Robert Pinsky, a prize-winning poet, essayist and translator, became the 39th United States Poet Laureate in 1997. The author of five books of poetry, including most recently, The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems 1966–1996, Pinsky propelled Dante onto the best-seller lists with his acclaimed 1994 verse translation of the Inferno. He currently teaches in the Graduate Writing Program at Boston University and is a regular contributor to The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, reading poems linked to news events. Pinsky is also the poetry editor of the weekly Internet magazine Slate. “He has commented that computers and poetry share two key attributes: reports the New York Times, “Speed and memory.”

In addition to his poetry, Professor Pinsky is the author of prose works including The Situation of Poetry and Poetry and the World, as well as a translation of The Separate Notebooks by Nobel laureate Czeslaw Milosz. His translation of The Inferno of Dante was awarded the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award, given by the Academy of American Poets. In 1997 Robert Pinsky was awarded the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize by The Nation and The Academy of American Poets. In the fall of 1998, he will publish The Sounds of Poetry: A Brief Guide (Farrar, Straus & Giroux), and an anthology of poems about heartbreak called Handbook of Heartbreak (William Morrow).

Maria Luisa Carinó is a poet, essayist and writer of fiction. She is the recipient of a writing grant for residency at the Hawthornden Castle International Retreat for Writers in Scotland and a recipient of a 1998 Illinois Arts Council Literary Award for her poem “The Other Annunciation.” She also received a British Council grant for the study of literature at Cambridge University. Her poems have appeared in such journals as Poetry, TriQuarterly, Bomb, The Black Warrior Review, Ruptures and the Asian Pacific American Journal. She has also published extensively in the Philippines in magazines such as Caracol, Ani, The Philippines Free Press, and Mirror Weekly. Her most recent books are Blood Sacrifice and In the Garden of the Three Islands. As of this fall Maria Luisa Carinó joins Old Dominion University’s faculty as a visiting associate professor in Filipino and Filipino-American Studies. She will also teach in the English Department.

Jacqueline Woodson is the author of a number of novels for adults, young adults and children including Autobiography of a Family Photo, I Hadn’t Meant To Tell You This, and If You Come Softly. She is a recipient of the Kenyon Review Award for Literary Excellence in Fiction, three American Library Association Awards, and two Jane Addams Peace Award Honors. She has been a fellow at the MacDowell Colony and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts. She currently resides in Brooklyn, New York.

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE NORFOLK COMMISSION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES.

Jane Bernstein is the author of *Departures*, a novel, *Loving Rachel*, a memoir, and *Seven Minutes in Heaven*, a young-adult novel based on a screenplay she co-wrote for the Warner Brothers movie of the same name. Her essays and short fiction have been published in such places as *The New York Times Magazine*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Glamour*, *Poets & Writers*, and *Prairie Schooner*. Recent projects include a screenplay based on the life of voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer for director Jonathan Kaplan, and an adaptation of the Kaye Gibbons novel *A Cure for Dreams* for Firebird Films. Honors include a National Endowment Fellowship in Creative Writing, a Pennsylvania State Council on the Arts Fellowships in Media Arts, and two New Jersey State Council of the Arts Fellowships in Fiction. She has just completed a book called *Twilight Time — A Murder and Its Aftermath*, which is about her sister’s murder in 1966 and its repercussions for her family.

Jane received her master of fine arts from Columbia University and is an associate professor of English and Creative Writing at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Nicole Brossard was born in Montreal in 1943. Poet, novelist and essayist, she has published more than 20 books since 1965. Among those: *A Book, Dream Mechanics, Picture Theory, French Kiss, The Aerial Letter*, and *Matuse Desert*. By her ludic, subversive and innovative work on language, Brossard has influenced a whole generation on the questions of post-modernist and feminist writing. She also co-founded the important literary periodicals *La Barre du Jour* (1965) and *La Nouvelle Barre du Jour* (1977). In 1976, she co-directed the film *Some American Feminists*. Ms. Brossard was twice awarded Canada’s most prestigious prize for poetry, the Governor General’s Award, in 1974 and in 1984. She was also attributed *Le Grand Prix de Poésie* 1989 de la Fondation Les Forges, and in 1991, she was awarded *Le Prix Athanase-David*. Her work has been translated in English, Italian, Spanish and German. American critic Karen Gould has written: “The contributions of Nicole Brossard to contemporary literature and literary theory and their inevitable intersection through feminist thought have been visionary.”

Her most recent novel *Baroque at Dawn* (translated by Patricia Claxton) has just been published by McClelland & Steward.

Sena Jeter Naslund is author of two short-story collections, *Ice Skating at the North Pole* (Ampersand) and *The Disobedience of Water* (Godine), and two novels, *The Animal Way to Love* (Ampersand) and *Sherlock in Love* (Godine), which has been translated into Japanese and German and was a Book-of-the-Month Club Quality Paperbacks reprint. A recipient of the Lawrence Fiction Prize, and awards from the NEA and the Kentucky Foundation for Women, she founded and continues to edit *The Louisville Review* and *Fleur-de-lis Press*. She is a University of Louisville Distinguished Teaching Professor and also teaches in the master of fine arts in writing program of Vermont College.

Jack Myers, born in Massachusetts, is Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at Southern Methodist University; he also teaches in the low-residency Vermont College master of fine arts program in writing. He is co-editor of *New American Poets of the 90’s*, the author of six volumes of poetry, the latest being *Blindside* (David R. Godine, 1993), and co-editor of four other reference works on poetry, including *A Profile of American Poetry in the 20th Century*, *The Longman Dictionary of Poetic Terms*, and the CD-anthology, *Learning House Poets*, Vol. 1.

He was a 1985 National Poetry Series Open Competition winner for his book, *As Long As You’re Happy* (selected by Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney), and has received two Texas Institute of Letters awards and two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships.

Anthony Grooms is the author of *Ice Poems* (Poetry Atlanta Press) and *Trouble No More: Stories* (LaQuesta Press). Shorter works have appeared in *Callaloo, African American Review*, and other journals. He has received awards from the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, Breadloaf Writers Workshop and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1996, *Trouble No More* won the Lillian Smith Award from the Southern Regional Council. Novelist Marita Golden noted that “Grooms writes about the South, civil rights, home folks, black and white people and anything he wants to with more love, humor and finely honed skill than I have seen in a long time.” The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* said, “Groom’s stories take us to the center of the phenomenon (civil rights movement) with an honesty and courage long overdue.”

Grooms is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

Li-Young Lee burst into the American literary consciousness with the publication of *Rose* in 1986. Fusing memory, family, culture and history, he draws on the language of the people — American and Southeast Asian — and on the stories that sustain their pasts.

Li-Young Lee was born in 1957 in Jakarta, Indonesia, of Chinese parents. In 1959, his father, after spending a year as a political prisoner in President Sukarno’s jails, fled Indonesia with his family. Between 1959 and 1964 the Lee family traveled throughout Hong Kong, Macau and Japan until arriving in America.

Li-Young Lee’s poems have appeared in a variety of major literary journals, including *American Poetry Review, Grand Street, The Iowa Review, Ironwood, Ploughshares* and *TriQuarterly*.

He has received several honors, among them a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a Writer’s Award from the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation and creative writing grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

*Rose* won the New York University’s 1986 Delmore Schwartz Memorial Poetry Award and The City In Which I Love You was the 1990 Lamont Poetry Selection of the Academy of American Poets. Li-Young Lee currently lives in Chicago, Illinois.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Old Dominion University would like to thank Mrs. Edie White, a long-time friend of Arts & Letters, for establishing an endowment for the Literary Festival in memory of her husband and prominent local physician, Dr. Forrest P. White.

Individuals interested in contributing to the Literary Festival Endowment are invited to contact the Dean of Arts and Letters.
Schedule of Events

**Tuesday, October 6th**

2 p.m. *Tony Grooms*, fiction, poetry
Webb University Center
Hampton-Newport News Room

3:30 p.m. *Jane Bernstein*, non-fiction
Webb University Center
Hampton-Newport News Room

8 p.m. *Robert Pinsky*, United States Poet Laureate
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Chandler Recital Hall

**Wednesday, October 7th**

10 a.m. *Jacqueline Woodson*, fiction
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Chandler Recital Hall

2 p.m. *Jack Myers*, poetry
Webb University Center
River Rooms

3:30 p.m. *Jack Myers, Jacqueline Woodson*
Webb University Center
River Rooms
PANEL DISCUSSION — *Saying What You Mean: The Art of Honesty*

8 p.m. *Nicole Brossard*, poetry, fiction, non-fiction
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Chandler Recital Hall

**Thursday, October 8th**

10 a.m. *Scott Cairns*, poetry
Webb University Center
Hampton-Newport News Room

2 p.m. *Tony Hoagland*, poetry
Webb University Center
Hampton-Newport News Room

3:30 p.m. *Li-Young Lee, Maria Luisa Carino*
Webb University Center
Hampton-Newport News Room
PANEL DISCUSSION — A New Dialogue: Asian and Asian-American Writers in America

8 p.m. *Li-Young Lee*, poetry
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Chandler Recital Hall

**Friday, October 9th**

10 a.m. *Tony Hoagland, Sena Nashlund, Michael Pearson*
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Chandler Recital Hall
PANEL DISCUSSION — Who Do You Believe? Three Genres, Three Takes?

2 p.m. *Sena Nashlund*, fiction
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Chandler Recital Hall

3:30 p.m. *Maria Luisa Carino*, poetry, non-fiction
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Chandler Recital Hall

8 p.m. *John McPhee*, non-fiction
Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Chandler Recital Hall

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**Campus Map**

Parking for all events is available in Lot 27, which is adjacent to the Health and Physical Education Building and across the street from the Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center.