

## About the Festival

Western Carolina University's Visiting Writers Series, the oldest such series in North Carolina, has a long tradition of bringing the best of both established and emerging literary talent to the mountains of Western North Carolina. While the area has a rich literary heritage all its own, the festival seeks to secure that heritage's place on the nation's literary stage by bringing local and national writers together.

## Festival Schedule

### Monday, March 26

2:00 pm WPA Talks, Films, Readings

7:30 pm **Fleda Brown, Catherine Carter**

### Tuesday, March 27

2:00 pm **R.T. Smith**

7:30 pm **Nick Taylor**

### Wednesday, March 28

2:00 pm **Tanure Ojaide**

7:30 pm **Gish Jen**

### Thursday, March 29

12:00 pm Authors panel featuring **Tanure Ojaide, Farnoosh Moshiri, Charles Baxter, and Catherine Carter**

2:00 pm **Farnoosh Moshiri**

5:00 pm Wine and hors d'oeuvres reception

7:00 pm **Charles Baxter**

**WESTERN**  
CAROLINA UNIVERSITY  
Department of English  
Cullowhee, NC 28723

All events are free and open to the public.  
All events take place in the **UC Theater**.

W E S T E R N C A R O L I N A U N I V E R S I T Y

## *fifth annual* Spring Literary Festival *march 26–29, 2007*



Quilt Breadhead (American, 1901–2002), Charles Baxter, 1935, oil on canvas, collection Fine Art Museum, Western Carolina University, gift of the artist

*“Words ought to be  
a little wild.”*

—John Maynard Keynes

## Charles Baxter

Fiction writer Charles Baxter's many works include *Harmony of the World*, which won the Associated Writing Programs Award for Short Fiction; *Through the Safety Net*; *First Light*; *A Relative Stranger*; *Shadow Play*; *Believers*, a collection of stories and a novella; *The Feast of Love*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award and which has just been filmed for an autumn 2007 release; *Saul and Patsy*; and *Burning Down the House: Essays on Fiction*. He has received countless awards, including fellowships from the NEA, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. His work has been selected five times for *The Best American Short Stories*.



## Fleda Brown

Fleda Brown won the Felix Pollak Prize for her newest collection of poems, *Reunion*. She is the author of five previous collections, most recently *The Women Who Loved Elvis All Their Lives*. Her others are *Fishing With Blood* (winner of the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writer's Award), *Do Not Peel the Birches*, *The Devil's Child*, and *Breathing In, Breathing Out* (winner of the Philip Levine Prize).



She is retired from the University of Delaware and is on the faculty of the Rainier Writing Workshop, a low-residency MFA program at Pacific Lutheran University. She is poet laureate of Delaware.

## Catherine Carter

Catherine Carter is the coordinator of the English education program at Western Carolina University. With a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware, she teaches English education, American literature, and creative writing. Her first book, *The Memory of Gills*, was published by LSU Press in 2006; her work has been nominated for several national awards and has appeared in such publications as *Poetry*, *Main Street Rag*, *Cider Press Review*, and *Louisville Review*. In a recent review, Caron Andregg heralded *The Memory of Gills* as "an astonishing first book from a writer of great craftsmanship and profound depth."



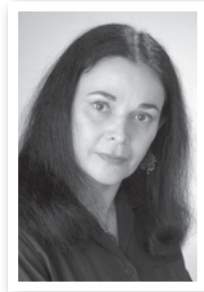
## Gish Jen

*Kirkus Reviews* describes Chinese-American author Gish Jen's most recent publication, *Who's Irish? And Other Stories*, as a "sharp-eyed debut collection of eight stories examining American life from a foreigner's perspective." Her first novel, *Typical American*, was a *New York Times* notable book of the year and a finalist for the National Book Critics' Circle award. The *Los Angeles Times* called her second novel, *Mona in the Promised Land*, one of the ten best books of 1996. Jen's stories have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *New York Times*, as well as in many textbooks and anthologies, including *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, edited by John Updike. She has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Bunting Institute, the Lannan Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



## Farnoosh Moshiri

Iranian-born fiction writer Farnoosh Moshiri published her work in Iranian literary magazines before the 1979 revolution and in anthologies published outside Iran in the 1980s. In 1983 she fled her country after a massive arrest of secular intellectuals, feminists, and political activists. Her novels and collections include *At the Wall of Almighty*; *The Bathroom*; *The Crazy Dervish and the Pomegranate Tree*, and *Against Gravity*. Among other awards and fellowships, she is the recipient of the Barbara Deming Award, a grant to feminist writers whose work speaks of peace and social justice; two consecutive Black Heron Awards for Social Fiction; and the Valiente Award from *Voices Breaking Boundaries*. Her novels have been translated into several languages.



## Tanure Ojaide

Renowned African poet Tanure Ojaide has won major national and international poetry awards, including the Commonwealth Poetry Prize for the Africa Region and UNC Charlotte's First Citizens Bank Scholar Medal Award. His fourteen poetry publications include *Labyrinths of the Delta*; *The Fate of Vultures*; *The Blood of Peace*; *Daydream of Ants*; *Delta Blues & Home Songs*; and *Invoking the Warrior Spirit: New and Selected Poems*. Besides four books of literary criticism, he has published two novels (*Sovereign Body* and *The Activist*); a collection of short stories; and a memoir, *Great Boys: An African Childhood*. He is currently the Frank Porter Graham Professor of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.



## R.T. Smith

Rod Smith's collections of stories are *Faith* and *Uke Rivers Delivers*, selections of which have appeared in *Best American Short Stories*, *Pushcart Prize*, *New Stories from the South*, and *Best American Mystery Stories*. He is working on a novel called *Rock Bridge*. His collections of poetry include *The Cardinal Heart*, *Trespasser*, *Split the Lark*, *Messenger*, *The Hollow Log Lounge*, and *Brightwood*. A new collection is forthcoming from the University of Arkansas Press. He has received the Cohen Prize from *Ploughshares*, the Guy Owen Prize from *Southern Humanities Review*, and the Richard Hugo Prize from *Poetry Northwest*. One of Smith's short stories was in the trio that won the 2006 National Magazine Award in Fiction for *Virginia Quarterly Review*. He has received fellowships from the Alabama State Council for the Arts, the N.E.A., and the Virginia Arts Commission and Arts Council.



## Nick Taylor



Nick Taylor's ten non-fiction books include the *New York Times* best-seller *John Glenn: A Memoir*, on which he collaborated with the astronaut and former Senator; *Laser: The Inventor, the Nobel Laureate, and The Thirty-Year Patent War*; *In Hitler's Shadow*; *Sins of the Father*, a story of a Mafia family in the federal Witness Protection Program; and *Bass Wars*, about the wild early days of the pro bass fishing circuit. His memoir of concern and care for his aging parents, *A Necessary End*, was called by the *Washington Post* "one of the key stories of our time." His narrative history of the Works Progress Administration will be published by Bantam in 2008. Nick Taylor is a native of western North Carolina and a graduate of WCU. He lives in New York City.



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