

Old Dominion University

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27th Annual Literary Festival at ODU: October
4-8, 2004

Annual Literary Festival at ODU

10-2004

Brochure: 27th Annual Literary Festival, 2004: Creative Migrations

Shara Weber

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Schedule of Events

(WEDNESDAY, October 6 continued)

4:00 - 5:30 pm:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Wang Ping

8:00 - 9:30 pm:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Nora Okja Keller

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

10:00 - 11:00 am:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
co-sponsored by the University Art Gallery and
the Art Department
Dave Hickey

3:00 - 4:30 pm:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
co-sponsored by the Filipino American Center, the Filipino American
Student Association and the Office of Multicultural Student Services
Jon Pineda and Aimee Nezhukumatathil

7:30 - 9:00 pm:

North Cafeteria, Webb Center
President's Lecture Series
Richard Rodriguez

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

10:00 - 11:00 am:

Hampton/Newport News Room, Webb Center
co-sponsored by Communication and Theatre Arts Department
Amitava Kumar

3:00 - 4:30 pm:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
co-sponsored by the Institute for Jewish Studies
and Interfaith Understanding
Andre Aciman

8:00 - 9:30 pm:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Department
Ana Castillo

We would like to thank the office of the President, the President's Lecture Series, the College of Arts and Letters, the English Department, the Women's Studies Department, the Women's Center, the Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, the Filipino American Center, the Filipino American Student Association, the Office of Multicultural Student Services, the Art Department, the University Art Gallery, the Communication and Theatre Arts Department, the Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding, and the Office of International Programs.

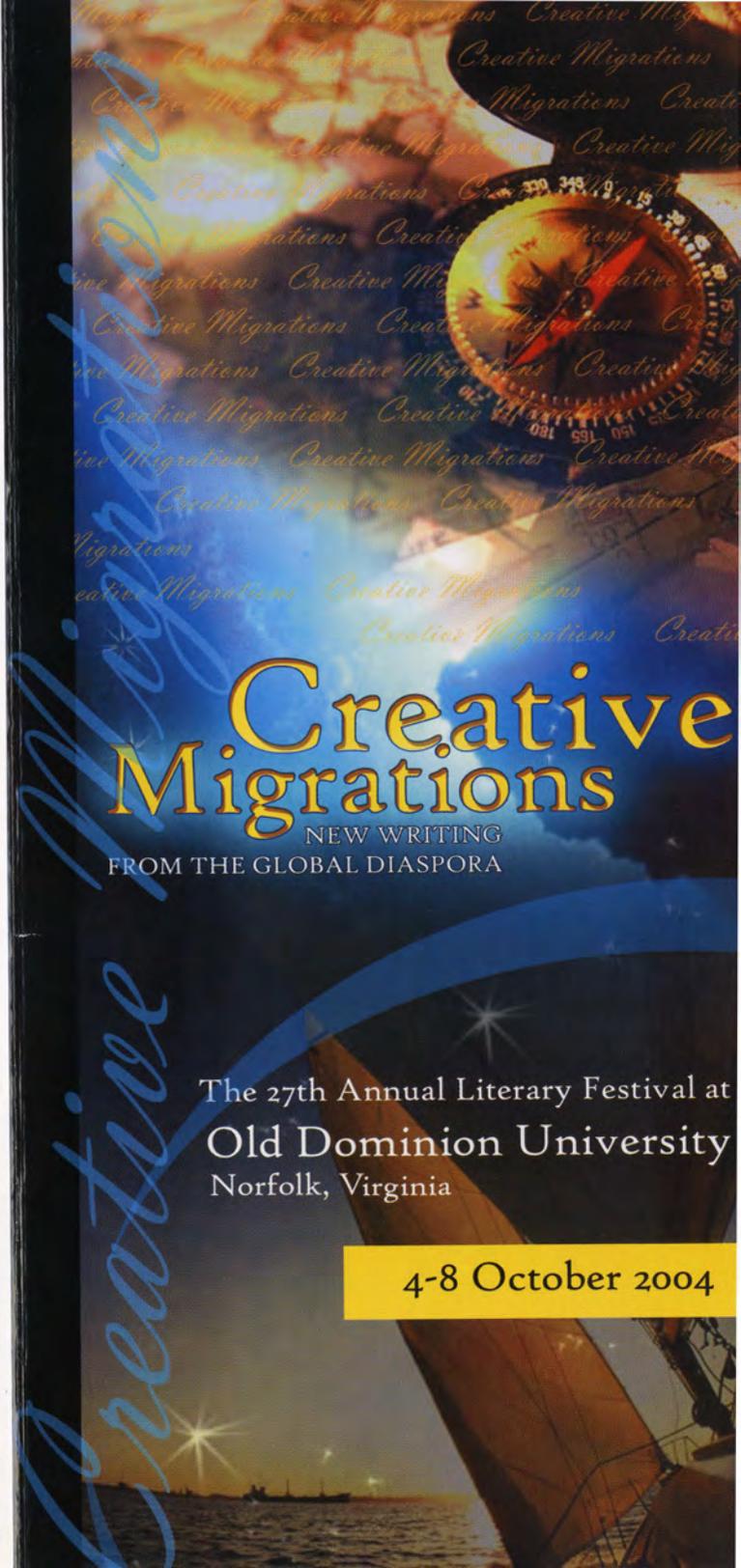
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The Old Dominion Literary Festival is sponsored
in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts
and the City of Norfolk Arts Commission.



Creative
Migrations
NEW WRITING
FROM THE GLOBAL DIASPORA

The 27th Annual Literary Festival at
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Virginia

4-8 October 2004

CREATIVE MIGRATIONS:

New Writing from the Global Diaspora

The 27th Annual Literary Festival at
Old Dominion University

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Against the contemporary experience of the global—and of American multiculturalism—the idea of the **diaspora** in the 21st century applies to more than its previous association with the experience of one group of people fleeing from persecution.

Today's world is characterized by shifts in our perception of geographies and borders—dictated not just by travel and migration, but also by wars, tribal and ethnic conflicts; changes in the flow of capital and the management of economies; the collapse and creation of nation-states; the effects of technology, of national and international policies.

Whatever their reason for negotiating place, like seeds or spores scattered over the earth, people are constantly moving, migrating, immigrating; abandoning one way of life in order to take up another; inhabiting new countries or cultures, sometimes returning to places they thought they had left for good. They are haunted by nostalgia or liberated by it; or else they oscillate in the many gaps between these states. They become exiles, whether by choice or by force of circumstance.

In their passage, they bring with them much more than their personal or worldly belongings. They carry their hopes and griefs, the colors, textures and memories of place and home, their feelings both of connection and disconnection, and always their visions for change. They bring their songs, their poems, their forms of art—and the influence on all that they come in contact with is ideally cross-fertilizing, enriching.

The 27th Annual Literary Festival at Old Dominion University invites the public to listen to and be intrigued, unsettled, entranced, provoked, exhilarated and ultimately transformed by the vision of multiple worlds at play, in collision, in flux—as defined in the works of some of the most luminous writers from the global diaspora today.

LUISA A. IGLORIA
Associate Professor
Creative Writing Program
& Department of English;
Director, 2004 ODU Literary Festival



ANDRE ACIMAN is the author of *False Papers*, narrating his Jewish-Turkish-Italian family's life in Alexandria; the latter has been called a "classic memoir of modern Jewish life" by The New York Times. Aciman teaches comparative literature at the City University Graduate Center in New York, and is an expert in

17th century French literature, the contemporary Arab world, modern literature, and philosophy. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1988 and most recently taught at Bard College. He was a fellow at the New York Public Library's Center for Scholars and Writers and edited a collection of essays based on a series of lectures he organized there, titled "Letters of Transit: Reflections of Exile, Identity, Language and Loss". In *False Papers: Essays on Exile and Memory*, Aciman explores themes of identity, home and exile.

ANA CASTILLO crosses genres as a poet, novelist, artist and *xicanista*. She explores issues of class, indigenous American history and the history of migration as a way of fostering pride and understanding of cultural identity. Ana Castillo lives in her hometown of Chicago with her son. Recent publications include *Ask the Impossible* and the novel *Peel My Love Like an Onion*. She is also the author of the children's book *My Daughter, My Son, The Eagle, The Dove*. Accolades for her work include an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation for her first novel, *The Mixquiahuala Letters*. Other honors include a Carl Sandburg Award, a Mountains and Plains Booksellers Award, fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts for fiction and poetry and the Sor Juana Achievement Award from the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum in Chicago. Currently, Castillo teaches in the English department at DePaul University in Chicago.



Poet, novelist and playwright **FRED D'AGUIAR** was born in London in 1960 to Guyanese parents. He lived in Guyana until he was 12. Before reading African and Caribbean studies at the University of Kent, Canterbury, he had trained as a psychiatric nurse. His first collection of poetry, *Mama Dot*, was published to much acclaim and established his reputation as

one of the finest British poets of his generation. Along with *Airy Hall*, it won the Guyanese National Poetry Award in 1989. His first novel, *The Longest Memory*, tells the story of Whitechapel, a slave on an 18th century Virginia plantation; it won both the David Higham Prize for Fiction and the Whitbread First Novel Award. D'Aguiar has been Judith E. Wilson Fellow at Cambridge University, a visiting writer at Amherst College, and assistant professor of English at Bates College. His plays include *High Life* and *A Jamaican Airman Forsees His Death*. Most recent publications are the novel *Bethany Bettany*, and two

book-length narrative poems, *Bill of Rights* and *Bloodlines*. D'Aguiar is currently co-director of the Creative Writing Program at Virginia Tech.

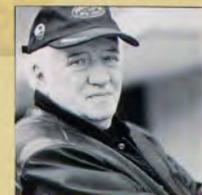
MIREILLE DESJARLAIS-HEYNNEMAN

was born in Montréal (Québec), Canada. She holds degrees from the Université de Montréal (social work), and from La Sorbonne, Paris (literature). Mireille is a founding member of the *Société des écrivains de Toronto* (French Writers of Toronto), and has been active as an officer and member of the organization *Le Salon du livre de Toronto* (Toronto French Book Fair) since its creation in 1992. Publications include *Le Bestiaire* (poems on Mircea Delanoé's drawings), *Autour de Paul Savoie*, poems and short stories published in various collections and literary publications in Canada and Luxembourg; forthcoming works include one poetry manuscript and one children's story, soon to be released in Toronto and Ottawa; and *Les mémoires littéraires de Laure Rièse* (The Literary Memoirs of Laure Rièse). Mireille's awards include the Laureate for individual poems in Québec, and for a short story in the magazine *Stop* (Montréal); and special mention from the International *Concours de poésie de la ville d'Arles*, France. Mireille is a member of the AAOF (French writers of Ontario) and the SPF (Society of French Poets, Paris).



RON HEYNNEMAN was born in Surabaya (Java), and raised in Makassar (Celebes, now Sulawesi). In 1942, the Japanese invaded the Netherlands East Indies and interned the family. At the Kampili internment camp, Ron met Jeanne-Marie van Diejen-Roemen, the heroine of his first book, *Ibu Maluku (Mother of the Moluccas)*, the remarkable story of the Mother Teresa of the famed Spice Islands of the East. Three and a half years later Australian troops liberated him, and the reunited family left for the Netherlands to recover. After engineering training in the Netherlands and Sweden, he immigrated to Canada in 1953, and moved to Chicago in 1959. In 1968 he returned to Toronto, where he became a registered professional engineer. In 1972, he married Mireille Desjarlais from Montréal, a social worker by training, now a full-time writer. They live in Toronto.

DAVE HICKEY is the Distinguished Guest Professor in Residence at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. He is a free-lance writer and cultural critic whose subject has been the critical response to the paradigm shift in the art world since the 1970s. Hickey maintains the need for the art world to talk about authenticity again, about what artists feel, and their identity. "Rather than



interested in the interface of cultures — the impurity and reconciliation of various cultures, about how one culture impacts another.” Hickey writes about works of art that can change meaning as you look at them, either through simplicity or complexity. “Good art, to survive, must change its meaning.” Hickey has written numerous exhibition catalogue monographs on a diverse range of contemporary artists including Ann Hamilton, Richard Serra, Robert Gober, Edward Ruscha, Terry Allen, Andy Warhol, Luis Jimenez and Michelangelo Pistoletto. His work has appeared in most major American cultural publications including *The Rolling Stone*, *Art News*, *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *Harper’s Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. His critical essays have been collected in two volumes, *The Invisible Dragon: Four Essays on Beauty*, and *Air Guitar: Essays on Art and Democracy*. His most recent book, *Stardumb*, is a collection of stories with drawings by artist John DeFazio.



NORA OKJA KELLER was born in Seoul, Korea, and raised in Hawaii. She is the author of the bestselling novels *Fox Girl* and *Comfort Woman*. In 1995 she received the Pushcart Prize for a short story, “Mother Tongue,” which later became part of *Comfort Woman*, her first novel and the winner of the 1998 American Book Award. Her second novel, *Fox Girl*, is set in Korea in the mid ’60s, and

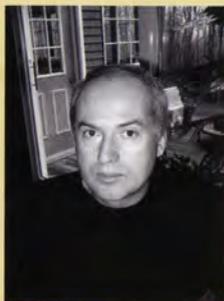
treats as its subject Korean women prostitutes and the abandoned children of American GI’s. She writes realistically of poverty and survival, and boldly addresses themes of racism, heritage, Korean-American womanhood, child prostitution, and American consumerism. Nora Okja Keller lives in Hawaii with her husband and two daughters.

AMITAVA KUMAR was born in Ara, Bihar, and grew up in Patna. Amitava Kumar works in the genres of poetry, journalism, film, photography and criticism. His art links these in an exploration of postcolonial theory, immigration, exile and global identity. He also draws on his personal experience as an immigrant and the struggles in the life of an immigrant writer. He created the film *Pure Chutney*, and is the author of the novel *Bombay-London-New York*, the memoir *Passport Photos*, and the poetry collection *No Tears for the NRI*. Kumar’s awards include an Outstanding Book of the Year citation from the Myers Program for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights in North America, and a Barach Fellowship. He has also received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Yale University, SUNY-Stony Brook, Dartmouth College, and University of California-Riverside.



AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL

was born in Chicago in 1974 to an Indian father and a Filipina mother. She received the BA in English and the MFA in poetry and creative nonfiction from Ohio State University. She is the author of *Fishbone*, and was the Middlebrook Poetry Fellow at the Institute for Creative Writing at the University of Wisconsin. She is currently assistant professor of English at the State University of New York in Fredonia. Of her most recent book, *Miracle Fruit* (Tupelo Press Judge’s Prize in Poetry), former Poet Laureate of the United States Billy Collins says “... Nezhukumathil is able to handle serious subjects with the lightest of touches. Her edgy humor and keen eye keep her poems buoyant and fresh.”

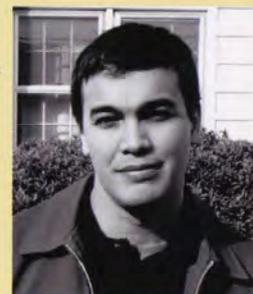


JOSIP NOVAKOVICH moved to the U.S. from Croatia at the age of 20. His work depicts the struggles of immigrants as well as his own experience. Writing in multiple genres (fiction and nonfiction), Novakovich explores social diversity, cultural dissolution, and the struggles of writing in a second language. His most recent work includes the novel *April Fool’s Day*, the short story collection *Yolk*, and the nonfiction collections *Apricots from Chernobyl* and *Plum Brandy: Croatian Journeys*. Novakovich has received the Whiting Writer’s Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and other citations.

received the Whiting Writer’s Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and other citations.

JON PINEDA was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and raised in Chesapeake, Virginia. Jon Pineda utilizes his identity as an American coming to terms with the Filipino culture of his family. His work is about love and loss, cultural identity, fragmented relationships, and longing for family. Jon’s first book, *Birthmark*, won the 2003 Crab Orchard Award Open Competition Series in Poetry from the Southern Illinois University Press.

Pineda has been awarded a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. His poems have been published in the literary reviews *Many Mountains Moving*, the *Asian Pacific American Journal*, *Puerto del Sol*, and others. He lives in Norfolk with his wife and two children.



Poet, fiction writer, scholar and translator **WANG PING** was born in China, and came to the U.S. in 1985. Her most recent publications include *The Magic Whip*, *Aching for Beauty: Footbinding in China*, *Of Flesh and Spirit*, *Foreign Devil*, and *American Visa*. Her work defies the typical boundaries of the universal themes of culture, gender, sexuality and identity.

Among the subjects of her writing are growing up in cultural upheaval, exile, and the tensions between the old and the new China. Ping has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the New York State Council for the Arts, and the Eugene M. Kayden Book Award. She is on the faculty of the English department at Macalester College

President’s Lecture Series speaker **RICHARD RODRIGUEZ’s**

autobiography, *Hunger of Memory*, was greeted with great acclaim upon its publication. His second book, *Days of Obligation: An Argument with my Mexican Father*, was one of three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in the nonfiction category. In his latest work, *Brown: The Last Discovery of America*, he explores the notion of being “brown” in America and of how the emerging culture of multiracial, polyethnic peoples motivated by a variety of interests and educated through the spheres of many cultures, is redefining current notions of minority and majority. Rodriguez is a frequent essayist on “The News Hour” with Jim Lehrer.



NAHID RACHLIN came to the U.S. for college from Iran. After college, she decided to stay, and now resides in New York City. She has published novels and short story collections, including *The Heart’s Desire*, *Married to a Stranger*, and *Foreigner*. Her stories are widely published in national and international journals. Awards and grants include a Double-day-Columbia fellowship, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship, the Bennet Cerf

Award, the PEN Syndicated Fiction Project Award, and a National Endowment for the Arts grant. Rachlin is a strong female voice from an Iranian culture which tends to silence such voices. Her work depicts the abandonment and adoption of culture, the dangers of modernization, the Moslem faith, the freedom of women, the strong and fragile counterparts of individual identity, and the power of home.

TIM SEIBLES has published six books of poetry: *Hammerlock*, *Ten Miles an Hour*, *Kerosene*, *Hurdy-Gurdy*, *Body Moves* and *Buffalo Head Solos* (2004). Seibles' poetry focuses on the alienation of non-whites in America. He examines a world that is dominated by an uneven control of power, and yet in his work, Seibles dares to hope in reconciliation, freedom and connection. For his work he has received the following grants and awards: The Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center fellowship, the National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and an Open Voice Award from the National Writer's Voice Project. Seibles teaches with the MFA Creative Writing Program at ODU.



BRIAN SILBERMAN's play *Manifest* premiered in 1999 at the Portland Stage Company, and went on to win the Clauder Prize and the Pinter Prize for Drama. Frustrated by the typical depiction of the Holocaust in which Jews are victimized and saved by someone from the dominant culture, Silberman's play tells a different story: *Manifest* shows the Jews in concentration camps performing cabarets, songs and

skits. Silberman combines the atmosphere of vaudeville and the music of a klezmer band to depict the subversive and resistant spirit of the Jews. His other plays include *Walkin' Backward*, *Feral Music*, *Sugar Down Billie Hoak*, and *Half Court*. *Walkin' Backward* was cited in *Best Short Plays of 2001*. He has also been the recipient of awards from Arena Stage, the American Alliance for Theatre Education, the Kennedy Center, and the Poet's Theatre.

VIRGIL SUAREZ is a professor in the MFA Creative Writing Program at Florida State University. He received his MFA from Louisiana State University in 1987. Suarez, born in Cuba in 1962, specializes in creative writing (fiction and poetry) and Latino/a (especially Cuban/American) literature. He has written over 15 books of poetry and prose including *90 Miles: Selected & New Poems* (forthcoming in 2005); *The Soviet Circus Visits*

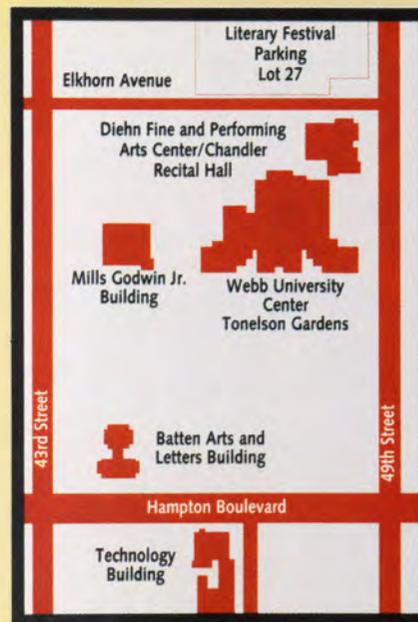


Havana & Other Stories; *Landscapes & Dreams*; *Vespers: Spirituality in America*; and *Guide to the Blue Tongue*. Honors include the 2002 MacArthur Poetry Prize, the Book Expo America/Latino Literature Hall of Fame Poetry Prize, several Pushcart Prize nominations, and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.



CECILIA VICUÑA is a Chilean poet, visual and solo performance artist and film maker, and the author of 14 poetry books published in Europe, Latin America and the U.S. She has performed and exhibited her work at national and international venues including the University of Cambridge Contemporary Poetry Conference, the Museum of Modern Art, the Palais des

Beaux Arts in Brussels, the Tucher Literary Salon in Berlin, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid, the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London, and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh. She has an MFA from the University of Chile in Santiago and she did her postgraduate work at the Slade School of Fine Arts, University College, London. Vicuña has received many honors including the Pennies from Heaven Award and the Human Rights Award from the Fund for Free Expression. Her poetry has been widely anthologized, most recently in *The Book of the Book*, edited by Jerome Rothenberg and Steve Clay, and *Poems for the Millennium*, edited by Jerome Rothenberg and Pierre Joris. Recent publications are *Instan*; *El Templo*; and *QUIPOem/The Precarious: The Art and Poetry of Cecilia Vicuña*, edited by M. Catherine de Zegher and translated by Esther Allen.



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.

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Special Appreciation -- Old Dominion University thanks Mrs. Edie White for her longtime support of creative endeavors, in particular for establishing an endowment for the Literary Festival in memory of her husband, Dr. Forrest P. White

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4

10:00 - 11:30 am:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Mireille Desjarlais-Heyneman and Ron Heyneman
with special participation of President Roseann Runte

1:30 - 3:00 pm:

Hampton/Newport News Room, Webb Center
Creative Writing Workshop for youth from area schools,
facilitated by Virgil Suarez and Cecilia Vicuña
and the ODU Creative Writing Program

5:00 - 6:00 pm:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Virgil Suarez

6:00 - 7:30 pm:

Lobby, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Opening Reception and Booksignings

7:30 - 8:30 pm:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Cecilia Vicuña

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

10:00 - 11:00 am:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
Nahid Rachlin

3:00 - 4:30 pm:

Hampton/Newport News Room, Webb Center
Tim Seibles and Brian Silberman

8:00 - 9:30 pm:

Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center
co-sponsored by the Office of International Programs
Josip Novakovich

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

10:00 - 11:00 am:

Hampton/Newport News Room, Webb Center
Fred D'Aguiar

12:30 - 2:00 pm:

Hampton/Newport News Room, Webb Center
Panel on Alternate Diasporas, featuring
Fred D'Aguiar, Wang Ping, and Josip Novakovich