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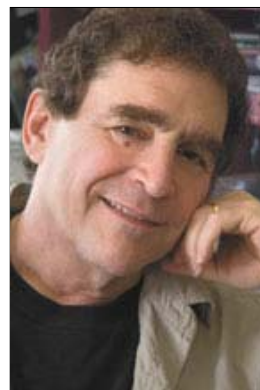


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## Kostova, Weisman to speak at WCU Literary Festival



**Kostova**



**Weisman**

The ninth annual Spring Literary Festival at Western Carolina University will be held Sunday, April 3-Thursday, April 7, featuring best-selling authors Elizabeth Kostova and Alan Weisman, as well as established and emerging literary talents.

All Spring Literary Festival events take place in the theater of Hinds University Center, unless otherwise noted. Authors will sign their works after each reading.

Kostova, author of “The Historian” and “The Swan Thieves,” will read and take questions at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 3, in Illusions, in the University Center. “The Historian,” a tale of three generations of historians on the track of the original Dracula, was the fastest-selling debut novel in American publishing history. Rob Neufeld, book critic for the Asheville Citizen-Times, will moderate a live Web simulcast of the event to allow remote viewer participation.

Weisman is the author of “The World Without Us” a New York Times best-seller that was named best nonfiction book of 2007 by both Time Magazine and Entertainment Weekly. The book, translated into 30 languages, explores the fate of the natural and manmade environment should humans suddenly disappear. Weisman will read and speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7, in the recital hall of WCU’s Coulter Building.

Three former N.C. poets laureate, Fred Chappell, Kay Byer and Cathy Smith-Bowers, will be honored just prior to the Weisman reading during a 5:30 p.m. reception April 7 in Illusions, with each reading from his or her work. Those planning to attend should R.S.V.P. for the reception (for individuals 21 and older) by Thursday, March 24, to Sherri Roper at 227-3268 or slroper@wcu.edu.

This year’s other festival authors are:

Delana Dameron, whose debut collection “How God Ends Us” won the 2008 South Carolina Poetry Book Prize.

David Gessner, author of six books of literary nonfiction, including “Sick of Nature,” “Soaring with Fidel” and “Return of the Osprey,” which was chosen as one of the top 10 nonfiction books of the year in 2001 by the Boston Globe.

Don Lee, author of two novels, “Wrack and Ruin” and “Country of Origin,” as well as a story collection, “Yellow.”

Bret Lott, best-selling author of 12 books, most recently the novel “Ancient Highway,” as well as “Jewel,” an Oprah Book Club pick.

Lee Martin, author of the novels “The Bright Forever,” a finalist for the 2006 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction; “River of Heaven”; “Quakertown”; and the forthcoming “Break the Skin.”

Ginger Murchison, founder of Georgia Tech’s poetry program and reading series whose first collection of poems, “Out Here,” was published in 2008.

Susan Vreeland, author of several art-related novels, including the “Girl in Hyacinth Blue,” which was made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame production in 2003. The book traces an alleged Vermeer painting through the centuries,

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revealing its influence on those who possessed it.

Frank X Walker, author of four poetry collections, “When Winter Come: The Ascension of York,” “Black Box: Poems,” “Buffalo Dance: The Journey of York,” which won the Lillian Smith Book Award in 2004, and “Affrilachia.”

Literary Festival sponsors include WCU’s Visiting Writers Series; Department of English; Arts and Cultural Events Series; Office of the Chancellor; Office of the Provost; Division of Student Affairs; and N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching. The project also received support from the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Visitors may park in any spaces not designated as special-use. For more information, contact Mary Adams, literary festival director, at 227-3270 or madams@wcu.edu or visit the festival website at [www.litfestival.org](http://www.litfestival.org).

Following is a schedule:

#### Sunday, April 3

7:30 p.m., Illusions: Novelist Elizabeth Kostova, author of “The Historian” and “The Swan Thieves,” in a moderated audience Q&A.

#### Monday, April 4

Noon, U.C. Theater: Gilbert Chappell poetry reading (student poets).

4 p.m., U.C. Theater: Poets Ginger Murchison and Délana Dameron.

7:30 p.m., U.C. Theater: Novelist Don Lee, author of “Wrack and Ruin” and “Country of Origin.”

#### Tuesday, April 5

4 p.m., U.C. Theater: Novelist Lee Martin, author of Pulitzer Prize finalist “The Bright Forever.”

7:30 p.m., U.C. Theater: Bret Lott, author of the Oprah Book Club selection “Jewel.”

#### Wednesday, April 6

4 p.m., U.C. Theater: “Affrilachian” poet Frank X Walker.

7:30 p.m., U.C. Theater: New York Times best-selling author Susan Vreeland, author of “The Girl in Hyacinth Blue.”

#### Thursday, April 7

4 p.m., U.C. Theater: Environmental essayist David Gessner, author of “Return of the Osprey.”

5:30 p.m., Illusions: Reception featuring N.C. Poets Laureate Fred Chappell, Kay Byer and Cathy Bowers. (Must be age 21 and R.S.V.P. required to Sherri Roper at 227-3268 or [sroper@wcu.edu](mailto:sroper@wcu.edu) by today, Thursday, March 24.)

7:30 p.m., Coulter Recital Hall: Alan Weisman, author of “The World Without Us” and producer of the National Public Radio series “Vanishing Homelands.”

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