Hughlene Bostian Frank Visiting Writers Series

Appalachian State University

IRINA ZHOROV
Novelist
Thursday, September 21

EMILY NEMENS
2023 Rachel Rivers-Coffey Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing, Novelist and Editor
Thursday, October 12

ASHLEIGH BRYANT PHILLIPS
Fiction Writer
AND
MATTHEW WIMBERLEY
Poet
Thursday, November 9

LIZ ROBBINS
Poet
Thursday, November 30

CRAFT TALK
2-3:15 p.m.
READING
6 p.m.
Table Rock Room
201B Plemmons Student Union

CRAFT TALK
2-3:15 p.m.
READING
6 p.m.
Table Rock Room
201B Plemmons Student Union

CRAFT TALK
3:30-4:45 p.m.
READING
6-7:15 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

Emily Nemens is a writer, illustrator, editor, and educator. Her debut novel, The Cactus League, was published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in February 2020 and released in paperback by Picador in 2021. Named a Best Book of 2020 by National Public Radio and Lit Hub, it was also listed as a Los Angeles Times Bestseller, a New York Times Book Review Editors’ Choice, and a finalist for the 2020 CASEY Baseball Book Award.

From 2018 to 2021, Emily served as the editor of The Paris Review, the nation’s 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.

ASHLEY BRYANT PHILLIPS AND MATTHEW WIMBERLEY  
Thursday, November 9
READING: 6 p.m., Three Top Room, 169 Plemmons Student Union

Ashleigh Bryant Phillips is from Woodland, North Carolina. Her debut short story collection, Sleepovers, won the 2019 C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Award. Sleepovers was called “elegant and mesmerizing” by The New Yorker and “blunt and life-affirming” by Publisher’s Weekly. Stories from it appear in the Paris Review and the Oxford American. Ashleigh is a 2022 Tanne Foundation Award recipient, a Senior Editor at Joyland Magazine, and the host of “All You Can Eat” on Boone Area Community Radio. She’s interested in voice, sound, and memory. She is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Appalachian State University.

Matthew Wimberley grew up in Avery County. He is the author of two collections of poetry, All the Great Territories (Southern Illinois University Press, 2020), winner of the 2018 Crab Orchard Poetry Series First Book award and the 2020 Weatherford Award in poetry, and Daniel Boone’s Window (Louisiana State University Press, 2020) selected for the Southern Messenger Poets series. His chapbook, Snake Mountain Almanac, was selected as the winner of the Rayne Arroyo Chapbook Contest from Seven Kitchens Press. Winner of the 2015 William Matthews Prize from the Asheville Poetry Review, his work was selected for the 2016 Best New Poets Anthology and his writing has appeared in the Poem-a-Day series from the Academy of American Poets, Blackbird, and Three Penny Review. Wimberley received his MFA from New York University, where he worked with children at St. Mary’s Hospital as a Stanwork Fellow. He served as the 2021-22 Rachel Rivers-Coffey Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at Appalachian State University, where he continues to teach creative writing.

LIZ ROBBINS  
Thursday, November 30
CRAFT TALK: 3:30-4:15 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.

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 2023 Hughlene Bostian Frank Visiting Writers Series is supported by:
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