All events are free and open to the public.

Authors will sign works after each reading.

WCU campus map

**COMMUTER**

**STAFF/FACULTY**

**RESIDENT**

**OVERFLOW (FRESHMEN)**

**PARKING**

**COMMUTER**

**STAFF/FACULTY**

**RESIDENT**

**OVERFLOW (FRESHMEN)**

**AND REGISTERED OVERFLOW (FRESHMEN)**

**COMMUTER/RESIDENT**

**COMMUTER AND MEMORIAL DRIVE**

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**About the Festival**

Western Carolina University’s Visiting Writers Series, the oldest such series in North Carolina, has a long tradition of bringing the best of both established and emerging literary talent to the mountains of Western North Carolina.

Over the years, the series has hosted such distinguished regional writers as Fred Chappell, Lee Smith, Kathryn Stripling Byer, and R.T. Smith; well-known American writers Pat Conroy, Li-Young Lee, Thomas Lux, Linda Hogan, Carolyn Chute, Leslie Silko, Ntozake Shange, Karen Shepard, Luis Rodriguez, Maxine Kumin, Sherman Alexie, and Clifton Taulbert; as well as internationally renowned authors such as Eavan Boland, Miroslav Holub, and Welsh poets Menna Elfyn, Iwan Llwyd, and Nigel Jenkins.

For the past several years, WCU’s Visiting Writers Series; the Visiting Scholars Fund; the English Department; the Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibition Series; and the Office of the Chancellor have sponsored the Spring Literary Festival.

The festival reflects Western’s commitment to providing the best humanities education possible to its students and to bringing the best of the arts to the mountains.

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**Getting Here**

Western Carolina University is located in the scenic mountains of Cullowhee, N.C. For directions to campus, go online to www.wcu.edu/directions.html. For a downloadable map of the WCU campus, go online to www.wcu.edu/546.asp. All events of the literary festival except Thursday’s reading with Jan DeBlieu take place in the theater of WCU’s University Center (#31 on the campus map).

At WCU’s main entrance, stay in the left lane to drive left around the traffic circle. Take Memorial Drive, and look for parking behind the University Center (#31 on the campus map).

The University Center theater is on the third floor of the UC (one flight up if you enter the center from Memorial Drive, two if you enter the building from the center of campus).

Thursday evening’s festival event, the reading with DeBlieu, will take place in Coulter Auditorium (#32 on the campus map), on the second floor of Coulter or street level if you enter from Memorial Drive.

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**Parking**

Visitors may park in student or faculty/staff spaces (marked with white or yellow) that are not designated as a special-use space, reserved space, handicapped space, loading zone, etc.

Though visitors sometimes have trouble parking near the University Center and Coulter, they may find spots near the Ramsey Regional Activity Center (#9 on campus map, not shown) and the Fine Arts Center (#2 on campus map). Cat-Tran, a shuttle bus to the center of campus, stops every 15 minutes at outlying parking areas. For a shuttle map, go online to www.wcu.edu/9018.asp.

University Police do not ticket for evening events, but they do occasionally ticket for daytime events. Visitors who receive a parking citation for no registration may have it waived by filling out the back of the citation and bringing it to the English Office or a Lit Festival staff person or by mailing it to the Traffic Office (instructions are on the back of the citation).

All events are free and open to the public. Authors will sign works after each reading.
Robert Conley

Robert Conley has written more than 80 books and 1,000 articles and poems about American Indians, including Sequoyah, Zieke Proctor, and Ned Christie. In addition, he has been awarded the Western Writers of America Spur Award three times. The Wordscraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers named him Wordscutter of the Year in 1997, and he was also named Oklahoma Writer of the Year in 1999. In 2000, he received a Cherokee Medal of Honor from the Cherokee Nation. He is the new Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University.

Monday • March 30 • 12 p.m.

A. Manette Ansay

Monday • March 30 • 7:30 p.m.

A. Manette Ansay’s first novel, Hunger Hill, was published in 1994, followed by two story collections, Root This and Say Me What It Says, in 1995. She has since published four more novels: Sister, River Angel; Midnight Sun, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and her latest novel, Blue Water. Ansay is also the author of a memoir, Limbo. She’s been awarded a Pushcart Prize, a Friends of American Writers Prize, and two Great Lakes Book Awards, among others. Hunger Hill was chosen by Oprah Winfrey as her November 1999 Book Club Selection. Ansay’s forthcoming novel, Good Things I Wish You, will be published by HarperCollins in June 2009. She lives with her daughter in Florida, where she teaches the MFA program at the University of Miami.

Tuesday • March 31 • 4 p.m.

Jeffrey Lent

Jeffrey Lent was born in Vermont and grew up there and in western New York State, on dairy farms mainly powered by draft horses. He studied literature and psychology at Franceon College in New Hampshire and SUNY Purchase. He lived for many years in north Carolina and now resides with his wife and two daughters in central Vermont. His novel in the fall was a national bestseller, was a New York Times Book Review Notable Book for 2008, and earned him placement in Poets and Writers at the University of North Carolina in Raleigh. His most recent novel, A Precarious Grace, a transcendent story about the healing power of love and art… magical and beautifully written. After You’ve Gone is his fourth novel.

Monday • March 30 • 7:30 p.m.

Steve Yarbrough

Steve Yarbrough was born in Indiana, Mississippi. His father was an automechanic, a cotton farmer, a jet operator, and finally a technician at a TV station, and his mother was a store clerk. He was an all-state lineman and has played in various country and rock bands. Yarbrough is the author of three story collections and three novels. Oxygen Man, which received the Mississippi Author’s Award, the California Book Award, and an award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters’ Virginia Woolf Award for First Book, was published by Shoemaker & Hoard in Spring 2005. All her books remain in print. Most of DeBlieu’s work explores the subtle ways we are shaped by the landscapes where we live and work. She has contributed essays to many national publications, including the New York Times Magazine, Harper’s, and Orion. A longtime environmental activist, in the late 1980s she helped form a group that successfully kept oil companies from drilling on the Outer Banks. She lives on Roanoke Island with her husband and son.

Tuesday • March 31 • 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday • March 31 • 7:30 p.m.

Pamela Duncan

Pamela Duncan was born in Asheville and raised in Black Mountain, Swannanoa, and Shelby, NC, and currently lives in Caldwell, NC. She teaches creative writing at Western Carolina University. She holds a BA in journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MA in English/Creative writing from North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Her first novel, Moon Woman, was a Southeast Regional Book Award finalist, a Causus of the American Library Association for Literary Excellence, the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles Award for Outstanding Writing, two Arizona Book Awards, and a finalist citation for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award.

Thursday • April 2 • 4 p.m.

Ron Rash

Ron Rash is a descendant of Southern Appalachian families who was raised in Building, Savings, earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English, and published collections of both poetry and short stories before transitioning to writing novels. He is the author of three previous prize-winning novels, One Foot in Eden, Saints at the River, and The World Made Straight; his fourth novel, Serena, nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award, has been named to the Publishers Weekly “Best Books of the Year” list and was a national bestseller, was a Book of the Month main selection, and was a sixth novel, is forthcoming, as is a young adult novel, for a memoir, After You’ve Gone is his fourth novel.

Wednesday • April 1 • 4 p.m.

Jawel Parker Rhodes

Jawel Parker Rhodes is the author of five novels: Voodoo Dreams, Magic City, Douglas’ Women, Voodoo Season, and Yellow Curtain, and a memoir, Porch Stories: A Grandmother’s Guide to Happiness, Hurricane Levee Blues, a sixth novel, is forthcoming, and an award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters’ Virginia Woolf Award for First Book, was published by Shoemaker & Hoard in Spring 2005. All her books remain in print. Most of DeBlieu’s work explores the subtle ways we are shaped by the landscapes where we live and work. She has contributed essays to many national publications, including the New York Times Magazine, Harper’s, and Orion. A longtime environmental activist, in the late 1980s she helped form a group that successfully kept oil companies from drilling on the Outer Banks. She lives on Roanoke Island with her husband and son.

Tuesday • March 31 • 7:30 p.m.

Scott Huler

Scott Huler was born in 1957 in Cleveland and graduated from Davidson College. He has written on everything from the collapse of the Internet to biker waxing, from NASCAR to the stealth bomber, for such newspapers as the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Los Angeles Times. He has written for such magazines as Backpacker, Fortune, and Child. His award-winning radio work has been heard on All Things Considered and the National Public Radio and on Marketplace and Splendid Table an American Public Media. He hosts and produces the weekly radio program Nashville News & the Raleigh News & Observer and a staff reporter and producer for Nashville Public Radio. He was the founding and managing editor of the Nashville City Paper. He has taught at Davidson College and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and serves as guest host on The State of Things on WUNC-FM. In-Mom’s Laments is his fifth book, his work also has been included in the Appalachian Adventure and in such anthologies as The Appalachian Trail Reader and Speed, Stories of Survival from Behind the Wheel. He lives in Raleigh, N.C.

Wednesday • April 1 • 4 p.m.

C. Carrier

C. Carrier’s poems have appeared in Pleiades, Verse, Reductions, U/I, Castargas, and Good Food. He was born in Dayton, Ohio, and grew up in North Carolina. He holds degrees from Western Carolina University and from the Program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He lives and works in Northampton, Massachusetts. James Tate calls Carrier’s first book of poems, After Dayton, a Four Way Books Stahlecker selection, “an exploration of language, eerie precision, creating an alternate world in which one is surprisingly comfortable. It’s a beautiful place to start your new life, and for this we should be grateful. These poems are an amazing jolt to the head, just what real poetry should be.”
A literary festival, also known as a book festival or writers’ festival, is a regular gathering of writers and readers, typically on an annual basis in a particular city. A literary festival usually features a variety of presentations and readings by authors, as well as other events, delivered over a period of several days, with the primary objectives of promoting the authors' books and fostering a love of literature and writing.