Oct. 5-8, 1981
Old Dominion University
The Fourth Annual

LITERARY FESTIVAL

David Bradley
Diane Wakoski
Jerre Mangione
Bruce Weigl
Lee Zacharias
Nan A. Talese
Paul Zimmer
Heather McHugh

Free and Open to the Public.
Sponsored by the Department of English
and the ODU Community Services Program.
DAVID BRADLEY

In what has already been called one of the most haunting and engaging novels of 1981, David Bradley skillfully weaves the present and the past in The Chaneysville Incident, the gripping story of a young black historian’s search for the secrets behind the deaths of his slave grandfather and moonshiner father. Ten years in the making, The Chaneysville Incident is proving itself to be a major work. Critics compare its narrative power to Styron’s The Confessions of Nat Turner, and its scope and vision to Alex Haley’s Roots.

In addition to his Monday evening reading, Bradley will present a Tuesday afternoon talk on “The Self and the Writing Process.”

Bradley is also the author of South Street and is a professor of English at Temple University. His appearance on campus is courtesy of ODU’s Cultural Events and Convocation Committee.

DIANE WAKOSKI

“One of the two or three most important poets of her generation in America,” wrote Hayden Carruth about the extremely prolific and talented Diane Wakoski. Author of more than a dozen full-length collections and as many chapbooks, Wakoski is considered one of the most poetically daring writers on the American scene. While she frequently writes about the difficulty of being a woman in an age of changing values, her range encompasses an array of contemporary subject matters and themes. Since 1962, when her first book of poetry appeared, Wakoski has continued to draw her ever-growing readership into the complex world created by her vision.

Wakoski will speak on poetry during Tuesday’s student activity hour; that evening she will give a reading of her work. Her appearance on campus is courtesy of ODU’s Activities Programming Board.

JERRE MANGIONE

Like everyone else, writers needed to eat during the Depression, and the federal government put more than six thousand of them to work in what W.H. Auden called “one of the noblest and most absurd undertakings ever attempted by any state.” Jerre Mangione, former national coordinating editor of the Federal Writers’ Project (1935-1943), will tell the story of this exciting and controversial branch of the WPA and relate it to the current economic conditions facing today’s creative writers.

Mangione is the author of ten books of fiction and non-fiction, including the best-selling memoirs Mount Allegro and An Ethnic at Large. His Wednesday afternoon talk comes from his book The Dream and the Deal, hailed by Alfred Kazin as “one of the best social histories of American writers in our time.”

BRUCE WEIGL

Bruce Weigl is the most recent addition to ODU’s Department of English creative writing faculty, and Wednesday evening will mark his first public reading in the Tidewater area. Weigl’s published works include two chapbooks, Executioner and Like a Sack Full of Old Quarrels, and a full-length collection of poetry, A Romance, published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. Shifting between Vietnam and America, A Romance takes the reader on a journey that one reviewer called “as perilous and difficult as any undertaken by the heroes of ancient romance,” one that “unites personal experience with a vision of universal and timeless truths.”

Weigl comes to Old Dominion from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he directed their creative writing program.
LEE ZACHARIAS

“Funny, tragic, sassy, and lyrical” are the adjectives used to describe Lee Zacharias’ just-published first novel, Lessons, the remarkable story of a feisty coed who refuses her boyfriend’s Phi Delt pin and marries her forty-year-old music theory teacher, thus becoming a faculty wife at age eighteen. Fourteen years and a nervous breakdown later, she ends her marriage and sets out alone. On Wednesday evening, Zacharias will read from Lessons. Zacharias has also written a collection of short stories titled Helping Muriel Make It Through the Night, published by Louisiana State University Press. She teaches at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is president of the Associated Writing Programs.

NAN A. TALESE

Nan A. Talese is the executive editor and vice president of Houghton Mifflin Company. Before joining Houghton Mifflin, she was senior editor and vice president of Simon and Schuster. Talese began her career in publishing at Random House and has published among others the works of Margaret Atwood, A.E. Hotchner, Judith Rossner, Oriana Fallaci, Ted Morgan, A. Alvarez, Ian McEwan, Richard Selzer, and Susan Cheever.

On Thursday morning, Talese will speak on editing and answer questions from the audience. On Thursday afternoon, she and Paul Zimmer will discuss the state of contemporary American publishing from the trade and university press points of view. Again, both editors will respond to questions from the audience.

PAUL ZIMMER

“One unpredictable joy,” exclaimed the Chicago Daily News about the witty and original poetry of Paul Zimmer. The Hudson Review added, “Zimmer writes for the pleasure of ordered absurdity in language as hard and lofty as an arpeggio by Thelonious Monk.”

Thursday evening will feature a reading by Paul Zimmer, author of four books including The Zimmer Poems (1976) and With Wanda: Town and Country Poems (1980).

Zimmer will also participate in the Thursday afternoon seminar on “Contemporary American Publishing” with Nan A. Talese.

HEATHER McHUGH

The author of Dangers, published in 1978 in Houghton Mifflin’s New Poetry Series, and A World of Difference, also a Houghton Mifflin publication (1981), Heather McHugh is a rare poet, known for her formal elegance, her piercing wit, and her supple use of rhyme and rhythm. The Denver Quarterly remarked on her interest in “seeing doubly and double-talking” and praised her “passionate intelligence” and “affection for the tongue’s intimate intricacies.” McHugh’s Thursday evening reading will conclude the 1981 Literary Festival.

McHugh grew up in Williamsburg and now teaches at the State University of New York at Binghamton. She is a member of the board of directors of the Associated Writing Programs.
The Fourth Annual
Old Dominion University

Literary Festival
Schedule of Events

Monday, Oct. 5
8:30 p.m. FICTION READING by David Bradley
(Kaufman Hall Auditorium)

Tuesday, Oct. 6
12:30 p.m. ON POETRY by Diane Wacoski
(Kaufman Hall Auditorium)
2 p.m. THE SELF AND THE WRITING PROCESS
by David Bradley
(Rooms 148-150, Webb Center)
8:30 p.m. POETRY READING by Diane Wacoski
(Kaufman Hall Auditorium)

Wednesday, Oct. 7
2 p.m. SHOULD WRITERS BE ON THE GOVERNMENT
PAYROLL? THE SAGA OF THE FEDERAL
WRITERS' PROJECT by Jerre Mangione
(Rooms 148-150, Webb Center)
8:30 p.m. POETRY AND FICTION READING by Bruce Weigl
and Lee Zacharias
(Kaufman Hall Auditorium)

Thursday, Oct. 8
10 a.m. ON EDITING by Nan A. Talese
(Rooms 154-156, Webb Center)
2 p.m. CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN PUBLISHING:
TRADE AND UNIVERSITY PRESS PERSPECTIVES
by Nan A. Talese and Paul Zimmer
(Rooms 154-156, Webb Center)
8:30 p.m. POETRY READING by Paul Zimmer and
Heather McHugh
(Kaufman Hall Auditorium)

David Bradley appears courtesy of ODU's Cultural Events and Convocation Committee.
Diane Wacoski appears courtesy of ODU's Activities Programming Board.
Lee Zacharias, Paul Zimmer, and Heather McHugh appear courtesy of the Associated Writing Programs.
For further information, call Conrad Festa or Tony Ardizzone, ODU Department of English, (804) 440-3991.