Novelist

IRINA ZHOROV
Thursday, September 21

CRAFT TALK
2:30-4:45 p.m.
Linville Falls Room
226 Plemmons Student Union

READING
6 p.m.
Three Top Room
169 Plemmons Student Union

2023 Rachel Rivers-Coffey Distinguished Professor
of Creative Writing, Novelist and Editor

EMILY NEMENS
Thursday, October 12

CRAFT TALK
2:30-4:45 p.m.
Reading
6-7:15 p.m.
Table Rock Room
201B Plemmons Student Union

Poet

LIZ ROBBINS
AND
Fiction Writer

CAROLINE McCOY
Thursday, November 30

CRAFT TALK
3:30-4:45 p.m.
Reading
6 p.m.
Table Rock Room
201B Plemmons Student Union
IRINA ZHOROV  
Thursday, September 21  
CRAFT TALK: 2-3:15 p.m.  
READING: 6 p.m., Table Rock Room, 201B Plemmons Student Union  

Irina Zhorov was born in Uzbekistan, in the Soviet Union, and moved to Philadelphia on the eve of its dissolution. After failing to make use of a geology degree, she received an MFA from the University of Wyoming. She’s worked as a journalist for more than a decade, reporting primarily on environmental issues. Her first novel, *Lost Believers*, was published by Scribner in 2023.

EMILY NEMENS  
Thursday, October 12  
CRAFT TALK: 2-3:15 p.m.  
READING: 6 p.m., Table Rock Room, 201B Plemmons Student Union  


From 2018 to 2021, Emily served as the editor of *The Paris Review*, the national preeminent literary quarterly. During her tenure, the magazine won the 2020 American Society of Magazine Editors’ Award for Fiction, published two anthologies, and produced the second season of its acclaimed podcast. Previously, she coedited *The Southern Review*, a storied literary journal published at Louisiana State University. Stories published during her tenures at *The Southern Review* and *The Paris Review* were selected for the Pushcart Prize anthology, *Best American Short Stories*, the *O. Henry Prize* anthology, and *PEN America Best Debut Fiction*. In 2021 she joined the staff of *Stranger’s Guide* as the sports/senior editor.

Nemens grew up in Seattle and received her bachelor’s degree from Brown University, where she studied art history and studio art. She completed an MFA degree in fiction at Louisiana State University. As an illustrator, she’s collaborated with Harvey Pekar, published her work in *The New Yorker*, and her watercolor portraits of every woman in congress were featured across the web and on national TV. Her short stories have appeared in Blackbird (Tarumoto Prize winner), *Esquire*, *n+1*, *The Iowa Review*, *Hobart*, and *The Gettysburg Review*. She lives in New Jersey and remains a Mariners fan.

DE’SHAWN CHARLES WINSLOW  
Thursday, November 9  
CRAFT TALK: 3:30-4:45 p.m., Linville Falls Room, 226 Plemmons Student Union  
READING: 6 p.m., Three Top Room, 169 Plemmons Student Union  

De’Shawn Charles Winslow is the author of *Decent People* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023) and *In West Mills*, a Center for Fiction First Novel Prize winner, an American Book Award recipient, a Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction winner, a *New York Times Book Review* Editors’ Choice and a *Los Angeles Times* Book Award, Lambda Literary Award, and Publishing Triangle Award finalist. He was born and raised in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and graduated from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

LIZ ROBBINS & CAROLINE MCCOY  
Thursday, November 30  
CRAFT TALK: 3:30-4:45 p.m.  
READING: 6 p.m., Table Rock Room, 201B Plemmons Student Union  

Liz Robbins’s (she/her) third collection, *Freaked*, won the 2015 Elixir Press Annual Poetry Award, judged by Bruce Bond; her second collection, *Play Button*, won the 2012 Cider Press Review Book Award, judged by Patricia Smith. Her first collection is *Hope, As the World Is a Scorpion Fish* (University of Nebraska, 2008), and her chapbook, *Girls Turned Like Dials*, won the 8th Annual YellowJacket Press Prize (2012). Her poems have appeared in *Adroit Journal*, *Barrow Street*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *BOAAT*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Kenyon Review*, and *Garrison Keillor’s The Writer’s Almanac*; her poems are in recent or forthcoming issues of *Cimarron Review*, *Five Points*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Penn Review*, and *Rattle*. She received a Pushcart nomination from *Fugue* and has judged contests for Elixir Press, *Ploughshares*, and *New Ohio Review*. She lives in St. Augustine, Florida, and works as a poetry screener for *Ploughshares*.

Caroline McCoy is the author of the story collection *Museum of Hard Times*. Caroline grew up in Greensboro, North Carolina, and now lives in Savannah, Georgia. Among many places, her writing has appeared in the *Raleigh Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *Blackbird Journal*, *Juked*, and *Electric Literature*. She earned her M.F.A. from Emerson College and was a 2019 Artist in Residence with Crosstown Arts in Memphis.

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.

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