Literary Events Calendar

SOPHIE KERR PROGRAM &
ROSE O’NEILL LITERARY HOUSE
2009 - 2010

Washington College
The Sophie Kerr Legacy

SOPHIE KERR, a prolific and popular American writer of the early 20th century, has left an indelible literary mark at Washington College, where the gift she bequeathed 40 years ago has enabled the College to bring to campus a succession of the nation’s top writers, editors and scholars. Edward Albee, Joseph Brodsky, Gwendolyn Brooks, Mary Karr, Lucille Clifton, Eamon Grennan, Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Pinsky, Charles Simic, Jane Smiley, and Ted Kooser are just a few of the literary heavyweights who have inspired and instructed the next generation of American writers at Washington College.

In addition to the Sophie Kerr Speaker Series, the Sophie Kerr Gift provides scholarships for students who show literary promise, pays for library books, and supports various student literary activities. The result is a wonderfully vibrant intellectual culture where the literary arts thrive.

The Kerr endowment also funds the Sophie Kerr Prize, awarded each year to the graduating senior who has the best ability and promise for future fulfillment in the field of literary endeavor. Valued at $68,814 in 2009, it is the nation’s largest literary prize awarded solely to undergraduate students.

The Rose O’Neill Literary House

ESTABLISHED IN 1985, the Rose O’Neill Literary House is the center for creative life on campus, a comfortable, sociable place that appeals particularly to students within the creative writing program, English and drama majors, performance artists and aficionados of the literary and book arts. Our refurbished Victorian house — with its rows of books, wraparound porch, quiet garret retreats, antique letterpress and expansive outdoor deck – is the perfect venue for co-curricular activities that bring together students and faculty with visiting writers, scholars, editors and artists.

Authors, poets, webcomics, graphic novelists, humorists, playwrights, rock critics, radio hosts, editors, sportswriters and studio artists routinely join us from around the world for readings, career events, and fellowships. Recent guests include Neil Gaiman, Hannah Tinti, John Barth, Oni Buchanan, George Saunders, Nuruddin Farah, Amanda Hesser, John Harwood, J.T. Rogers, Philip Gourevitch, Emmanuel Guibert, and DMC.
Readings: Writers and Scholars

Gerald Graff & Cathy Birkenstein-Graff
September 4, 3:30 p.m., Litrenta Lecture Hall, Toll Science Center

Demystifying the Academic Game: How Schools and Colleges can Demystify Academic Intellectual Culture for all Students

Gerald Graff, prominent literary historian and educator, author of Professing Literature and Beyond the Culture Wars, and the president of the Modern Language Association in 2008, focuses in his recent work, Clueless in Academe, on ways that “schooling obscures the life of the mind” and argues that schools can develop better writers and thinkers among all students, not just the high-achieving few, when teachers share with students the basic rules and moves of the game of academic argumentation that they use themselves. Putting his argument into practice, Graff co-wrote in 2006 with his wife, Cathy Birkenstein, a textbook for teaching writing, “They Say/I Say”: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing. The book is widely used in schools and colleges and continues Graff’s longstanding efforts to revitalize American education. Graff and Birkenstein both teach at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee and the Dean of the College

Mark Nowak
September 15, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Reading from his work
Reception to follow

Mark Nowak, the new Director of the Rose O’Neill Literary House at Washington College, is a documentary poet, social critic, and labor activist, whose writings include Shut Up Shut Down (afterword by Amiri Baraka), a New York Times “Editor’s Choice,” and the recently published book on coal mining disasters in the US and China, Coal Mountain Elementary (2009), that Howard Zinn has called “a stunning educational tool.”
Nowak’s unique work in bringing innovative aesthetics and working-class communities into dialogue has resulted in a dynamic array of projects and publications. His poetry, similarly, has engaged central issues of work, family, and community. His verse play on Reagan’s firing of striking PATCO air traffic controllers, “Capitalization,” has been staged at both major theaters (Stage Left in Chicago, the Cleveland Public Theatre) and at rallies for striking Northwest Airlines mechanics. He is one of a dozen poets to have been included in the seminal anthology *American Poets in the 21st Century: The New Poetics* (Wesleyan University Press). His ethnographic essay on gothic-industrial music in rust belt America was recently published in *Goth: Undead Subculture* (Duke University Press).

*Sponsored by: The Rose O’Neill Literary House and the Sophie Kerr Committee*

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**Marla Miller**  
September 16, 7:30 p.m., Litrenta Lecture Hall, Toll Science Center

**Betsy Ross: The Life Behind the Legend**  
Book signing to follow

Marla Miller, the 2009-10 Patrick Henry Writing Fellow, is an Associate Professor and Director of the Public History Program at the University of Massachusetts. Her book, *The Needle’s Eye: Women and Work in the Age of Revolution* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2006), won the Costume Society of America’s Millia Davenport Publication Award for the best book in the field for that year. Related articles have appeared in the *New England Quarterly* (1998), the proceedings of the Dublin Seminar on New England Folklife (2000), and the *William and Mary Quarterly* (2003). Miller’s primary research interest is U.S. women’s work before industrialization. She is presently completing a microhistory of women and work in Federal Massachusetts as well as a biography of that most-misunderstood early American craftswoman, Betsy Ross.

The Patrick Henry Writing Fellowship, provided by Washington College’s C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience and supported by The Rose O’Neill Literary House, offers a yearlong residency to authors doing innovative work on America’s founding era and its legacy.

*Sponsored by: The Rose O’Neill Literary House and the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience*
Mary Gordon
September 17, 4:30 p.m., Sophie Kerr Room, Miller Library

Fiction reading

Mary Gordon is the author of several bestselling novels, as well as short stories, memoirs, essays and criticism. Gordon is known for her investigations of Catholic family life, Catholic spirituality, thwarted love, moral struggle, personal sacrifice, female identity, and family pain. She is often praised for her deep insights, lyrical writing, and what Los Angeles Times critic Ellen Akins called, “her delicate rendering of the drama of consciousness.” Recent books by Gordon include the biography, Joan of Arc (2000); the essay collection, Seeing Through Places: Reflections on Geography and Identity (2000); the novel, Spending: A Utopian Divertimento (1998); and the bestselling memoir of her secretive, tormented father, The Shadow Man (1996). Gordon’s latest novel is Pearl (2005) the story of a strong-willed, middle-aged, single mother named Maria who sets out to prevent her only daughter, Pearl, from killing herself in a self-imposed hunger strike as she sits chained to a flagpole in front of the American embassy in Dublin.

Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee

Irina Reyn
2009 Mary Wood Fellow
September 24, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Demystifying Book Publishing: A Publishing talk with Irina Reyn

Author Irina Reyn, who worked in book publishing for several years, takes us on a practical journey through the process of getting the written word from your laptop or notebook and onto the bookstore shelves.
Irina Reyn
September 26, 1:30 p.m., CAC Forum, Casey Academic Center

A reading by Irina Reyn and Washington College students
Book signing to follow

Irina Reyn’s first novel, What Happened to Anna K. (Touchstone 2008), a bold reimagining of Anna Karenina in modern New York, was named one of the best books of 2008 by The San Francisco Chronicle, The Washington Post, and Entertainment Weekly and is described by Philip Lopate as a “witty, psychologically astute and immensely pleasurable novel.” Reyn is editor of Living on the Edge of the World: New Jersey Writers Take on the Garden State (Touchstone/Simon & Schuster 2007) and has published widely in One Story, Post Road, Tin House, Los Angeles Times, Town & Country Travel, The Forward, Nextbook, Ballyhoo Stories, San Francisco Chronicle, and The Moscow Times. Her fiction and personal essays also appear in Not Like I’m Jealous or Anything: The Jealousy Book (Delacorte), Becoming American: Personal Essays by First Generation Immigrant Women (Hyperion) and A Stranger Among Us: Stories of Cross-Cultural Collision and Connection (OV Books). Reyn was born in Moscow, and currently divides her time between Brooklyn, NY and Pittsburgh, PA, where she is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh.

Initiated in 2007, the Mary Wood Fellowship is extended bi-annually to an emerging female writer. It is made possible by the continued support of author Mary Wood.

Sponsored by: The Rose O’Neill Literary House and the Department of English

Maxine Susman
September 29, 5:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

“Wartime Address”: A reading by Maxine Susman

“Wartime Address” is a poem sequence based on the memoir by Jean Wetzel. It tells of her flight from Paris during World War II.

Dr. Maxine Susman is Professor of English at
Caldwell College where she teaches poetry, literature and writing across the curriculum. Her poems have appeared in several dozen journals and anthologies, including *Paterson Literary Review*, *Colere*, *Ekphrasis*, *Earth’s Daughters*, *The Dogwood Journal*, *The Chesapeake Reader*, *Blueline*, and forthcoming in *Alehouse and Poet Lore*. Her two other books of poetry are *Gogama* (2006), about her father as a young doctor in Northern Ontario during the Great Depression and *Familiar* (Fall 2009). She belongs to the performance group Cool Women.

*Sponsored by: The Rose O’Neill Literary House and the C.V. Starr Center for the American Experience*

**Jeff Talarigo**

October 1, 4:30 p.m., Sophie Kerr Room, Miller Library

**Fiction reading**

Jeff Talarigo is the author of the award winning novel, *The Pearl Diver*, which won the 2005 American Academy of Arts and Letters Rosenthal Foundation Award and was named a 2005 Kiriyama Prize Notable Book. His second novel, *The Ginseng Hunter*, noted as one of the “Best Books of 2008” by NPR and an American Library Association’s “Notable Books for 2009,” will be released in paperback in April of 2009. Talarigo currently lives in Boston, Massachusetts, where he is working on a novel about 20th Century Gaza as seen through the eyes of a Palestinian woman.

*Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee*

**Andrew Gibson**

October 12, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

**“His Journey Westward”: Joyce’s *The Dead*, Irish History and Modernity**

Dr. Andrew Gibson is Research Professor of Modern Literature and Theory at Royal Holloway, University of London, a permanent advisory editor to the *James Joyce Quarterly*, and a member of the editorial board of *Limit(e) Beckett*, the new Anglo-French journal in Beckett scholarship set

*Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee*

**Dan Chaon**

October 13, 4:30 p.m., Sophie Kerr Room, Miller Library

**Fiction reading**

Dan Chaon, born and raised in Sidney, Nebraska, is the author of the short-story collections *Fitting Ends and Other Stories* (Northwestern UP, 1996; reprinted by Ballantine, 2003) and *Among the Missing* (Ballantine, 2002) which was a finalist for the National Book Award. It was listed as one of the ten best books of 2001 by the American Library Association, *The Chicago Tribune, The Boston Globe, The Las Vegas Mercury, and Entertainment Weekly* and was also cited by *Publishers Weekly, The Washington Post, and The New York Times* as one of the Notable Books of the year. His stories have appeared in the anthologies Best American Short Stories 1996 and 2003, The Pushcart Prize 2000, 2002, and 2003, as well as such noteworthy literary journals as *TriQuarterly, Ploughshares, American Short Fiction, Crazy-horse, Gettysburg Review, MSS, Story, Helicon, Mid-American Review,* and elsewhere. Chaon’s first novel, *You Remind Me of Me*, was released in 2004 and praised by *Publishers Weekly* for its “elegant prose, haunting plot and knockout literary excellence.” His most recent novel, *Await Your Reply*, has recently been published by Ballantine Books. Chaon currently teaches creative writing at Oberlin College, where he holds the position of Houck Associate Professor in the Humanities.

*Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee*
James McBride
October 29, 4:30 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Song Yet Sung: A Reading by James McBride
Book signing to follow

Best-selling author and musician James McBride has written for the Washington Post, People, the Boston Globe, Essence, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times. He is the author of The Color of Water and Miracle at St. Anna. In his new book, Song Yet Sung, McBride follows a group of slaves as they escape to freedom through the swamps of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Song Yet Sung was chosen by the Maryland Humanities Council to represent the One Maryland One Book program for 2009, and was chosen by Washington College for its First-Year Book program.

The First-Year Book program gives new students a common experience over the summer and introduces them to Washington College’s tradition of bringing great writers to campus.

Sponsored by: The Rose O’Neill Literary House, The C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, the Department of English, the Dean of the College, Gunston Day School’s In Celebration of Books, Kent County Public Library, and the One Maryland One Book program of the Maryland Humanities Council.

Taije Silverman
November 11, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Poetry reading

Taije Silverman’s poems have appeared in Poetry, Shenandoah, Ploughshares, Five Points, Massachusetts Review, Prairie Schooner, and other journals. The recipient of the 2005–2007 Emory University Creative Writing Fellowship, as well as residencies from the MacDowell Colony and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, she is now Assistant Visiting Professor at Ursinus College,
outside of Philadelphia. Her first collection of poems, *Houses Are Fields*, was published by LSU Press in 2009, and selected as the debut book in their Sea Cliff Series. Thrice nominated for the Pushchart Prize, she has received the Anais Nin Award from the Academy of American Poets, and her book has just been translated into Italian. Italian translations of her individual poems are forthcoming in the *Italian Poetry Review*, at Columbia University, and in *ClanDESTino*, at the University of Bologna. Her own translations from the Italian of poems by Paolo Valesio are forthcoming in *Pleiades*.

*Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee*

**Debra Spark**

November 12, 4:30 p.m., Sophie Kerr Room, Miller Library

**Fiction reading**

Debra Spark is the author of the novels *Coconuts for the Saint* (Faber & Faber, Avon) and *The Ghost of Bridgetown* (Graywolf) and editor of the anthology *Twenty Under Thirty: Best Stories by America’s New Young Writers* (Scribners). Her thoughts on the craft of writing have been collected in *Curious Attractions: Essays on Fiction Writing* (University of Michigan Press). Short fiction, essays, articles and book reviews have appeared in *Esquire, Ploughshares, Epoch, Agni, Gingko Tree Review, narrativemagazine.com, The New York Times, New England Travel and Life, Food and Wine, Yankee, Down East, The Washington Post and The San Francisco Chronicle*, among other places. She has been the recipient of several awards including a NEA fellowship, a Bunting Institute fellowship from Radcliffe College, a Pushcart Prize, and the John Zacharis / Ploughshares award for best first book. Spark currently teaches at Colby College and in the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. Her latest novel, *Good for the Jews*, will be published in October by University of Michigan Press.

*Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee*
Leslie Harrison
November 19, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Poetry reading

Leslie Harrison’s *Displacement* was the 2008 Katherine Nason Bakeless winner in poetry from the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. It was published by Mariner Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, in July of 2009. She has poems and prose published in *Poetry, Southwest Review, The New Republic, Barn Owl Review, Gulf Coast*, and elsewhere. She holds graduate degrees from The Johns Hopkins University and the University of California, Irvine where she completed her MFA in 2006. She has been a Tennessee Williams Scholar at the Sewanee Writers’ Conference and a fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference.

*Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee*

David Orvis
March 3, 4:30 p.m., Sophie Kerr Room, Miller Library

Shakespeare’s Queer Marriages

David L. Orvis, a 2002 graduate of Washington College, earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Arizona. He is currently an Assistant Professor of English and Faculty Affiliate in Women’s Studies at Appalachian State University. He is working on his first book, tentatively titled *Performing Queer Marriage on the Early Modern Stage*, as well as a collection of essays on *Psalms in the Early Modern World*, co-edited with Linda Phyllis Austern and Kari Boyd McBride. He has articles forthcoming in *The Journal of Homosexuality, In Search of the Normal: Developments in the Histories of Sexualities, 1200-1900, Selected Papers from the Sexual Identities in Shakespeare Conference, The Explicator, and Performing Pedagogy: Gender and Instruction in Early Modern England*.

*Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee*
Daniel Handler a.k.a. Lemony Snicket
(SK Weekend Speaker)
March 26, 4:00 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Fiction reading

Daniel Handler is the author of the literary novels The Basic Eight, Watch Your Mouth, and, most recently, Adverbs. Under the name Lemony Snicket he has also written a sequence of books for children, known collectively as A Series of Unfortunate Events, which have sold more than 53 million copies and were the basis of a film starring Jim Carrey.

His intricate and witty writing style has won him numerous fans for his critically acclaimed literary work and his wildly successful children’s books.

Handler has worked intermittently in film and music, most recently in collaboration with composer Nathaniel Stookey on a piece commissioned and recorded by the San Francisco Symphony, entitled “The Composer Is Dead,” which has been performed all over the world and is now a book with CD. An adjunct accordionist for the music group The Magnetic Fields, he is also the author of Lemony Snicket: The Unauthorized Biography, The Beatrice Letters, Horseradish: Bitter Truths You Can’t Avoid, and two books for Christmas: The Lump of Coal and The Latke Who Couldn’t Stop Screaming: a Christmas story. He is the screenwriter of the film Rick, a revamp of the Verdi opera Rigoletto, and the film adaptation of Joel Rose’s novel Kill the Poor, and has written for The New York Times, Newsday, San Francisco Chronicle, The Believer, Chickfactor, and various anthologies, and was the chair of the Judging Panel for the National Book Awards in Young People’s Literature, 2008. His current projects include a fourth novel for adults, a picture book in collaboration with Maira Kalman and the script for the long-awaited second Snicket movie.

“Daniel Handler [is] something like an American Nabokov.” — Dave Eggers
“One of our most dazzling literary conjurers.” — Michael Chabon
“Sentence by sentence, Handler dazzles, teases the unwary with unforeseeable perceptions.” — San Francisco Chronicle

Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee and The Rose O’Neill Literary House
Eric Mallin
April 12, 4:30 p.m., Sophie Kerr Room, Miller Library

“In spite of my own nature”: *King Lear* and the Perverse.

Eric S. Mallin is Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin. He has written *Inscribing the Time: Shakespeare and the End of Elizabethan England* (University of California Press, 1996) and *Godless Shakespeare* (Continuum, 2007), as well as numerous articles and reviews. His lecture on *King Lear* is part of a book in progress called *Perverse: The Hidden History of the Normal.*

Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee

Michael Drout
April 15, 4:30 p.m., Litrenta Lecture Hall, Toll Science Center

Whole Worlds Out of Single Words: Tolkien and Language

The Prentice Professor and Chair of the English Department at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, Michael Drout is a specialist in Anglo-Saxon Literature and the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. He is the editor of *Beowulf and the Critics,* a collection of Tolkien’s scholarly work, as well as the J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia and Tolkien Studies, the foremost scholarly journal on the works of J.R.R. Tolkien. He is also the author of *How Tradition Works,* a study of the poetics of the Anglo-Saxon tenth century, and he has lately dedicated himself to producing oral performances of the entire Anglo-Saxon poetic corpus in podcast form. A celebrated teacher, he has recorded a popular series of lectures on Tolkien and Anglo-Saxon poetry with the Recorded Books company, which are available under their “Modern Scholar” series.

Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee
Washington College/PEN World Voices Fellow in International Letters
Spring 2010, date to-be-announced

Each spring, an international writer joins us for a residency and series of lectures on his or her work before heading to the PEN American Center’s World Voices Festival in New York City. Past Fellows include French graphic novelist Emmanuel Guibert and Somali novelist Nuruddin Farah.

XCP: Cross Cultural Poetics
Nearly fifteen years ago, new Lit House Director Mark Nowak created XCP: Cross Cultural Poetics, a journal that brought together writers in social documentary from a variety of fields—anthropology, poetry, performance studies, theatre, and history. XCP has since published writings from emerging young writers in these and other fields as well as established scholars and artists such as Lila Abu-Lughod, Amiri Baraka, Kamau Brathwaite, and Adrienne Rich. In addition to bringing XCP to Washington College, this spring will inaugurate a series of readings by regular contributors to the journal. Please check the Rose O’Neill Literary House website for complete details on these spring events.

All events listed in this brochure—except those noted as open only to members of the Washington College Community—are free and open to the public.
Rose O’Neill Literary House “Tea and Talk” Series

Join us at the Lit House for tea, cookies, and a series of talks featuring writers and scholars from Washington College and the Chestertown community.

Eric Mills
Director of Media Relations
October 27, 4:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Phantom Ships and Ghostly Crews: A Haunted History of the U.S. Navy
Book signing to follow

In addition to his new book, The Spectral Tide: True Ghost Stories of the U.S. Navy, an exploration of unexplained paranormal phenomena throughout the history of America’s sea service, Eric Mills is the author of Chesapeake Rumrunners of the Roaring Twenties and Chesapeake Bay in the Civil War, which served as the inspiration for “The Bay at War,” a Virginia Foundation for the Humanities-funded special exhibit at Virginia’s Steamboat Era Museum. Mills wrote the script for the exhibit’s accompanying documentary film, which was narrated by Roger Mudd. He frequently contributes historically themed articles to Naval History, Chesapeake Bay Magazine, Baltimore Magazine and other periodicals. Mills has worked as a Chesapeake Publishing newspaper reporter/editor, as editor of publications for the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, as exhibits researcher for the Historical Society of Talbot County, and as an acquisitions editor for the Naval Institute Press. He is currently completing a master’s degree in history at Washington College, where he is director of media relations.

Sean Meehan
Assistant Professor of English
November 17, 4:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

“This is a Fragment of Me”: Emerson and the Poetics of Metonymy

Dr. Sean Meehan began his scholarly focus on the American writer
Ralph Waldo Emerson with a dissertation on photography in nineteenth-century American autobiography he completed at the University of Iowa. He recently published a book based on that dissertation, *Mediating American Autobiography: Photography in Emerson, Thoreau, Douglass, and Whitman*. His lecture on Emerson and metonymy is part of his current work-in-progress, a study of Emerson’s engagement with the practice and theory of education and an exploration of Emersonian ways of learning both from the past and for the future. He was awarded the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association Fellowship for 2005-2006 from Houghton Library, Harvard University. He published an article based on research he did at Houghton in *Emerson Society Papers* (2006), “Living Learning: Lessons from Emerson’s School.” In addition to teaching “Emerson and Whitman” and “American Environmental Writing,” Professor Meehan teaches “Literature and Composition” and is the Director of Writing for the College.

**Christine Wade**  
Associate Professor of Political Science and International Studies  
Spring 2010

**Waging Peace**

Dr. Wade is the co-author of *Understanding Central America: Global Forces, Rebellion and Change* (Westview Press, 2005, 2009) and *A Revolução Salvadorenha* (The Salvadoran Revolution) (Fundação Editora Da UNESP, 2006). She is also the author of several publications on the FMLN, peacebuilding and post-war politics in El Salvador and Central America. She is currently completing on a manuscript on the politics of peacebuilding in El Salvador and a co-authored book on Nicaraguan post-war politics.

**Michele Volansky**  
Assistant Professor of Drama  
Spring 2010

**Critical Landscape**

Michele Volansky has worked on over 150 new and
established plays during her time as Dramaturg/Literary Manager at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Steppenwolf Theatre Company and the Philadelphia Theatre Company, as well as at theaters across the United States. She is the co-author, with Bruce Graham, of *The Collaborative Playwright*, published by Heinneman Press. Volansky is also an Associate Artist with PlayPenn, a new play development conference based in Philadelphia. In addition, she is completing her PhD at the University of Hull in England, writing about the critics Kenneth Tynan and Frank Rich.

**Benjamin Kohl**  
Professor Emeritus of History, Vassar College  
Spring 2010

**Life in the Venetian Archives**

From 1966 until his retirement in 1998, Dr. Benjamin Kohl taught medieval and early modern history at Vassar, where he served as chair of the Department for seven years. Among his publications are the edited volumes *The Earthly Republic: Italian Humanists on Government and Society* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1978), *Major Problems in the History of the Italian Renaissance* (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1995), and *An abridged translation of Johann Weyer’s De praestigiis daemonum* (Asheville, N.C.: Pegasus Press, 1998) and books including *Padua under the Carrara, 1318-1405* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998) and a collection of fourteen of his papers, published as *Culture and Politics in Early Renaissance Padua* (Aldershot, Eng.: Ashgate, 2001). Kohl currently resides in Betterton, Maryland, where he is currently working on a book on the Governance of Late Medieval Venice. In addition to his work as a scholar, on the Eastern Shore Kohl teaches in the local Elderhostel, directs The Hedgelawn Foundation, Inc. (a small charitable trust dedicated to the promotion of the humanities, historic preservation, and the visual and performing arts), serves as the Secretary of the Town of Betterton Planning Commission, and drives for Food Link.
In-House Events

First Lit House Community Meeting of the year
September 3, 5:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Join our monthly meetings for networking, event planning, conversation, and, above all, for sharing a love of language, stories, and the creative life. Anyone with an interest in overseeing, imagining, and inhabiting the House is welcome. Meetings are largely shaped by participants’ ideas and concerns. First-time attendees are always welcome.

Print Shop Workshops

Beginner’s Workshop: Introduction to Letterpress
Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Begins Tuesday, September 15. Print Shop, Rose O’Neill Literary House

Advanced Workshop: Book Arts
Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. (prerequisite: Beginner’s Workshop).
Begins Thursday, September 10. Print Shop, Rose O’Neill Literary House

Our free, non-credit Print Shop Workshops are open to students, faculty, and staff at Washington College and our Chestertown neighbors. Come learn the history of the book and the printed word, and try your hand at letterpress printing and bookbinding. Master Printer Mike Kaylor instructs. To sign up, email kbursick2@washcoll.edu

First-Year Reading
February 24, 7:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Come hear the best and brightest Washington College First-Year writers read from their original work. Reception follows.

Sponsored by: The Rose O’Neill Literary House, The Writers’ Union, and The Department of English
Annual Graduate School Tea: Getting In and Beyond  
March 4, 4:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Washington College graduates Liam Daley (MA, St. Andrews University), Stephany Fontanone (MA, University of Alabama), and David Orvis (PhD, University of Arizona) discuss their experiences with graduate school—the application process, succeeding in a graduate program, and careers—and offer tips to students who are considering graduate school in English.  
Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee, the Rose O’Neill Literary House, and the Center for Career Development.

The Senior Reading  
April 20, 7:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Bid farewell to your favorite graduating senior writers as they read from their original pieces. Reception follows.  
Sponsored by: The Department of English, The Writers’ Union, and The Rose O’Neill Literary House

William Warner Prize & Veryan Beacham Prize Reception  
Spring 2010, date to-be-announced

2009 Warner Prize winner Alyse Bensel ’10 and 2009 Beacham Prize winner Jacki Bower ’10 read from their original, prize-winning works.

Visit lithouse.washcoll.edu and English.washcoll.edu for updates and more info.

Additional events will be announced via the websites.