To be a writer you have to love sitting in a chair for hours on end while putting words down on paper or on a screen and then fiddling with them. Why would you do this? Because, regardless of how good a writer you actually may or may not be, only writing seems to satisfy your soul, only writing makes you, in some sense, happy.
The Sophie Kerr Legacy

SOPHIE KERR, a prolific and popular American writer of the early 20th century, has left an indelible literary mark on Washington College. The gift that Kerr bequeathed more than 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, Lucille Clifton, Eamon Grennan, Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates, Robert Pinsky, Charles Simic, Mary Karr, Jonathan Franzen, Jane Smiley, Junot Díaz, Daniel Handler (Lemony Snicket), Colum McCann, Lauren Groff, Natasha Trethewey, 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 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 demonstrates the best ability and promise for future fulfillment in the field of literary endeavor. Valued at $61,192 in 2013, 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 writing 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 and the Sophie Kerr Committee, the Lit House hosts literary seasons of programming built around themes such as “Jewish Voices,” “Writing in Wartime,” “Chicano/a & Latino/a Voices,” and “Writing for (and about) Young Adults.”

Fiction writers, poets, essayists, playwrights, critics, editors, singer-songwriters, and studio artists routinely join us from around the world for readings, craft talks, and residencies. Recent guests include Neil Gaiman, Hannah Tinti, Laura van den Berg, Leila Aboulela, John Barth, Oni Buchanan, George Saunders, Nuruddin Farah, Amanda Hesser, John Harwood, Patricia Smith, J.T. Rogers, James McBride, Philip Gourevitch, Anthony Swofford, Emmanuel Guibert, Marie Rutkoski, Joseph Wallace, and DMC.
Literary House Orientation Open House and Print Shop Demo

**August 23, 8:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**
The Lit House welcomes the Class of 2017. Learn about the campus publications as well as art, music, and writing groups, try your hand at letterpress printing, and connect early with like-minded upper-class students and arts faculty.

Literary House Series

**Critique, Feedback, and Workshops: The Importance of Response in the Creative Process**

**August 29, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**
A multidisciplinary panel of professors discusses the role of constructive criticism in the creative process here at Washington College. Join Profs. Jehanne Dubrow (Creative Writing), Heather Harvey (Studio Art), John Leupold (Music & Composition), and Michele Volansky (Drama & Playwriting) as they talk about the philosophical and practical purposes served by the traditional workshop and other methods of critical response to creative works. Students taking classes in the creative, visual, and performing arts are especially encouraged to attend.

Print Shop Workshops

**Beginner’s Workshop: Introduction to Letterpress**

**Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
Begins Tuesday, September 3. Print Shop, Rose O’Neill Literary House

**Advanced Workshop: Book Arts**

**Thursdays 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
Begins Thursday, September 5. 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 experience letterpress printing and bookbinding. Master Printer Mike Kaylor instructs. The course lasts 7 weeks. To sign up, email lit_house@washcoll.edu.
Patrick Henry Writing Fellow

An Introductory Talk by Daniel Mark Epstein

September 12, 5:30 p.m., Hynson Lounge, Hodson Hall

Historian, author, and poet Daniel Mark Epstein will be in full-time residence as this year’s Patrick Henry Writing Fellow at the C. V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College, working on a new book about Benjamin Franklin and his son William. A graduate of Kenyon College, Epstein has held fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded him an Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2006. He is the author of three plays and more than a dozen books, including *Lincoln and Whitman: Parallel Lives in Civil War Washington* (Random House, 2004) and *The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage* (Ballantine), which was named one of the Best Books of 2008 by both the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Epstein will teach a class in the English Department in spring 2014. This Fellowship is sponsored by the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience.

Literary House Series

Chicano/a & Latino/a Voices: An Evening of Fiction with Justin Torres

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

Justin Torres is the author of the novel *We the Animals*. His stories and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker, Granta, The Guardian, Harper’s, Tin House* and have been featured on NPR. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Torres has received a Rolón Fellowship in literature from United States Artists, and was a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford, as well as a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard. *We the Animals*, a national bestseller, has been translated into fifteen languages.

Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

A Poetry Reading by James Allen Hall

September 19, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

James Allen Hall’s first book of poetry, *Now You’re the Enemy*, won awards from the Lambda Literary Foundation, the Texas Institute of Letters, and the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Recent poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Best American Poetry, New Eng-
The Beautiful Music All Around Us

with Stephen Wade

September 19, 6:00 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Stephen Wade’s book *The Beautiful Music All Around Us* (University of Illinois Press) presents the extraordinarily rich backstories of thirteen musical performances captured on Library of Congress field recordings between 1934 and 1942 in locations reaching from Southern Appalachia to the Mississippi Delta and the Great Plains. Musician and researcher Stephen Wade sought out the performers on these recordings, as well as their families, fellow musicians, and others who remembered them. For this musical talk and performance, Wade will untangle the histories of these iconic tunes, tracing their origins through slave songs and spirituals, British and homegrown ballads, fiddle contests, gospel quartets, and labor laments. This event is co-sponsored by the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience and the Washington College Concert Series.

The 2013 Chestertown Book Festival

September 19-21, Washington College & Downtown Chestertown

The fifth annual Chestertown Book Festival will celebrate the literary life on the Eastern Shore of Maryland by bringing to town a selection of local and regional writers, poets, printmakers, and book designers. The 2013 Festival will begin Thursday night with poet and Washington College Professor James Allen Hall, followed by musician-author Stephen Wade; the Friday night keynote will feature Knopf Editor and WC alum Jonathan Segal in conversation with author Paul Hendrickson; the Saturday morning children’s reading will feature Marcy Dunn Ramsey, as well as Robbi Behr and Matthew Swanson of Bobbledy Books; the festival closes out with readings from authors A.S. King and Joe Wallace. Please stop by the Book Makers’ Exhibition Saturday 10 - 4. For more information about the speakers please visit www.chestertownbookfestival.com.
Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

American Shakespeare Center presents *Henry IV, Part 1*

**September 22, 7:00 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts**

“How long is’t ago, Jack, since thou sawest thine own knee?” - II.iv

The American Shakespeare Center On Tour specializes in riveting, heart-pounding performances of early modern plays. If you’ve ever visited their home stage at the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Virginia, you know how much energy and fun this 11-actor troupe packs into each show. In this thrilling and poignant coming-of-age story, Shakespeare gives us the whole world: the fabulous fat knight, the troubled king, the hot-blooded warrior, the prodigal prince, and the crew of big-hearted Eastcheap rabble rousers. *Henry IV, Part 1* is Shakespeare’s masterful exploration of family and friends, honor and happiness, and those moments when we are forced to choose between the thing we desire and the thing we know we must do.

First-Year Book

Azar Nafisi Discusses *Reading Lolita in Tehran*

**September 30, 4:30 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts**

Dr. Azar Nafisi will speak to the first-year class about her *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, and her current work on the value of the liberal arts. She is now Visiting Professor and Executive Director of Cultural Conversations at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC, where she is a professor of aesthetics, culture, and literature, and teaches courses on the relation between culture and politics. She held a fellowship at Oxford University, teaching and conducting a series of lectures on culture and the important role of Western literature and culture in Iran after the revolution in 1979. She taught at the University of Tehran, the Free Islamic University, and Allameh Tabatabai before her return to the United States in 1997.

*Nature Wars*

The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds, with Jim Sterba

**October 3, 5:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

*Nature Wars* offers an eye-opening look at Americans’ interactions with nature and animals, illustrating how we’ve failed to be
responsible stewards despite our best efforts and intentions. A deeply researched,
eloquently written, counterintuitive, and often humorous look at relations between
humans and nature—and the deepening chasm between the two—Nature Wars will
be the definitive book on how we created this unintended, sometimes disastrous,
mess. Author Jim Sterba has been a foreign correspondent, war correspondent,
and national affairs reporter for more than four decades, first for the New York Times
and then for the Wall Street Journal. He lives in New York City with his wife, author
Frances FitzGerald. This event is sponsored by the Center for Environment & Society.

Literary House Series

Lost Originals: A Literary House Press Book Launch
with Mary Jo Salter

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

Join us for a poetry reading and book signing as the Literary House Press releases a special, limited-edition letterpress chapbook Lost Originals, by Mary Jo Salter. Ms. Salter is the author of seven collections of poetry, all published by Alfred A. Knopf, including the 2013 volume Nothing By Design. She is also a lyricist and playwright, and the author of a children’s book, The Moon Comes Home. A former poetry editor of The New Republic, she is a co-editor of The Norton Anthology of Poetry. Having taught at Mount Holyoke College for many years, she is now Krieger-Eisenhower Professor in the Humanities at The Writing Seminars of Johns Hopkins University. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

First Person, Seeing America

with Ensemble Galilei, featuring Lily Knight and Rob Nagle

October 17, 7:30 p.m., Decker Theatre, Gibson Center for the Arts

Ensemble Galilei’s latest multimedia production showcases iconic images from the Photographic Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art including work by some of America’s finest photographers, along with poetry and prose from some of America’s greatest writers spoken over a bed of historic musical compositions. The project, titled First Person: Seeing America, includes photographs by Walker Evans, Edward Curtis, Edward Stieglitz, Paul Strand, WeeGee, and Thomas Eakins accompanied by the words of Jim Harrison, Dexter Filkins, Frederick Douglass, Lucille Clifton,
James Agee, and many others. While in residence at Washington College for three full days, Ensemble Galilei and actors Lily Knight and Rob Nagle will brilliantly bring American people, events, and places to life. This event is co-sponsored by the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience and the Washington College Concert Series.

Literary House Series
Chicano/a & Latino/a Voices: An Evening of Nonfiction with Joy Castro

October 22, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Joy Castro is the author of the memoir *The Truth Book*, the essay collection *Island of Bones*, and the literary thrillers *Hell or High Water* and *Nearer Home*. She edited the collection *Family Trouble: Memoirists on the Hazards and Rewards of Revealing Family*, and her work has appeared in *Fourth Genre*, *North American Review*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. An associate professor of English and Ethnic Studies, she teaches literature, creative writing, and Latino studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Literary House Series
Chicano/a & Latino/a Voices: An Evening of Poetry with Eduardo Corral

November 5, 5:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Eduardo C. Corral is a CantoMundo fellow. His poems have appeared in *Best American Poetry 2012*, *Ploughshares*, and *Poetry*. He has served as the Olive B. O’Connor Fellow in Creative Writing at Colgate University and as the Philip Roth Resident in Creative Writing at Bucknell University. *Slow Lightning*, his first book, was selected by Carl Phillips as the 2011 winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets competition. He’s the recipient of a Whiting Writers’ Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and the J. Howard and Barbara M. J. Wood Prize from *Poetry*. 
Sophie Kerr Lecture Series

“X-Squared + Y-Squared = I Could Care Less: Analysis and Enjoyment in the Literature Classroom” with David Laurence

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

David Laurence has been on the MLA staff since 1986 and has been Director of ADE since 1989, when he also had the title of Director of English Programs. His chief responsibilities at the MLA include overseeing the Job Information List, including the annual analysis of positions advertised in the JIL; directing the MLA’s periodic surveys of PhD placement, departmental staffing, and other MLA data collection and analysis; and preparing reports on data from the NSF Survey of Earned Doctorates and U. S. government data on degree completions. In the wake of increasing scale and importance of data analysis in his work and in the MLA, his title changed to Director of the Office of Research and ADE in 2007. Prior to the MLA, Laurence was Assistant Professor of English at SUNY, Stony Brook. He holds an AB from Amherst College, and an MPhil and PhD from Yale, all in American Studies. This event is co-sponsored by the Sophie Kerr Lecture Series and Phi Beta Kappa.

Literary House Series

Chicano/a & Latino/a Voices: Faculty Tea & Talk with Professor Crystal Kurzen

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

Crystal M. Kurzen currently holds a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship in the Department of English at Washington College where she is at work on her manuscript, Literary Nepantla: Genre and Method in Contemporary Chicano/a Life Narratives. Her project focuses on how contemporary Chicano/a writers revise and expand the formal conventions most often associated with the genre of autobiography in order to represent themselves and their communities on their own terms. Her article on Pat Mora recently appeared in a/b: Auto/Biography Studies, and her work on Native American women’s autobiography is forthcoming in The Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literatures. She teaches courses in literature and composition as well as American, Chicano/a, and Latino/a literatures.

First-Year Reading

November 21, 7:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Come hear Washington College first-year writers read from their original work!
Sophie Kerr Speaker Series

The NCTE National African American Read-In with Jacqueline Woodson

**February 5, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Jacqueline Woodson is the author of several books for young adults and children, including *Coming On Home Soon, Each Kindness,* and *Miracle’s Boys.* Woodson has received the Margaret A. Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement in Writing for Young Adults and the 2012 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Reader’s Literature. Her other awards include multiple Newbery Honor medals, Coretta Scott King awards, National Book Award finalists, and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. She currently resides in Brooklyn, New York. This event is co-sponsored by the Black Studies Program, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Sophie Kerr Committee, and the Rose O’Neill Literary House.

Literary House Series

Writing for (and about) Young Adult: An Evening of Fiction with Cynthia Hand

**February 18, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House**

Cynthia Hand is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *UNEARTHLY* series with HarperTeen. She has graduate degrees in creative writing from Boise State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A native of southeastern Idaho, she currently lives with her husband and two small children in Southern California, where she teaches writing at Pepperdine University.

The Literary House at AWP Conference & Bookfair

**February 26 – March 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day, Washington State Convention Center & Sheraton Seattle Hotel, Seattle, WA**

Stop by the Rose O’Neill Literary House table at 2014’s Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference in Seattle, WA. Our students are excited to be there! Visit awpwriter.org to register. Book Fair is free and open to the public on Saturday.
Literary House Series

“Quest, Odyssey, or Pilgrimage: Being Good Company Along Our Students’ Educational Journeys”: A Faculty Tea & Talk with Professor Robert Siudzinski

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

Dr. Robert Siudzinski is Assistant Professor of Education and Coordinator of the Global Teaching Experience at Washington College. His research examines informal learning environments, place-based pedagogies, and innovative educational leadership. A longtime facilitator of experiential, reflective, and expeditionary learning, he strives to cultivate creative collaborations among participants—students, educators and organizational leaders alike. An educational consultant to independent schools, museums, environmental education centers, and the visitor education departments of the National Park Service and US Forestry Service, his academic work infuses place-based service learning into the action-research coursework of pre-service teachers.

The 2014 Locavore Lit Fest

March 27-30, Washington College & Downtown Chestertown

The fourth annual Chestertown Locavore Lit Fest will bring nationally-known authors to Chestertown for a series of talks and events around youth and food. From the popular Farm-to-School movement to kid’s activities and readings, this year’s festival focuses on future food-lovers: our children. Events will take place at Washington College and in downtown Chestertown. This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Environment & Society and the Rose O’Neill Literary House, among others.

Literary House Series

Writing for (and about) Young Adults: An Evening of Fiction with Emily Danforth

March 25, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Emily M. Danforth is author of the novel The Miseducation of Cameron Post, winner of the 2012 Montana Book Award and finalist for the American Library Association’s 2013 William C. Morris Award for a YA Debut, and the 2013 Lambda Award in YA.
Emily's short fiction has won the International Queer Writing Award from the U.K.'s Chroma Magazine and the George Garret Award from Willow Springs, and her non-fiction has been featured on NPR's All Things Considered and in The Huffington Post. She teaches creative writing at Rhode Island College in Providence and is co-editor of The Cupboard, a quarterly prose chapbook.

Sophie Kerr Speaker Series

Baratunde Thurston

April 3, 4:30 p.m., Hynson Lounge, Hodson Hall

Baratunde Thurston is a politically-active, technology-loving comedian from the future. He co-founded the black political blog Jack and Jill Politics and served as Director of Digital for The Onion. He has written for Vanity Fair and the UK Independent, hosted Popular Science's “Future Of” on Discovery Science, and appears on cable news regularly to say smart things in funny ways. Then-candidate Barack Obama called him “someone I need to know.” Baratunde travels the world speaking and advising and performs standup regularly in NYC. He resides in Brooklyn, lives on Twitter, and has over 30 years experience being black. His first book, How To Be Black, is a New York Times bestseller. This event is co-sponsored by the Black Studies Program, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Sophie Kerr Committee.

Literary House Series

Writing for (and about) Young Adults: An Evening of Poetry with Meg Kearney

April 8, 5:30 p.m., Rose O'Neill Literary House

Meg Kearney is the author of two books of poetry for adults, An Unkindness of Ravens and Home By Now, winner of the 2010 PEN New England LL Winship Award, as well as two novels in verse for teens: The Secret of Me and its sequel, The Girl in the Mirror. Meg’s picture book, Trouper, is forthcoming from Scholastic in fall 2013. Her poetry has been featured on Garrison Keillor’s “The Writer's Almanac,” and has been published in myriad literary magazines and anthologies. She lives in New Hampshire and directs the Solstice MFA Program at Pine Manor College in Massachusetts.
Literary House Series

Poet Shara Lessley, 2014 Mary Wood Fellow

April 14 - 18, Events are TBA. Please visit lithouse.washcoll.edu for updates.


Senior Reading

April 22, 7:00 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House

Come hear graduating senior writers read from their original pieces. The Literary House will also announce the winners of the Literary House Genre Fiction Prize, the William W. Warner Prize for Creative Writing on Nature and the Environment, and the Jude & Miriam Pfister Poetry Prize.

Sophie Kerr Prize Event

Week of May 12, Date and Location TBA

This event to announce the winner of the annual Sophie Kerr Prize features a keynote address by a noted author and readings by the student-finalists. Previous speakers have included National Book Award-winner Colum McCann and Pulitzer Prize-winner Michael Dirda. In 2014, the Prize will be valued at $61,382. This event is free and open to the public.
Literary House Series

Summer Poetry Salons

May 27, June 24, and July 22, 2014, 4:30 p.m., Rose O’Neill Literary House
Join us for afternoons of poetry, local music, tasty food and drink, and good conversation about the literary life.

Cave Canem Fellow

June 2014, Rose O’Neill Literary House
Cave Canem, 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 June 2014. Chosen through a rigorous application process, the Fellow will spend time researching and writing in Chestertown. Additionally, the Fellow will give a public reading as part of the Summer Poetry Salon Series. Our 2013 Fellow was poet Yona Harvey. Check our website, lithouse.washcoll.edu, for more details.

All events listed in this brochure are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Visit lithouse.washcoll.edu and english.washcoll.edu for updates, more info and additional events.
To be a writer you have to love sitting in a chair for hours on end while putting words down on paper or on a screen and then fiddling with them. Why would you do this? Because, regardless of how good a writer you actually may or may not be, only writing seems to satisfy your soul, only writing makes you, in some sense, happy.

— Pulitzer Prize-winning book reviewer Michael Dirda, in his keynote address for the announcement of the 2013 Sophie Kerr Prize.