

Writers Week

UC RIVERSIDE PRESENTS THE
32ND ANNUAL WRITERS WEEK CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 3 ~ 7, 2009

NON-FICTION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

AMY WALLACE



Amy Wallace is an award-winning journalist. Among the national publications in which her work has appeared are *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *Esquire*, *Men's Journal*, *Elle*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *The Nation* and *Conde Nast Portfolio*, the business magazine where she is a contributing editor. Previously, she spent fourteen years at the *Los Angeles Times*, first as a reporter and later as a Deputy Business Editor over entertainment and technology coverage. She also spent four years as a senior writer at *Los Angeles Magazine*, where her 2001 profile of the editor-in-chief of *Daily Variety*, the entertainment industry's trade paper, was a finalist for both the National Magazine Award and the Gerald F. Loeb Award and took top honors at the City Magazine Association Awards. She has covered politics, higher education and Hollywood, and was a co-recipient at The Times of two staff-wide Pulitzer Prizes (in 1992, for coverage of the Los Angeles riots, and in 1994, for coverage of the Northridge earthquake). She lives in the Hollywood Hills with her eleven-year-old son.

(NON-FICTION SCHEDULE CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

POETRY: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

ELENA KARINA BYRNE



Elena Karina Byrne is an artist, teacher, editor, Poetry Consultant and Moderator for *The Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, former twelve-year Regional Director of the Poetry Society of America, and is now Literary Programs Director for The Ruskin Art Club. She also works on documentaries with Red Car Studios and teaches poetry for the Idyllwild Arts Academy during the academic year. A 2008 Pushcart Prize winner, her many publications include, *The Yale Review*, *Paris Review*, *Tri Quarterly*, *American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, *Barrow Street*, *Poetry Daily Anthology*, and *Best American Poetry 2005*. Her books include *The Flammable Bird* and *MASQUE*.

(POETRY SCHEDULE CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR...



Once again we are graced by a diverse range of writers and poets and journalists, the week promising highlights at every event. I am quite proud to have Writers Week host the Hays Press-Enterprise Lecture, given this year by Walter Isaacson. The former Chairman and CEO of CNN, as well as the former managing editor of *TIME*, Isaacson is also a celebrated biographer, with works exploring the lives of Benjamin Franklin, Henry Kissinger and, most recently, Albert Einstein. In addition, the idea of place is a central theme in the work of many of this year's authors and I look forward to hearing how the places where they come from have impacted their work, how notions of community and history and landscape, of cultures and subcultures, have shaped the writing they will share with us. Patrick Michael Finn is once such writer to have been deeply influenced by place, and I know that he is someone that many in the department are looking forward to seeing once again. While past years have certainly brought important alumni back to campus, this year marks the first official Distinguished Alumnus readings at Writers Week. Finn began his journey toward publication here at UCR, completing work toward his B.A. in 1997. The winner of Cleveland State University's 2007 Wiley Memorial Novella Contest, Finn is originally from Joliet, Illinois, and his memories of that hardscrabble, rustbelt landscape certainly make his debut novella, *A Martyr for Suzy Kasasovich*, a gritty and vivid experience for readers. An emerging and original voice to be sure, Finn's readings should not be missed. As always, Writers Weeks events are free to all and offer everyone a unique opportunity to come and meet celebrated and important authors. I do hope to see you here!

Michael Jayme, Director of Writers Week 2009

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...



Welcome to the 32nd edition of Writers Week, one of the longest continuously running celebrations of great writers and great writing anywhere. The Department of Creative Writing is very, very pleased to have you join us in hearing a variety of extraordinarily talented nonfiction and fiction writers, poets and, with our keynote speaker and several other panelists, journalists. The department is pleased this year that we have been able to restore our journalism minor, unique in the University of California system, and Writers Week helps us recognize that happy circumstance. I would like to take this opportunity, too, to thank the Department's staff and faculty for helping to realize this week, and especially Professor Michael Jayme, our director.

Professor Charles Whitney, Chair of Creative Writing

THE HAYS PRESS-ENTERPRISE

LECTURE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

WALTER ISAACSON is the President and CEO of the Aspen Institute. He has been the Chairman and CEO of CNN and the editor of *Time* Magazine. He is the author of *Einstein: His Life and Universe* (2007), *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* (2003),



and *Kissinger: A Biography* (1992) and is the coauthor of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made* (1986). Isaacson was born on May 20, 1952, in New Orleans. He is a graduate of Harvard College and of Pembroke College of Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He began his career at the *Sunday Times of London* and then the *New Orleans Times-Picayune/States-Item*. He joined *Time* Magazine in 1978 and served as

a political correspondent, national editor and editor of new media before becoming the magazine's fourteenth managing editor in 1996. He became Chairman and CEO of CNN in 2001, and then president and CEO of the Aspen Institute in 2003. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, he was appointed by Governor Kathleen Blanco to be the vice-chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. In December 2007, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to be the chairman of the U.S.-Palestinian Partnership, a government and private sector effort to provide economic and educational opportunities for the Palestinian people. He is the Chairman of the Board of Teach for America, and he is on the boards of United Airlines, Tulane University, and Science Service. He is also on the advisory councils of the National Institutes of Health, the National Constitution Center, and the Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. He lives with his wife and daughter in Washington, D.C.

2009 WRITERS WEEK SCHEDULE

◆ Tuesday, February 3rd

Non-Fiction

- 1:00 Amy Wallace
3:00 Gustavo Arellano
5:00 Mark Jenkins

◆ Wednesday, February 4th

Agent Discussion

- 11:00 Betsy Amster

Poetry

- 1:00 Elena Karina Byrne
3:00 Christopher Buckley
5:00 Joseph Stroud

Hays Press-Enterprise Lecture & Writers Week Keynote Speaker at the University Theater

- 7:30 Walter Isaacson

◆ Thursday, February 5th

Writers and Place

- 1:00 *Distinguished Alumnus
Reading: Patrick Michael
Finn*
3:00 Marsha de la O
5:00 Susan Straight
7:30 Panel Discussion on Place

◆ Friday, February 6th

Fiction

- 3:00 Michelle Latiolais
5:00 Gary Phillips

◆ Saturday, February 7th

Fiction at the Riverside Public Library

- 2:00 Patrick Michael Finn

Please note: all events will be held
in the **Interdisciplinary Studies
Building, South 1128 (INTS 1128).**

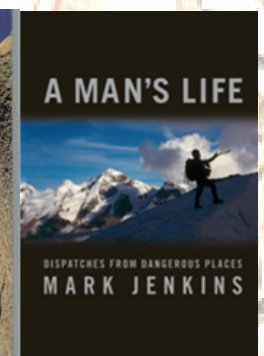
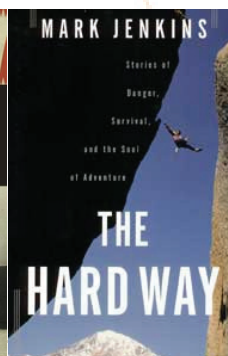
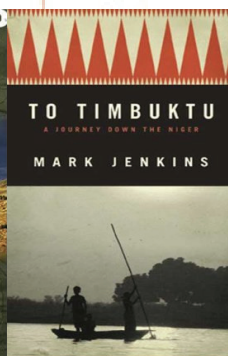
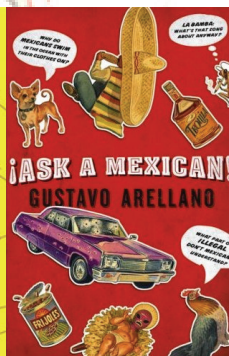
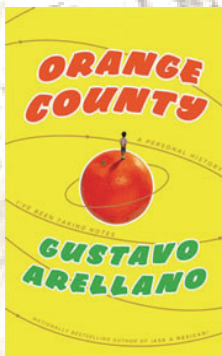
NON-FICTION (CONTINUED)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

Gustavo Arellano is a staff writer with *OC Weekly*, an alternative newspaper in Orange County, California, a contributing editor to the *Los Angeles Times* Op/Ed pages, and frequent guest on Public Radio International's *Weekend America*. He writes "¡Ask a Mexican!", a nationally syndicated column in which he answers any and all questions about America's spiciest and largest minority. The column has a weekly circulation of over two million in thirty-seven newspapers across the United States, won the 2006 and 2008 Association of Alternative Weeklies award for Best Column, and was published in book form by Scribner Press in May 2007. Arellano has been the subject of press coverage in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, Reuters, Mexico City's *El Universal* newspaper, *The Today Show*, *Hannity & Colmes*, *Nightline*, *The New York Times*, *Good Morning America*, *Utne* and *The Colbert Report*. Gustavo was a finalist for the 2005 Maggie Award's Best Public Service Series or Article category for his work on the Catholic Diocese of Orange sex-abuse scandal, a topic for which he was the recipient of the Lilly Scholarship in Religion from the Religion Newswriters Association. Gustavo is also the recipient of the Los Angeles Press Club's 2007 President's Award and an Impacto Award from the National Hispanic Media Coalition, and was recognized by the California Latino Legislative Caucus with a 2008 Spirit Award for his "exceptional vision, creativity, and work ethic." Gustavo lives in Orange County and is the proud son of two Mexican immigrants, one who was illegal.



Mark Jenkins is a field staff writer for *National Geographic Magazine* and the Writer-in-Residence at the University of Wyoming. A critically acclaimed author and internationally recognized journalist, Jenkins covers the globe writing about geopolitical issues, from opium smuggling in Afghanistan to HIV/AIDS in Botswana, ethnic cleansing in Burma to mountaineering in Pakistan. Jenkins' stories have been selected for inclusion in three consecutive *Best American Travel Writing* anthologies. In 2008 Jenkins' won a Maggie for his story about panic in *Backpacker* magazine. In 2006 Jenkins won the Lowell Thomas Award for both Best Adventure Travel Article and Best Environmental Tourism Article. In 2003, Jenkins won the American Alpine Club Literary Award for excellence in alpine literature. In the spring of 2002 Jenkins was awarded the McGaw/Hull Endowed Chair in Literature at the University of Wyoming. Jenkins has twice won the W.A.C. Literature Fellowship (1986, 1989), twice won the Polartec Explorers Award (1990, 1998), and won a Shipton/Tilman Award (2004). Jenkins' most recent book, *A Man's Life*, his second volume of collected works, (published by Modern Times in 2007) won the Banff Mountain Book Festival 2008 Adventure Travel Award. Kirkus says: "Jenkins' superb memory and solid writing chops break him out from the pack of true-life adventure scribes." The *Rocky Mountain News* calls Jenkins' essays "rich with self-examination and descriptions of world-class adventures many people can't even imagine." Jenkins is the author of three previous award-winning books: *The Hard Way*, *To Timbuktu* and *Off the Map*.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

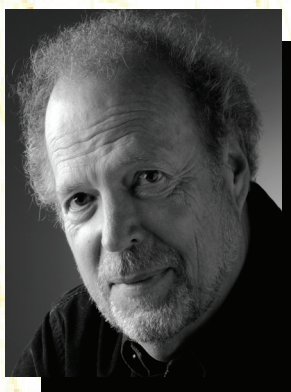
AGENT DISCUSSION



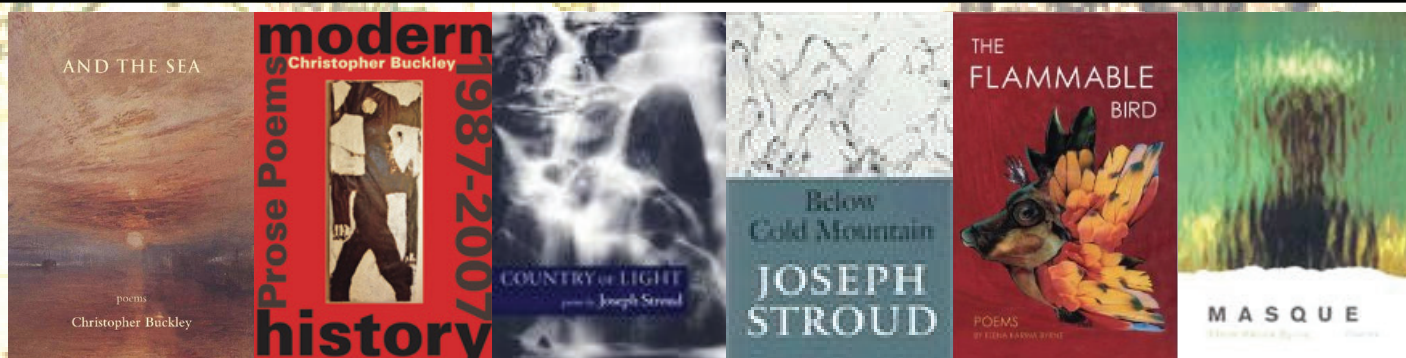
Betsy Amster is President of Betsy Amster Literary Enterprises, a literary agency in Los Angeles. Before opening her agency in 1992, she spent ten years as an editor at Pantheon and Vintage, two divisions of Random House. A frequent instructor at Mediabistro and The Loft, the acclaimed literary center in Minneapolis, Amster has also run workshops at UCLA Extension's Writers' Program, USC's Master's in Professional Writing Program, and at the Squaw Valley Community of Writers. She has been described in the *Los Angeles Times* as "a dogged prospector of ...literary talent" and celebrated in a profile in the American Society of Journalists and Authors newsletter for her "no-nonsense style and whimsical sense of humor." Her clients include *Los Angeles Times* bestseller Maria Amparo Escandón, author of *Esperanza's Box of Saints* and *Gonzalez & Daughter Trucking Co.*; *Los Angeles Times* bestseller Joy Nicholson, author of *The Tribes of Palos Verdes* and *The Road to Esmeralda*; *New York Times* bestseller Dr. Wendy Mogel, author of *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* and the forthcoming *The Blessing of a B Minus*; *Los Angeles Times* bestseller Margaret Leslie Davis, author of *Mona Lisa in Camelot: How Jacqueline Kennedy and Da Vinci's Masterpiece Charmed and Captivated a Nation*; popular "Marketplace" commentator Cash Peters, author of *Naked in Dangerous Places*; cartoonist Carol Lay, author of the graphic memoir *The Big Skinny: How I Lost My Fattitude*; journalist Nancy Spiller, author of *Entertaining Disasters: A Novel with Recipes*; poker expert John Vorhaus, author of the forthcoming novel *Grifter's Roll*; and many others.

POETRY (CONTINUED)

Christopher Buckley is a Guggenheim Fellow in poetry for 2007-2008. His most recent book is *And the Sea* from The Sheep Meadow press in New York. In 2008 his fifteenth and sixteenth books were published: *Modern History: Prose Poems 1987-2007* from Tupelo Press and *Rolling the Bones* from Eastern Washington University Press. Alcatraz Editions published *Bear Flag Republic: Prose Poems and Poetics from California* which he edited with Gary Young. He teaches in the Creative Writing department at the University of California Riverside.



Joseph Stroud was born in 1943 in Glendale, California. He received his B.A. in Literature and Philosophy in 1966 and his M.A. in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University in 1968. He is the author of *In the Sleep of Rivers* (Capra Press, 1974), *Signatures* (BOA Editions, Ltd., 1982), *Below Cold Mountain* (Copper Canyon Press, 1998), *Country of Light* (Copper Canyon Press, 2004), *Of This World: New and Selected Poems* (Copper Canyon Press, 2008), and four limited-edition chapbooks. He taught writing and literature at Cabrillo Community College for thirty-five years and co-hosted *The Poetry Show* on KUSP radio. His work has earned a Pushcart Prize and he is the recipient of the prestigious Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress. His poems have been featured on National Public Radio, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Washington Post*. He divides his time between Santa Cruz and a cabin at Shay Creek in the Sierra Nevada.

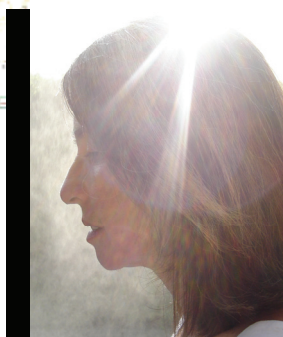


WRITERS AND PLACE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

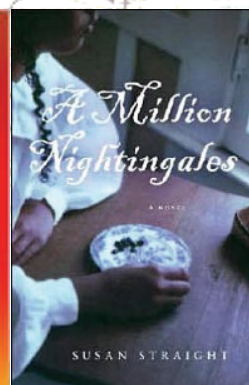
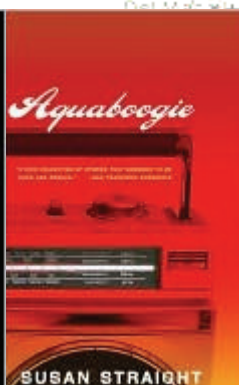
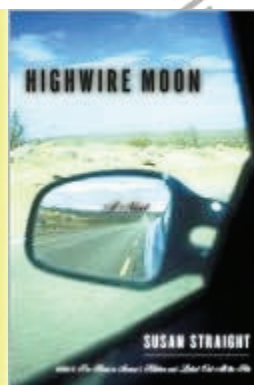
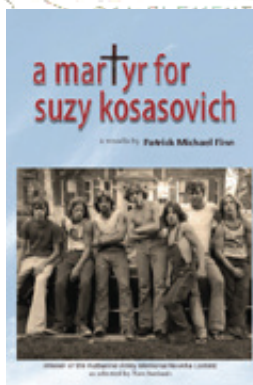
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS READING

Patrick Michael Finn's first book, *A Martyr for Suzy Kosasovich*, was published in 2008 by the Cleveland State University Poetry Center as the winner of the Ruthanne Wiley Memorial Novella Competition. A graduate of UC Riverside's Creative Writing Program, Finn completed his M.F.A. at the University of Arizona, where he was a Dean's Teaching Fellow. A winner of several fiction prizes, including an AWP Intro Award and the *Third Coast* fiction prize, selected by Stuart Dybek, Finn's fiction has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *TriQuarterly*, *Quarterly West*, *Punk Planet*, and Houghton Mifflin's *Best American Mystery Stories 2004*. Finn has taught writing at Western Nebraska Community College and the University of North Carolina, Asheville, where he received the 2005 Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2007, Finn founded and currently coordinates the Creative Writing Program at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Chandler, Arizona.



Marsha de la O's first book of poetry, *Black Hope*, won the New Issues Press Poetry Prize and a Small Press Editor's Choice Award. It has recently gone into a second edition. She is the winner of the dA Poetry Award and the Ventura Poetry Festival Contest. She has published in journals such as *Barrow Street*, *Passages North*, *Solo*, and *Third Coast*. She was raised in the Los Angeles area and now lives in Ventura, California where she is co-editor for the literary journal, *Askew*. She is currently working on a novel.

Susan Straight, Professor of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside, has won the Gold Medal for Fiction from the San Francisco-based Commonwealth Club for her fifth novel, *Highwire Moon*. A National Book Award finalist, *Highwire Moon* details the lives of Serafina, an undocumented Mexican-Indian immigrant torn away from her American-born daughter, Elvia, during an immigration raid. *Highwire Moon* traces their struggle to reunite despite grinding poverty, backbreaking toil, the seamy Southern California subculture of methamphetamine addicts and the foster care system. Straight's other critically acclaimed fiction includes *Aquaboogie*, *I Been in Sorrow's Kitchen* and *Licked Out All the Pots*, *The Gettin' Place*, and *Blacker Than a Thousand Midnights*. She has also written two children's books, *Bear E. Bear* and *The Hallway Light at Night*. Straight sets all her novels in the fictional town of Rio Seco, California, a loose parallel to her hometown, Riverside. Among her awards are the prestigious Lannan Foundation Award in 1999 and a 1997 Guggenheim Fellowship.



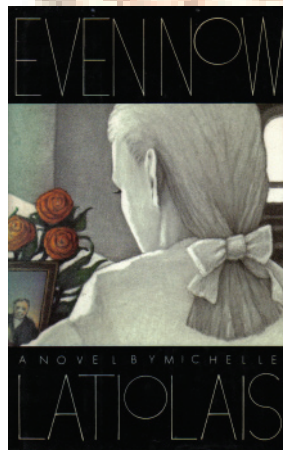
FICTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH



Michelle Latiolais is a Professor of English at the University of California at Irvine. She is the author of the novel *Even Now* which received the Gold Medal for Fiction from the Commonwealth Club of California. Her second novel, *A Proper Knowledge*, was published this last spring by Bellevue Literary Press. She has published writing in three anthologies, *Absolute Disaster*, *Women On The Edge: Writing From Los Angeles* and *Woof! Writers on Dogs*. Her stories and essays have appeared in *Zyzzyyva*, *The Antioch Review*, *Western Humanities Review* and the *Santa Monica Review*. She has work in up-coming issues of the *Iowa Review* and the *Northwest Review*.

Gary Phillips writes crime and mystery tales and more in various media. His current work includes the short story, "The Kim Novak Effect," in a recent issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* and another one, "Blazin' on Broadway" is in the upcoming anthology *Phoenix Noir* from Akashic. He's written a coming-of-age graphic novel called *South Central Rhapsody* under an arts grant as well as a graphic novel about the rise of a criminal boss called *High Rollers* from Boom! Studios. *Freedom's Flight*, a novel about African Americans and World War II is also out now from Parker Publishing. As an editor, he's put together the anthologies *Politics Noir* from Verso, and co-edited the *Darker Mask*, a collection of edgy prose super hero stories from Tor.



LIBRARY READING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

ABOUT THE RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The mission of the Riverside Public Library is to circulate books and other library resources, promote personal competency in seeking and evaluating information, and present quality programs in a welcoming environment to the residents of the City of Riverside so that they may become productive participants in the literate society.

The Riverside Public Library has a history that reaches back to 1888, growing from just a few rooms in the historic Loring Building to a distinguished Mission-Revival Library building financed by Andrew Carnegie to its current system of a Main Library and five branch libraries. Today, the Riverside Public Library serves a fast growing community of approximately 300,000 covering eighty-five square miles. With a collection of approximately 600,000 books and other library materials, as well as 125 public access computers and an annual circulation of 1.2 million, the Riverside Public Library is a major provider of information services and cultural programs in California's Inland Empire.

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a martyr for
suzy kosasovich

a novella by Patrick Michael Finn

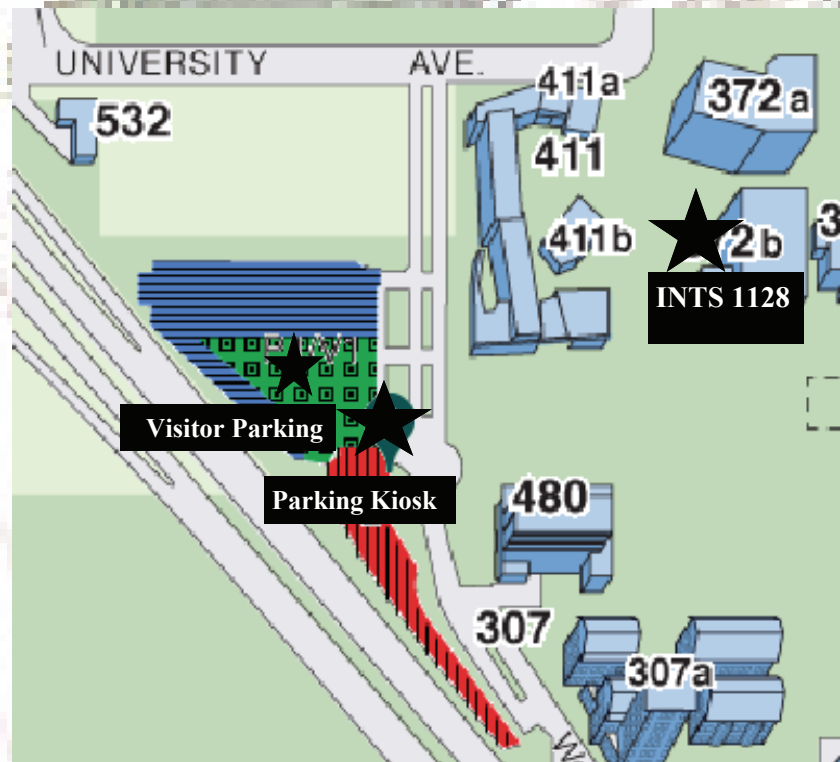


MAPS & DIRECTIONS

HOW TO FIND UCR

From Orange County: From the 91 freeway: Take the 91 freeway east to the 60 freeway east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. Go to the second light and make a right onto Campus Drive. **From Palm Springs:** Take the 10 freeway west to the junction with the 60 freeway and go west. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. Go to the first traffic signal and turn right onto Campus Drive. **From San Bernardino:** Take the 215 freeway south to the junction with the 60 freeway and go east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. Go to the second traffic signal and turn right onto Campus Drive. **From San Diego County:** Take the 15 freeway north to the 215 north and then the 60 freeway west. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. Go to the first light and make a right on Campus Drive. **From Los Angeles County:** **From the 10 freeway:** Take the 10 freeway east to Interstate 15 south and then to the 60 freeway east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. Go to the second light and make a right onto Campus Drive. **From the 60 freeway:** Take the 60 freeway east. Exit at University Avenue and turn left. Go to the second light and make a right onto Campus Drive.

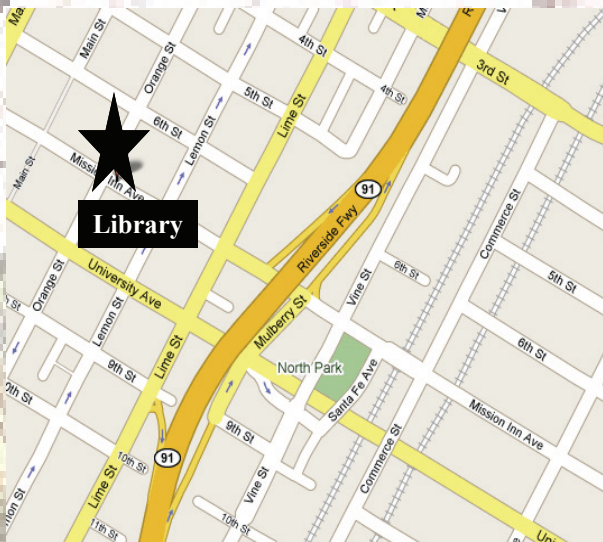
PARKING



PARKING DIRECTIONS

Exit Highway 60 on University Avenue. Take the first right on West Campus Drive into the UCR campus. Parking permits can be purchased at the kiosk. All events are handicapped accessible, open to the public, and free of charge. More information at: <http://parking.ucr.edu>.

TO THE RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY



FROM UCR CAMPUS TO THE LIBRARY

Head south on University Avenue toward Iowa Avenue. Turn right onto Lime Street. Turn left on Mission Inn Avenue.



THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CREATIVE WRITING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ITS MFA STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ON THEIR AMAZING SUCCESSES!

WRITERS WEEK IS A PERFECT VENUE TO CELEBRATE OUR OWN STUDENT BOOKS AND WE PROUDLY SHOW THEM OFF TO THE WORLD.

Books by our students and alumni include:

Poetry

- *Controlled Decay* – Gabriela Jauregi
- *The Heart's Traffic* – Ching-In Chen
- *No Honey for Wild Beasts* – Alba Hacker
- *Clocks We Watch* – Mary Copeland
- *The Lost Country of Sight* – Neil Aitken
- *Letters Through Glass* – Alexis Vergalla
- *The Ravenous Audience* – Kate Durbin

Fiction

- *Drift* – Victoria Patterson

Non-Fiction

- *Lift* – Rebecca O'Connor

MFA Director

Christopher Abani, PhD, Professor



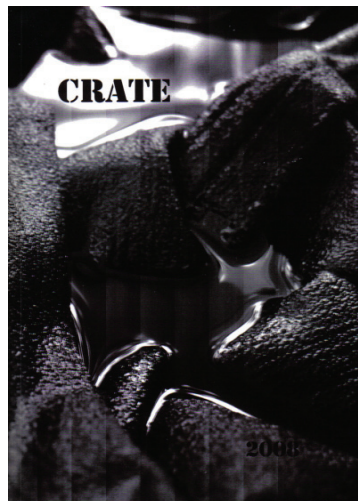
artlit

MOSAIC2008



MOSAIC is an art and literary journal run by the undergraduates of UC Riverside. It began in 1959 as Poetry: UCR and has evolved into a publication that accepts artistic pieces from across the gamut. **Mosaic** accepts submissions during the fall and winter, and publishes a journal each spring.

www.mosaic.ucr.edu



CRATE's mission is to publish a quality and contemporary literary magazine that features emerging and established writers, to provide editorial experience to MFA students, and to serve as an ambassador for the MFA program, all of UC Riverside, and its surrounding community. **CRATE** is now open to submissions of all kinds, poetry, prose and nonfiction.

www.crate.ucr.edu

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; the Abraham Polansky Fund; and the Tomás Rivera Endowment. This event is also supported by Poets & Writers Inc. through a grant it has received from the James Irvine Foundation. We are additionally indebted to the faculty and staff of the Creative Writing Department for their volunteer time and effort and also to the programs staff at the Riverside Public Library.

NOTES

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Fiction at the Riverside Public Library
2:00 Patrick Michael Finn



University of California, Riverside
Department of Creative Writing
900 University Avenue, 4146 INTS
Riverside, CA 92521

<http://www.creativewriting.ucr.edu>



*A word is dead
When it is said,
Some say.
I say it just begins
To live that day.*

- Emily Dickinson