



Creative Writing

2023-24

READING SERIES

THE MARY E. ROLLING READING SERIES

FALL 2023

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 6:00 p.m.

Kelle Groom

Kelle Groom is the author of the memoirs *How to Live* and *I Wore the Ocean in the Shape of a Girl* (B&N Discover Great New Writers and *The New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice), as well as four poetry collections. Groom's work appears in *American Poetry Review*, *The Best American Poetry*, *The New Yorker*, and *Ploughshares*. Groom is an NEA Fellow and a nonfiction editor at AGNI.



PHOTO: MARION EITLINGER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 6:00 P.M.

Chika Unigwe

Chika Unigwe is a professor of creative writing at Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, and the author of several celebrated works of fiction, including *On Black Sisters Street*, which won the NLNG Prize for Literature worth \$100,000; *De Zwarte Messias* (2014), a fictional rendition of the Nigerian memoirist Olaudah Equiano's life; and a short story collection, *Better Never than Late* (2019). Her latest novel, *The Middle Daughter*, was published in April 2023. Unigwe writes a weekly column for the Nigerian Daily Trust.



PHOTO: MARION HARRISMAN

SPRING 2024

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:00 p.m.

Matthew Salesses

Matthew Salesses is a novelist, scholar, and Korean adoptee who has written and spoken widely about adoption, race, and parenting. He is the award-winning author of eight books, most recently a novel, *The Sense of Wonder* (2023) and a fiction writing guidebook, *Craft in the Real World* (2021). Forthcoming is a memoir, *To Grieve Is to Carry Another Time*. In 2015 *Buzzfeed* named him one of 32 Essential Asian American Writers. Salesses is an assistant professor of writing at Columbia University.



THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 6:00 p.m.

Julia Spicher Kasdorf
and C.S. Giscombe

Julia Spicher Kasdorf is the author of five award-winning poetry collections: *Sleeping Preacher*, *Eve's Striptease*, *Poetry in America*, and *Shale Play: Poems and Photographs from the Fracking Fields*, a documentary project created in collaboration with photographer and Penn State professor Steven Rubin. Her new book of poems is titled *As Is*. She teaches poetry and directs the creative writing program at Penn State.



PHOTO: PHILIP RUTH

C. S. Giscombe teaches at the University of California's Berkeley campus, where he is the Robert Hass Chair in English. His prose and poetry books include *Negro Mountain*, *Prairie Style*, *Ohio Railroads* ("a long poem in the form of an essay"), *Similarly* (selected poetry and new work), and *Border Towns*. In progress is *Railroad Sense*. He is a long-distance cyclist.



THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 6:00 p.m.

Christine Hume

Christine Hume '90 is the author of an essay collection on sex offenders and women's bodies, *Everything I Never Wanted to Know*, (OSU Press/21st Century Essays Series, 2023) and a lyric portrait of girlhood, *Saturation Project* (Solid Objects, 2021), as well as several books of poetry. Since 2001, she has been a faculty member in the creative writing program at Eastern Michigan University.



THE 2023 EMILY
DICKINSON LECTURE

The Emily Dickinson Lectureship in American Poetry is sponsored by George Kelly '59 and Barbara Martino Kelly '59.

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Location: HUB-Robeson Center's
Freeman Auditorium

Natasha
Trethewey

Natasha Trethewey served two terms as the 19th Poet Laureate of the United States (2012–2014). She is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Monument* (2018), which was longlisted for the National Book Award, and *Native Guard* (2006), which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. She is also the author of the memoir *Memorial Drive* (2020) and another book of nonfiction, *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast* (2010). The recipient of numerous fellowships, honors, and prizes, Trethewey is professor of English at Northwestern University.



THE 2024 FISHER
FAMILY WRITER-IN-
RESIDENCE

The Fisher Family
Writer-in-Residence is
sponsored by Steven L.
Fisher '70 and family.

THURSDAY,
JANUARY 25, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Julianna
Baggott

Julianna Baggott has published over twenty books, some pseudonymously, including *Pure* and *Harriet Wolf's Seventh Book of Wonders*, both *New York Times* Notable Books of the Year. She heads the production company Mildred's Moving Picture Show; her projects are in development at Disney+, Netflix, MGM, Paramount, Universal, and elsewhere.

Free AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC

For more information

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The Creative Writing Reading Series is a project of Penn State's Creative Writing program in English. It receives generous support from the College of the Liberal Arts, the Department of English, the Joseph L. Grucci Poetry Endowment, the Mary E. Rolling Lectureship in Creative Writing, George Kelly '59 and Barbara Martino Kelly '59, Steven L. Fisher '70, and the University Libraries.

Unless otherwise noted, readings take place in the
Larry and Ellen Foster Auditorium in
102 Paterno Library.