



# ROSE O'NEILL

LITERARY HOUSE

WASHINGTON COLLEGE

## AN INTRODUCTION FOR NEW FACULTY

# ABOUT THE ROSE O'NEILL LITERARY HOUSE

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Founded in 1970, we are one of three “centers of excellence” at Washington College, along with the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience and the Center for Environment & Society. The Literary House has an interdisciplinary mission, connecting the literary arts to a diverse range of academic and administrative departments:

The Literary House brings together students, faculty, alumni, and local community members from across disciplines. The Literary House is a cultural center which hosts programs, classes, and student-run clubs and activities. We are dedicated to promoting the articulated word. Our annual events provide access to a wide variety of texts, including fiction, poetry, journalism, creative nonfiction, scholarly prose, songwriting, playwriting, and hybrid forms; our letterpress studio and Literary House Press introduce participants both to old and to new technologies.

Every function of the Literary House is conducted with three goals in mind: to welcome all members of Washington College and of the local community; to serve as a focal point for cultural events on the campus; and to promote communication, exposition, and an appreciation of the literary arts. We welcome all faculty to attend our events, to use our spaces for classes and meetings with students, and to participate in the development of our programs.

# READING SERIES, EVENTS, CLASSES, AND STUDENT CLUBS

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## THEMED SEMESTERS OF PROGRAMMING

During the academic year, we offer two themed semesters of programming. These themed semesters are meant to function in the manner of “season tickets.” Audience members who attend a whole season of curated programming will end the semester with a greater understanding of important themes, ideas, or perspectives, that can help to shape their own creative endeavors.

To help any faculty who wish to incorporate the themed seasons into their curricula, we offer an informational packet in hard copy and electronic forms, which contains sample texts by all of our visiting writers for the coming academic year.

Themes for our upcoming semesters of programming are determined as a result of conversations with students and faculty from departments across campus. Special consideration is given to interdisciplinary topics, underrepresented perspectives, current events, and subjects with strong student appeal. If you have recommendations for themed seasons or possible speakers, we are always eager to hear your suggestions.

The Faculty Tea & Talks draw connections between current faculty research being performed on campus and the writing and scholarship that is taking place at the national or international level. For instance, Professor Ryan Kelty

presented on his sociological research about military families as part of our “Writing in Wartime” season in Spring 2013. In Fall 2013, Professor Crystal Kurzen gave a presentation about literary *nepantla* as part of the “Chicano/a & Latino/a Voices” season. Professor Christine Wade has agreed to present her research in political science as part of our upcoming season, “The Personal & the Political,” in Spring 2017.

## **CLASSES, STUDENT CLUB MEETINGS, & GATHERINGS**

Rooms in the Rose O’Neill Literary House may be reserved by any faculty member from any department as a space to hold classes or to proctor exams, social events with students, or office hours. Our spaces may also be used by faculty for more informal gatherings.

Recent classes held at the Literary House include Poetry & Book Arts, Transcendentalism, Writing Our Lyrical Truths, Anglo-Saxon Language & Literature, Chicano Literature & Pop Culture, Ecopoetry: Writing on Water, Foundations of Western Literature I & II, Introduction to Creative Writing, and The Creative Process. If you would like to hold a class at the Literary House, please contact Assistant Director Lindsay Lusby (llusby2@washcoll.edu) as well as the Registrar’s Office.

Student-led clubs—from all disciplines—may use the Literary House. Organizations such as *The Collegian*, the Philosophy Club, the Poetry Club, Sigma Tau Delta, and the Women’s League of Washington College gather at the House for weekly or monthly events and meetings. Faculty advisors who have questions about reserving rooms at the Literary House, should contact Assistant Director Lindsay Lusby (llusby2@washcoll.edu) for more information.

## SUMMER POETRY SALONS

Our Summer Poetry Salons bring together members of the Washington College community, residents of Chestertown and of the Eastern Shore, and a mix of local and nationally-recognized poets, writers, and translators.

## THE CHERRY TREE YOUNG WRITERS' CONFERENCE

The first Cherry Tree Young Writers' Conference will run in July 2016. Targeting sophomores and juniors in high school, the Conference will function as a recruiting tool, allowing prospective students to experience the literary community that Washington College has to offer and to discover the opportunities available to undergraduates.

During the Young Writers' Conference, participants will take intensive creative writing workshops in a choice of three genres (poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction). They will take part in discussions led by members of the Department of English and will attend readings, craft talks, and panels. They will also have an opportunity to read from their own writings and to hear the work of current Washington College undergraduates at the Conference Interns Reading. All readings, talks, and presentations are free and open to the community.

# STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

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## FREE PRINT SHOP WORKSHOPS

Our free, non-credit Print Shop Workshops are offered each semester and are open to all students, faculty, staff, and members of the local community. Our Master Printer, T. Michael Kaylor, serves as instructor for these 7-week Beginners' and Advanced courses. If you wish to enroll, please contact Assistant Director Lindsay Lusby (llusby2@washcoll.edu) to reserve a place in one of our Workshops.

## PAID INTERNSHIPS IN EDITING, PUBLISHING, ARTS ADMINISTRATION

We offer a series of paid, competitive internships open to all students from across class years, majors, and minors. Because of Washington College's distance from publishing centers such as New York City and Washington, D.C., these on-campus opportunities are a strategy for providing professional training and development, which might otherwise be inaccessible to students during the academic year. To apply for any of the Literary House Internships, students must submit cover letters, resumes, and faculty recommendations. Please, contact Director Jehanne Dubrow (jdubrow2@washcoll.edu), if you have questions about any of our internships.

The **Media Internship** is offered to three to five students annually. The positions run from early September through the end of the spring semester, the Media Internship includes ten hours of work per week and involves the curation of

Washington College's multimedia, electronic yearbook, *The Pegasus*. The Media Interns also photograph events and write occasional pieces for the blog.

The **Literary House Press Internship** is offered to one student annually. The position runs during the spring semester and includes ten hours of work per week. The Press Intern assists with editing, designing, and printing special projects of the Literary House Press. The Press Internship frequently includes work with sales and marketing.

The **Literary House Summer Internship** is offered to two students annually. The positions are full-time and run for nine weeks during the summer. The Literary House Summer Interns assist with events such as the Poetry Salons, the Cave Canem Fellowship, the Publications Boot Camp, and with the new Cherry Tree Young Writers' Conference. The Summer Interns are also given the opportunity to create an event or program that complements the Literary House's themed seasons for the upcoming academic year.

The **Cherry Tree Production Internship** is offered to one student annually. The position runs during the fall semester. The Production Intern works a total of thirty hours as needed and assists in the design and layout of an issue of *Cherry Tree: A National Literary Journal @ Washington College*.

## STUDENT SCREENERS FOR CHERRY TREE

Our first issue of *Cherry Tree: A National Literary Journal @ Washington College*, was published in February 2015. The editorial staff of *Cherry Tree* is comprised of Washington College faculty and alumni; the journal's contributing editors are faculty members as well as alumni who have made successful careers in writing and editing.

In addition to its masthead of professional editors, *Cherry Tree* is staffed by undergraduates at Washington College. All students who wish to serve as screeners on the editorial staff of *Cherry Tree* must complete one semester of the for-credit course, “Literary Editing & Publishing,” offered through the Department of English.

## JACOBY ENDOWMENT GRANTS

The Rose O’Neill Literary House oversees the Jacoby Endowment, which supports student work in the fields of publishing, writing, and editing. Two to four students are awarded \$1,000 Funding Grants through a competitive screening process. Recent Funding Grants have supported student research trips, letterpress printing projects, and enrollment in creative writing classes at community organizations such as The Writer’s Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Every year, up to four seniors who are in the process of applying to graduate programs in English and Creative Writing may also submit proposals to receive \$500 to pay graduate school application fees and/or to cover the cost of taking the GRE admissions test.

## AWP CONFERENCE

Four to six students are invited to attend the AWP Conference at locations around the country, including Chicago, Boston, Seattle, and Minneapolis. The Literary House covers all of the students’ expenses associated with the AWP Conference, including registration fees, travel, and hotel.



## ANNUAL STUDENT WRITING PRIZES

The Rose O'Neill Literary House awards two writing prizes to undergraduates: The William W. Warner Prize and the Genre Fiction Prize. In a collaboration with the Department of English, the Rose O'Neill Literary House also provides all administrative support for a third prize for undergraduates: The Jude and Miriam Pfister Poetry Prize.

## BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS

The Literary House is home to the Board of Publications which oversees four student-run publications:

**The Elm** is the official campus weekly newspaper, featuring sections on current campus events, opinions, student life, lifestyle, and sports.

**The Collegian** is Washington College's official student creative writing magazine; the journal is published monthly and features student poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, art, and photography. *The Collegian* also hosts contests, workshops, and other events in celebration of student work.

**The Pegasus** is Washington College's electronic yearbook. *The Pegasus* is now staffed by three to five paid Media Interns, who work on the publication throughout the academic year, creating all content, photographing events, and collecting materials from their peers to be featured in the yearbook.

**The Washington College Review** is a liberal arts journal that publishes undergraduate student writing and graphic art from all disciplines of the College. In Spring 2017, *The Washington College Review* will be re-launched with a strong pedagogical

mission, a close connection to the College's Writing Program, and new student internship opportunities. *The Review* will feature student writing that represents the Writing Program's four categories of inquiry and expression, otherwise known as the four W's: critical inquiry (W1), rhetorical questions (W2), writing across disciplines (W3), and capstone experiences (W4).

Faculty who have questions about any of these publications are encouraged to contact Director Jehanne Dubrow (jdubrow2@washcoll.edu) for more information.

# THE LITERARY HOUSE PRESS

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The Literary House Press has a national mission that focuses on providing students with opportunities for professional training and development:

As the publishing arm of the Rose O’Neill Literary House, the Literary House Press strives to connect Washington College with the larger literary world. Our books are printed using a combination of new technologies and letterpress. Current students participate in all facets of book production, including design, editing, publishing, and marketing.

## **ANNUAL BROADSIDE SERIES**

A form of “literary diplomacy,” we design and print our Broadside Series as a way of calling attention to the roster of writers who visit the Rose O’Neill Literary House throughout the year.

## **LETTERPRESS CHAPBOOK SERIES**

During odd-numbered years, we publish a limited-edition letterpress book featuring a nationally-recognized poet, fiction writer, or essayist who has ties to the state of Maryland. Students participate in the production of the chapbook. To help launch each book, the author gives a reading, a Q&A, and does a book-signing at the Rose O’Neill Literary House.

## **POETRY ANTHOLOGY SERIES**

During even-numbered years, we publish a trade paperback anthology featuring emerging and established American writers. Students participate in the production of the anthology. Our Literary House Summer Interns also assist with organizing the book launch, which takes place in October and includes a reading by contributors, a writing activity for audience members, a Q&A, catering, and book-signing at the Rose O'Neill Literary House.

## **COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

In addition to publishing our own books and broadsides, we produce projects in conjunction with other departments on campus, such as the C.V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, College Relations, the President's Office, and the Department of English. If you have ideas for letterpress collaborations, please contact Director Jehanne Dubrow ([jdubrow2@washcoll.edu](mailto:jdubrow2@washcoll.edu)).

## **CHERRY TREE: A NATIONAL LITERARY JOURNAL @ WASHINGTON COLLEGE**

Founded in 2014, with the first issue released in 2015, *Cherry Tree* is our annual literary magazine featuring poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction by emerging and established writers from across the United States. Washington College undergraduates participate in all facets of the journal's production. The editorial staff of *Cherry Tree* is comprised of current and former faculty as well as alumni of the College.

*Cherry Tree's* website includes *Blossom*, a blog which highlights achievements of current and former contributors as well as updates about the journal's production and posts by the Literary House Press Intern. Free audio recordings of contributors reading from their work are featured on *The Stump*, a webpage devoted to expanding literary production beyond the printed page.

# FELLOWSHIPS & WRITERS' RESIDENCIES

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## MARY WOOD FELLOWSHIP

Offered during even-numbered years, the Mary Wood Fellowship brings an emerging, female-identifying writer to campus for three days, during which she meets individually with three to six female creative writing students, gives a public reading, delivers a craft talk, and visits creative writing classes. Eastern Shore author Mary Wood, whose support makes the Fellowship possible, is a '68 graduate of the College and a former member of its Board of Visitors and Governors.

## CAVE CANEM SUMMER RESIDENCY

This Residency allows us to partner with Cave Canem, providing a month-long residency to a poet who has been a previous recipient of a Cave Canem Fellowship. Founded in 1996 by Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady, Cave Canem's mission is to serve as "a home for the many voices of African American poetry and is committed to cultivating the artistic and professional growth of African American poets." The Residency includes a public reading as part of the annual Summer Poetry Salon series.

# COLLABORATIVE EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

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## COLLABORATIONS WITH ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS

We are excited both to initiate and to respond to requests for collaboration with academic and administrative departments across the Washington College campus. In the past year, the Literary House has partnered with the organizers of the First-Year Book Program, the Department of Philosophy, and the Office of Student Affairs. Upcoming collaborations are planned with the Global Education Office and the C.V. Starr Center. We are always open to new possibilities for collaboration or co-sponsorship and encourage all faculty to approach us with ideas.

## SOPHIE KERR SCHOLARS DINNER

In support of the Department of English, we host a yearly dinner in honor of the twelve Sophie Kerr Scholars. As the College's website explains, "The English Department currently awards three incoming freshmen each year with \$1,000. A recipient can receive the aid for four consecutive years, meaning that each year the Kerr Committee sets aside \$12,000 for financial assistance."

## **HOSTING OF SOPHIE KERR LECTURE SERIES EVENTS**

The Department of English offers its annual Sophie Kerr Lecture Series, featuring writers and scholars selected by the Sophie Kerr Committee; most events in the Series are held on-site, at the Rose O'Neill Literary House. The Sophie Kerr Lecture Events are open to all students, faculty, staff, and members of the Eastern Shore Community.

## **“LIVING WRITERS” COURSE**

Every other year, the Department of English offers its “Living Writers” course, alternating between the genres of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Since 2014, we have collaborated with the Department of English on the programming for the “Living Writers” course.

## **ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSES**

We work with the Department of English to organize and staff four Admissions Open Houses annually (three in the autumn and one in the spring). At each Open House, a member of the Creative Writing faculty gives a presentation about the minor, and a Literary House staff member explains the events, programs, and offerings of the House to parents and prospective students.



## FIRST-YEAR READING

In support of the Department of English, we host the First-Year Reading at the end of the Fall semester. This event features students currently enrolled in the English Department's three sections of ENG 103, "Introduction to Creative Writing." Students read from their poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. This event is open to all members of the Washington College community.

## SO YOU WANT TO SUBMIT A SOPHIE KERR PORTFOLIO?

We offer this informational session at the start of the spring semester. The event is designed for graduating seniors who are preparing to submit Prize portfolios and covers all details listed on the website of the Department of English, including guidelines for submitting portfolios.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL TEA

The Tea is an informational session for current students who are interested in applying to graduate school. Washington College faculty give advice about the application process, provide strategies for success in graduate-level courses, and offer tips to students who are considering entering Master's or doctoral programs in literary studies or creative writing.

## **SOPHIE KERR SATURDAY**

To aid in the Department of English's recruitment efforts, we provide administrative support for the Sophie Kerr Saturday, a one-day event targeting prospective creative writing students who have been admitted to Washington College.

## **SENIOR READING**

In support of the Department of English, we host the Senior Reading near the end of the spring semester. Current seniors read from their poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. During this annual event, the Literary House also announces the winners of the William W. Warner Prize for Creative Writing on Nature & the Environment, the Genre Fiction Prize, and the Jude & Miriam Pfister Poetry Prize. This event is open to all members of the Washington College community.

## **SOPHIE KERR PRIZE EVENT**

At the end of the Spring semester, the Department of English holds its annual Sophie Kerr Prize Event, which features readings by the student finalists, brief words by the Chair of the Sophie Kerr Committee and the Director of the Rose O'Neill Literary House, and an address by a keynote speaker. Keynote speakers have included Colum McCann, Mary Jo Salter, and Peter Turchi. The Prize Event includes the involvement of Advancement, the Alumni Office, Campus Events, College Relations, the Office of Information Technologies, the President's Office, and the Rose O'Neill Literary House. This celebratory program is held on campus and is open to all students, faculty, staff, and members of the Eastern Shore community.

## THE SOPHIE KERR PRIZE ANTHOLOGY

In odd-numbered years, the Literary House Press publishes *The Sophie Kerr Prize Anthology*, which features writing by the winners and finalists from the two previous years. Our Summer Interns help edit and design the *Prize Anthology*.

## SOPHIE KERR/ROSE O'NEILL LITERARY HOUSE WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

Offered every three years during the Fall semester, this program is funded by the Sophie Kerr Endowment, the Office of the Provost, and the Rose O'Neill Literary House. While at Washington College, the Writer-in-Residence teaches one creative writing class, holds office hours to meet with students, and gives both a public reading and a craft talk.

