

35th Annual Writers Week Conference  
February 7 - 10, 2012

## Writers Week Readers

Charmaine Craig

Ben Ehrenreich

Michael Jaime-Beccera

Susan Straight

Jacqueline Winspear

B.H. Fairchild

Bonnie Bolling

Frank Gaspar

Christine Kitano

Derek McKown

Mark Jarman

Garret Hongo

Alexander Long

Polly Bee

Gary Young

Diane Wakoski



**Tuesday, February 7th— INTS1128**

- 1:00 Charmaine Craig (fiction)
- 2:30 Ben Ehrenreich (nonfiction)
- 4:00 Michael Jaime-Becerra (fiction)
- 5:00 Susan Straight (Stephen Minot Memorial Reading)

**Wednesday, February 8th— INTS1128**

- 1:00 Jacquelin Winspear (fiction & nonfiction)
- 2:30 B.H. Fairchild
- 4:00 Bonnie Bolling (Distinguished Alumni reading)
- 5:00 Frank Gaspar (fiction)

**Thursday, February 9th— INTS1128**

- 1:00 Christine Kitano (Distinguished Alumni reading)
- 2:30 Derek McKown
- 4:00 Mark Jarman
- 5:00 Garret Hongo

**Friday, February 10th— INTS1128**

- 9:30-12:00 Poetry workshop by Christine Kitano (undergraduate students)
- 9:30-12:00 Poetry workshop by Gary Young (graduate students)
- 1:00 Alexander Long
- 2:30 Polly Bee
- 4:00 Gary Young
- 7:30 Diane Wakoski (Keynote reader)

Welcome to UC Riverside's 35th annual Writers Week! This year Writers Week opens featuring several of our own faculty members for a day of fiction and nonfiction. Senior faculty member Susan Straight will give the Stephen Minot Memorial reading and read from her new novel, *Take One Candle Light A Room*. Michael Jaime-Becerra will read from his second novel and from new work. And we are delighted to present new faculty members Charmaine Craig, novelist, and Ben Ehrenreich who will read from his nonfiction.

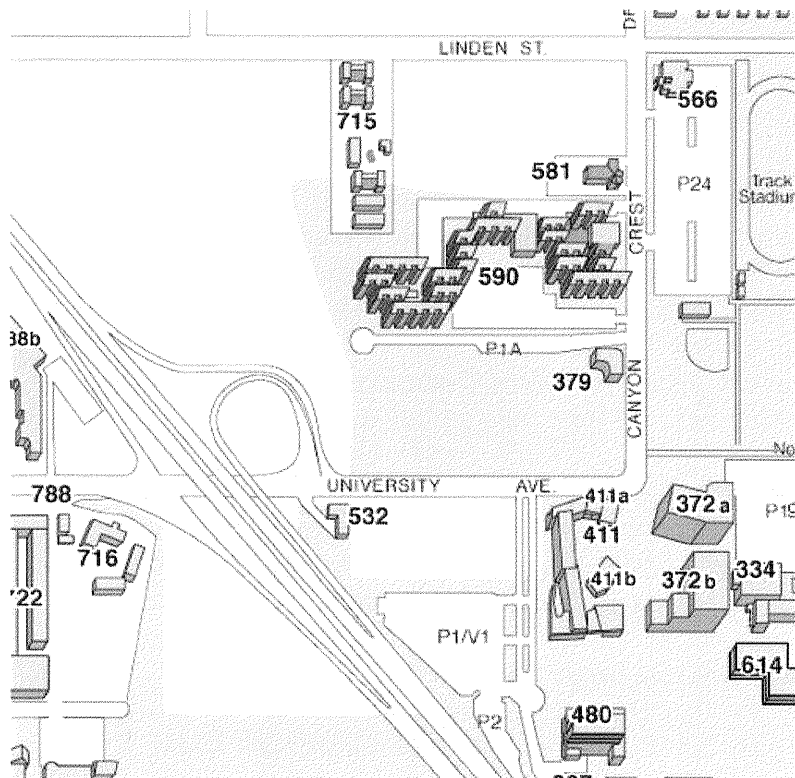
Writers Week is especially fortunate to be able to present Jacqueline Winspear, best-selling author of the Maisie Dobbs Mystery series who will read from her new novel and also speak about character development and the contribution of her nonfiction writing to her fiction. Also on Wednesday the 8th, novelist and poet Frank Gaspar will read from his new novel, *Stealing Fatima*.

Poetry is a main focus this year with Keynote reader Diane Wakoski reading from her 22nd collection *The Diamond Dog*, at 7:30 on Friday evening the 10th. Also this year we are happy to have two distinguished alumni—Bonnie Bolling and Christine Kitano—reading from their first books of poetry as well as our former colleague, Derek McKown reading from his new title, *Arrows in Hand*. Friday will feature prose poetry by Alexander Long, Polly Bee and renown poet Gary Young.

We are also particularly fortunate this year to be able to present major poets Garrett Hongo, B.H. Fairchild, and Mark Jarman reading from new books: *Coral Road*; *Usher*; and *Bonfires: New & Selected*

All of our writers at Writers Week are happy to participate in a Q & A after their readings, sign books, and respond to the audience. We encourage everyone who can to take advantage of this exceptional gathering of writers and to join us February 7th to 10th for Writers Week!

Christopher Buckley, Director



## Basic Directions to UC Riverside

### FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY

*From the 91 Freeway:* Take CA-91 east to the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

*From the 10 Freeway:* Take the I-10 east to the I-15 south and then to CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

*From the 60 Freeway:* Take the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

### FROM ONTARIO AIRPORT

*From the 10 Freeway:* Take the I-10 east, to the I-15 south and then to the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

*From the 60 Freeway:* Take the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

### FROM ORANGE COUNTY

Take the CA-91 east to the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

### FROM PALM SPRINGS

Take the I-10 west to CA-60 west. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

### FROM SAN BERNARDINO

Take the I-215 south to the CA-60 east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

### FROM SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Take the I-15 north to the I-215 north to the CA-60 west. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. At the second light, take a right onto West Campus Drive.

## Sponsors and Supporters

The Department of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside is especially grateful to the many sponsors of this program, especially Stephen Cullenberg, Ph.D., the Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. We are additionally indebted to the faculty and staff of the Creative Writing Department for their volunteer time and effort. This event is supported by *Poets & Writers, Inc.* through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation. Writers Week also thanks Professor Traise Yamamoto of the Dept. of English for her support.

## Visitor Parking

University visitors may obtain parking permits for \$6 at the Information Kiosks or self-service dispensers. Permits are valid in visitor lots or Gold parking zones. Zones are enforced 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week. Every vehicle, unless otherwise exempt, must display a valid parking permit when parking on UCR property.

## Visiting Writers

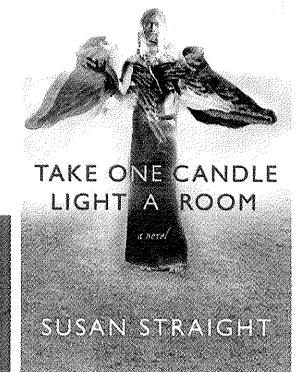
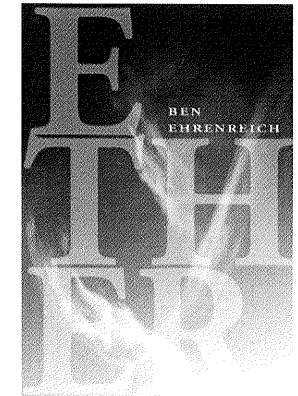
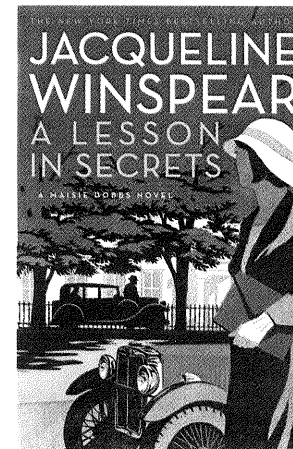
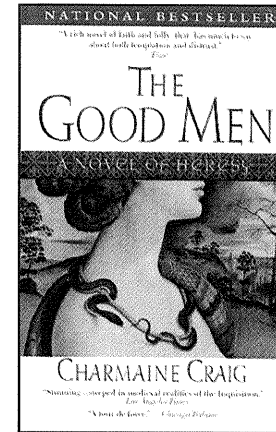
**Charmaine Craig** studied literature at Harvard College, and received her MFA from the University of California, Irvine. *The Good Men* is her first novel. Formerly an actor, she has served as a visiting assistant professor in fiction at Pomona College and UC Irvine. Her second novel, nearing completion, is inspired by the life of her mother, once Miss Burma and leader of an insurgent army brigade.

**Ben Ehrenreich** is the author of two novels, *Ether* and *The Suitors*. His nonfiction work has been published in many publications, including *Harper's*, *The Nation*, the *London Review of Books* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. He was the winner of the 2011 National Magazine Award for feature writing.

**Michael Jaime-Becerra** is a native of El Monte, California, a working-class suburb of Los Angeles. In 2004, his debut collection of inter-related short stories, *Every Night Is Ladies' Night*, was published by Rayo, the groundbreaking Latino imprint of HarperCollins. *Ladies' Night* garnered glowing reviews from critics nationwide and was listed among the year's best books by *The Washington Post* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. It was also awarded a California Book Award for a First Work of Fiction. In 2005, *The California Report*, a statewide radio program, named Jaime-Becerra one of ten Californians to watch in the next decade. His first novel, *This Time Tomorrow*, was published in 2010 by Thomas Dunne Books. Telling the intertwined stories of a single father named Gilbert, his girlfriend Joyce, and his thirteen-year-old daughter Ana, it is a story about the difficult balance between pursuing happiness and respecting family obligations. The *Los Angeles Times* describes the novel as follows: "If John Cheever or William Trevor had spent their early careers living and typing away in a bungalow in the San Gabriel Valley, absorbing its sensations and getting to know its residents, this might be the result." The novel was also awarded an International Latino Book Award. Jaime-Becerra teaches at the University of California, Riverside, where he is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing.

**Susan Straight** will give the Stephen Minot Memorial Reading, honoring the much loved and admired Professor in the Creative Writing Dept. at UCR. Her most recent novel *Take One Candle Light a Room* was named one of the best novels of 2010 by *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *Kirkus*. *Highwire Moon* was a Finalist for the 2001 National Book Award, and *A Million Nightingales* was a 2006 Finalist for the LATimes Book Prize. Her short story "The Golden Gopher," a chapter in the novel, won the 2008 Edgar Award for Best Mystery Story. She has published stories and essays in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Harpers*, *Salon*, *Zoetrope*, *McSweeney's*, *The Believer*, *Black Clock*, and elsewhere. She is Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at UC Riverside. She was born in Riverside, California, where she lives with her family, whose history is featured on [susanstraight.com](http://susanstraight.com).

**Jacqueline Winspear** was born and raised in the county of Kent, England. Following higher education at the University of London's Institute of Education, Jacqueline worked in both general and academic publishing, in higher education and in marketing communications in the UK. She emigrated to the United States in 1990, and while working in business and as a personal/professional coach, Jacqueline became a regular contributor to journals covering international education, as well as publishing magazines articles and recording her essays for KQED radio in San Francisco. In 2003, Jacqueline published her first novel, *MAISIE DOBBS*, which became a National Bestseller, and received an array of accolades, including *New York Times* Notable Book 2003, a *Publishers' Weekly* Top Ten Mystery 2003, and a *BookSense* Top Ten selection. The novel was nominated for 7 awards, including the Edgar for Best Novel – only the second time a first novel has been nominated in this category. She has won the Agatha Award for Best First novel, The Agatha Award for Best Novel, the Macavity Award for Best First Novel; the Alex Award; the Sue Feder Award for Best Historical Mystery, and the Bruce Alexander Memorial Award for Best Historical Mystery. Jacqueline's ninth novel in the series will be published in March 2012. She is also currently completing an essay collection and a novel set in the Second World War.





**Mark Jarman's** most recent collection of poetry is *Bone Fires: New and Selected Poems*. He has also published two books of essays about poetry, *The Secret of Poetry* and *Body and Soul: Essays on Poetry*. His honors include the Lenore Marshall Prize, the Poets' Prize, and a Guggenheim fellowship in poetry. He is Centennial Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at Vanderbilt University. In 2009 he was made an Elector of the Poets' Corner at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

**Garrett Hongo** was born in Volcano, Hawai`i and grew up on the North Shore of O`ahu and in Los Angeles. He was educated at Pomona College, the University of Michigan, and UC Irvine, where he received an M.F.A. His work includes three books of poetry, three anthologies, and *Volcano: A Memoir of Hawai`i*. He is the editor of *The Open Boat: Poems from Asian America* (Anchor) and *Under Western Eyes: Personal Essays from Asian America* (Anchor). Poems and essays of his have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Ploughshares*, *Kenyon Review*, *Georgia Review*, *APR*, *Honolulu Weekly*, *Amerasia Journal*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Raritan*, and the *LA Times*. Among his honors are the Guggenheim Fellowship, two NEA grants, and the Lamont Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets. His latest book of poetry, *Coral Road*, was published by Knopf in Fall 2011. He is presently at work on a book of non-fiction entitled *The Perfect Sound*. He teaches at the University of Oregon, where he is Distinguished Professor of Arts and Sciences.

**Alexander Long** was born and raised in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania, and has worked as a fry cook, dishwasher, obituary writer, musician, and professor. His third book, *Still Life*, won the White Pine Press Poetry Prize for 2011. A chapbook, also titled *Still Life*, won the 2010 Center for Book Arts Chapbook Competition. His previous collections of poems are *Vigil* (New Issues Poetry & Prose, 2006) and *Light Here, Light There* (C & R Press, 2009). With Christopher Buckley, he is co-editor of *A Condition of the Spirit: the Life & Work of Larry Levis* (Eastern Washington UP, 2004). Long's work has appeared in *AGNI*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Blackbird*, *Callaloo*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Pleiades*, *Quarterly West*, *The Southern Review*, and *Third Coast*, among others. Long has received fellowships and grants from The Vermont Studio Center, The Prague Summer Seminars, The City University of New York, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. An assistant professor at John Jay College, CUNY, he lives in Hoboken, New Jersey with his wife Marina Fedosik-Long and three cats.

**Polly Bee:** I'm a poet who lives with two Jack Russells in Ojai, CA, travels with them in RV & been to Alaska & back, crossed the USA a couple of times, & write poetry all the time, now that I'm not working an 8 to 5 at a newspaper or for a politician or raising Morgan Horses & have published a book of poems called "Scattershot," which is the way I've lived my life & what the poems are about.

**Gary Young** is a poet and artist whose honors include grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Vogelstein Foundation, the California Arts Council, and two fellowship grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has received a Pushcart Prize, and his book of poems *The Dream of a Moral Life* won the James D. Phelan Award. He is the author of several other collections of poetry, including *Hands*; *Days*; *Braver Deeds*, which won the Peregrine Smith Poetry Prize; *No Other Life*, winner of the William Carlos Williams Award of the Poetry Society of America; *Pleasure*; and most recently, *Even So: New and Selected Poems*. He is the co-editor of *The Geography of Home: California's Poetry of Place* and *Bear Flag Republic: Prose Poems and Poetics from California*. Since 1975 he has designed, illustrated and printed limited edition books and broadsides at his Greenhouse Review Press. His print work is represented in numerous collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Getty Center for the Arts, and special collection libraries throughout the country. In 2009 he received the Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America. He teaches creative writing and directs the Cowell Press at the University of California Santa Cruz.

**Diane Wakoski**, our keynote speaker, was born in Southern California and educated at UC Berkeley, lived and began her poetry career in New York City from 1960-1973. Since 1975, she has been Poet In Residence at Michigan State University, where she continues to teach as a University Distinguished Professor. Her work has been published in more than twenty collections and many slim volumes of poetry since her first book, *COINS & COFFINS*, was published by Hawk's Well Press in 1962. Her selected poems, *EMERALD ICE*, won the William Carlos Williams prize from the Poetry Society of America in 1989. A new poetry collection, *THE DIAMOND DOG*, was published by Anhinga Press in March 2010.

