The Third Annual
Old Dominion University

Literary Festival
Sept. 29-30; Oct. 1-2

Lucille Clifton
Donald Hall
Tony Ardizzone
George Cuomo
Susan Richards Shreve
Alf J. Mapp Jr.
John Clellon Holmes
Katie Lyle
James Olney
William Ruehlmann
Cynthia MacDonald
Al Young

Free and Open to the Public
Sponsored by the Department of English and
the ODU Community Services program
Susan Richards Shreve teaches at George Mason University and is the author of three novels (“A Fortunate Madness,” “A Woman Like That,” “Children of Power”) and four children’s books. She is working on her fourth novel, “A Multitude of Seeds,” under a Guggenheim fellowship. Ms. Shreve is on the board of directors of the Associated Writing Programs and has been both a fellow and a staff member of the famed Bread Loaf Writing Conference. Parents’ dreams and children’s misunderstandings are frequent themes in her work.

Alf J. Mapp Jr.

Alf Mapp has worked as a newspaperman, freelance, and member of the ODU English department. He has developed courses in Southern literature and creative nonfiction, in addition to teaching courses in journalism, composition and American literature. Among Mapp’s well-known books are “Frock Coats and Epaulets,” “The Golden Dragon,” and “The Virginia Experiment.” During the bicentennial, he directed commemorative events throughout the state. Mapp believes that a key to good writing is selecting an object or action that reveals character and developing its possibilities.

John Clellon Holmes

John Clellon Holmes helped develop the reputation the University of Arkansas enjoys for its writing program. A member of the board of directors of the Associated Writing Programs, he has written three novels: “Go,” “The Horn,” and “Get Home Free.” He has published a book of essays, “Nothing More To Declare,” and a book of poems, “The Bowling Green Poems.” A new book of fiction and essays, “L.A. in Our Souls,” has just been completed. Harper’s, Saturday Review, Penthouse and Esquire are among the magazines in which Holmes’ poems, short stories, articles and reviews have appeared.

Katie Lyle

While Katie Letcher Lyle is best known as the author of acclaimed novels for young people—“I Will Go Barefoot All Summer For You,” “Fair Day, and Another Step Begun”—she has also published poems and nonfiction. She has written articles on popular music, the language arts, and food, in addition to producing four half-hour television scripts for the series “Footsteps,” now being aired nationally on PBS. She teaches at Southern Seminary and has appeared at many schools and conferences. A forthcoming novel, “Scott’s Marathon,” is scheduled for October publication.
James Olney

James Olney has published more than a dozen articles in scholarly journals, mostly in archetypal and comparative studies. "Tell Me Africa: An Approach to African Literature" and "Metaphors of Self: The Meaning of Autobiography" are his most-discussed works. This year he edited "Autobiography: Essays Theoretical and Critical" for Princeton University Press. Since earning his doctorate at Columbia in 1963, Olney has garnered a Fulbright grant to lecture in Liberia, a Wickes Foundation grant for studies in Jung and Yeats, a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship, and a Guggenheim fellowship. He currently is doing research in Durham, N.C., at the National Humanities Center.

William Ruehlmann

From his lair at The Ledger-Star, William Ruehlmann regularly stalks big and little game for feature articles. He has even tried wrestling with a bear. A native of Cincinnati, where he gained his Ph.D., Ruehlmann served briefly in the Marines and in a National Guard panel bridge company, then worked as a chauffeur, a summer stock actor, a high school teacher, and an envelope stuffer before finding his niche in journalism. He is the author of "Saint With a Gun: The Unlawful American Private Eye" and "Stalking The Feature Story."

Cynthia MacDonald and Al Young

Thursday, Oct. 2
8:30 p.m., Batten Arts and Letters Auditorium

Trained in opera and able to perform 35 roles, Cynthia MacDonald writes poems stressing the intermittent music of the modern mind trying to achieve wholeness. "Transplants" and "Amputations" are the names of her first two collections of poems. "W(holes)," published this year, has been described as "a poetry of awe and riddles, by turns sardonic and passionate, strangely and profoundly beautiful." Ms. MacDonald has received a National Academy and Institute Award for her work. A member of the board of directors of the Associated Writing Programs, she lives near San Francisco with his wife and their young son.

Born in Ocean Springs, Miss., Al Young grew up in the South and Midwest. Educated at the universities of Michigan and California, he has worked as a musician, disc jockey, lab aide, warehouseman, railroad clerk, linguistic consultant, editor, small-press publisher, and screenwriter. He has received half-a-dozen awards and published three books of poems and four novels. With Ishmael Reed he has edited two anthologies. He has also worked on five screenplays. Young's fiction and poetry are widely anthologized and have been translated into four languages. A member of the board of directors of the Associated Writing Programs, he lives near San Francisco with his wife and their young son.

For further information, phone James McNally, ODU Department of English, at (804) 440-4010.
Recently appointed poet laureate of Maryland, Lucille Clifton was awarded the prestigious Juniper Prize by the University of Massachusetts Press for "Two-Headed Woman" and has published three other volumes of poetry. In addition, she has written 15 children's books and a family memoir titled "Generations."

The recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts awards, she is an active member of International P.E.N. and the Maryland State Committee for Black Art and Culture.

Since "Exiles and Marriages" in 1955, Donald Hall has published seven volumes of poetry, the latest being "Kicking The Leaves." He has also been co-editor of two influential anthologies and has prepared two college composition texts. His books of prose include "String Too Short To Be Saved" and "Goatfoot Milkto tongue Twinbird." Hall conducted the Paris Review interviews with Eliot and Pound, and has had a play, "An Evening's Frost," produced off-Broadway. He has delivered 65 BBC broadcasts and more than a thousand poetry readings.

From the training grounds of Chicago and Bowling Green, Tony Ardizzone serves as running guard for the creative writing program at ODU. Author of a novel ("In the Name of the Father") and a collection of short stories ("Idling"), he is also the editor of Intro, an annual journal of the best writing from college workshops around the country. In a nearly completed accompanying volume to "In the Name of the Father," Ardizzone traces the route by which the character Vito Scaparelli reaches Vietnam. Ardizzone has published 15 short stories in distinguished fiction quarterlies. He believes that the writing of fiction is the crafting of interiorized drama.

George Cuomo, who works at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has written five novels: "Pieces from A Small Bomb," "The Hero's Great Great Great Great Great Grandson," "Among Thieves," "Bright Day, Dark Runner," and "Jack Be Nimble." He has also written poems and short stories, and is on the board of directors of the Associated Writing Programs. He will be reading selections from "Sirola," a forthcoming novel for which he received a grant from the National Foundation of the Arts in fiction.