AUGUST

FINDING A PLACE IN THE WORLD

August 29 (Thursday)

Hannah Lillith Assadi
4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Assembly Hall (2nd Floor), Campus Center

Hannah Lillith Assadi, award-winning novelist and 2018 National Book Foundation “5 Under 35” Honoree, grew up in Arizona, the child of a Palestinian father and Jewish mother. Her first novel, *Sonora* (2018), tells the story of Ahlam, the daughter of a Palestinian refugee and his Israeli wife, who grows up in the arid lands of desert suburbia outside Phoenix. *Library Journal* said, “This poetic, multicultural novel will enchant younger adults or anyone who has ever felt out of place in the world.” Her second novel, *The Stars Are Not Yet Bells* (paperback, 2023), the story of an elderly woman who confronts a lifetime of secrets, was named a “Best Book of the Year” by the *New Yorker* and NPR.

Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Writing & Critical Inquiry Program (WCI) and the English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project.

SEPTEMBER

FILM SCREENING

September 6 (Friday)

LONE STAR

Screening — 7:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(United States, 1996, 135 minutes, color, Rated R) Directed by John Sayles. Starring Chris Cooper, Elizabeth Peña, Matthew McConaughey.

Chris Cooper stars as the sheriff of a Texas frontier town in this myth-busting contemporary Western about buried secrets and racial strife among Latino, Anglo, Native American, and African American communities. Filmmaker John Sayles— who was born and raised in Schenectady— directs his own script, which earned a “Best Screenplay” Oscar nomination. Shown in association with Chris Cooper’s visit to UAlbany on Monday, Sept. 16th, together with his wife Marianne Leone, with her new book *Five Dog Epiphany*, as part of the Creative Life series, in conversation with Joe Donahue of WAMC.

IMAGINING UKRAINE

September 9 (Monday)

Dmitry Bykov and Ian Singleton
4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition
Dmitry Bykov, major Russian literary figure, is the author of more than 90 books. His newest is *VZ: Portrait Against the Background of the Nation* (English translation, 2024), a meditation in fiction on the significance of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. An outspoken critic of the Putin regime, Bykov and his work are banned from publication, media and university classrooms in Russia. He narrowly survived an assassination attempt by poisoning in April 2019. The award-winning investigative news organization, Bellingcat, verified that Bykov was targeted by the same team of Russian FSB operatives who later poisoned Alexei Navalny. He lives in exile in the US.

Ian Ross Singleton, novelist, translator of Russian and Ukrainian, and instructor in UAlbany’s Writing & Critical Inquiry Program (WCI), is the author of *Two Big Differences* (2021), a novel about two friends, Zina and Valinka, who are caught up in a wave of civil unrest during the 2014 Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine—a mass protest against government corruption and Russian political influence. Writer Mikhail Iossel called it, “Brightly original, structurally inventive, thoughtful and wise.”

*Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Writing & Critical Inquiry Program (WCI) and the English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project*

**THE PRINCESS IS FAKE. THE MURDERS ARE REAL.**

**September 10 (Tuesday)**

Chris Bohjalian

7:00 p.m. — Conversation/Q&A with WAMC’s Joe Donahue, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

Chris Bohjalian, the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of 24 books, presents his newest novel, *The Princess of Las Vegas* (2024), one of the most anticipated mystery-thrillers of the year. A Princess Diana impersonator and her estranged sister find themselves drawn into a dangerous game of money and murder in this twisting tale of organized crime, cryptocurrency, and family secrets on the Las Vegas strip. Bohjalian’s other novels include *The Lioness* (2022), a Hemingway-inspired tale of murder on an African safari; *Hour of the Witch* (2021), a story of suspense set among the Puritans of 17th century Boston; *The Sandcastle Girls* (2012), a sweeping novel of the Armenian genocide; and *Midwives* (1997), an Oprah’s Book Club pick. His 2018 novel *The Flight Attendant* was adapted in 2020 as an HBO MAX series starring Kaley Cuoco.

**REIMAGINING SUCCESS AND WORK**

**September 12 (Thursday)**

Samhita Mukhopadhyay

4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Campus Center West Boardroom (1st floor)

Samhita Mukhopadhyay, former editor-in-chief of *Teen Vogue* and the online community, Feministing, is a UAlbany alum who earned her BA in Women’s Studies in 2000. Her new book is *The Myth of Making It* (2024), a reimagining of the nature of professional success as we know it—particularly for women in the 21st century. CNN’s Jill Filipovic called it, “A reexamination of the many falsehoods, misconceptions, and outright delusions about female ambition and professional achievement,” and said, “If you’re burned out or simply asking ‘is this it?’ pick up this book.”

*Major support and funding provided by Heidi Knoblauch. Cosponsored by the UAlbany Alumni Association, Massry School of Business, Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and the Honors College.*
THE CREATIVE LIFE
Produced by the New York State Writers Institute in collaboration with WAMC Northeast Public Radio, this series features leading figures from a variety of artistic disciplines in conversation with WAMC’s “Roundtable” host Joe Donahue about creative inspiration, craft, and career.

THE JOY AND HEALING POWER OF DOGS
September 16 (Monday)
Marianne Leone and Chris Cooper
7:30 p.m. — Conversation with WAMC’s Joe Donahue, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
Marianne Leone, actress, writer, and advocate for disabled children, is the author of Five-Dog Epiphany: How a Quintet of Badass Bichons Retrieved Our Joy (Sep. 2024)— a tribute to the rescue dogs who helped her and husband Chris Cooper rediscover happiness after the tragic loss of their son Jesse, who died in 2005 at age 17 from complications of cerebral palsy. An actress in many films, including The Thin Blue Line (1988), True Love (1989), Goodfellas (1990), and The Three Stooges (2012), Leone is best-known for her recurring role in the hit series The Sopranos as the mother of mobster Christopher Moltisanti.


Major support for The Creative Life is provided by the University at Albany Foundation.

September 21 (Saturday)
Albany Book Festival
10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. University at Albany Campus Center West
Authors and featured guests tba.

LIFE AT A BIG BOX STORE IN UPSTATE NY
September 26 (Thursday)
Adelle Waldman
4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition
and his romantic conquests in New York City’s hip literary world. The Boston Globe said, “Adelle Waldman just may be this generation’s Jane Austen.”

Cosponsored by the UAlbany English Department's Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project, and the Writing & Critical Inquiry Program (WCI)

OCTOBER

ECOPOETICS"-- POETRY THAT EXPLORES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE

October 1 (Tuesday)
Urayoán Noel & Sarah Giragosian
4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition
Join us for a conversation about “Ecopoetics” with poets whose works often explore our relationship with Nature.

Urayoán Noel, former UAlbany faculty member, is a Puerto Rican poet, performer, translator, and preeminent scholar of Nuyorican poetry. His most recent work of translation is *Adjacent Islands* (2022) by eco-feminist poet Nicole Cecilia Delgado, inspired by her camping trips throughout the Puerto Rican archipelago. Noel’s most recent collection is *Transversal*, a New York Public Library Best Book of 2021. Written in Spanish and English, and featuring bold experiments in “self-translation,” *Transversal* was longlisted for the 2022 PEN America Open Book Award. His 2014 book, *In Visible Movement: Nuyorican Poetry from the Sixties to Slam*, is the first book-length study of Nuyorican poetry, and the definitive book on the subject.

Sarah Giragosian, poet and Lecturer in the UAlbany Writing & Critical Inquiry Program (WCI), is the author of a new collection, *Mother Octopus* (2024), co-winner of the 2023 Halcyon Prize. The book features poems that raise questions about the nature of human and animal appetites, and rising levels of material consumption that threaten the natural environment, while also exploring queer forms of intimacy and resilience. Her previous collections include *Queer Fish* (2017), winner of the American Poetry Journal Book Prize, and *The Death Spiral* (2020).

Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Living in Languages initiative of the Departments of English and Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC), CHATS Environmental Humanities Lab, English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project, Writing & Critical Inquiry (WCI), and the Honors College.

ADVENTURES WITH AUTISM

October 7 (Monday)
John Elder Robison
7:00 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

John Elder Robison is the New York Times bestselling author of thoughtful and humorous books about his experiences living on the autism spectrum. A photographer, educator, neurodiversity advocate, automobile aficionado, and designer of special effects guitars for the rock band KISS, Robison received his autism diagnosis at the age of 40— when he was already the parent of a second grader with a similar diagnosis. Prior to that, Robison had merely been pegged as a “social deviant,” because of his tendency to blurt non sequiturs, avoid eye contact, dismantle radios, and dig five-foot holes. Robison’s books include *Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger’s* (2007), *Be Different* (2011), *Raising Cubby: A Father and Son’s Adventures with Asperger’s* (2013), and *Switched On: A Memoir of Brain Change and Emotional Awakening* (2016).
Major support and funding provided by New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc. (NYSID) and KeyBank.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
October 8 (Tuesday)
Angie Cruz and Lilliam Rivera
4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Angie Cruz, a major voice in 21st century American literature, is the author of acclaimed novels that explore the Dominican American experience in New York City’s under-served neighborhoods, including Soledad (2001), Let It Rain Coffee (2005), and Dominicana (2019). Her newest novel is How Not to Drown in a Glass of Water (paperback, 2023), the tale of a feisty older Dominican woman living in NYC, and her struggles to survive in the face of debt, eviction, internet scams, unemployment, and family strife. The Los Angeles Times said the book, “will have you laughing line after line, even when you wonder if you should be.” Cruz is also the author of a new children’s picture book set in Washington Heights, Angélica and la Güira (2024).

Lilliam Rivera a leading YA and middle grade fiction writer is the author of her first adult novel, Tiny Threads (Sept. 2024), a supernatural thriller about a young woman from New Jersey who gets her dream job working for a fashion designer in LA – only to discover hideous truths about glamor and beauty lurking in the shadows. Her newest middle grade novel is Barely Floating (2023), about a 12-year-old girl who channels her rage into synchronized swimming. Booklist named it a “Best Book of 2023.” Other books include We Light Up the Sky (2021), the graphic novel Unearthed: A Jessica Cruz Story (DC Comics, 2021), Never Look Back (2020), and The Education of Margot Sanchez (2017).

Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Black, Indigenous, Latinx and People of Color Faculty Advancement Initiative (BILPOC), Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC), CHATS Humanities Labs, Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies (LACS), Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities (CEMHD), UAlbany Libraries, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the NYS Writers Institute.

BRINGING BLACK HISTORY TO LIFE: THREE GRAPHIC NOVELISTS
October 16 (Wednesday)
Joel Christian Gill, Marcus Kwame Anderson, and David F. Walker
4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Marcus Kwame Anderson is the illustrator of The Black Panther Party: A Graphic Novel History (2021, with David F. Walker), winner of the Eisner Award, the comic book industry’s highest honor, and an American Library Association “Best Graphic Novel of the Year.” His new graphic novel, another collaboration with Walker, is Big Jim and the White Boy (Oct. 2024), an Afrocentric reimagining of Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn. Anderson is the co-creator of the comic book series Snow Daze, and illustrator of stories in Action Lab’s Cash and Carrie and F.O.R.C.E. He lives and creates in Albany, NY.

Joel Christian Gill is the author and illustrator of Fights: One Boy’s Triumph Over Violence, named one of the best graphic novels of 2020 by the New York Times. His most recent book as illustrator is the current national bestseller, Stamped from the Beginning: A Graphic History of Racist Ideas in America (2024), an adaptation of Ibram X. Kendi’s 2016 National Book Award
winner. His other books include the graphic novel series, *Strange Fruit: Uncelebrated Narratives from Black History* (2014-18), and three volumes of *Tales of the Talented Tenth* (2015-21).

**David F. Walker**, journalist, filmmaker, and comic book writer, is the author of the graphic novels, *The Black Panther Party* (2021), winner of the Eisner Award, and *The Life of Frederick Douglass* (2019). He is also the co-writer and co-creator of the DC comic hero *Naomi*, and the Eisner Award-winning series, *Bitter Root*. Other comic book credits include *Power Man & Iron Fist, Nighthawk*, and *Occupy Avengers* for Marvel; *Cyborg* for DC; *Shaft* for Dynamite; and *Planet of the Apes* for Boom. A noted authority on “Blaxploitation” films, he is the author of *Shaft’s Revenge* (2016), the first new novel starring John Shaft in over 40 years.

*Major support and funding provided by the Carl E. Touhey Foundation. Cosponsored by the UAlbany Department of Art and Art History, the Writing and Critical Inquiry Program (WCI), and the English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project.*

**FILM SCREENING**
**October 18 (Friday)**
**LEAD BELLY: THE MAN WHO INVENTED ROCK AND ROLL**
Screening — 7:00 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(United States, 2023, 80 minutes, b/w and color) Directed by Curt Hahn. Featuring Lead Belly, Pete Seeger, Harry Belafonte, Odetta, Joan Baez, B. B. King.
This new documentary delves into the fascinating story of blues singer Lead Belly, featuring interviews with a variety of music legends who were shaped by his work. With a blend of rare video footage and music performances, viewers are taken on a remarkable ride through Lead Belly’s life and career, from his sharecropper childhood, to time spent in prison, to his remarkable musical career and induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

**NEW YORK IS BORN!**
**October 20 (Sunday)**
**Russell Shorto**
2 p.m. — Lecture, Clark Auditorium, NYS Museum, 222 Madison Avenue, Albany
$15 Member – Historic Albany Foundation / $20 Non-member

*Presented by the Historic Albany Foundation.*
THE NEW AGE OF RNA
October 24 (Thursday)
Thomas Cech
7:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition
Thomas Cech, biochemist, received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1989 for his pioneering work on the properties of RNA. His new book is The Catalyst: RNA and the Quest to Unlock Life's Deepest Secrets (2024), one of Lit Hub’s “Most Anticipated Books of the Year.” For over half a century, DNA has dominated science and the popular imagination as the “secret of life.” But over the last several decades, a quiet revolution has taken place. In a series of breathtaking discoveries, Cech and a diverse cast of brilliant scientists have revealed that RNA—long overlooked as the passive servant of DNA—sits at the center of biology’s greatest mysteries: How did life begin? What makes us human? Why do we get sick and grow old?

Cosponsored by The RNA Institute at the University at Albany and the Honors College

HAITI IN THE HEART AND MIND
October 29 (Tuesday)
Edwidge Danticat
4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Campus Center West Auditorium

Cosponsored by UAlbany's Haitian Student Association, the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC), the Writing & Critical Inquiry Program (WCI), and the English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project.

LEAD BELLY: MAN AND MYTH, TRUTH AND LIES
October 31 (Thursday)
Dom Flemons and Sheila Curran Bernard
4:30 p.m. — Craft Talk, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition
7:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
Join us for a fun, wide-ranging conversation about Huddie Ledbetter, better known as Lead Belly. One of the most influential American musical artists of all time, Ledbetter left his indelible mark on many genres, including gospel, blues, country, folk, and rock & roll. Known for his powerful vocals and brilliance on the 12-string guitar, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.
Dom Flemons, “The American Songster,” is a Grammy-winning folk musician and—in many ways—an heir to Lead Belly’s artistic legacy. In 2015, he was chosen to host a star-studded 125th birthday celebration for Lead Belly at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and performed at a Lead Belly tribute at Carnegie Hall in 2016. As cofounder of The Carolina Chocolate Drops, he received a Grammy for the album, Genuine Negro Jig, as well as four
additional Grammy nominations. His album *Black Cowboys* peaked at #4 and spent over 55 weeks on the *Billboard* Bluegrass charts. In 2023, he premiered *The Real Wild West*, a documentary series on Curiosity Stream, and a definitive history of the diverse pioneers who shaped the American West.

**Sheila Curran Bernard** is the author of *Bring Judgment Day: Reclaiming Lead Belly's Truths from Jim Crow's Lies* (Cambridge University Press, 2024). Drawing on a revelatory examination of primary sources, Bernard contradicts the narrative crafted by the white folklorists who “discovered” Ledbetter in 1933 while he was incarcerated in Louisiana and, along with journalists and entertainment executives, introduced him to national audiences. Replacing myth with fact, Bernard offers a stunning account of Ledbetter’s early life under Jim Crow, and the power of narrative to distort the past. She is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker and author, and an associate professor in the Department of History at UAlbany.

*Cosponsored by the University at Albany History Department, and the Department of Music and Theatre.*

**NOVEMBER**

**SMALL TOWN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND SCREENING**

**November 1 (Friday)**

7:00 p.m. — Auditorium, Bethlehem Central Middle School, 332 Kenwood Ave, Delmar

Come celebrate the 100th birthday of Eva Marie Saint, Bethlehem, New York, native and star of the silver screen, inside the actual building where she attended high school (before it relocated in 1954). A 1942 Bethlehem Central High School graduate, Saint celebrated her 100th birthday on July 4th. The oldest-living Oscar winner, and one of the last surviving stars of Hollywood’s Golden Age, she is unable to attend the festivities, but will join us in spirit. Her many credits include some of the best-known movies of the 20th century, including *On the Waterfront* (1954), *That Certain Feeling* (1956), *Raintree County* (1957), *North by Northwest* (1959), and *Exodus* (1960). Former BCHS English teacher **Jack Rightmyer**, who interviewed Saint in 1990, will host a tribute featuring highlights of her career, vintage photographs, and a screening of one of her finest performances.

**ON THE WATERFRONT**


**Eva Marie Saint** won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress, playing opposite Marlon Brandon in this tale of mobsters and corrupt union bosses on the New Jersey waterfront. The film won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay.

**MAKING SCIENCE FUN FOR KIDS!**

**November 6 (Wednesday)**

Theanne Griffith

4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Albany Public Library, Pine Hills Branch, Large Meeting Room, 517 Western Avenue, Albany

[REGISTRATION REQUIRED] Visit [https://theannegriffith.eventbrite.com](https://theannegriffith.eventbrite.com) to register.

**Theanne Griffith** is a neuroscientist and the award-winning author of the STEM-themed chapter book series, *The Magnificent Makers*—which is described as “*The Magic School Bus* for the 21st century.” Dr. Griffith also co-writes the nonfiction early reader series, *Ada Twist, Scientist: The Why Files.*
Her many books introduce children to the wonders of the human brain, outer space, weather, germs, geology, and other topics. In 2021, *The Magnificent Makers* was a finalist for the Favorite Early Reader Series of the Kids’ Choice Book Awards, the only national book awards voted on solely by kids. Dr. Griffith is also an assistant professor at UC Davis, where her lab investigates how the nervous system encodes bodily sensations such as temperature and pain.

*Major support and funding provided by the Carl E. Touhey Foundation. Presented with the Albany Public Library. Cosponsored by Girls Inc. of the Greater Capital Region, Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, the UAlbany College of Nanotechnology, Science, and Engineering, and the Department of Biological Sciences.*

**November 7 (Thursday)**

**Marathon Public Reading of *Billy Phelan’s Greatest Game***

Reservations are required to read. Go to: [bit.ly/Phelan24](https://bit.ly/Phelan24)

11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. -- Albany Distilling Co. Bar and Bottle Shop, 75 Livingston Avenue, Albany NY 12207

Join us for a total immersion in William Kennedy’s beloved 1978 novel, *Billy Phelan’s Greatest Game*, an odyssey through the speakeasies and pool halls of Albany’s grimy and glittering underworld. Poker player, pool hustler, small-time bookie, and son of *Ironweed’s* Frances Phelan, Billy drifts through the lurid nighttime cityscape and finds himself in the dangerous position of participating in the kidnapping of John O’Connell Jr., the nephew of all-powerful Albany political boss Daniel P. O’Connell. The book will be read in its entirety by volunteer readers - sign up to reserve your spot.

Albany Distilling Company, maker of Ironweed whiskey, is located in the North Albany neighborhood where William Kennedy grew up, and where some of the fictional scenes in the Depression-era narrative take place.

*Donations will be collected at the door to benefit the food pantry and free meal outreach at Sacred Heart Church, 33 Walter St. in Albany, which was Kennedy’s childhood parish.*

**PULITZER PRIZE WINNER IN FICTION**

**Joshua Cohen**

**November 12 (Tuesday)**

4:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A, Assembly Hall (2nd Floor), Campus Center

Joshua Cohen won the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for his novel, *The Netanyahu: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family*. The book presents a fictionalized account of an awkward event in the life of major American literary critic Harold Bloom. An American professor is called upon to play host to medieval historian Ben Zion Netanyahu and his family, including his son, Benjamin Netanyahu, at an upstate New York college in the late 1950s. With humor and keen insight, the novel dramatizes cultural and intellectual clashes between American and Israeli Jews. Cohen is also a contributor to the bilingual 2023 Hebrew-English anthology, *Shelter, October 7th and After*, edited by Oded Wolkstein and Maayan Eitan, a soul-searching exploration of the idea of refuge and safety in Jewish history and experience.

*Cosponsored by the English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project*
FOUNDING MOTHER: A PHILLIS WHEATLEY CELEBRATION

Featuring Wendy Roberts, Cassander L. Smith, and David Waldstreicher

November 14 (Thursday)

4:30 p.m. — Panel Discussion, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Join us for a wide-ranging discussion about the life and work of Phillis Wheatley (Peters) (1753-1784), a major poet of her era, and the first African American to publish a book of poetry. Born in West Africa, she was kidnapped and enslaved at the age of 7 or 8, and eventually sold to a Boston merchant. Drawing from classical, religious, and African sources, her poetry engages many of the pressing issues of her time, including the American Revolution, and remains salient today. After the 1773 publication of *Poems on Various Subjects*, she "became the most famous African on the face of the earth" (Henry Louis Gates, Jr.).

**Wendy Roberts**, UAlbany English professor and scholar of Early American Literature, received wide attention in 2023 for rediscovering the earliest known full-length elegy by Phillis Wheatley, “On the Death of Love Rotch,” dated 1767, in a Quaker commonplace book at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania while conducting research into Wheatley’s life and legacy. She is the author of *Awakening Verse: The Poetics of Early American Evangelicalism* (2020), which received the 2022 Early American Literature Book Award.

**Cassander L. Smith**, Associate Professor of English at the University of Alabama, specializes in African American and Early American Literature. She is the author of *Race and Respectability in an Early Black Atlantic* (2023), and *Black Africans in the British Imagination: English Narratives of the Early Atlantic World* (2016). She is also the co-editor of *Early American Literature*, and of a special issue of that journal, “Dear Sister: Phillis Wheatley (Peters) Studies Now” (Winter 2022).


_Cosponsored by the University at Albany English Department, Young Writers Project, and the Honors College._

November 22 (Friday)

TELLING THE TRUTH 2024

5:30 p.m. — Symposium (2 Panel Discussions), Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

Join us for conversations about the prospects for an enduring democracy in America, and the future of our nation's two major political parties—the Republicans and the Democrats. Panelists to be announced.

_Major support and funding provided by The Professor Ben-Ami Lipetz NYSWI Fund and Pernille Ægidius Dale._
THE CREATIVE LIFE
*Produced by the New York State Writers Institute in collaboration with WAMC Northeast Public Radio, this series features leading figures from a variety of artistic disciplines in conversation with WAMC’s “Roundtable” host Joe Donahue about creative inspiration, craft, and career.*

ONE OF AMERICA’S BEST-LOVED POETS
Billy Collins
**November 25 (Monday)**
7:00 p.m. — Conversation/Q&A with WAMC’s Joe Donahue, Page Hall, Downtown Campus

Billy Collins is one of America’s favorite poets, celebrated for his wit and laugh-out-loud humor, as well as the friendly, conversational style of his poetry. His new book, *Water, Water* (Nov. 2024), features sixty poems about the joys and mysteries of daily life. A cat learns to drink from a swimming pool; a nurse calls a name in a waiting room; an astronaut recites Emily Dickinson from outer space—such common and uncommon events are captured here with equal fascination. The *New York Times* said, "Collins remains the most companionable of poetic companions." He served as US Poet Laureate from 2001 to 2003, and as New York State Poet under the auspices of the NYS Writers Institute from 2004 to 2006.

*The first 150 audience members will receive a free copy of Water, Water as a holiday gift from the Writers Institute.*

**Major support for The Creative Life is provided by the University at Albany Foundation.**

DECEMBER
KNITTING WITH DOG HAIR
Kendall Crolius
**December 3 (Tuesday)**
2:00 p.m. — Meet and greet with therapy dogs, Science Library Atrium (Ground level)
3:00 p.m. — Demonstration and conversation / Q&A, Science Library Barnes & Noble Reading Room (Ground Level)

Kendall Crolius is the author of *Knitting With Dog Hair: Better A Sweater From A Dog You Know and Love Than From A Sheep You’ll Never Meet,* an underground classic in America’s knitting community, first published in 1994 and newly-released this year in a 30th anniversary edition. Come meet an assortment of therapy dogs—all sizes, shapes, and hairstyles—as they perform their very important job of alleviating student anxiety in the days before final exams. Afterward, join us for a fun demonstration of the art of knitting with dog hair, and a chance to examine beautiful samples of sweaters, hats, and scarves that any dog or human would be pleased and proud to wear!

*In partnership with the University at Albany Libraries and Hudson Valley PAWS Therapy Dogs via Alliance of Therapy Dogs.*

SAVE-THE-DATE
**May 3, 2025 (Saturday)**
Selected Shorts
Performance — 7:30 p.m., Main Theatre, Performing Arts Center
Advance tickets: $15 general public • $10 students, seniors & UAlbany faculty-staff.
Day of show tickets: $20 general public • $15 students, seniors & UAlbany faculty-staff.
The hit public radio and podcast series comes to town again bringing three great actors and a rich diversity of voices from literature, film, theater, and comedy. Public Radio International’s wildly popular series and podcast goes live in a unique evening of literature in performance.

Visit nyswritersinstitute.org for more updates.