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Creating Moments
Winter 2009
calendar

 UMKC College of Arts and Sciences

an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution



UMKC College of Arts and Sciences:
Kansas City's home for
literature and creative writing

winter 2009 Creative Writing calendar



Robert Stewart and Patricia Cleary Miller

7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 20
Johnson County Central Resource Library
9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park, Kan.
(Sponsored by The Writers Place)

Robert Stewart, editor of *New Letters*, and Patricia Cleary Miller (author of *Starting a Swan Dive*, BkMk Press) read at the Johnson County Central Resource Library.



Debra Marquart

7 p.m. (6 p.m. reception)
Thursday, Feb. 5
Rockhurst University
Mabee Theater
54th Street and Troost Avenue
(Midwest Poets Series sponsored by Rockhurst University Center for Arts and Letters)

Marquart is winner of the 2007 PEN USA Award for Essay, *Elle* magazine and *New Letters* magazine awards for the essay, and the author of four books of poetry and fiction. She's also a rock-and-roll and blues singer who was farm-grown in Iowa. Admission to Midwest Poets Series is \$5, \$3 for students and senior adults.



Sam Lipsyte

7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19
Kansas City Public Library
Helzberg Auditorium
14 W. 10th St.
(Writers At Work Series sponsored by Chris Davis, the Kansas City Public Library and UMKC)

(photo credit: David Beaty)

New York magazine once dubbed Sam Lipsyte "one of the ten funniest New Yorkers you've never heard of," but since the release of his novel, *Home Land* (a 2005 *New York Times* notable book), he's become one of the city's favorite sons. That book follows the exploits of Lewis Miner, a former high school stoner who now writes overly candid letters to his alumni newsletter. The author of a previous novel and a story collection, Lipsyte's work has appeared in *Open City*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Slate*, *The Quarterly*, *Mother Jones*, *Nerve* and *Spin*, among others. Recently awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, he lives in Manhattan and teaches fiction at Columbia University.

The Writers at Work Series is free and open to the public. Please call 816-701-3407 to indicate your interest in attending. Books will be available for purchase at the event courtesy of Rainy Day Books.



Michelle Boisseau

1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 22
Kansas City Public Library
Cohen Center
4801 Main St.
(Sponsored by the Kansas City Public Library and UMKC)

Michelle Boisseau's books of poetry include *No Private Life*; *Understory*, winner of the Morse Prize; *Trembling Air*, a PEN USA finalist; and *A Sunday in God-Years* (2009). Boisseau is also co-author of the popular text *Writing Poems*, in its seventh edition. Recent poems have appeared in *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Southern Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Poetry*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Threepenny Review* and elsewhere. Her work has received a National Endowment for the Arts poetry fellowship and two Poetry Society of America Awards.



C. D. Wright (Reading)

2009 Cockefair Chair
Writer-in-Residence
7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10
UMKC Pierson Auditorium
5000 Holmes Road
(Sponsored by Cockefair Chair and UMKC)

Born and raised in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas, C.D. Wright is one of America's most compelling and idiosyncratic poets. Author of a dozen collections of poetry and prose, her most recent book, *Rising, Falling, Hovering*, prompted *The New York Times* to write: "C.D. Wright belongs to a school of exactly one." She has received fellowships from the MacArthur, Guggenheim and Lannan foundations and from the National Endowment for the Arts. Awards include the Lannan Literary Award and the Robert Creeley Award. The former Poet Laureate of Rhode Island, she is currently the Israel J. Kapstein Professor at Brown University.



C. D. Wright (Symposium)

2009 Cockefair Chair
Writer-in-Residence
7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11
Kansas City Public Library
Helzberg Auditorium
14 W. 10th St.
(Sponsored by Cockefair Chair, Kansas City Public Library and UMKC)

Join UMKC's poetry writing faculty, Hadara Bar-Nadav, Michelle Boisseau and Robert Stewart, for a discussion with Wright on the trajectory of a poet's development, the collaborative nature of her work, the relationship between poetry and the political life of a country, and what Wright means when she suggests that "poetry/doesn't/protect/you/any more."



Wayne Miller and Michelle Boisseau

8 p.m.
Friday, April 10
The Writers Place
3607 Pennsylvania Ave.
(Sponsored by Riverfront Readings and UMKC at The Writers Place)

Join us as two of Kansas City's award winning writers read from their newly released books of poetry.

Wayne Miller's books include *The Book of Props* (2009) and *Only the Senses Sleep*, which won the William Rockhill Nelson Award. He is also co-editor of the anthology *New European Poets* and translator of Moikom Zeqo's *I Don't Believe in Ghosts*. Winner of The George Bogin Award, the Lucille Medwick Award, the Lyric Poetry Award from the Poetry Society of America, the Bess Hokin Prize and a Ruth Lilly Fellowship, Wayne teaches at the University of Central Missouri, where he is an editor of *Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing*.

Michelle Boisseau's most recent book of poetry is *A Sunday in God Years* (2009). For more about Boisseau, please see the listing for her Feb. 22 reading.



Walter Kirn

7 p.m.
Thursday, April 9
Kansas City Public Library
Helzberg Auditorium
14 W. 10th St.
(Writers at Work Series sponsored by Chris Davis, the Kansas City Public Library, and UMKC)

Walter Kirn's most recent novel, *The Unbinding*, was first released as a serial on Slate.com. The *Los Angeles Times* says, "Kirn depicts technology as a looming Orwellian force ... the loss of privacy makes for comedy, at first, and then for a sense of foreboding." A contributing editor to *Time* and *GQ* and a regular reviewer for the *New York Times Book Review*, his work has also appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *GQ*, *Vogue*, *New York* and *Esquire*. The author of four previous novels, including *Up in the Air*, currently being made into a movie, Kirn lives in Livingston, Mont.

The Writers at Work Series is free and open to the public. Please call 816-701-3407 to indicate your interest in attending.



B. H. Fairchild

7 p.m. (6 p.m. reception)
Thursday, April 23
Rockhurst University
Mabee Theater
54th Street and Troost Avenue
(Midwest Poets Series sponsored by Rockhurst University Center for Arts and Letters)

B.H. Fairchild's books include *The Art of the Lathe* and *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest*. Admission to Midwest Poets Series is \$5, \$3 for students and senior adults.

Working Words

7 p.m.
Fridays, Jan. 9, Feb. 20, March 13 and April 10
Kansas City Public Library, Plaza Branch,
northwest reading corner
4801 Main St.

Catch them before they're famous! Original poetry and fiction from UMKC's graduate students in creative writing.

Mark Twain Writers Workshop*

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Daily, June 8 – 26

New Letters Weekend Writing Conference*

Friday – Sunday, June 26 – 28

*For more information, visit www.newletters.org/writingconferences.asp.

For information on the UMKC English and creative writing programs, call 816-235-1305 or visit <http://cas.umkc.edu/creativewriting>. For a complete listing of local literary events, visit www.newletters.org/eventsreading.asp.
Relay Missouri: 1-800-735-2966 (TT)