
VMI Poetry Symposium 2009

The Power of Poetry



***"A poet is someone who stands outside in
the rain hoping to be struck by lightning."***

—James Dickey

Friday, March 6
Nichols Engineering Auditorium

Saturday, March 7
Preston Library
Virginia Military Institute

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

7:45 pm.....Poetry Reading by Julia Kasdorf and Yusef Komunyakaa
Nichols Engineering Hall Auditorium
Simulcast, Turman Room, Preston Library



YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA



JULIA KASDORF

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

8:00-8:50 am ...Refreshments and registration
Turman Room, Preston Library

8:50-9:00..... Welcome
Colonel James Turner
Professor of Biology and
Director of Undergraduate Research
Virginia Military Institute

9:00-10:15Student Papers on Poetry

Turman Room

Katelyn Bouret, *Washington and Lee University*

“Heaney’s Lament and Consolation
of Adulthood Through Verse”

Gregory Hersh, *VMI*

“Tear Down the Wall: Similarities Between William Blake
and Pink Floyd”

Jenna Worsham, *Washington and Lee*

“The Modern Archaic: An Analysis of Millay’s
‘Renaissance’”

Natalie Sayth, *University of Mary Washington*

“The Incandescent Broken Mirror in H.D.’s *Trilogy*:
Revising Sensation More Fertile Reflection”

Moderator: Professor John Leland, *VMI*

“This is my letter to the World/That never wrote to Me” — Emily Dickinson

9:00-10:15.....Poems by Students

Periodicals Room

Debbie Chow, *Hollins University*

Gaby Albuja, *Washington and Lee*

Kevin McDonald, *Bridgewater College*

Allison Datz, *Lynchburg College*

Christian Cortes, *VMI*

Mara Fuller, *Roanoke College*

Eric Jackson, *VMI*

Nicole Yurcaba, *Bridgewater College*

Moderator: Professor Kathleen Bulger-Barnett, *VMI*

10:15-10:30Break/refreshments

"To have great poets there must be great audiences" — Walt Whitman

10:30-11:45Student Papers on Poetry

Turman Room

Carson Haddow, *Washington and Lee*

"Looking Back on Unfulfilled Dreams:
The Life of Yeats in 'The Circus Animals' Desertion'"

Jackie Briski, *VMI*

"A Tale of Two Languages: Translations in Poetry"

Eric Gehman, *Washington and Lee*

"The Modern Lens: The Reinterpretation of Classical and
Biblical Texts In W. H. Auden's 'The Shield of Achilles' and
W.B. Yeats's 'The Second Coming'"

Jessica Judy, *Bridgewater*

"And Her Pale Fire She Snatches from the Sun: Nabokov
and the Subjective Experience of Poetry"

Moderator: Professor John Cerkey, *VMI*

"Poetry is what gets lost in translation" — Robert Frost

10:30-11:45Poems by Students

Periodicals Room

Natalya Vaynblatt, *University of Virginia*

Mara Eve Robbins, *Hollins*

Joshua Kenny, *VMI*

Laura Bianca, *Lynchburg College*

Andrea Null, *Washington and Lee*

Arthur Furler, *Southern Virginia*

Laura Resetar, *VMI*

Sharon Mirtaheri, *Hollins*

Becky Harris, *VMI*

Moderator: Professor Jen Santos, *VMI*

*“It is difficult/to get the news from poems/Yet men die miserably
every day for lack/of what is found there”* — William Carlos Williams

12:00-12:45 ...Luncheon (Participants Only)

Moody Hall, Activity Room

“Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world” — Percy Bysshe Shelley

1:00-1:45Keynote: “Poetry at Work in the World”

Yusef Komunyakaa, *New York University*

Moody Hall, Activity Room (open to public)

2:00-3:15Student Papers on Poetry

Turman Room

Mara Eve Robbins, *Hollins*

“The Breath of the Muse, The Work of Musing”

Jessica Rende, *VMI*

*“William Carlos Williams: The Uniquely
American Poem”*

Laural Hobbes, *Washington and Lee*
“Poetry as Sustenance: Starvation & Allen
Ginsberg’s Buddhist Poetics”

Ryleigh Nucilli, *Washington and Lee*
“Preserving Native American Culture through Poetry”

Moderator: Professor Alan Baragona, *VMI*

“Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful” — Rita Dove

2:00-3: 15Poems by Students

Periodicals Room

Kandyce Korotky, *Randolph College*

Michael O’Brien, *Roanoke College*

Nicole Rose, *Washington and Lee*

Jed Miller, *VMI*

Helen McKinney, *Hollins*

Taelor Skinner, *Lynchburg College*

Gregory Lippiatt, *VMI*

Bethany Comp, *Southern Virginia University*

Moderator: Mr. Ron Salutsky, *VMI*

“Poetry is as precise as geometry” — Gustave Flaubert

3:15-3:30.....Break/Refreshments

**3:30-4:15“Writing/ Teaching Poetry:
The Creative Writing Class 2009”**

Roundtable

Turman Room

Professor Kurt Ayau and Becky Harris, VMI

**Professor Karen Hufford and Arthur Furler,
*Southern Virginia University***

**Professor Lesley Wheeler and Andrea Null,
*Washington and Lee***

**Professor Julia Kasdorf,
*Pennsylvania State University***

“A poem is never finished, only abandoned” — Paul Valery

4:30-4:40.....Judges’ Awards Announced

Concluding Remarks

Special thanks to:

Office of the Dean of Faculty, *VMI*
The Institute Writing Program, *VMI*
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The Department of English and Fine Arts, *VMI*
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