Celebrating 40 Years of Literary Conversation

Featured Authors:
Stephanie Burt
Grace Cho
Melissa DeRosa
Christopher Paolini
Richard Russo

Featured Events:
Albany Book Festival
Creative Life Series
Imagining A.I.
Telling the Truth 2023

Fall Events 2023
GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

I asked ChatGPT, the artificial intelligence chatbot that is taking the world by storm and threatening widespread disruption, to compose this director’s message for the fall season in our yearlong 40th anniversary celebration. I specified a “warm, friendly and informal” style.

In less than 10 seconds, ChatGPT generated seven paragraphs of prose, about 450 words. It sounded like a version of myself: part avatar, part AI bot, and part something that seems to be scaring the bejeezus out of wordsmiths everywhere.

“I am absolutely thrilled to welcome you all to the 40th anniversary fall season,” the ChatGPT greeting began. So far, so good. I liked this part: “We have nurtured a community that shares a passion for words, stories, and the power of the written word.” I gave a thumbs-up to “the magical connections that form between authors and readers, between fellow lovers of literature.”

“This is the real me writing, verified me. This new AI tool should not frighten us. We ignore it at our peril. It is revolutionary.”

Let us pause ChatGPT for now. This is the real me writing, verified me. This new AI tool should not frighten us. We ignore it at our peril. It is revolutionary. At the Writers Institute, even as we revere our past and honor the classics, we embrace new and diverse voices, create programming that challenges conventional wisdom, host conversations about inconvenient truths, and celebrate writers who push into new frontiers of language and storytelling. And so it shall be with AI.

What does this have to with literature, you might be asking. We are leaning into AI as a vital part of the University at Albany and its bold move of hiring 27 new faculty members specializing in artificial intelligence. It is part of an ambitious plan called AI Plus to incorporate elements of AI teaching and research across all academic programs. Our role in this unprecedented new initiative is to explore the ways in which AI is already being used by storytellers in various genres. For instance, we will host novelist and technology journalist Vauhini Vara, who covered the rise of AI for the Wall Street Journal and whose sci-fi/dystopian novel, The Immortal King Rao, explores AI and was a finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize. We’re also bringing fiction writer and screenwriter Alexander Weinstein, who adapted his short story, “Saying Goodbye to Yang” into the film “After Yang,” set in a near-future of artificial intelligence, social media implants, and intuitive robots.

We are presenting nearly three dozen events in this 40th anniversary fall season. Acclaimed author Richard Russo kicks it off, with a band and desserts. It includes our 6th annual Albany Book Festival; a panel discussion on free speech; three events focusing on Ray Bradbury’s sci-fi classic, Fahrenheit 451; and the 5th edition of our “Telling the Truth” symposium.

I’ll cede the last words to ChatGPT: “Here’s to a season that will touch our souls, broaden our horizons, and remind us why we fell in love with the written word in the first place.”

Paul Grondahl, Opalka Endowed Director, NYS Writers Institute
EVENT GUIDELINES
Events are free and open to the public and take place on the University at Albany’s Uptown Campus, unless otherwise noted. **All events are subject to change.** Refer to page 24 for information on free on-campus parking for events.

For the most up-to-date event information, visit our website: www.nyswritersinstitute.org

DISCOVER MORE EVENTS To sign up for email updates and additional information on events, visit: www.nyswritersinstitute.org

AUGUST

TALES OF BLUE-COLLAR LIFE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

Richard Russo, major American novelist whose work has brought national attention to the comedy and sadness of blue-collar life in Upstate New York’s small towns, returns to Albany with *Somebody’s Fool* (2023) the final installment in his beloved “North Bath” trilogy. Other books in the trilogy include *Nobody’s Fool* (1993), which became a major motion picture starring Paul Newman, and *Everybody’s Fool* (2016). Russo received the Pulitzer Prize for *Empire Falls* (2001), adapted as a 2005 HBO miniseries starring Ed Harris, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Helen Hunt, and Paul Newman. His 1997 academic satire, *Straight Man*, set at a small Pennsylvania college, is currently the basis of a new TV show, *Lucky Hank*, starring Bob Odenkirk on AMC.

**August 29 (Tuesday)**

**Richard Russo**

7:00 p.m. — Reading / Conversation

Main Theatre, UAlbany Performing Arts Center

**Richard Russo**, major American novelist whose work has brought national attention to the comedy and sadness of blue-collar life in Upstate New York’s small towns, returns to Albany with *Somebody’s Fool* (2023) the final installment in his beloved “North Bath” trilogy. Other books in the trilogy include *Nobody’s Fool* (1993), which became a major motion picture starring Paul Newman, and *Everybody’s Fool* (2016). Russo received the Pulitzer Prize for *Empire Falls* (2001), adapted as a 2005 HBO miniseries starring Ed Harris, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Helen Hunt, and Paul Newman. His 1997 academic satire, *Straight Man*, set at a small Pennsylvania college, is currently the basis of a new TV show, *Lucky Hank*, starring Bob Odenkirk on AMC.

**Book signing and reception with light refreshments to follow in the Futterer Lounge. Post-event entertainment outside the PAC will feature alt-folk band Doctor Baker, with UAlbany English Professor Ed Schwarzschild (lead singer) and Art Professor Danny Goodwin (drums), as well as Iggy Calabria (guitar) and Chris Gockley (bass).**
SEPTEMBER

FILM SCREENING

September 1 (Friday)

NINE LIVES

7:00 p.m. — Screening, Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(United States, 2005, 115 minutes, color, Rated R) Written and directed by Rodrigo García. This inventive film, composed of loosely linked tales about nine women confronting personal challenges, features an all-star cast including Kathy Baker, Elpidia Carrillo, Glenn Close, Holly Hunter, Lisa Gay Hamilton, Amanda Seyfried and Sissy Spacek. Stephen Holden of the New York Times called it, "the closest movies have come to the cinematic equivalent of a collection of Chekhov short stories."

Join filmmaker Rodrigo García for a conversation on Tuesday, September 5!

A SON REMEMBERS GABRIEL GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ

September 5 (Tuesday)

Rodrigo García

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

7:30 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A
Recital Hall, UAlbany Performing Arts Center

Filmmaker Rodrigo García presents A Farewell to Gabo and Mercedes (2021), a memoir of his late parents— Gabriel García Márquez, a Colombian fiction writer whose work changed the face of world literature, and his wife of more than 50 years, Mercedes Barcha Pardo. Márquez is best-known for One Hundred Years of Solitude, which William Kennedy called “the first piece of literature since the Book of Genesis that should be required reading for the entire human race” (New York Times). Salman Rushdie praised the memoir, saying, "This is a beautiful farewell to two extraordinary people. It enthralled and moved me, and it will move and enthral anyone who has ever entered the glorious literary world of Gabriel García Márquez."

Cosponsored by the Department of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies.
FILM SCREENING
September 8 (Friday)
AFFLICTION
7:00 p.m. — Screening
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
Adapted from the novel by Russell Banks, AFFLICTION tells the story of Wade Whitehouse (Nolte), a divorced man who works odd jobs and lives in a rusting trailer in a small New Hampshire town as he copes with a variety of family problems. Informed by Banks’s own childhood experiences, the book explores alcoholism and cycles of male violence and abuse in working class families.

Join us on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the 6th Annual Albany Book Festival for a tribute to the late Russell Banks, major American novelist, who died January 7, 2023. A dear friend of the New York State Writers Institute, Russell was a beloved member of the American literary community. The tribute will feature William Kennedy, Annie Proulx, Nell Irvin Painter, Daniel Halpern, Andre Dubus III, Jennifer Haigh, and more.
Join UAlbany President Havidán Rodríguez and the NYS Writers Institute for an open conversation about the value of free speech on America’s college campuses, featuring the CEO of PEN America, the nation’s preeminent organization for promoting free expression. In addition to fighting censorship and defending writers and artists in the U.S. and throughout the world, PEN has issued the “PEN America Principles on Campus Free Speech,” a guide for students and educators.

Suzanne Nossel, CEO of PEN America, is the author of Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All (paperback, 2021), a manual for promoting the exchange of ideas in an age of censorship, book banning, cancel culture, social media storms, and campus controversies. Salman Rushdie said, “In our censorious age of easy outrage, when it’s harder than ever to defend our right to express contentious ideas, Suzanne Nossel remains convinced that bigotry and intolerance can be fought without giving way on the principle of free speech.... An authoritative, essential book.”

Cosponsored by the President's Committee on Free Speech and the Honors College.
A NOMAD POET RETURNS TO ALBANY

September 19 (Tuesday)

Pierre Joris

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

Pierre Joris, avant-garde poet, and winner of major prizes from PEN for his poetry translations, returns to UAlbany where he taught poetry for more than 20 years (1992-2013). A native of Luxembourg, he received that tiny nation’s highest literary honor, the Batty Weber National Literary Prize, in 2020. His new collection is Interglacial Narrows (2023), featuring poems written between 2015 and 2021. Experimental musician John Zorn said in praise, “Pierre Joris is a word-wizard who shines light on the soul itself.” Joris is also coauthor, with Florent Toniello, of Always the Many, Never the One (2022)— conversations that explore the idea of “in-betweenness” in life and poetry, “between languages, places, cultures, and states of being.”

Cosponsored by the English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project.

New York State

AUTHOR & POET

September 22 (Friday)

Award Ceremony, 7:30 p.m., Campus Center West Auditorium

The Albany Book Festival will kick off with a ceremony to award the new State Author and State Poet for 2023-2025. The names of the laureates are still to be announced. In addition, the Bruce Piasecki and Andrea Masters Award on Business and Society Writing will be presented at the ceremony.

For more information, visit www.nyswritersinstitute.org.
ALBANY BOOK FESTIVAL
SATURDAY September 23, 2023
10:30 AM TO 5 PM
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
www.albanybookfestival.com
JOIN US FOR:

- Bestselling and award-winning authors
- Book signings
- Children’s Room with authors and fun activities
- Online how-to workshops for aspiring authors
- Meet & greet local authors
- Exhibitor floor

FEATURED AUTHORS INCLUDE (AMONG OTHERS):

Jai Chakrabarti
Ava Chin
Kate Cohen
Angie Cruz
Andre Dubus III
Kate Fagan
Susan Faludi
Howard Fishman
Sidik Fofana
Kellye Garrett
Karen Baum Gordon

Mary Gordon
Jennifer Haigh
Daniel Halpern
Jimin Han
Nell Irvin Painter
Elizabeth Passarella

Serhii Plokhy
Annie Proulx
Jeff Shaara
Greg Steinmetz
Rachel Swarns

Kim van Alkemade
Amy Wallen
Gary Weiss
Valerie Wilson Wesley
Carmen Rita Wong

Photo: Patrick Dodson
POWERFUL. AUTHENTIC YA FICTION

Charlene Allen

September 27 (Wednesday)
6:00 p.m. — Conversation / Q&A

Albany Public Library - Pine Hills Branch, Large Meeting Room,
517 Western Ave, Albany

[REGISTRATION REQUIRED]
Please visit nyswritersinstitute.org for more info and to register.

Charlene Allen, activist and YA fiction author, is a leading promoter of “Restorative Justice,” a vision of the criminal justice system that focuses on rehabilitation and reconciliation as alternatives to mass incarceration. Her debut novel is Play the Game (2023), a murder mystery that explores friendship, first love, violence, and the allure of video games. Civil rights icon Angela Davis said, “Fast-paced, insightful, and highly relevant, Allen’s novel illustrates the application of restorative justice practices to real life situations. A must read.” Bestselling YA author Tiffany Jackson said, “Powerful. Authentic. A riveting gut punch. This is how you galvanize young activists.”

Presented by the Albany Public Library and the New York State Writers Institute.

Major support and funding provided by the Carl E. Touhey Foundation.

Charlene Allen, Photo: Sehee
Stephanie Burt, influential trans poet and critic, was proclaimed “Poetry’s Cross-Dressing Kingmaker” by the New York Times in 2012. Her newest collection is We Are Mermaids (2022), an exploration in poetry of the non-binary nature and “in-betweenness” of human existence. Asked by blogger “Hey It’s Carly Rae” what she’d like readers to take away from the book, Burt said, “The ways in which queer and trans and weird people need other weird and trans and queer people in our lives. The ways we can make our own fun.” A professor at Harvard, Burt is also the author of a new guide to enjoying poetry, Don’t Read Poetry (paperback, 2023). The New Yorker said the book, “evokes the contagious enthusiasm of a cool teacher.”

Cosponsored by the LGBTQ Advisory Council, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Office of Health Promotion, and the English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project with major support from an ODI Diversity Transformation Grant.
Leland Melvin is an engineer, educator, former NASA astronaut and NFL wide receiver. He served on board the Space Shuttle Atlantis as a mission specialist on mission STS-122 (2008) and STS-129 (2009), helping to construct the International Space Station. Subsequently, he led NASA Education and co-chaired the White House's Federal Coordination in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Education Task Force, developing the nation’s 5-year STEM education plan. His 2017 memoir, Chasing Space: An Astronaut’s Story of Grit, Grace, and Second Chances, shares his life story as an athlete, astronaut, scientist, engineer, photographer, and musician in order to help inspire the next generation of explorers to pursue STEAM careers.

Presented by the Albert Bunshaft ’80 and Caryn Bunshaft ’82 Lecture Endowment, Alumni Association, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Honors College, Office of Student Affairs, NYS Writers Institute, and University Auxiliary Services.

About the Bunshaft Lecture
The Bunshaft Endowment in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences supports programming that provides information and inspiration to UAlbany’s student community about careers in computing and engineering sciences.
ALBANY SYMPHONY
FILM MUSIC FESTIVAL SYMPOSIUM
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. — UAlbany Performing Arts Center
[REGISTRATION REQUIRED] Free and open to the public.
Interactive and informational sessions on the business and art of creating music for film.

SOUNDTRACK NEW YORK:
MUSICAL SCENES FROM A CINEMATIC STATE
David Alan Miller, Conductor
Kevin Cole, Piano
7:30 p.m. — Concert,
Palace Theatre, 19 Clinton Ave, Albany
[TICKETS REQUIRED]
Featuring selections from such cinematic scores as West Side Story (Leonard Bernstein), The Lord of the Rings (Howard Shore), Taxi Driver (Bernard Herrmann), King Kong (Max Steiner), Breakfast at Tiffany’s (Henry Mancini), George Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Rivets, and much more!

Visit albanyssymphony.com for more information and to register for the symposium or purchase tickets to the evening concert.
THE REWARDS AND CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

October 11 (Wednesday)

Jeanette Altarriba

Dean of the UAlbany College of Arts and Sciences and Psychology Professor

3:00 p.m. — Author Talk
Campus Center West Boardroom (1st Floor)

Jeanette Altarriba is coauthor of a major new work on linguistics and communication, *Language and Emotion: An International Handbook* (2022, with Gesine Lenore Schiewer and Bee Chin Ng). The three-volume work explores the interplay of language and emotion, spanning contemporary and historical dimensions, and Eastern and Western perspectives. She will discuss and answer questions about the rewards and challenges of language research, academic writing, and international collaboration. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Altarriba is a Professor of Psychology, and an internationally recognized scholar in the fields of bilingualism, memory and emotion. Born to a Cuban-American family and raised in multicultural Miami, she joined the UAlbany faculty in 1992.

*Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures and the Living in Languages initiative in collaboration with the Department of English.*

THE GREAT BROOKLYN NOVEL

October 12 (Thursday)

Jonathan Lethem

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

7:30 p.m. — Reading/Q&A
Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Jonathan Lethem is the bestselling author of twelve novels, including *The Fortress of Solitude*, *Brooklyn Crime Novel* (Oct. 2023), a sweeping story of community, crime, and gentrification, tracing more than fifty years of life in one Brooklyn neighborhood, and its Black, brown and white inhabitants. Novelist Namwali Serpell called it, “A deeply moving, fiercely intelligent, and acerbically funny novel about the scandal and disaster of American capital in our time.” Winner of a 2005 MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, Lethem has been proclaimed “one of America’s greatest storytellers” (Washington Post).

*Cosponsored by the English Department’s Creative Writing Program and Young Writers Project.*
FAHRENHEIT 451

Celebrating 70 years since it was published, Ray Bradbury’s work of science fiction imagined a future where all books are outlawed and “firemen” toss hidden tomes into bonfires. The history and return to the practice of banning books and our current censorious moment make the subject matter of this classic American novel both timely and ripe for discussion. The first 25 attendees at each film screening and the first 50 ticket purchasers for the 10/26 performance will receive a free copy of the novel!

October 13 (Friday) FAHRENHEIT 451 (1966)
7:00 p.m. — Screening
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(United States, 1966, 105 minutes, color, No rating) Directed by François Truffaut. Starring Oskar Werner, Julie Christie, Cyril Cusack.
This British dystopian drama film was Truffaut’s first color film and his only non-French language film. It was nominated for the Golden Lion, the highest prize, at the 27th Venice International Film Festival.

October 20 (Friday) FAHRENHEIT 451 (2018)
7:00 p.m. — Screening
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus
(United States, 2018, 100 minutes, color, TV-14) Directed by Ramin Bahrani. Starring Michael B. Jordan, Michael Shannon, Sofia Boutella, Laura Harrier.
This terrifying vision of the American future premiered at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival with praise for the performances and visuals.

October 26 (Thursday) LITERATURE TO LIFE: FAHRENHEIT 451
7:00 p.m. — Pre-show talk
7:30 p.m. — Stage Presentation, UAlbany 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. For tickets, visit www.albany.edu/pac/tickets
Adapted and directed by Wynn Handman, Literature to Life’s verbatim stage production is performed by Rich Orlow who tells the story from the perspective of the protagonist and seamlessly transitions between the five other primary characters.

Presented in collaboration with the UAlbany Performing Arts Center. Major support provided by the University at Albany Foundation with additional support from University Auxiliary Services.
Vauhini Vara is a novelist and technology journalist who covered the rise of artificial intelligence for the Wall Street Journal. She was named a 2023 Pulitzer Prize finalist for her sci-fi/dystopian novel, The Immortal King Rao. Born into a family of Dalit coconut farmers in India in the 1950s, King Rao, the novel’s protagonist, becomes the most accomplished tech CEO in the world and, eventually, the leader of a global, corporate-led government. The New York Times reviewer called it, “a monumental achievement: beautiful and brilliant, heartbreaking and wise.” Vara is also the author of a new book of short stories, This Is Salvaged (Sept. 2023).

Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Department of Information Sciences and Technology (CEHC) in association with the University at Albany’s “Research & Entrepreneurship Week,” a series of events highlighting AI Plus—UAlbany’s new
Alexander Weinstein is the author of the short story collections, *Universal Love* (2020) and *Children of the New World* (2016), which was chosen as one of the New York Times “100 Notable Books of the Year” and a best book of the year by NPR, Google, and Electric Literature. Emily St. John Mandel called *Children of the New World*, “A darkly mesmerizing, fearless, and exquisitely written work. Stunning, harrowing, and brilliantly imagined.”

**AFTER YANG**

7:30 p.m. — Film Screening and Q&A with Alexander Weinstein

Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition


Alexander Weinstein’s short story, “Saying Goodbye to Yang,” from the collection *Children of the New World*, provides the basis of this film set in a near-future of artificial intelligence, social media implants, memory manufacturers, dangerously immersive virtual reality games, and alarmingly intuitive robots. A family reckons with questions of love, connection, and loss after their A.I. helper, Yang, unexpectedly breaks down.

Cosponsored by the University at Albany Foundation, UAlbany’s Department of Africana Studies, School of Business, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, and Dr. Leonard Slade Jr.

Holistic approach to integrating teaching and learning about AI across our academic and research programs. For more information visit [https://www.albany.edu/ai-plus](https://www.albany.edu/ai-plus)
BRILLIANT AND DIFFICULT FRIENDS
October 24 (Tuesday)

Robert Boyers
4:30 p.m. – Craft Talk
Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Robert Boyers presents *Maestros & Monsters* (2023), an account of his 50-year friendship with Susan Sontag and George Steiner—two of the most influential literary critics of the last 100 years, and strong personalities who frequently clashed with one another. Garth Greenwell called it, “A delicious portrait of two difficult brilliant intellectuals, and a spirited vindication of criticism as a noble calling.” A professor at Skidmore College, Boyers is co-founder and director of the New York State Summer Writers Institute in Saratoga Springs.

CospONSORED BY THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT’S CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM AND YOUNG WRITERS PROJECT.

THE BLOODSPORT OF ALBANY POLITICS
October 25 (Wednesday)

Melissa DeRosa
7:00 p.m. – Conversation
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

[REGISTRATION REQUIRED] Visit nyswritersinstitute.org to register.

Melissa DeRosa, one of the most powerful women in New York State government history, shares her gripping story for the first time in her new memoir, hot off the press, *What’s Left Unsaid: My Life at the Center of Power, Politics & Crisis* (published Oct. 2023). The communications director, chief of staff, and secretary to Governor Andrew Cuomo, DeRosa takes readers on a white-knuckle ride from Cuomo’s meteoric rise to his sudden fall. She also details her journey as a young woman rising to the highest levels of government, writing with raw honesty about the personal challenges she faced—a failing marriage, infertility, death threats, misogyny—while navigating professional landmines along the way.
November

**TASTES LIKE WAR**
Grace Cho

November 2 (Thursday)

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

7:30 p.m. — Conversation/Q&A, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

**Grace Cho** is the author of *Tastes Like War: A Memoir* (2021), a National Book Award Nonfiction Finalist that investigates the impact of the immigration experience, the aftermath of the Korean War, small town American life, the comforts of Korean food, and a mother’s battle with schizophrenia. Cho grew up as the daughter of a white American merchant marine and a Korean bar hostess he met abroad. They settled in a small town in rural Washington state during the Cold War, where they endured xenophobia and stood out as an unusual family, while her mother descended into mental illness. *TIME* magazine and NPR named it a “Best Book of the Year.”

_Funding provided by UAlbany Professors Emerita in English, Judith Barlow and Judith Fetterley. Cosponsored by UAlbany’s Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies._

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**THE CENTER FOR HUMANITIES, ARTS & TECHNOSCIENCE**

**CHATS Film Festival & Lecture Series**

November 2 - 5 (Thursday - Sunday)
UAlbany Uptown Campus & The Linda

Join us for the eighth annual CHATS Film Festival and Lecture Series. While professors panic, and tech companies celebrate, the CHATS Film Festival and Lecture Series explores the shifting and significant place of AI in the arts, not only the products and technologies of AI, but also the cinematic thrillers, mysteries, romances, and horror they inspire.

Throughout the festival weekend, we will explore the fears and fantasies aroused by AI, all the while celebrating what it is that makes humanity unable to be replicated.

Please email Festival Director Dr. Rae Muhlstock for more information: rmuhlstock@albany.edu
Christopher Paolini

November 8 (Wednesday)
7:00 p.m. — Presentation/Q&A
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

Christopher Paolini presents Murtagh, the latest installment in his blockbuster “Inheritance Cycle,” with over 33 million copies in print. In March 2023, Money magazine ranked the cycle, the 13th biggest-selling fantasy series of all time. In 2011, Paolini was named the youngest author of a bestselling book series by the Guinness Book of World Records—the first book, Eragon, was begun in 1998 when the author was only 15 years old. The new book, Murtagh, tells the story of the Dragon Rider—and fan favorite—Murtagh and his dragon, Thorn, as they confront a perilous new enemy.

Presented in partnership with The Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza and cosponsored by the UAlbany Honors College.

Jon Meacham

November 8 (Wednesday)
Biographer of American presidents
7:00 p.m. — Ceremony/Conversation with host Harold Holzer
[TICKETS REQUIRED]

NYS Museum, Cultural Education Center, 222 Madison Avenue, Albany


Presented by the New York State Archives Partnership Trust.
Susanna Hoffs

November 9 (Thursday)

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

Susanna Hoffs rose to fame as the founder, lead singer and guitarist of 1980s “hit machine,” The Bangles, a band known for "Manic Monday" (1986), "Walk Like an Egyptian" (1986), "In Your Room" (1988), and "Eternal Flame" (1989). Hoffs is also the author of a bestselling debut novel, This Bird Has Flown (2023) — the sad, joyful, sexy, and laugh-out-loud funny tale of Jane Start, a broke thirty-something singer who once had a big hit. The New York Times reviewer called it, "a total knockout" and "the smart, ferocious rock-star redemption romance you didn’t know you needed."

Major support for The Creative Life is provided by the University at Albany Foundation and University Auxiliary Services.
VISIONARY REINVENTOR OF MULTICULTURAL MARKETING AND BRANDING

November 13 (Monday)

**Teneshia Jackson Warner**

7:30 p.m. — Conversation, Hearst Media Center, 645 Albany Shaker Rd, Albany

[REGISTRATION REQUIRED] Visit nyswritersinstitute.org to register.

**Teneshia Jackson Warner** is the founder, creator, and CEO of one of the country’s most successful multicultural marketing and communications firms, EGAMI Group. The company has created campaigns for numerous major clients, including Procter & Gamble, Verizon Wireless, Dasani, Rosa Regale, General Motors, Target, KFC, Major League Baseball, Delta Airlines, and more. She is also the author of an acclaimed how-to book, *The Big Stretch: 90 Days to Expand Your Dreams, Crush Your Goals, and Create Your Own Success* (2019), a self-evaluation and empowerment program for jumpstarting a new business, new career, or new idea.

*Presented in partnership with Capital Region Women@Work. Major support and funding provided by Heidi Knoblauch.*

CENTURIES OF COURAGEOUS ACTION

November 14 (Tuesday)

**Gloria Browne-Marshall**

4:30 p.m. — Craft Talk, Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition
7:30 p.m. — Conversation, New York State Bar Association, One Elk Street, Albany

[REGISTRATION REQUIRED for evening event] Visit nyswritersinstitute.org to register.

**Gloria Browne-Marshall** is a civil rights attorney who has litigated cases for the Southern Poverty Law Center and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. She’s also an author, playwright, and Professor of Constitutional Law at John Jay College (CUNY). Her newest book, *She Took Justice: The Black Woman, Law, and Power – 1619 to 1969*, recounts three centuries of courageous actions taken by Black women in the face of racial prejudice and gender oppression. In the evening, the author will be in conversation with Henry Greenberg, shareholder at Greenberg, Traurig, and chair of the Commission to Reimagine the Future of New York’s Courts.

*Cosponsored by the Honors College, UAlbany’s 3+3 joint degree with Albany Law School, New York State Bar Association, and the Historical Society of the New York Courts.*
November 17 (Friday)
5:30 p.m. — Symposium
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

Join us for two panel discussions with major thinkers and journalists representing a variety of viewpoints about the present and future of our nation.

Panel Discussions will include:

- “The American Presidency,” a conversation about the Biden administration and the prospect of a second Trump administration, featuring Franklin Foer, Miles Taylor.
- “The American Backlash,” a conversation about the politics of revenge, and the impulse to punish “out groups” who have made political gains—particularly racial, sexual, and cultural minorities, and women, featuring Juliet Hooker (additional panelists TBD).

Franklin Foer, staff writer at The Atlantic, is the author of The Last Politician: Inside Joe Biden’s White House and the Struggle for America’s Future (2023).


Major support and funding provided by The Professor Ben-Ami Lipetz NYSWI Fund.
Mark Chiusano started covering Republican George Santos during his Congressional campaign in 2019 as a columnist and editorial writer at the Long Island daily newspaper, Newsday. His forthcoming book is *The Fabulist: The Lying, Hustling, Grifting, Stealing, and Very American Legend of George Santos* (Nov. 28, 2023). The publisher calls it a “bizarre, page-turning, and frankly hysterical story.” George Santos said in a tweet, “I’m really hopeful that the reporter I’ve had blocked for over a year has a great imagination.” Chiusano received a PEN/Hemingway Award honorable mention for his story collection *Marine Park* in 2015.

**Presented in partnership with the Times Union.**
Back by Popular Demand!

LITERATURE IN PERFORMANCE

April 27, 2024 (Saturday)

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. For tickets, visit www.albany.edu/pac/tickets

It’s story time...
for adults

The acclaimed weekly public radio broadcast turned touring show has a simple premise: take great stories by well-known and emerging writers and have them performed by terrific actors of stage and screen. Be transported through the magic of fiction in this unique night of literature in performance. Stay tuned to nyswritersinstitute.org for more updates on the featured stories and cast.

Presented in collaboration with the UAlbany Performing Arts Center with support from the University at Albany Foundation.
To sign up for email updates and for additional information on events, video clips, and literary news, visit our website at: www.nyswritersinstitute.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and Twitter.

**On Campus Parking:**
Courtesy parking for Writers Institute events on the Uptown Campus will be available in the State Quad Student Parking Lot one hour prior to and one hour after events. Visitor Parking lots are also available for $5 per vehicle, though parking spaces are very limited.

For Downtown Campus events, courtesy parking will be available in the Thurlow Student Parking lot on Western Avenue. Handicapped entrances available: Milne Hall (from Washington Avenue) and Richardson Hall (Page Courtyard, Western Avenue).

For a map of the campus including parking lots go to: www.albany.edu/map


**The New York State Writers Institute**
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Thank you for your generosity.
FALL 2023
Schedule of Events