

Hughlene Bostian Frank Visiting Writers Series

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Poet

SAVANNAH SIPPLE

Thursday, September 22

CRAFT TALK

3:30-4:30 p.m.

READING

6-7:15 p.m.

Table Rock Room
201B Plemmons Student Union



Memoirist

NEEMA AVASHIA

Thursday, September 29

CRAFT TALK

3:30-4:45 p.m.

READING

6-7:15 p.m.

Table Rock Room
201B Plemmons Student Union



2022 Rachel Rivers-Coffey Distinguished Professor
of Creative Writing and Environmental Writer

LEIGH ANN HENION

Thursday, October 13

CRAFT TALK

3:30-4:45 p.m.

READING

6-7:15 p.m.

Table Rock Room
201B Plemmons Student Union



Crime Novelist

SCOTT BLACKBURN

Thursday, November 10

CRAFT TALK

2:00-3:15 p.m.

READING

6-7:15 p.m.

Three Top Mountain Room
169 Plemmons Student Union

The Hughlene Bostian Frank Visiting Writers Series, The Schaefer Center Presents and *Appalachian Journal* present the Fall 2022 season

Admission to all events is free and open to the public. Book sales will follow the readings.

Parking is free on campus after 5 p.m. We recommend the College Street Deck (from King Street, turn down College Street at the First Baptist Church).

To reach the Student Union, cross College Street and follow the walkway between the chiller plant and the University Bookstore, passing the Post Office and entering the Student Union on the second floor. For additional parking information or a map, please visit parking.appstate.edu.

For more information on the fall 2022 season, please email Susan Weinberg, weinbergsc@appstate.edu.

SAVANNAH SIPPLE

Thursday, September 22

CRAFT TALK: 3:30-4:45 p.m.

READING: 6-7:15 p.m., Table Rock Room, 201B Plemmons Student Union

Savannah Sipple is the author of *WWJD & Other Poems* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2019), which was included on the American Library Association's Over the Rainbow Recommended LGBTQ Reading List. It explores what it is to be a queer woman in Appalachia and is rooted in its culture and in her body. A writer from east Kentucky, her writing has been published in *Still, Salon, Go Magazine*, *Southern Cultures*, *Split This Rock* and elsewhere. She is also the recipient of grants from the Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. A professor, editor, and writing mentor, Savannah resides in Lexington with her wife.

NEEMA AVASHIA

Thursday, September 29

CRAFT TALK: 3:30-4:45 p.m.

READING: 6-7:15 p.m., Table Rock Room, 201B Plemmons Student Union

When Neema Avashia tells people where she's from, their response is nearly always a disbelieving: "There are Indian people in West Virginia?" A queer Asian American teacher and writer, Avashia fits few Appalachian stereotypes. But the lessons she learned in childhood about race and class, gender and sexuality continue to inform the way she moves through the world today: how she loves, how she teaches, how she advocates, how she struggles.

Neema Avashia was born and raised in southern West Virginia to parents who immigrated to the United States. She has been a middle school teacher in the Boston Public Schools since 2003. Her essays have appeared in the *Bitter Southerner*, *Catapult*, *Kenyon Review Online* and elsewhere. Her memoir, *Another Appalachia: Coming Up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place*, was published by West Virginia University Press in 2022.

Another Appalachia examines both the roots and the resonance of Avashia's identity as a queer desi Appalachian woman, while encouraging readers to envision more complex versions of both Appalachia and the nation as a whole. With lyric and narrative explorations of foodways, religion, sports, standards of beauty, social media, gun culture, and more, *Another Appalachia* mixes nostalgia and humor, sadness and sweetness, personal reflection and universal questions.

LEIGH ANN HENION

Thursday, October 13

CRAFT TALK: 3:30-4:45 p.m.

READING: 6-7:15 p.m., Table Rock Room, 201B Plemmons Student Union

Leigh Ann Henion is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Phenomenal: A Hesitant Adventurer's Search for Wonder in the Natural World*. The book is about how she chased eclipses, migrations, and other natural phenomena around the globe to reawaken her sense of wonder. *Phenomenal* was named an editor's pick by *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *Backpacker* and *Barnes & Noble Review*.

Her forthcoming book, *The Wilderness of Possibility: A Journey to Appreciate the Living Marvels of Darkness*, will be published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. The Publishers Marketplace Deal Report describes it as "A [nonfiction narrative] exploration of the night found in our own backyards – from blooming moon gardens to glowing foxfire to synchronous fireflies – making a case for embracing darkness as a fundamental and profoundly beautiful part of the world we inhabit."

Henion's writing has appeared in *Smithsonian*, *Garden & Gun*, *Men's Journal*, *Southern Living* and *The Washington Post Magazine*, among other publications. She has received a variety of accolades for her work, including multiple Lowell Thomas Awards, and her stories have been noted in *The Best American Essays*, *The Best American Travel Writing*, *The Best American Sports Writing* and *The Best American Science & Nature Writing*. An Alicia Patterson Fellow for 2020, Henion lives in Boone, North Carolina.

Henion will serve as the 2022-23 Rachel Rivers-Coffey Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at App State in fall 2022.

SCOTT BLACKBURN

Thursday, November 10

CRAFT TALK: 2:00-3:15 p.m.

READING: 6-7:15 p.m., Three Top Mountain Room, 169 Plemmons Student Union

Scott Blackburn is an English instructor and a 2017 graduate of the Mountainview MFA program of Southern New Hampshire University. He lives in High Point, North Carolina, with his wife and two children. When he is not writing and teaching, Scott enjoys training in combat sports such as boxing, Muay Thai, and Ju-jitsu, in which he holds a black belt. His debut novel, *It Dies With You*, was published in June 2022 by the Crooked Lane Books imprint of Penguin Random House.

The 2022-23 Visiting Writers Series is dedicated to the memory of Amy Greer, beloved colleague and friend.

The Visiting Writers Series is named in honor of the late Hughlene Bostian Frank (class of 1968), a 2013 Appalachian Alumni Association Outstanding Service award recipient, past member of App State's Board of Trustees and Appalachian State University Foundation, long time member of the College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Board and generous supporter of App State.

THE FALL 2022 HUGHLENE BOSTIAN FRANK VISITING WRITERS SERIES IS SUPPORTED BY:

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