Flannery O’Connor

and

Other Southern Women Writers

September 17 - 19, 2015

GEORGIA COLLEGE | MILLEDGEVILLE, GA
Conference Organizing Committee

Bruce Gentry  |  Laura Martin

Thanks to
Barnes & Noble at Georgia College
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College of Arts and Sciences, GC
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Flannery O’Connor Review
Flannery O’Connor – Andalusia Foundation, Inc.
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And to Isabel Acevedo, Keith Bergeron, Courtney Bentley, Catherine Bowlin, Alex Blazer, Nancy Davis Bray, Carol Brown, Greg Brown, Craig Callender, April Moon Carlson, Lisa Castillo, Noah Devros, Millie Dempsey, Emily Gomez, Ryan Greene, James Holder, Kristie Johnson, Josephine Keese King, Georgia Knapp, Martin Lammon, Sarah K. Lenz, Mary Magoulick, Melinda Martin, Daniel McDonald, Ryan McLaughlin, Ernestine Montoya, Jon Scott, Iona Sun, Gordon Thomas, Stephanie Westmoreland, Elaine Whitaker, Artis Williamson and Elizabeth Wylie, as well as to Mike McClelland and Jennifer Watkins of the Flannery O’Connor Review office.

Special thanks go to
Kenneth Procter, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, GC

Announcements

Neither audio nor video recording is allowed at the conference. Photography inside the museum and the presentation rooms is also prohibited. Some of the conference events are being recorded by WRGC-FM.

Conference Website: gcsu.edu/oconnorconference2015

Andalusia: Highway 441 just north of Walmart. Andalusia will be open for self-guided tours at any time between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Thursday through Sunday. 478-454-4029. Throughout the conference, Andalusia will host Flannery and Fashion at Mid-Century. The exhibition will feature artifacts from Andalusia’s collection of textiles, including vintage patterns and fabrics found on the farm. Connections will be made to important references to clothing in O’Connor’s writing. Exhibition curated by Sarah Lenz and Elizabeth Wylie with collaboration from photographer Emily Gomez.

Where may one buy books and such?
Here are four options:
Barnes & Noble at Georgia College, located on Hancock Street downtown, has an extensive display of books by conference presenters. They will also sell books at the conference’s evening events.
GC Special Collections, located on the second floor of Georgia College’s Ina Dillard Russell Library, has a selection of O’Connor-related materials for sale during the conference.
Andalusia has a gift shop with all sorts of O’Connor-related materials.
The Old Governor’s Mansion has a gift shop (at the back of the bottom floor) that offers a variety of materials relating to the South.

Shuttle Service and Parking:
Shuttle vans are available (and free) for transportation between the Library’s shuttle stop on Montgomery Street and both the Holiday Inn Express and the Hampton Inn on Highway 441/Columbia Street. The vans will run from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and from 4:30 to 10 p.m. each day, making continuous loops. Between 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. each day, we will have a driver on call at this number: 478-445-7433. Free parking is available to conference participants at the north Irwin Parking Lot, which is four-tenths of a mile west of campus at the corner of west Hancock and north Irwin Streets. A free shuttle runs regularly between the parking lot and the GC campus.

Conference Registration Desk and Hospitality Area:
The office of Continuing Education for GC, in Chappell Hall 103, will be open for conference participants to pick up their conference folders and nametags during the following hours: Wednesday, Noon-5 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday 8:30-10:30 a.m. Coffee and snacks will be available near the Continuing Education office each morning of the conference.
Schedule of Panels and Presentations

*Green indicates creative writing presenter.

Note on Locations and Abbreviations:

ASA  Arts and Sciences Auditorium (Enter the Arts and Sciences Building, located in the center of campus, through the doors closest to the Library and Beeson Hall.)
BC  Blackbird Coffee, 114 West Hancock Street.
MER  Museum Education Room (Enter through the doors at the corner of N. Clarke Street and W. Montgomery Street.)
MNRH  Max Noah Recital Hall, in Porter Hall, just east of Arts and Sciences.
OGMEB  Old Governor’s Mansion Education Building, on Greene Street.
PEA  Peabody Auditorium, in Kilpatrick Building on Montgomery Street.

Thursday – Sept. 17

T1 9 – 11:06  Films
MER  Chair: Nancy Davis Bray (Georgia College)
9-9:30  “The Life You Save,” with Gene Kelly
10:25-11  “Galley Proof,” the O’Connor Interview
11:05-11:06  “Unique Chicken Walks in Reverse”

T2 10:30 – 12:15  Poetry
MNRH  Chair: Laura Newbern (Georgia College)
a: Laura Sloan Patterson (Seton Hill University)
b: Paige Sullivan (Georgia State University)
c: Lindsey D. Alexander (Purdue University)
d: Nagueyalti Warren (Emory University)

T3 11:15 – 12:15  Editors Panel
MER  a: Bruce Gentry (Georgia College) for the Flannery O’Connor Review
b: Amy Berke (Middle Georgia State University) for The Ellen Glasgow Journal of Southern Women Writers

T4 2:00 – 3:15  Critical
ASA  Chair: Doug Davis (Gordon State College)
a: Alison Staudinger (University of Wisconsin, Green Bay) “All Crammed Together in a Box Car: The Use of Holocaust Imagery in Flannery O’Connor”
b: James B. Potts III (Mississippi College) “The Historical/Ahistorical Guizac and the Great Displaced”

T5 2:00 – 3:15  Critical
MER  Chair: Jude Marr (University of Louisiana-Lafayette)
a: Stacey Balkun (Delgado Community College) “The Fabulous and Fantastic Edges of Contemporary Southern Women Poets”
b: Paige Sullivan (Georgia State University) “Convergence and Divergence in Contemporary Southern Women Poets”

T6 3:30 – 4:45  Critical
ASA  Chair: Dianne Bunch (Alcorn State University)
a: Colleen Warren (Taylor University) “Black Doubling as Self-Knowledge in Flannery O’Connor’s ‘Why Do the Heathen Rage?’”
b: Wendy A. Piper (Dartmouth College) “Romancing the Shadow: Race and Reconciliation in ‘The Artificial Nigger’”
Poetry Chair: Edward Bassett (Samford University)
a: Beth Gyllys (Georgia State University)
b: Jennifer Wheelock (University of California-Los Angeles)
c: Cathy Carlisi (BrightHouse, Atlanta)

Critical Chair: Bruce Gentry (Georgia College)
a: Craig R. Amason (Piedmont College) “Believing in Something Not Yet Proved: Tracing Lillian Smith’s Journey”

Keynote - Critical Chair: Beauty Bragg (Georgia College)
Evelyn C. White (Independent Writer) “I Know What Money Is For: The Everyday Activism of Alice Walker”

Friday – Sept. 18

F1 9:00 – 10:45
Critical Panel: “Mystery, Knowledge, and Discovery in the Fiction of Flannery O’Connor”
Chair: Jordan Cofer (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College)
a: Virginia Grant (University of the Arts) “The Quest for Knowledge in ‘The Lame Shall Enter First’”
b: Miriam Marty Clark (Auburn University) “Flannery O’Connor, Alice Munro, and the Mysteries of Personality”
c: Taylor Bowman (Auburn University) “A freak with a particular name: Bodied Experience and Spiritual Discovery in ‘A Temple of the Holy Ghost’”
d: Angela Jordan (Auburn University) “Everyone’s a Freak: Displacement in A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories”

F2 9:00 – 10:45
Critical/Creative Miscellany
Chair: Katie Simon (Georgia College)
a: Brooke Hatfield (Mail Chimp)
b: Amy Sonheim (Ouachita Baptist University)
c: Randall Wilhelm (Anderson University) “Postcards from the Edges: Visual Culture in Jill McCorkle’s ‘Waiting for Hard Times to End’ and Flannery O’Connor’s Wise Blood”

F3 11:00 – 12:15
Critical
Chair: Jacqueline Zubeck (College of Mount Saint Vincent)
a: Micheal Anthony Stephens-Emerson (College of Mount Saint Vincent) “Misfits and DPs: Exiled Masculinity in the Works of Flannery O’Connor”
b: Doug Davis (Gordon State College) “The Violent Technologies of Integration in Flannery O’Connor’s Tales of the Future”
c: Carmen Comeaux (University of Georgia) “Conmen, Misfits, and Outcasts: The Role of Zero Degrees of Empathy in Flannery O’Connor’s Criminal Characters”

F4 11:00 – 12:15
Poetry and Critical Presentation: “That Was the South That Was”
Chair: Alice Friman (Georgia College)
a: Patricia Waters (Troy University)
b: Rupert Fike (Poetry Atlanta)

F5 11:00 – 12:15
Poetry
Chair: Isabel Acevedo (Georgia College)
a: Jude Marr (University of Louisiana at Lafayette)
b: Jane Blanchard (Independent)
c: Monica Jo Brown (Chattanooga State Community College)
F6 1:30 – 3:15  Critical  
MER  
Chair: Robert Donahoo (Sam Houston State University)  
a: Peng Yao (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) “Fertility and Untranslatability in Flannery O’Connor’s ‘Greenleaf’”  
c: Cristina Sanchez-Andrade (Independent Scholar, Madrid, Spain) “The Southern School and the Latin American Boom: Influences and Connections”

F7 1:30 – 3:15  Teaching Panel  
MNRH  
Chair: John M. Sirmans (Georgia College)  
a: Gina Caison (Georgia State University) “Choose Your Own O’Connor”  
b: David A. Davis (Mercer University) “Teaching Flannery O’Connor Before and After the Civil Rights Movement”  
c: Rhonda Armstrong (Georgia Regents University) “Teaching O’Connor in the Age of Trigger Warnings”  
d: Robert Bleil (College of Coastal Georgia) “Talking and Telling: Flannery O’Connor, Southern Writers, and American Studies”

F8 1:30 – 3:15  Fiction and Creative Nonfiction  
ASA  
Chair: Mike McClelland (Georgia College)  
a: Marie Lathers (Case Western Reserve University)  
b: Mary Helen Stefaniak (Creighton University)  
c: Shannon Skelton (Georgia College)  
d: Laura Martin (Georgia College)

F9 3:30 – 4:45  Critical  
MNRH  
Chair: Bruce Gentry (Georgia College)  
a: Catherine Bowlin (Georgia College) “‘In Case His Vision Should Ever Become Dim’: Annie Lee Jackson’s Wise Blood”  
b: Steven Savage (Georgia College) “The Elusive Peacock: Collecting the Works of Flannery O’Connor”  
c: Daniel Wilkinson (Georgia College) “The Strange Career of Mrs. Shortley”

F10 3:30 – 4:45  Critical  
ASA  
Chair: Nancy Davis Bray (Georgia College)  
a: Jolly Kay Sharp (University of the Cumberlands) “A Beasty Non-Beauty: Flannery O’Connor’s Southern Belle”  
b: Jacqueline Zubek (College of Mount Saint Vincent) “The Craft of Character”  
c: Avis Hewitt (Grand Valley State University) “‘Do You Love Me or Don’tcher?: O’Connor, Flirtation, Seduction, Contingency”

F11 3:30 – 4:45  Critical  
MER  
Chair: Colleen Warren (Taylor University)  
a: Christine Flanagan (University of the Sciences) “Unearthing the ‘Master Class’ of Caroline Gordon and Flannery O’Connor: A Correspondence on Craft, or an (Unwitting) Ecofeminist Exchange?”  
b: Carole K. Harris (New York City College of Technology, CUNY) “Talking Back: Mary Attaway and Mary Flannery”  
c: Joonna Smitherman Trapp (Emory University) “Georgia Women Speak in Public: O’Connor Contextualized with Other Georgia Public Women”

F12 5:00 – 6:15  Critical  
MER  
Chair: Bruce Gentry (Georgia College)  
a: Jordan Cofer (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College) “‘A glutton for Scotch oatmeal cookies and erotic thought’: Flannery, Freud, and Iowa’s Cold War Legacy in the Wise Blood Manuscripts”  
b: Robert Donahoo (Sam Houston State University) “Making Moonshine: O’Connor’s Use of Regional Culture in The Violent Bear It Away”
Poetry
Chair: Tara Mettler (Georgia College)
a: Sandra Meek (Berry College)
b: Laura Newbern (Georgia College)

Keynote - Critical: The Flannery O'Connor Memorial Lecture
Chair: Bruce Gentry (Georgia College)
Teresa Caruso (Penn State Erie) "'Look Girl!': Gaze and Epiphany in Flannery O'Connor's 'The Partridge Festival'"

Saturday – Sept. 19

Critical
S1 9:00 – 10:45
Chair: Jan Nordby Gretlund (University of Southern Denmark)
a: Stephanie Rountree (Georgia State University) "'And of course human nature is dynamite to start with': Reproductive Bio-power and Regionalized Citizenship in Eudora Welty's Losing Battles"
b: Rebecca L. Harrison (University of West Georgia) "The Intertwined Nature of History and Horror: (Re)Seeing Welty's The Wide Net and Other Stories"
c: Elaine E. Whitaker (Georgia College) "Racial Intertextuality: O'Connor, Walker, and Welty"
d: Timothy Vande Brake (Roberts Wesleyan College) "Outside and In: O'Connor's and Welty's Black Characters"

Fiction and Creative Nonfiction
S2 9:00 – 10:45
Chair: Jennifer Watkins (Georgia College)
a: Kate Cumiskey (Cumiskey Education Group)
b: Sandra Worsham (Bennington College)

Critical
S3 11:00 – 12:15
Chair: Jolly Kay Sharp (University of the Cumberlands)
a: Tom Frazier (University of the Cumberlands) "Southern Roadside Christianity: Guides to Spiritual Awakening in O'Connor's Wise Blood"
b: Jill Hernandez (University of Texas at San Antonio) "Intersubjectivity and Narrative Theodicy: Atrocity and O'Connor"

Critical
S4 11:00 – 12:15
Chair: Carmen Comeaux (University of Georgia)
a: Monica Miller (Georgia Institute of Technology) "Flannery O'Connor and Donna Tartt: Portrayal and Pursuit of the Sublime"
b: Charles Scott Nesbitt (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University) "From O'Connor to Tray with (and without) Love: Hidden Spaces in the Fiction of Two Female Southern Writers"
c: Jan Nordby Gretlund (University of Southern Denmark) "Speaking Good: From Flannery O'Connor to Pam Durban, Mary Hood, Josephine Humphreys, Dori Sanders, and Nikky Finney"

Critical
S5 11:00 – 12:15
Chair: Rhonda Armstrong (Georgia Regents University)
a: Jane Atteridge Rose (University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee) "What Hagar Wrote: Mary Johnston's The Wanderers"
b: Jennifer C. Tucker (Eastern Michigan University) "Feminism of the Fringes: Coded Resistance in Kate Chopin's Regional Fiction"
c: Dianne Bunch (Alcorn State University) "The Anagogical Moment in Jesmyn Ward's Salvage the Bones"
S6 1:30 – 3:15  **Critical**
  *ASA*
  Chair: Tom Frazier (University of the Cumberlands)
  a: Alison Arant (Wagner College) “Regionalism and Nostalgia in O’Connor and Munro”
  b: Bruce Henderson (Ithaca College) “O’Connor and Louise Fitzhugh”
  c: Jimmy Dean Smith (Union College) “Below the Blue: The Drowned Landscape in Flannery O’Connor and Harriette Simpson Arnow”

S7 1:30 – 3:15  **Critical**
  *PEA*
  Chair: Margaret Earley Whitt (University of Denver)
  a: Russell Pryor (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College) “Rereading African-American Cookbooks: Culinary Resistance in the Southern Diaspora”
  b: John M. Sirmans (Georgia College) “ Conjuring Tradition: Folklore in Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes Were Watching God”

S8 1:30 – 3:15  **Poetry and Fiction**
  *MER*
  Chair: Bruce Gentry (Georgia College)
  a: Marilyn Kallet (University of Tennessee)
  b: Tina Barr (University of North Carolina at Ashville)
  c: Barbara Zimmermann Bogue (Ball State University)
  d: Rita Mae Reese (Independent Writer)

S9 3:30 – 4:45  **Critical**
  *ASA*
  Chair: Carole K. Harris (New York City College of Technology, CUNY)
  a: Ruth Reiniche (University of Arizona) “The Language of the Triptych: Katherine Anne Porter’s Pale Horse, Pale Rider and Flannery O’Connor’s ‘Revelation,’ ‘Parker’s Back,’ and ‘Judgment Day’”
  c: Sarah-Marie Horning (University of Central Florida) “Stalled Womanhood: Bildungsroman, Violence, Androgyny, and Identity in ‘A Temple of the Holy Ghost’ and The Member of the Wedding”

S10 3:30 – 4:45  **Creative Nonfiction**
  *MER*
  Chair: Monica Miller (Georgia Institute of Technology)
  a: Ben Saxton (McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics)
  b: James Owens (Georgia College)

S11 5:00 – 6:15  **Poetry**
  *ASA*
  Chair: Virginia Wray (Lyon College)
  a: Sarah Gordon (Georgia College)
  b: Alice Friman (Georgia College)

S12 8:00  **Keynote - Critical and Creative Nonfiction**
  *ASA*
  Chair: Laura Martin (Georgia College)
  Janisse Ray (Independent Writer) “An Endangered Literature”
Session Chairs

Isabel Acevedo (Georgia College) F5
Rhonda Armstrong (Georgia Regents University) S5
Edward Bassett (Samford University) T7
Beauty Bragg (Georgia College) T9
Nancy Davis Bray (Georgia College) T1, F10
Dianne Bunch (Alcorn State University) T6
Jordan Cofer (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College) F1
Carmen Comeaux (University of Georgia) S4
Doug Davis (Gordon State College) T4
Robert Donahoo (Sam Houston State University) F6
Alice Friman (Georgia College) F4
Tom Frazier (University of the Cumberlands) S6
Bruce Gentry (Georgia College) T8, F9, F12, F14, S8
Jan Nordby Gretlund (University of Southern Denmark) S1
Carole K. Harris (New York City College of Technology, CUNY) S9
Jude Marr (University of Louisiana-Lafayette) T5
Laura Martin (Georgia College) S12
Mike McClelland (Georgia College) F8
Tara Mettler (Georgia College) F13
Monica Miller (Georgia Institute of Technology) S10
Laura Newbern (Georgia College) T2
Jolly Kay Sharp (University of the Cumberlands) S3
Katie Simon (Georgia College) F2
John M. Sirmans (Georgia College) F7
Colleen Warren (Taylor University) F11
Jennifer Watkins (Georgia College) S2
Virginia Wray (Lyon College) S11
Margaret Earley Whitt (University of Denver) S7
Jacqueline Zubeck (College of Mount Saint Vincent) F3
Conference Presenter Bios

Lindsey D. Alexander has poems in Crazyhorse, Cream City Review, Hayden’s Ferry Review, Third Coast, Colorado Review, and Forklift, Ohio, among other magazines. She was a summer scholar in the 2014 NEH Institute “Reconsidering Flannery O’Connor.” She taught creative writing and composition at Purdue University, where she also received her MFA.

Craig R. Amason is the Director of the Lillian E. Smith Center of Piedmont College. He is responsible for the development, programming, collections, operation, and maintenance of the 140-acre site in Clayton, Georgia. He also serves as the Piedmont College Archivist on the main campus in Demorest. He was formerly at Andalusia, the Home of Flannery O’Connor, where he served as the director for thirteen years.

Alison Arant is Assistant Professor of English at Wagner College on Staten Island in New York. She teaches courses on American Literature and Southern Literature. Her work has appeared in Modern Fiction Studies and Southern Literary Journal.

Rhonda Armstrong is Associate Professor of English at Georgia Regents University in Augusta, where she teaches 20th-century American Literature and Southern Literature. Her recent publications include articles on Bobbie Ann Mason and Lee Smith. She is working on a project about corpses in southern literature.

Stacey Balkun, author of Lost City Museum (ELJ Publications, 2016) is a New Jersey poet with her heart in the South. Raised in Piscataway, NJ, Stacey earned her MFA in Creative Writing at Fresno State before moving to New Orleans. Stacey works as a writing tutor at Delgado Community College and volunteers with several literary organizations, including One Book, One New Orleans and Big Class, Chapter 504. A 2015 Hambidge Fellow, Stacey has served as Artist-in-Residence at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Her work appears in Gargoyle, Muzzle, THRUSH, and Bayou, among others. She writes for The California Journal of Women Writers at www.tcjww.org.

Tina Barr’s books of poetry include Kaleidoscope (Iris Press, 2015), The Gathering Eye, winner of the Tupelo Press Editor’s Prize, and At Dusk on Naskeag Point, The Fugitive Eye, and Red Land, Black Land, winners of national chapbook competitions. Her awards include fellowships from the NEA, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the MacDowell Colony. Her poems appear in Arts & Letters, American Poetry Review, Boulevard, Crab Orchard Review, The Mississippi Review, Notre Dame Review, The Paris Review, The Southern Review, etc. She has directed the Creative Writing Program at Rhodes College and now teaches in the Great Smokies Writing Program at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Amy Berke is Professor of English and Chair of the English Department at Middle Georgia State University, where she teaches courses in American literature. She has published in Frank Norris Studies, South Central Review, The Companion to Southern Literature, and the Ellen Glasgow Newsletter. She is editor of The Ellen Glasgow Journal of Southern Women Writers.

Jane Blanchard studied English at Wake Forest University before earning a doctorate from Rutgers University. She is currently an independent scholar and writer, primarily in Augusta, Georgia. Her poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies.

Robert Bleil is Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program at the College of Coastal Georgia. A founding member of the American Studies Program at Coastal Georgia, he is an active member of the American Studies Association and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society. His most recent publication, “Temporarily Devotedly Yours: The Letters of Ginevra King to F. Scott Fitzgerald,” is part of his current work on a scholarly edition of King's letters to Fitzgerald. He has presented at conferences of the MLA, SAMLA, NELMA, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society, and the Society for Textual Scholarship.

Barbara Zimmermann Bogue's fiction, essays, and poems have been published in literary journals and anthologies including New Millennium Writings (in which two separate issues contained her first and second prize winning flash fictions), Rockhurst Review, Pleiades, Earth Daughters #72, Kaleidoscope, Flannery O’Connor Review, Out of Line, and The Deadly Writers Patrol. She is also the author of James Lee Burke and the Soul of Dave Robicheaux: A Critical Study of the Crime Fiction Series (McFarland).

Catherine Bowlin is a graduate student in the Master of Arts in English Language program at Georgia College. She works in Special Collections in the Georgia College Library. She received her Bachelor’s degree in literature from Georgia College with a minor in Spanish. Catherine’s interests focus on American literature with a concentration in southern literature. She intends to complete her doctorate and pursue a teaching career. Catherine is presenting a portion of what will become her MA thesis.

Taylor Bowman is a PhD candidate in English at Auburn University specializing in 20th-century American fiction. His research interests include the short story, narrative theory, and Latino fiction.

Monica Jo Brown teaches creative writing workshops in poetry, prose, and novel writing at Chattanooga State Community College, where she is the advisor of The Phoenix, a student literary magazine resurrected after years of dormancy, and the founding advisor of the Chattanooga State Writers’ Association. She frequently teaches multi-genre writing workshops for adults and children in Chattanooga. She is a 2011 Creative Writing MFA graduate of The University of Oregon, where she taught multi-genre creative writing workshops. She has just completed her first poetry collection, Heirloom.
Dianne Bunch is Professor of English at Alcorn State University in Mississippi, where she teaches southern literature and American literature. She serves on the board of the University Press of Mississippi and has published work on Kate Chopin and Edith Wharton.

Gina Caison is Assistant Professor of English at Georgia State University. Her monograph, Red States: Literature, Native America, and the U.S. South, is under advance contract with the University of Georgia Press. She is also co-editor of Small-Screen Souths: Interrogating the Televisual Archive, under advance contract with Louisiana State University Press. Her work has also appears in Mississippi Quarterly, The Velvet Light Trap: A Critical Journal of Film and Television, The Global South, and PMLA.

Cathy Carlisi, as close to an Atlanta native as anyone gets, is a graduate of The University of the South. Her poetry has appeared in Prairie Schooner, The Mid-American Review, Southern Review, The Greensboro Review, The South Carolina Review, The Atlanta Review, etc. Her manuscript “The Natural Order of Things” has been a finalist in for the Tampa Review Prize for Poetry, Lost Horse Press Idaho Prize for Poetry, Carolina Wren Press, MMM Press Book Prize, Elixir Press Annual Poetry Award, and The Washington Prize. Carlisi is President and Chief Creative Officer of BrightHouse, a creative strategy and marketing consultancy that serves organizations that serve society.

Teresa Caruso is Senior Lecturer in English at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. She completed her doctoral work on O'Connor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and she edited “On the subject of the feminist business”: Re-Reading Flannery O'Connor, a collection of feminist essays on O'Connor.

Janet Hoffmann Clark is Associate Professor of Rhetoric at Georgia College. Her scholarly background is in Speech Communication, and her interests include American Oratory, Democratic Deliberation, Argument and Debate, and Instructional Communication. She currently teaches Public Speaking, Public Achievement, and Public Deliberation. Her favorite book is To Kill a Mockingbird. Her favorite movie is To Kill a Mockingbird. Her favorite film score is To Kill a Mockingbird. She has not read Go Set a Watchman.

Miriam Marty Clark is Associate Professor at Auburn University, where she teaches courses in modern and contemporary American poetry and fiction. She has published work on a number of twentieth and twenty-first century writers, including Ernest Hemingway, William Carlos Williams, Kenneth Burke, A. R. Ammons, Adrienne Rich, Susan Howe, William Trevor, Alice Munro, and Raymond Carver. She has also written on the short story as a genre and on the pedagogy of English. She is currently finishing a book on religious thought in contemporary American poetry.

Jordan Cofer is an associate professor and Head of the Department of English and Communication at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. He is the author of The Gospel According to Flannery O’Connor, as well as several essays on figures ranging from Salinger to Jean Toomer.

Carmen Comeaux is a full-time lecturer in English at the University of Georgia. She teaches courses in freshman composition (including a special section specifically for science majors), survey literature courses, and language courses such as Introduction to the English Language. She completed a PhD in Cognitive Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a minor in Linguistics. Her research interests include creativity studies, cognitive approaches to literature, and lexical semantics.

Kate Cumiskey holds an MFA from the University of North Carolina. Her work appears in Crazhorse, Beloit Poetry Journal, and other magazines. The essay she is presenting is from her memoir about her father, a Mississippi Depression orphan who became one of NASA’s chief designers.

David A. Davis is Director of Fellowships and Scholarships, Associate Director of Southern Studies, and Associate Professor of English at Mercer University. He has published more than two-dozen essays on southern literature and material culture. In 2014, he was a summer scholar at the NEH institute on Flannery O’Connor at Georgia College.

Doug Davis teaches English at Gordon State College. He was a participant in the 2007 NEH Institute at Georgia College. He has published in the Flannery O’Connor Review.

Robert Donahoo is Professor of English at Sam Houston State University. He is the co-editor of the essay collection Flannery O’Connor in the Age of Terrorism: Essays on Violence and Grace (Tennessee). He has published a number of essays on O’Connor as well as articles on the American dramatist Horton Foote, Tolstoy’s novel Resurrection, Larry Brown’s novel Dirty Work, and American science fiction. A former president of the Flannery O’Connor Society and Editor of the Society’s newsletter, Cheers!, he is working on several O’Connor projects and a new essay on Horton Foote’s play The Young Man from Atlanta.

Rupert Fike’s collection of poems, Lotus Buffet (Brick Road Poetry Press), was named Finalist in the Georgia Author of the Year awards, 2011. He has received Pushcart Prize nominations in fiction and poetry with work appearing in The Southern Review of Poetry, The Georgetown Review, Natural Bridge, A & U: America’s AIDS Magazine, The Buddhist Poetry Review, and others. He has a poem inscribed in a downtown Atlanta plaza, and his non-fiction book, Voices from The Farm, is now in its second printing with accounts of life on a spiritual community in Tennessee.
Christine Flanagan, MFA, is Associate Professor of English at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia who has written plays, short stories, and essays. Along with creative writing, she teaches courses on nature and environmental literature. In 2014, she attended the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute “Reconsidering Flannery O’Connor” at Georgia College.

Tom Frazier is a native of Evarts, Kentucky, and currently serves as Chair of the Department and Professor of English and Modern Foreign Languages at University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, Kentucky. His poetry has appeared in such publications as Adena, Appalachian Heritage, Pegasus, Journal of Kentucky Studies, Chaffin Journal, Sow’s Ear, and Snowapple. His scholarship has appeared in numerous reference books, and he has made presentations at conferences concerning American literature, popular culture, and O’Connor. He is the author of the Flannery O’Connor entry for Companion to Southern Literature, and he presented a paper on “Flannery O’Connor, Lee Smith and God” at the 2011 O’Connor Conference at Georgia College.

Alice Friman’s sixth full-length collection of poetry is The View from Saturn, LSU. Her previous book, Vinculum, won the 2012 Georgia Author of the Year Award in Poetry. She is a recipient of a 2012 Pushcart Prize and is included in Best American Poetry 2009. Other books include The Book of the Rotten Daughter and Zoo, which won the Sheila Margaret Motton Prize from The New England Poetry Club and the Ezra Pound Poetry Award from Truman State University. Her work appears in The Georgia Review, Boulevard, The Southern Review, Shenandoah, etc. Professor Emerita of English and creative writing at the University of Indianapolis, she is Poet-in-Residence at Georgia College. Her podcast series Ask Alice, sponsored by the Georgia College MFA program, can be seen on YouTube.

Bruce Gentry is Editor of the Flannery O’Connor Review at Georgia College. He is the author of Flannery O’Connor’s Religion of the Grotesque; editor of The Cartoons of Flannery O’Connor at Georgia College; and co-editor of At Home with Flannery O’Connor: An Oral History. In 2014 as in 2007, Gentry served as co-director for “Reconsidering Flannery O’Connor,” an NEH Summer Institute for College and University Teachers.


Virginia Grant received her PhD in English from Auburn University in 2014. Her dissertation focuses on the fiction of Flannery O’Connor and the mid-century culture of the United States during the Cold War. She is the recipient of the 2014 Sarah Gordon Award as well as the 2012-2013 Flannery O’Connor Review Junior Fellowship, and her work has been published in the Flannery O’Connor Review. She teaches at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia.


Beth Gylys is Professor at Georgia State University. Her third book of poetry, Sky Blue Enough to Drink, is forthcoming from Grayson Books. She has two previously published award-winning collections of poetry -- Spot in the Dark (Ohio State UP) and Bodies that Hum (Silverfish Review Press) -- and two chapbooks: Matchbook (La Vita Poetica Press) and Balloon Heart (Wind Press). Awarded fellowships and residencies at the MacDowell Colony, La Muse, and La Centre D’art i Natura de Farrera, she has had work published in many anthologies and journals including Paris Review, Kenyon Review, and Ploughshares.

Carole K. Harris received a BA in French Literature from Duke University and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Yale University. A resident of Brooklyn, New York, she is Associate Professor in the English Department at New York City College of Technology, CUNY. She is working on two projects, a collection of essays on Flannery O’Connor, and a memoir about the three generations of women in her family.
Rebecca L. Harrison, a graduate of Hunter College (BA) and Georgia State University (MA/PhD), is Associate Professor of English and Director of English Education at the University of West Georgia, where she teaches courses in American literature, southern literature, the captivity genre, and secondary education for English/Language Arts. She is actively engaged in the University's UWise STEM initiative and serves as the department's coordinator of these efforts. A specialist in women writers, Harrison has published on writers such as Beatrice Witte Ravenel, Mary Dorcey, and Julia Alvarez, who is subject of her most recent work, Inhabiting La Patria: Identity, Agency, and Antojo in the Work of Julia Alvarez. She has two forthcoming essays on Flannery O'Welty and is currently working on a monograph that explores captivity tropes in the southern female imaginary.

Brooke Hatfield is a writer and artist who organized last year’s Flannery O’Connor Portrait Zine, which benefited the Flannery O’Connor-Andalusia Foundation, Inc., and was featured in The Bitter Southerner, Southern Spaces, and Creative Loafing Atlanta. Her non-O’Connor-related work has appeared in the Washingtonian, Atlanta Magazine, and Washington City Paper. She occasionally reads words onstage in Atlanta, where she recently co-released the Eudora Welty Portrait Reader.

Bruce Henderson is Professor of Communication Studies at Ithaca College. He has co-authored two textbooks in performance studies and co-edited a volume of essays on disability studies and performance studies. He writes on disability, queerness, performance pedagogy, and 20th-21st century French and Francophone literature, and American film and popular culture. He also writes creative fiction and non-fiction, including essays about her travels abroad with her daughter. These have been published in Slow Trains, Marco Polo Arts Magazine, and Frontier: A Journal of Woman Studies. She is writing a novel set partly in Georgia.

Jill Hernandez (PhD, Memphis; MA, Texas A&M) specializes in ethics and early modern philosophy. She is the author of Gabriel Marcel’s Ethics of Hope, and the editor of The New Intuitionism, and her articles have appeared in top philosophy journals. Her awards include a 2014 National Endowment for Humanities Faculty Award, the Robert B. Papazian International Prize in Ethics for her article “The Integrity Objection, Reloaded,” and Presidential Distinguished Achievement Awards in both research and teaching for the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she is Associate Professor of Philosophy.

Avis Hewitt is Professor of English at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she teaches Women Writers of the Cold War, Food and Flesh in American Fiction, Sherlocked: Permutations of Baker Street Detection from Arthur Conan Doyle to Benedict Cumberbatch, American Autobiography, and Love Stories: The Interface of Desire and Critical Theory. She has published on Mary McCarthy, Denise Levertov, John Updike, and O’Connor. She co-edited Flannery O’Connor in the Age of Terrorism: Essays on Violence and Grace (Tennessee). She served as Editor of Cheers! The Flannery O’Connor Society Newsletter from 2006 to 2012 and as President of the O’Connor Society from 2012 to 2015.

Sarah-Marie Horning is a Master’s candidate and graduate teaching associate at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Aside from her work on O’Connor, she has presented papers on Carson McCullers and on the American Dream. Her current research explores Native and European American women’s responses to the frontier in their lives and works.

Angela Jordan is a PhD candidate in English at Auburn University. She was awarded the Hargis Fellowship in 2014-2015.

Marilyn Kallet is the author of sixteen books including The Love That Moves Me, poetry by Black Widow Press. She has translated Paul Eluard’s Last Love Poems (Derniers poèmes d’amour), and Benjamin Péret’s The Big Game (Le grand jeu), and she has co-translated Chantal Bizzini’s Disenchanted City (La Vie Désenchantée). Kallet directs the Creative Writing Program at the University of Tennessee, where she is Nancy Moore Goslee Professor of English. In 2005, she was inducted into the East Tennessee Literary Hall of Fame in poetry. She has performed her work on campuses and in theaters across the United States, as well as in Poland and in Auvillar, France, where she leads a poetry workshop each spring for VCCA-France.

Marie Lathers teaches literature at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She is from Maryland, but has roots in Georgia. She has published books and articles about French and Francophone literature, and American film and popular culture. She also writes creative fiction and non-fiction, including essays about her travels abroad with her daughter. These have been published in Slow Trains, Marco Polo Arts Magazine, and Frontier: A Journal of Woman Studies. She is writing a novel set partly in Georgia.

Jude Marr is a freelance editor. Her work has appeared in The Cortland Review, Black Heart Magazine, Cactus Heart and Cherry Tree, among others. Marr received an honorable mention for the 2014 Frankye Davis Mayes Prize sponsored by the Academy of American Poets. She has an MFA from Georgia College and is a PhD candidate at University of Louisiana – Lafayette.

Laura Martin is an MFA candidate at Georgia College. Her creative nonfiction has appeared in Mr. Beller’s Neighborhood and Dovetail. She was Assistant to the Directors at the 2014 NEH Institute “Reconsidering Flannery O’Connor.” She is a staff writer for the fashion blog Style Noted.
Sandra Meek is the author of four books of poems, Road Scatter (Persea Books), Biogeography, winner of the Dorset Prize (Tupelo Press), Burn, and Nomadic Foundations, as well as a chapbook, The Circumference of Arrival. Her fifth book of poems, An Ecology of Elsewhere, is forthcoming from Persea Books in 2016. She is also the editor of an anthology, Deep Travel: Contemporary American Poets Abroad (Ninebark), which was awarded a 2008 Independent Publisher Book Award Gold Medal. Her poems have appeared in The American Poetry Review, The Kenyon Review, Prairie Schooner, Poetry, Conjunctions, and The Iowa Review, among others. A recipient of a 2011 NEA Fellowship in Poetry and the 2015 Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, she has twice been awarded Georgia Author of the Year, in 2006 for Burn, and in 2003 for Nomadic Foundations, which also was awarded the Peace Corps Writers Award in Poetry. Meek served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Manyana, Botswana. She is a co-founding editor of Ninebark Press, director of the Georgia Poetry Circuit, poetry editor of the Phi Kappa Phi Forum, and Dana Professor of English, Rhetoric, and Writing at Berry College.

Monica Miller is a Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Having received her doctorate from Louisiana State University in 2014, she was a Summer Scholar in the 2014 NEH Institute “Reconsidering Flannery O’Connor.” Her current project is an analysis of the figure of the ugly woman in the work of southern women writers.

Charles Scott Nesbitt is an instructor of literature and composition at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He was born in Columbus, Georgia; grew up in Alabama and Georgia; has two Bachelor’s degrees from Auburn University (English, Communications); and has a Master’s degree in English/Creative Writing from the University of Central Florida. He has worked as a journalist and technical writer, has published short fiction, and has taught college literature, composition, and other writing classes at multiple colleges for more than twenty years. O’Connor has been a focal point of many of his classes, and he is a former colleague of Judy Troy.

Laura Newbern teaches poetry at Georgia College, where she also is Editor of Georgia College's nationally distributed literary magazine, Arts & Letters. She is the author of the award-winning poetry collection Love and the Eye (Kore), and her poems have appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, Poetry, Stand, and TriQuarterly. Newbern holds degrees from Barnard College, NYU, and the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College, and she is the recipient of a Writer’s Award from The Rona Jaffe Foundation.

James Owens is a nonfiction MFA candidate at Georgia College. He is a graduate of Auburn University and The University of Alabama at Birmingham. He was Assistant to the Directors at the 2014 NEH Institute “Reconsidering Flannery O’Connor.”

Laura Sloan Patterson is a professor of English and the director of an expository writing program at Seton Hill University in western Pennsylvania. Her academic articles, on topics such as bridal fashion and advertising, fashion and feminism in academia, and sexual assault in southern literature, have appeared in Feminist Media Studies, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Women’s Studies, and Mississippi Quarterly. She is also the author of Stirring the Pot: The Kitchen and Domesticity in the Fiction of Southern Women. Her poetry has appeared in The Written Wardrobe: An Online Anthology.

Wendy A. Piper teaches writing and American literature in the Institute for Writing and Rhetoric at Dartmouth College. Her book, Misfits and Marble Fauns: Religion and Romance in Hawthorne and O’Connor (Mercer), explores Hawthorne and O’Connor as writers of the American romance tradition. She is currently working on a project that extends the study to Hawthorne, Poe, O’Connor, and Robinson as American writers. In addition to her research and teaching, she has ventured out of the academy and is serving my second term as a NH State Legislator.

James B. Potts, III, is Associate Professor of English at Mississippi College. He has his PhD from the University of South Carolina, with special interests in 20th-century American literature, southern literature, Faulkner, and post-modernism. He has published on Cormac McCarthy, Faulkner, James Dickey, Ernest Gaines, Alexander Solzhenitsyn and others. He presented on Flannery O’Connor’s Wise Blood manuscripts at the Rocky Mountain MLA last fall and completed his Master’s thesis on Walker Percy and Flannery O’Connor, Medievalism, and the Idea of Spatial Form at the University of Central Florida in 1997.

Russell Pryor is Assistant Professor of History at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia, where he teaches courses on US history and interdisciplinary courses on food and social movements. He earned a PhD in History from Carnegie Mellon University in 2013, and is currently completing a book manuscript exploring the labor, environmental, and cultural history of the southern chicken industry.
Janisse Ray—writer, naturalist, and activist—is author of five books of literary nonfiction and a collection of nature poetry. Her most recent book, The Seed Underground: A Growing Revolution to Save Food, is a look at what's happening to seeds, which is to say the future of food. The book has won the Arlene Eisenberg Award for Writing that Makes a Difference, American Horticultural Society Book Award, Nautilus Gold Book Award, Garden Writers Association Gold Award, and Green Prize for Sustainable Literature Award. In 2014 Ray was awarded an honorary doctorate from LaGrange College in LaGrange, GA, following one in 2007 from Unity College in Maine. She holds an MFA from the University of Montana, where she was the William Kittredge Distinguished Visiting Writer, 2014. Her first book, Ecology of a Cracker Childhood, a memoir about growing up on a junkyard in the ruined longleaf pine ecosystem of the Southeast, was published by Milkweed Editions in 1999. The book won Southeastern Booksellers Award for Nonfiction 1999, American Book Award 2000, Southern Environmental Law Center 2000 Award for Outstanding Writing, and Southern Book Critics Circle Award 2000. It was a New York Times Notable Book and was chosen as the Book All Georgians Should Read. Besides a plea to protect and restore the glorious pine flatwoods, the book is a hard look at family, mental illness, poverty, and religion. Essayist Wendell Berry called the book “well done and deeply moving.” Anne Raver of The New York Times said, “The forests of the South find their Rachel Carson.” Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home, focusing on rural community, was published in 2003. Pinbook: Finding Wholeness in a Fragmented Land, the story of a 750,000-acre wildland between south Georgia and north Florida, came out in 2005. Ray’s first book of poetry, A House of Branches, was released in 2010 and won a Southern Booksellers Award for Poetry 2011. Drifting Into Darien: A Personal and Natural History of the Altamaha River, a love song to the river of her childhood and a call to action to protect it, was published in 2011. The author has been visiting professor and writer-in-residence at many universities and colleges across the county. When at home, Ray attempts to live a simple, sustainable life on Red Earth Farm in southern Georgia with her husband and daughter. Ray is an organic gardener, tender of farm animals, slow-food cook, and seed-saver. She lectures nationally and widely on nature, community, agriculture, wildness, sustainability, and the politics of wholeness.

Ruth Reiniche teaches English at the University of Arizona where she earned her PhD with a dissertation on O’Connor. She has published in the Flannery O’Connor Review.

Rita Mae Reese is a recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award, a Stegner fellowship in fiction, a “Discovery”/The Nation award, and a Pamaunok Poetry Prize, among other awards. Her first book, The Alphabet Conspiracy, is available from Arktoi Books. An animated video of the title poem was created by Flavor to showcase at the Association of Independent Commercial ProducersMidwest Trade Show and can be viewed on her website at www.ritamaereese.com. Her second book, The Book of Hulga, won the Felix Pollak Prize and will be published by Wisconsin; sample poems appear in Volume 13 of the Flannery O’Connor Review.

Douglas Robillard, Jr., is Professor of English at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. His work on O’Connor has appeared in the Flannery O’Connor Review, Modern Fiction Studies, and Philological Review. He edited The Critical Response to Flannery O’Connor (Praeger). He is working on a book-length study of children in O’Connor. He was a participant in the 2007 NEH Institute at Georgia College.

Jane Atteridge Rose is the Dean of Arts & Sciences at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee. Prior to her administrative role at USF Sarasota-Manatee, Rose was a Professor of English at Georgia College, where she also served as the founding director of Women’s Studies, and for several years, as associate editor of The Flannery O’Connor Bulletin. Her teaching areas include American literature, women writers, and multicultural literature. Her scholarship applies feminist theory to the critical recovery of America women writers. She has published a book on Rebecca Harding Davis.

Stephanie Rountree is a PhD Candidate in American Literature at Georgia State University. She has published in Word and Text and in GSU’s Guide to First-Year Writing. She serves as co-editor of Small-Screen Souths: Interrogating the Televisual Archive (under advanced contract with LSU Press), as inaugural President of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature’s Emerging Scholars Organization, and as ESO Representative to SSSL’s Executive Council. Her dissertation, American Corpore: Subverting U.S. Nationalism through Southern Embodiment, investigates state relegation of bodies as a technology of nationalism and an episteme of regional identity in American literature since 1865.

Cristina Sánchez-Andrade has degrees in Law and Mass Media. She writes for various Spanish newspapers and literary magazines as a critic and book reviewer. Her third novel Ya no pisa la tierra tu rey (Anagrama, 2004), won the prestigious literary prize Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz at the Guadalajara International Book Fair 2005, in Mexico, and has been translated into English and Portuguese. Las Inviernas, her last novel, has gained critical acclaim, was Herralde Novel Prize Finalist in 2013, and has been translated into five languages, including English.

Ben Saxton is adjunct professor at the McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics, where he works in literature and medicine. He has published articles on Flannery O’Connor, Carson McCullers, Cormac McCarthy, Philip Roth, and J.R. Tolkien. Saxton is writing a book about poker in New Orleans.

Steven Savage, a graduate of the University of Georgia, is a student in the MA English program at Georgia College.
Jolly Kay Sharp, while working on her PhD from Middle Tennessee State University, received the Flannery O’Connor Collection Junior Fellowship and an English Graduate Fellowship that allowed her to do research at GCSU. After receiving her PhD, she reworked her dissertation into “Between the House and the Chicken Yard”: The Masks of Flannery O’Connor, which was published by Mercer University Press. She has presented academic papers on O’Connor, Grace Lumpkin, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Cormac McCarthy, and John Milton through ACA/PCA, PCAS/ACAS, SAMLA, O’Connor and Other Georgia Writers Conference, Startling Figures Flannery O’Connor Conference, and the Flannery O’Connor International Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

John M. Sirmans teaches writing and literature at Georgia College. A native of Florida, he has lived most of his life in Georgia.

Shannon Skelton is a third-year fiction candidate and teaching fellow in the MFA program at GCSU, where she was recently awarded the Flannery O’Connor Alumni Scholarship. She is originally from Birmingham, AL, and now lives here in Milledgeville with her husband and their daughter. Her stories appear in Image and Ruminant.

Jimmy Dean Smith is Professor and Chair of English at Union College in Barbourville, KY. He has published on, among other subjects, Eliot, Orwell, John Fox, Jr., Loretta Lynn, John Sayles’s Matewan, and Deliverance, and is currently working on a book chapter about O’Connor’s considerable influence on Ron Rash. He was recently snowed in for nine days and then flooded in for three more with his wife and son and three dogs at their home in Bull Run Holler.

Amy Sonheim, born in Alabama but educated in Missouri and Illinois, returned to the South to make a life teaching at Ouachita Baptist University. Besides Maurice Sendak, Sonheim has written on illustrators Arthur Hughes, David Wiesniewski, and David Small. Specializing in children’s literature, she is drawn to the picture book as a double narrative that playfully counterpoints image to word.

Alison Staudinger is Assistant Professor of Democracy and Justice Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. A political theorist with wide-ranging interests, her primary research is on gender, labor, and constitutional change. She is working on a manuscript arguing that we should reclaim the 18th and 21st Amendments—Prohibition and Repeal—as democratic acts of constitutional change. She also is interested in the intersections of literature and political theory, particularly the writings of O’Connor and Hannah Arendt.

Mary Helen Stefaniak is a writer of fiction and essays whose work has appeared in many publications and anthologies, including two selections in New Stories from the South: The Year’s Best in 2000 & 2006 (Algonquin Books). Stefaniak’s latest novel, The Calliffs of Baghdad, Georgia (Norton), received the 2011 Anisfield-Wolf Award for books that “make important contributions to our understanding of racism and our appreciation of the rich diversity of human cultures.” Former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove described the novel as “a rollicking tale that manages to speak seriously to the tragedy of ignorance and the damage caused by fear.” Stefaniak, a native of Milwaukee, grew up in a bicultural household: her father was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; her mother in Gordon, Georgia. She spent every annual vacation of her childhood—and many trips thereafter—visiting her mother’s family in the Macon-Milledgeville area. Her mother, née Mary Helen McCullough, graduated from Peabody High School in 1943. Visit www.maryhelenstefaniak.com and www.bgadzbazaarga.com.

Micheal Anthony Stephens-Emerson is a second-year undergraduate student at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, pursuing majors in English and French Studies. He serves on the executive boards of the college’s Women’s Studies and History clubs. This past year, he was enrolled in an exhaustive study of the short fiction of O’Connor which inspired his work for this conference.

Paige Sullivan, a recent graduate of Agnes Scott College, is an MFA poetry candidate in the creative writing program at Georgia State University, where she also studies 20th-century American literature. Her poetry appears in journals such as Naugatuck River Review, Lines + Stars, and Sugared Water. Her prose and reviews can be found at Bluestem Magazine, Rain Taxi, and the blog Epicure & Culture.

Iona Sun is an MFA candidate in creative writing at Georgia College. Her play REMINDER received its performance premiere at Acting Out INK Fest (a festival of female playwrights) in Los Angeles, was a part of the Women’s Studies Symposium at Georgia College, and was a semi-finalist for the Neil LaBute New Theatre Festival in St. Louis. Her ten-minute play Damn Cat premiered at the Edmonds Driftwood Festival of Shorts in Washington. Her full-length play, Blindfolded, will premiere at Georgia College in January 2016.

Joonna Smitherman Trapp is part of the emerging Writing Program at Emory University. She is currently finishing a long-term archival examination of popular oratory in the South before the Civil War. She is also working on the turn to oratory in Stowe’s two slavery novels. She co-edits JAEPL, a journal focused on teaching and learning. As a part of the 2007 NEH Institute on O’Connor, she is keenly interested in O’Connor as a public orator. Her most recent publications are in CCC Online and a book collection, Contest(ed) Rhetorics.
Avital Tsome is an Israeli student residing in France, currently entering the second year of her doctorate degree at Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle under the direction of Professor Marie-Christine Lemarédeley. Her academic interest lies primarily in developing new approaches to southern literature through the incorporation of linguistic theory. Her thesis, entitled “The Word and the World: The Failure of Speech in Flannery O’Connor’s Fiction,” aims to combine literary analysis with a pragmatic linguistic approach to examine representations of speech in the writings of O’Connor.

Jennifer C. Tucker is a graduate student at Eastern Michigan University. In addition to serving as the Graduate Assistant for the Eastern Michigan Writing Project, she teaches writing and literature classes at Washtenaw Community College. Introduced to sentimental fiction in her undergraduate degree at Michigan State University, Jenny is building upon this understanding by exploring the changes regionalism brought to this genre. She is interested in how language is used to create identity and shape reality, especially in regards to members of the Autistic community.

Timothy Vande Brake is a Professor of English at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, NY. He holds degrees from Calvin College (BA), the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (MA), and the University of Alabama (PhD). He has published on O’Connor and Wole Soyinka, and recently his research has focused on ecology and ethics in twentieth-century literature.

Colleen Warren is a professor of English at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. She received her PhD at the University of Florida, with a specialization in southern literature. She has published a book of literary analysis on Annie Dillard’s nonfiction, Annie Dillard and the Word Made Flesh: An Incarnational Theory of Language (Lehigh UP).

Nagueyalti Warren is Professor of Pedagogy and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of African American Studies at Emory University. Her teaching and research specialties are African American literature, women’s fiction, poetry, and W.E.B. Du Bois’ contribution to the field of African American Studies. Her recent publications include an edited poetry anthology, Temba Tupu (Walking Naked); Africana Women’s Poetic Self-Portrait (2008); Margaret, a persona poem, winner of the 2008 Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award; Braided Memory, winner of the 2010 Violet Reed Haas Award for Poetry; Grandfather of Black Studies: W.E.B. Du Bois; and Critical Insights: Alice Walker.

Patricia Waters was born and reared in Nashville, Tennessee, taking her BA in English and History at the University of Memphis. After completing several seasons in field archaeology in Europe, she completed her MA in English at the University of Tennessee – Knoxville and a PhD in English. A year as writer-in-residence at the UT Libraries permitted time to gather her first book, The Ordinary Sublime. She is currently assistant professor in the Troy University English Dept., where she oversees the secondary English Language Arts program. Her home is in Athens, Tennessee.

Jennifer Wheelock’s poems appear in many journals and anthologies, including Negative Capability Press, Georgia Poetry Anthology, Diagram, River Styx, Atlanta Review, New Millennium Writings, The Inflectionist Review, Garbanzo, North Atlantic Review, The Peralta Press, Comstock Review, The Emily Dickinson Award Anthology, and the online journal Blaze. Her poem “Feeding Francis Bacon” appears in the book Thirteen Ways of Looking for a Poem: A Guide to Writing Poetry, in the chapter on formal verse. She holds an MFA from Georgia State University and a PhD from Florida State University. She lives in Los Angeles and works at UCLA.

Elaine E. Whitaker earned her PhD in English and American Literature at NYU. She is professor and chair of the Department of English and Rhetoric at Georgia College. Her publications include a brief explication of Eudora Welty’s “Why I Live at the P.O.”

Evelyn C. White is the author of Every Goodbye Ain’t Gone: A Photo Narrative of Black Heritage on Salt Spring Island (Dancing Crow Press). She is also the author of the acclaimed biography Alice Walker: A Life (WW Norton) and Chain Chain Change: For Black Women in Abusive Relationships (Seal Press). She is the editor of The Black Women’s Health Book: Speaking For Ourselves (Seal Press), and a co-author of the photography book The African Americans (Viking Penguin). White is a former reporter for The San Francisco Chronicle. Her articles, essays and reviews have also appeared in such publications as The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Arizona Republic, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Seattle Times, and Essence, Canadian Immigrant, and Smithsonian magazines. White is a 1985 graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, where she was honored for her Master’s thesis on “The Racial Development of Blind Black Children.” She earned a 1991 Master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University and is a 1976 graduate of Wellesley College. She lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Randall Wilhelm holds advanced degrees in both art and literature and his research is focused largely on the interaction between the visual and the verbal in literary texts, word-image constructions, and visual culture. His essays have appeared in The William Faulkner Journal, The Southern Quarterly, Mississippi Quarterly, Proteus, and The Hemingway Review, among others, and his work appears regularly in the special Casebook Series on Cormac McCarthy. He is the editor of The Ron Rash Reader (USC Press) and is assistant professor of American and southern literature at Anderson University.

Dan Wilkinson, originally from Woodbury, GA, is an instructor of English at Georgia College. In addition to teaching, Wilkinson is a docent for the Old Capital Museum, a caretaker of the Brown-Stetson-Sanford House, and a Bon Vivant at Andalusia.
Sandra Worsham is a Milledgeville, Georgia, native. Her stories have been published in Carolina Quarterly, Chattahoochee Review, Memphis Magazine, Ascent, Gemini Magazine, and Los Angeles Review, among others. Her book, Essential Ingredients: Recipes for Teaching Writing, was published by ASCD in 2000. She received her MFA in fiction from Bennington College. Her story “Pinnacle” won the Red Hen Press Short Fiction Award. Two of her stories have recently been finalists at Glimmer Train. She is currently working on a memoir entitled Going to Wings. Her conference presentation, “The Ola Dress,” is based on stories from this memoir.

Peng Yao is a PhD candidate at the English Department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is writing her dissertation on O’Connor. Her specializations include modernism, psychoanalytic theory, and literature and politics.

Jacqueline Zubeck is Associate Professor of English at the College of Mount Saint Vincent and is happy to be teaching an entire course on Flannery O’Connor. She also researches and writes about Don DeLillo, Dostoevsky, war stories and just war theory, and Eastern Orthodox Christian aesthetics.
Special Additional Events for Flannery O’Connor and Other Southern Women Writers
Note: These events are not in conflict with any of the events in the rest of the conference schedule.

**Thursday 12:30-1:15 p.m., MNRH**
Monica Miller (Georgia Institute of Technology) and Jordan Cofer (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College) will lead an open discussion of O’Connor resources newly available at Emory University’s MARBL. All conference participants are invited to share their insights.

**Thursday 6:30-7:45 p.m., Arts and Sciences Courtyard** (outdoors, in middle of the building’s ground floor. In case of rain, this event will be held in the lobby just off the courtyard.)
Conference Reception, with light refreshments for all conference participants. Free to all conference participants.

**Friday 12:30-1:15 p.m., PEA**
Janet Hoffmann Clark (Georgia College) will lead an open discussion of reactions to Harper Lee’s recently released novel, Go Set a Watchman. All conference participants are invited to share their thoughts.

**Friday 9:15-10 p.m., BC**
Iona Sun (Georgia College) will direct a performance of her prize-winning play REMINDER. Free to all.

**Saturday 12:30-1:15 p.m., BC**
Iona Sun (Georgia College) will direct a repeat performance of her prize-winning play REMINDER. Free to all.

**Saturday 9:30-11 p.m., BC**
Douglas Robillard, Jr. (Arkansas-Pine Bluff) will lead “Porch Songs,” a musical performance by Robillard and other veterans of the NEH Summer Institutes hosted by Georgia College. Free to all.

**Sunday 10 a.m.-Noon, Andalusia, north of town on Hwy. 441**
Reception at Andalusia for all conference participants. Drop by for coffee and pastries and conversation before you leave town. Take another look at Andalusia’s current exhibit, Flannery and Fashion at Mid-Century, and make a purchase at Andalusia’s gift shop.

**Sunday 1-3 p.m.**
James Owens (Georgia College) will lead a caravan of cars from the parking lot of Bell Hall out to Central State Hospital and then provide an informal tour. Free to all conference participants.
Georgia College is Georgia’s designated public liberal arts university, combining the educational experience expected at esteemed private liberal arts colleges with the affordability of public higher education.

Flannery O’Connor and Other Southern Women Writers

September 17 - 19, 2015

Creative writing presentations by Janisse Ray, Sarah Gordon, Sandra Meek, Laura Newbern and Alice Friman.

Scholarly presentations by Evelyn C. White, Craig R. Amason, Robert Donahoo and Teresa Caruso.

GEORGIA COLLEGE
GEORGIA’S PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

Georgia College is Georgia’s designated public liberal arts university, combining the educational experience expected at esteemed private liberal arts colleges with the affordability of public higher education.
Changes to program for Thursday, Sept. 17  “Flannery O’Connor and Other Southern Women Writers”

**T2** Session of poetry readings by Laura Sloan Patterson, Paige Sullivan, Lindsey D. Alexander, and Nagueyalti Warren, chaired by Laura Newbern, has a new **time** and **place**:

**11:15 am-1 pm** in **MER** (Museum Education Room)

**T3** Editors Panel with Bruce Gentry (*Flannery O’Connor Review*) and Amy Berke (*The Ellen Glasgow Journal of Southern Women Writers*) has a new **place**:

**11:15 am-12:15 pm** in **Max Noah Recital Hall**

**The Special Additional Event** with Monica Miller and Jordan Cofer about the O’Connor Collection at Emory University has a new **place**:

**12:30-1:15 pm** in **Arts & Sciences Room 3-68**