SOPHIE KERR PROGRAM AND ROSE O’NEILL LITERARY HOUSE

LITERARY EVENTS 2011-2012

CALENDAR

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 $61,062 in 2011, it is the nation's largest literary prize awarded solely to undergraduate students.

The Rose O’Neill Literary House

THE CREATIVE WRITING culture so much in evidence at the Rose O’Neill Literary House is grounded in Washington College's historic commitment to foster a vibrant writing community across all disciplines and to connect our students and faculty to the wider culture of literature and the creative arts. In collaboration with the English Department, the Sophie Kerr Committee, and the PEN World Voices Festival, the Lit House hosts a dynamic array of readings, lectures, and student-centered workshops with writers from across America and around the globe.

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, Leila Aboulela, John Barth, Oni Buchanan, George Saunders, Nuruddin Farah, Amanda Hesser, John Harwood, Patricia Smith, J.T. Rogers, James McBride, Philip Gourevitch, Emmanuel Guibert, and DMC.
Literary House Orientation Open House and Print Shop Demo

August 26, 8:30-10:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

The Lit House opens its doors and welcomes the class of 2015. Learn about the campus publications and art and music groups on campus, try your hand at letterpress printing, and connect early with like-minded upperclass students and arts faculty.

Print Shop Workshops

Beginners’ Workshop: Introduction to Letterpress

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Begins Tuesday, September 6. Print Shop, Rose O’Neill Literary House

Advanced Workshop: Book Arts

Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. (prerequisite: Beginners’ Workshop)

Begins Thursday, September 8. 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 experience letterpress printing and bookbinding. Master Printer Mike Kaylor instructs. Course lasts 7 weeks. To sign up, email lit_house@washcoll.edu

Chestertown Book Festival Kick-Off

September 9, 7 p.m., Hynson Lounge, Washington College

John Barth kicks off the third annual Book Festival with a reading from his new manuscript, Every Third Thought: A Novel in Five Seasons, from Counterpoint Press. A reception and book signing will follow. Please check website for directions and updates: www.chestertownbookfestival.com.

Sponsored by: The Rose O’Neill Literary House and The Chestertown Book Festival
Chestertown Book Festival

September 10, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
The Garfield Center for the Arts, 210 High St., Downtown Chestertown

Join us for the Third Annual Book Festival at the Garfield Center for the Arts. Authors, publishers, and book-related artists will be on hand throughout the day. John Barth will also be available to sign his new book. More authors will be announced on the website: www.chestertownbookfestival.com.

Sponsored by: The Rose O’Neill Literary House at Washington College, the Kent County Public Library, the Historical Society of Kent County, the Chestertown Spy, The Imperial Hotel, Chestertown Old Book Co./Chester River Press, Kent County Arts Council, L’Atelier IV The Artists’ Gallery, Cross Street Realtors, and Twigs and Teacups

Christian Bök

Poetry Reading
September 14, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Christian Bök is the author not only of Crystallography (Coach House Press, 1994), a pataphysical encyclopedia nominated for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award, but also of Eunoia (Coach House Books, 2001), a bestselling work of experimental literature, which won the Griffin Prize for Poetic Excellence. Bök has created artificial languages for two television shows: Gene Roddenberry’s Earth: Final Conflict and Peter Benchley’s Amazon. Bök has also earned many accolades for his virtuoso performances of sound poetry (particularly the Ursonate by Kurt Schwitters). His conceptual artworks (which include books built out of Rubik’s cubes and Lego bricks) have appeared at the Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York City as part of the exhibit Poetry Plastique. The Utne Reader has recently included Bök in its list of “50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World.” Bök teaches English at the University of Calgary.

Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee
James Astrachan

“Copyright and the Creative Business”

September 22, 5:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

James B. Astrachan is a principal in Astrachan Gunst Thomas Rubin, P.C., a member of the Maryland, D.C., and Pennsylvania bars, and a national speaker on mass communications and IP topics. Jim and his partner Donna Thomas are the authors of the 6-volume legal treatise The Law of Advertising and Mass Communications, published by LexisNexis/Matthew Bender. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Law, where he teaches Trademark and Unfair Competition law, and at the University of Baltimore School of Law, where he teaches Copyright. Jim’s IP-related Legal AAdvice column is a fixture at The Daily Record and its sister publications, where it has appeared monthly for 14 years. Among other accolades, Jim has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America® for advertising and intellectual property law – most recently in 2010. He is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Maryland Bar Foundation. He was the president of the Advertising Association of Baltimore from 2004-2007, and is the recipient of the AAF’s Crystal Prism Award and the AAF’s Silver Medal for contributions to advertising. This talk will be especially useful to writers, artists, and other creative workers preparing to enter careers in intellectual-property fields.

SPONSORED BY: The Rose O’Neill Literary House, the Department of Business Management, and the Prelaw Program

Writers’ Union Fall Family Reading

September 24, 1 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Parents and friends are invited to join the Washington College Writers’ Union and its student members for their annual Fall Family Reading, with autumnal tales, spiced cider, and cookies.
Peter Manseau

2011-2012 Patrick Henry Writing Fellow
September 27, 5:00 p.m., Litrenta Lecture Hall, John S. Toll Science Center

A 1996 graduate of UMass Amherst, Peter Manseau has published three books of his own, co-authored a fourth, and co-edited a fifth. They have focused on the history of religion, and have included *Rag and Bone: A Journey Among the World’s Holy Dead* (Henry Holt, 2009) and *Vows: The Story of a Priest, a Nun, and Their Son* (Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 2005), as well as a novel, *Songs for the Butcher’s Daughter* (Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 2005), which was internationally acclaimed and translated into six languages. The story of a fictional Yiddish poet in turn-of-the-century Russia, it won the 2008 National Jewish Book Award and the American Library Association’s Sophie Brody Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Jewish Literature, among other honors. Manseau’s essays and articles have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, and other publications.

His Patrick Henry Fellowship project is a book entitled *Twenty Gods or None: The Making of a Nation from the Margins of Faith*, due for publication by Little, Brown & Co. in 2013. A sweeping synthesis, it will focus on “minority religions,” ranging from “the neglected saga of how Hindu scriptures inspired Thoreau and Emerson,” to the “secret Jews” who sailed with Columbus, to Muslim traditions among African Americans, to the Buddhism that Chinese railroad workers brought to America in the 19th century. The Patrick Henry Writing Fellowship aims to encourage reflection on the links between American history and contemporary culture, and to foster the literary art of historical writing.

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

Richard Kearney

“Anathesim and the Poetic Imagination”
October 5, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Richard Kearney, who holds the Charles B. Seelig Chair of Philosophy at Boston College, is the author of more than twenty books on European philosophy and literature. A member of the Royal Irish Academy, he was formerly a member of the
Arts Council of Ireland and chairman of the Irish School of Film at University College Dublin. As a public intellectual in Ireland, he was involved in drafting a number of proposals for a Northern Irish peace agreement. He is currently international director of the Guestbook Project—Hosting the Stranger: Between Hostility and Hospitality. His recent books include *Debates in Continental Philosophy, The Owl of Minerva, Navigations*, and *Anatheism*.

**SPONSORED BY:** The Sophie Kerr Committee and The Institute for Religion, Politics and Culture

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**Rhina Espaillat**

**Poetry Reading**

*October 6, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House*

Rhina P. Espaillat has published poems, essays, short stories, and translations in numerous magazines and more than fifty anthologies, in both English and her native Spanish, as well as three chapbooks and eight full-length books, including three in bilingual format. Her most recent works are a poetry collection in English, *Her Place in These Designs* (Truman State University Press, Kirksville, 2008), and a bilingual collection of her short stories, *El olor de la memoria* (Ediciones CEDIBIL, Santo Domingo, D. R., 2007). Her honors include the Wilbur Award, the T. S. Eliot Prize in Poetry, the Robert Frost Tree at My Window Award for Translation, the May Sarton Award, a Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award from Salem State College, and several prizes from the Dominican Republic’s Ministry of Culture. This event is part of the English Department’s “Living Writers” course.

**SPONSORED BY:** The Sophie Kerr Committee

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**Dr. Miriam Gilbert**

**“Shakespeare and the ‘likeness of a Jew’: Shylock, Fagin and Disraeli”**

*October 19, 4:30 p.m., Litrenta Lecture Hall, John S. Toll Science Center*

**Open Reception to follow, 5:30-6:30 p.m., McLain Atrium, John S. Toll Science Center**, sponsored by the Theta of Maryland chapter of Phi Beta Kappa

Dr. Miriam Gilbert, Professor of English, has taught at the University of Iowa since 1969. Professor Gilbert’s major interests—as a teacher, a scholar, and a co-editor
of anthologies—focus on drama, performance, and the teaching of drama. She has written performance histories *(Shakespeare in Performance: Love’s Labour’s Lost, 1993, Shakespeare at Stratford: The Merchant of Venice, 2001)*, as well as articles on teaching Shakespeare through performance. She has taught eight seminars sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and now teaches “Shakespeare: Page and Stage,” for the Bread Loaf School of English (summers). Her second home is in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.

**SPONSORED BY:** *The Sophie Kerr Committee, The Institute for Religion, Politics and Culture, and Washington College Hillel*

### National Day of Writing, Writing Fair & Writing Gallery

**October 20, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Hodson Dining Hall downstairs hallway**

Come celebrate the writing we all do in our everyday lives and the writing culture here on campus! Stop by to meet staff members of The Writing Center, *The Elm, The Collegian, Pegasus*, the Writers' Union, and the *Washington College Review*, participate in writing activities, and learn more about writing opportunities on campus.

**SPONSORED BY:** *The Writing Center, SGA, and the Student Publications*

### Write Your Way into a Career

**October 20, 4 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Interested in writing for a living after graduation? Join students and faculty at this relaxed panel discussion with recent alums and former members of the writing community on campus (including previous editors of the *Elm*, former Writing Center consultants, and more) who now hold jobs in writing, editing, or other positions where writing plays a key factor in their everyday professional lives. Learn how they did it and what you can do to get there, too.

**SPONSORED BY:** *The Writing Center, The Maureen Jacoby Endowment for Editing & Publishing, and The Rose O’Neill Literary House*
Ed Folsom

“Whitman’s Leaves of Grass: The Biography of a Book”

October 24, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Renowned scholar of the poet Walt Whitman, editor of the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review, co-director of the digital Whitman Archive, and Roy J. Carver Professor of American Literature at the University of Iowa, Ed Folsom will present from his work in progress, a biography of Whitman’s Leaves of Grass, the central text the poet spent 35 years composing and revising through numerous editions, in the process making one of the most significant books in American history.

SPONSORED BY: The Sophie Kerr Committee

Jill Alexander Essbaum

Poetry Reading

October 27, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Jill Alexander Essbaum’s publications include the 1999 Bakeless Prize winner, Heaven, and the collections Necropolis and Harlot. Her poems have appeared in many journals and her work is included in the 2010 and 2011 editions of The Best American Poetry as well as the 2008 anthology The Best American Erotic Poems: 1800-Present. She teaches in the UC-R Palm Desert MFA low-residency program.

This event is part of the English Department’s “Living Writers” course.

SPONSORED BY: The Sophie Kerr Committee
H.L. Hix

Poetry Reading
November 3, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

H. L. Hix’s most recent book is a volume of “selected poems” entitled *First Fire, Then Birds: Obsessionals 1985-2010*. Others of his recent poetry collections include *Incident Light, Legible Heavens*, and *Chromatic* (a finalist for the National Book Award). His books of criticism and theory include *As Easy As Lying, Spirits Hovering Over the Ashes: Legacies of Postmodern Theory*, and *Morte d’Author: An Autopsy*. He earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin, and currently teaches in the Creative Writing MFA program at the University of Wyoming. More information is available at his website: www.hlhix.com. This event is part of the English Department’s “Living Writers” course.

**SPONSORED BY:** The Sophie Kerr Committee

Tea & Talk: Thomas Cousineau

“The Daedalus Complex: From Hamlet to ‘Prufrock”
November 15, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Thomas Cousineau is Professor of English at Washington College and a specialist in the field of international modernist writing. Along with editing a volume entitled *Beckett in France*, he has written four books, including two on Samuel Beckett, one on modernist fiction, and one on the novels of the Austrian writer Thomas Bernhard. He is now completing a book commissioned by the Dalkey Archive Press on the Portuguese writer Fernando Pessoa’s modernist epic, *The Book of Disquiet*. This talk—on the ghostly presence of writers in their works—is related to his current book project, *The Séance of Reading: Uncanny Designs in Modernist Writing*.

The Lit House Tea & Talk series features writers and scholars from Washington College and the Chestertown community sharing the research and topics that interest them personally.

**SPONSORED BY:** The Rose O’Neill Literary House
Dora Malech

Poetry Reading

November 17, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Dora Malech is the author of two poetry collections, Say So (Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 2011) and Shore Ordered Ocean (Waywiser Press, 2009). Her poems have appeared in The New Yorker, Poetry, Best New Poets, American Letters & Commentary, and Poetry London, among other publications. She has been the recipient of fellowships and awards that include a Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship, a Writer’s Fellowship at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Italy, and a Glenn Schaeffer Poetry Award. She earned a BA in Fine Arts from Yale University and an MFA in Poetry from the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop. She lives in Iowa City. More information is available at her website: www.doramalech.com.

This event is part of the English Department’s “Living Writers” course.

SPONSORED BY: The Sophie Kerr Committee

First-Year Reading

November 30, 7 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

Holiday Open House

December 8, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Once a year we throw open our doors and welcome all of our literary friends and community members in for some holiday cheer. Decorate cookies, sip eggnog, and celebrate with us!

SPONSORED BY: The Rose O’Neill Literary House, Department of English, Sigma Tau Delta, and the Washington College Board of Publications
Verlyn Flieger

“My! Those Awful Hobbits: Tolkien Versus the Academy”

February 7, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Verlyn Flieger has taught courses on J.R.R. Tolkien at the University of Maryland for the past thirty-five years. She has published three books on his fiction, Splintered Light, A Question of Time, and Interrupted Music. She edited an expanded edition of his short story Smith of Wootton Major, and with Carl Hostetter co-edited a collection of essays on The History of Middle-earth. With Douglas A. Anderson she co-edited a critical edition of Tolkien’s essay “On Fairy-Stories,” with notes, commentary, and unpublished drafts of the essay. With Michael Drout and Douglas Anderson, she is co-editor of Tolkien Studies, the only journal devoted exclusively to Tolkien’s work. She is also the author of a fantasy novel, Pig Tale, its sequel, The Inn at Corbies’ Caww, and an Arthurian novella, Avilion.

Sponsored by: The Sophie Kerr Committee

Paul Lisicky

Fiction Reading

February 16, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Paul Lisicky is the author of Lawnboy, Famous Builder, the recently published novel The Burning House (2011), and the forthcoming Unbuilt Projects (2012). His work has appeared in Ploughshares, The Iowa Review, Story Quarterly, The Seattle Review, Five Points, Subtropics, Gulf Coast, and many other anthologies and magazines. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, he’s the recipient of awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the James Michener/Copernicus Society, the Henfield Foundation, and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, where he was twice a fellow. He lives in New York City and Springs, New York, and has taught
in the graduate writing programs at Cornell University, Rutgers-Newark, and Sarah Lawrence College. He currently teaches at NYU.

SPONSORED BY: The Sophie Kerr Committee

BYOB: Blog Your Own Books: Using Social Media in the Literary World

With blogger Rebecca Joines Schinksy and author Joseph Wallace

February 20, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Rebecca Joines Schinksy, the self-described “pin-up girl with a reading fetish” who blogs at The Book Lady’s Blog, is not your typical book lover. Her informal and conversational reviews are both fresh and creative—she invites the reader to share in her own reading experiences. Rebecca blogs reviews of literary fiction, narrative nonfiction and memoirs. She also shares her interviews with authors and guests’ posts as well as creative content for books, authors, and publishing. Rebecca brings her interests and passion for literature to the world of social media through the use of Facebook, Twitter and tumblr—“sharing is sexy,” she says. It’s through these media outlets the “Book Lady” brings books and authors straight to her fans, who share her excitement for reading. She is a member of the National Book Critics Circle, a lover of independent bookstores, and the proud partner of Richmond, Virginia’s Fountain Bookstore. She sits on the board of James River Writers, serves as the associate editor of the FridayReads, and is co-founder of Bookrageous. She lives in Richmond with her husband.

Joseph Wallace has been a professional writer for more than a quarter of a century, writing stories in a variety of genres such as natural history, science, technology, mysteries, thrillers, children’s books, and more. He has worked to help young writers develop their craft through creative-writing workshops for elementary and middle schools and as a volunteer/mentor in high schools. His latest work, Diamond Rudy, is a novel based on the true story about New York female pitcher named Jackie Mitchell who struck out Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in an exhibition game in 1931. Wallace is also active in the world of social media, using the idea of movie trailers to create a book trailer for Diamond Ruby, which can be found on his website and on YouTube. You can follow him through his tweets on his twitter account and be his friend on Facebook. “Joseph Wallace has found modern ways to talk about his writing and share his stories to all who want to listen and they can by a simple click of a button.”

SPONSORED BY: The Rose O’Neill Literary House
Washington College at AWP Conference & Bookfair

February 29-March 3, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day, Hilton Chicago, Chicago IL.

Stop by the Washington College table at 2012’s Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference in Chicago, IL. Our students are excited to be there! Visit awp-writer.org to register. Book Fair is free and open to the public on Saturday, March 3.

Annual Graduate School Tea: Getting In and Beyond

March 8, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Washington College faculty and alumni 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 and the Office of Career Development

Marie Rutkoski

Reading from her Kronos Chronicles and talking about “Why YA”
March 9, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Marie Rutkoski is the author of The Kronos Chronicles, including The Cabinet of Wonders and The Celestial Globe. The Cabinet of Wonders, her debut novel, was named an Indie Next Kids’ List Great Read and a Bank Street Best Children’s Book of the Year, among other honors. Rutkoski grew up in Bolingbrook, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago), as the oldest of four children. She attended the University of Iowa, where she took Writers’ Workshop classes and studied with Pulitzer Prize-winner James Alan McPherson. After graduating, she lived in Moscow and Prague. Upon receiving her Ph.D. from Harvard University, she held dual appointments as a lecturer there in both English and American Literature and Language, and History and Literature. Rutkoski is currently a professor
at Brooklyn College, where she teaches Renaissance Drama, children’s literature, and creative writing. She lives in New York City with her husband and son.

**SPONSORED BY:** The Rose O’Neill Literary House

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**Tea & Talk: Elena Deanda**

“Eu/Dysphemisms: From Pornography to Eroticism in the Eighteenth Century”

**March 21, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Elena Deanda-Camacho is Assistant Professor of Spanish at Washington College. She studies the inquisitorial censorship of discourses perceived as obscene in Spain and New Spain from the 16th to the 18th century. In particular, she focuses on the antagonistic and conniving relationship between obscenity and censorship. Besides literature, she has studied philosophy, religion, and medieval studies in Mexico and France. At Washington College, she is enjoying teaching all levels of Spanish language, culture, and literature. Her literary periods are Spanish Golden Age, baroque, colonial literature, and the enlightenment. This talk focuses on the eighteenth century Spanish poetry of de Moratín and his son, Leandro, de Iriarte, and Valdés and the unveiling of a progressive movement that transitions from pornography to eroticism, dysphemism to euphemism.

**SPONSORED BY:** The Rose O’Neill Literary House

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**Nick Flynn**

Sophie Kerr Weekend speaker and First-Year Book author

**March 23, 4 p.m., Decker Theatre, Daniel Z. Gibson Center for the Arts**

**Book signing to follow**

Nick Flynn’s most recent book is *The Ticking is the Bomb*, which the *Los Angeles Times* calls a “disquieting master-
piece.” His previous memoir, *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*, won the PEN/Martha Albrand Award, was shortlisted for France’s Prix Femina, and has been translated into thirteen languages. He is also the author of two books of poetry, *Some Ether* and *Blind Huber*, and a play, *Alice Invents a Little Game and Alice Always Wins*, for which he received fellowships from, among other organizations, The Guggenheim Foundation and The Library of Congress. Some of the venues in which his poems, essays and non-fiction have appeared include *The New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, National Public Radio’s *This American Life*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. His film credits include artistic collaborator and “field poet” on the film *Darwin’s Nightmare*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for best feature documentary in 2006. Each spring he teaches at the University of Houston; he then spends the rest of the year in (or near) Brooklyn. 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. 2011’s First-Year Book is Flynn’s *The Ticking is the Bomb*.

**SPONSORED BY:** *The Sophie Kerr Committee, The Rose O’Neill Literary House, the Department of English, and the Dean of the College*

**Locavore Lit Fest**

**March 29-April 1, Downtown Chestertown**

The second annual Locavore Lit Fest returns with another buffet of local food authors and experts. This year’s theme is “The Other Local: Finding Wild Foods.” Authors will speak on topics ranging from foraging to the “wild” oyster, a panel of local specialists will do a Q&A on eating wild, and there will be demonstrations and talks throughout the weekend about foraging, hunting, charcuterie, and preserving. Sponsored by the Center for Environment & Society at Washington College, the Bookplate, and the Compleat Bookseller. Details will be available at http://ces.washcoll.edu.

**Laura Van Den Berg, 2012 Mary Wood Fellow**

"Demystifying the Writing Life: An Informal Chat"

**April 3, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

As someone who has earned her MFA, had her collection of short stories published, been shortlisted and longlisted for prizes, won various writing scholarships and
awards, and has traveled to teach writing at numerous places across the East Coast, author Laura Van Den Berg – this year’s Rose O’Neill Literary House Mary Wood Fellow – is in a unique place to break it all down for us and talk about what it’s really like to live the hectic, sometimes-disappointing, always-interesting “writing life.”

A Reading with Laura Van Den Berg

April 5, 7 p.m., Tawes Theatre, Daniel Z. Gibson Center for the Arts

Book signing to follow

Laura van den Berg was raised in Florida and earned her MFA at Emerson College. Her first collection of stories, *What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us*, was awarded the 2007 Dzanc Prize and published by Dzanc Books in October 2009. The collection was a Barnes & Noble “Discover Great New Writers” selection, longlisted for the Story Prize, and shortlisted for the Frank O’Connor Award, the world’s richest prize for the short story. Her fiction has or will soon appear in *Ploughshares*, *One Story*, *Boston Review*, *American Short Fiction*, *Conjunctions*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2008*, *Best New American Voices 2010*, and *The Pushcart Prize XXIV*, among other publications. She is also the recipient of scholarships from the Bread Loaf and Sewanee Writers’ Conferences and the 2009 Julia Peterkin Award. Van Den Berg has taught writing at Emerson College, Grub Street, Gettysburg College, as the 2009-2010 Emerging Writer Lecturer, the Gilman School, as the 2010-2011 Tickner Fellow, the Tinker Mountain Writers Workshop, in Pen New England’s Freedom-to-Write Program, and now at Goucher College. She currently lives in Baltimore with the writer Paul Yoon and is at work on new stories and a novel. Van Den Berg’s rich and inventive stories illuminate the intersection of the mythic and the mundane and feature women narrators who search for the flash of extraordinary in the ordinary.

Initiated in 2007, the Mary Wood Fellowship is extended bi-annually to an emerging female writer, allowing her to come to campus to work one-on-one with female student creative writers. 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
Senior Reading

April 23, 7 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

Washington College/PEN World Voices Fellow in International Letters

April 2012, 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 Sudanese writer and playwright Lelia Aboulela, French graphic novelist Emmanuel Guibert, and Somali novelist Nuruddin Farah. At this event, the student winners of the Veryan Beacham and William Warner writing prizes are also announced.

SPONSORED BY: The Rose O’Neill Literary House and the PEN World Voices Festival, PEN American Center
Washington College Residency for Cave Canem Fellows

Summer 2012

Cave Canem (cavecanempoets.org), the nation’s leading organization for African-American writers, teams up with the Rose O’Neill Literary House and Washington College for the Washington College Cave Canem Residency in Summer 2012. Chosen through a rigorous application process, the Fellow will be expected to spend time researching and writing in Chestertown. Additionally, the Fellow will give a public reading. Our 2011 Fellow was poet Arisa White. Check our website, lithouse.washcoll.edu, for more details.

SPONSORED BY: The Rose O’Neill Literary House

“The writer’s story is the story of everyone else. We must make empathetic leaps out of our own skins. Good universities will teach us this. What we must do is continue to create the space for new voices to chronicle our times.”—International IMPAC Award and National Book Award winner Colum McCann, in his keynote address for the announcement of the 2011 Sophie Kerr Prize

All events in this brochure are free and open to the public.

Visit lithouse.washcoll.edu and English.washcoll.edu for updates, more info and additional events.