

1995 Virginia Festival of the Book: Authors' Biographies

Karl Ackerman's first novel, *The Patron Saint of Unmarried Women* (St. Martin's Press), was published in 1994, and will be released in paperback this spring.

Jay Presson Allen is an author, screenwriter, and playwright. She has written numerous films and screenplays, including *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1989), and the highly-praised portrait of Truman Capote, *Tru*.

Lewis M. Allen is a UVA alumnus and chair of the Virginia Festival of American Film Advisory Board. The films he has produced include *The Connection* (1960), *Lord of the Flies* (1963), *Fahrenheit 451* (1966), and *Never Cry Wolf* (1983). Mr. Allen is currently writing a book about the making of *Fahrenheit 451*.

Staige Blackford has been editor of the *Virginia Quarterly Review* since 1975, as well as Special Assistant to the Office of the President at UVA.

Edward Blain is chair of the English Department at Woodberry Forest School. His first novel was nominated for the Edgar Award. His works include *Passion Play* (1990) and *Love Cools* (1992).

Sydney Blair's first novel, *Buffalo* (Viking), won the Virginia Prize for Fiction in 1991. Her recently completed second novel is forthcoming. She administers the MFA Program in Creative Writing at UVA.

Herbert Braun teaches Latin American history at UVA. He is the author of *The Assassination of Gaitan: Public Life and Urban Violence in Colombia* (U of Wisc. P, 1985), and *Our Guerillas, Our Sidewalks: A Journey into the Violence of Colombia* (UP of Colorado, 1994).

Florence C. Bryant was a classroom teacher in Charlottesville for 31 years, and Assistant Principal at Charlottesville High School. She published *Memoirs of a Country Girl* (Vantage, 1988) for her grandchildren.

Rita Mae Brown's works include *Rubyfruit Jungle*; *Dolley: A Novel of Dolley Madison in Love and War*; Three Sneaky Pie Brown mysteries- *Wish You Were Here*; *Rest in Pieces*; and *Murder at Monticello*.

John Casey's works include *Spartina* (1989), for which he won the 1989 National Book Award, *Testimony and Demeanor* (1979), and *An American Romance* (1977). In 1993, he received a Strauss Living Fellowship. Selected for the new literary map of Virginia.

Rosamond Casey, and artist at the McGuffey Art Center, has been a painter and calligrapher for over 20 years. She holds a BFA from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and teaches courses on "The Art of the Book."

John T. Casteen, III, became the University of Virginia's seventh president in 1990. Mr. Casteen writes short fiction as well as essays and papers in medieval literature, bibliography, and public policy. A collection of his short stories received the 1987 Mishima Award for fiction.

Jonathan Coleman is the author of *Exit the Rainmaker* (Atheneum, 1989) and *At Mother's Request* (Atheneum, 1985). He taught literary journalism at UVA 1986-1993. His new book, *Long Way to Go: Black and White in America*, will be published by Crown in 1996.

John Conover is co-owner of Papercraft Printing and Design, which prints a number of books by local authors.

Emily Couric is a writer specializing in articles and books about the legal profession. Her most recent books include *The Trial Lawyers* (St. Martin's Press, 1988) and *Divorce Lawyers* (St. Martin's Press 1992).

Patrick Cribben teaches playwriting at the UVA Writers Workshop. He received his MFA in Playwriting from UVA in 1989. His plays have won the Southern Playwriting Award, the VA Prize for Playwriting, and the Critics Choice Award at the Festival of Southern Theatre.

Douglas Day is co-director for fiction at UVA's creative writing program. A novelist, biographer, and National Book Award winner, he won the Rosenthal award for the first novel.

Elizabeth Denton currently works at the UVA Commonwealth Center for Literacy and Cultural Change. Her first book of stories, *Kneeling on Rice* (U of Missouri Press), was published in 1994.

R.H. Dillard teaches contemporary literature and creative writing at Hollins College in Roanoke, VA. A poet, novelist, critic, and screenwriter, his most recent poetry collection is *Just Here, Just Now* (Louisiana State U Press, 1994). Selected for the new literary map of Virginia.

Rita Dove, the Commonwealth Professor of English at UVA, is the current Poet Laureate of the U.S. She won the 1987 Pulitzer Prize in poetry for *Thomas and Beulah* (1986). Her works include *The Yellow House on the Corner* (1980), *Museum* (1983), *Grace Notes* (1989), *Fifth Sunday* (1985), *Through the Ivory Gate* (1992), *Selected Poems* (1993), and *The Darker Face of the Earth* (1994).

Deborah Eisenberg teaches Creative Writing at UVA. Her works include the short story collections *Transactions in a Foreign Currency* (Knopf, 1986), *Under the 82nd Airborne* (Farrar, 1992), as well as a play, *Pastorale*.

Cynthia Erkel's first children's book, *The Farmhouse Mouse*, co-authored with her husband Michael, was published by G.P. Putnam in 1994.

Nancy C. Essig has been director of the University Press of Virginia since 1988.

George Garrett is Henry Hoyns Professor of Creative Writing at UVA and Chancellor of the Fellowship of Southern writers. He is the author of 25 books, including poetry, fiction, drama, and criticism, and editor or co-editor of 17 others, including and *The Old Army Game* (Southern Methodist U Press, 1994).

Brenda Burrough Gresham is a storyteller. She works at Stargate and Henrico High School in Richmond and is currently working on a book of children's stories.

Doug Grissom teaches playwriting at UVA. He is the past winner of the VA Prize for Playwriting and co-founder of the Charlottesville Offstage Theatre.

Mary Katherine Hassett has been Manager of Sales and Publicity at the University Press of Virginia for five years.

Fred Hebllich is an attorney and co-author of *Holsinger's Charlottesville, 1890-1925* (Maiden Lane Press, 1978) and *Charlottesville and the University of Virginia: A Pictorial History* (Donning, 1982).

Rodney Kofi Hopson is pursuing a MA in Linguistics and a PhD in Educational Evaluation at UVA. Prior to arriving in Charlottesville in 1994, he spent 3 years teaching English and researching in Namibia.

Doug Hornig's works include *Stinger* (1990). He has published four mysteries, two political thrillers, and one medical thriller. Nominated for both the Edgar and Shamus Awards, he is the winner of the 1994 A. E. Coppard Prize for Fiction.

Ervin L. Jordan Jr. is Assistant Professor and Associate Curator, Special Collections Department, UVA Library. His books include *Charlottesville and the University of Virginia in the Civil War* (Howard, 1988) and *Black Confederates and Afro-Yankees in Civil War Virginia* (University Press of VA, 1995).

Brian Kelly and **Ingrid Smyer-Kelly** founded Montpelier Publishing, and have just published their third "Best Little" book — *Best Little Stories of the Civil War* (Montpelier, 1994). Previous publications include *Best Little Stories of the White House* (Montpelier, 1993) and *Best Little Stories from WWII* (Montpelier, 1989).

Farou Keita is a visiting Fulbright scholar from the Ivory Coast at UVA's Carter G. Woodson Institute. She is the first prize winner of an international children's literary contest for her story "Little Boy Blue" and the first prize winner of the Ivory Coast's 1994 national competition for her story "The Smile Thief."

Phyllis Knight's works include *Switching the Odds* (St. Martin's Press, 1992) — nominated for the Shamus Award for Best First P.I. Novel — and *Shattered Rhythms* (1994). She is currently finishing a work-in-progress, *Lost to Light*, set in the Charlottesville area.

Mary E. Lyons is an award-winning children's book author with over seven books (Scribner's). She has been a teacher and librarian with 23 years experience in the public schools. She was the NEA VA Teacher/Scholar in 1991-92.

Mary Louise Maroney prints and binds limited edition books at the Quarternion private letter press and handbindery.

David Maurer, the senior feature writer for the *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, is the author of the novel, *The Dying Place*.

George Mentore is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at UVA.

Michael Mewshaw received his MA and PhD from UVA. He has written eight novels, including *True Crime* (1991), as well as the nonfiction *Short Circuit: Six Months on the Men's Tennis Tour* (Atheneum, 1983), *Money to Burn: The True Story of The Benson Family Murders* (1987), and *Playing Away: Roman Holidays and Other Mediterranean Adventures* (1988).

Margaret Meyers studies and teaches creative writing at UVA. Her short story collection, *Swimming in the Congo*, will be published in August 1995 by Milkweed Editions.

William Lee Miller is Commonwealth Professor of Political and Social Thought at UVA and author of *The Business of May Next: James Madison and the Founding* (University Press of VA, 1992).

Ellen Contini-Morava is Chair of the Program in Linguistics and Associate Professor of Anthropology at UVA, with a specialization Swahili and other African languages.

Charles Mould's career started with 20 years as an Officer in the Royal Tank Regiment in the British Army. He became Secretary of the Bodleian Library at Oxford, England, in 1980. He was a visiting lecturer in Williamsburg in 1993.

Lisa Newman is a professional actor. She has performed her poetry, accompanied by cellist Claire Williams, at Eastern Standard, Kafkafe, and Live Arts' "Off the Mall."

Joyce Carol Oates, Professor of the Humanities at Princeton, has published numerous novels, short story collections, poetry, plays, and literary criticism. Her most recent works include *Where are You Going, Where Have You Been?: Selected Early Stories* (Braziller, 1993), *Haunted: Tales of the Grotesque* (Dutton, 1994), and *What I Lived For* (Dutton, 1994).

Robert M. O'Neil has been the founding director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression since August 1990, after serving 5 years as President of UVA. His publications include *Free Speech: Responsible Communication Under Law* (Bobbs Merrill, 1972) and *Classrooms in the Crossfire* (Indiana U Press, 1981).

Gregory Orr teaches creative writing at UVA. He is author of several collections of poems, as well as a critical work on Stanley Kunitz. His new book of poems, *City of Salt*, is forthcoming in Spring 1995.

Martha and **Robert Orton** are paper conservationists and book restoration and binding specialists. They own and operate Blue Ridge Book Conservation.

Michael Plunkett is director of Special Collections at the UVA Library. He is author of *Afro-American Sources in Virginia: A Guide to Manuscripts* (print version 1990), published by the University Press of VA, and an electronic version published in 1995 (<http://www.virginia.edu/~press/>).

Amy Pollack, a member of the Boz Art Gallery, is a printmaker, papermaker, and bookmaker. She received her MFA in Book Arts from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA.

Browning Porter is the Poet Laureate of the Prism Coffeehouse and the lead singer of the acoustic trio "The Treefrogs," with guitarist Jeff Romano. His Poetry has been featured on WTJU's "Free Verse," the TV show "Barefoot Excursions," and Live Arts' "Off the Mall."

Kristen Staby Rembold's novel, *Felicity* (1994), was the winner of the Mid-List First Novel Series Award. She is the fiction editor of *IRIS: A Journal About Women*.

Mary Lee Settle, won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1978 for "Blood Tie," her eighth novel. Her works include the Beulah Quintet — *O Beulah land; Know Nothing; Prisons; The Scapegoat*; and *The Killing Ground*, and *Charlie Bland*. In 1994 she received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award.

Robert Graham Small is the director of the Shenandoah Playwrights Retreat, which fosters the development of new plays and playwrights. He is also a director and lighting designer.

Michelle A. Smith currently holds a Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship as a third-year doctoral candidate at UVA.

Mariflo Stephens, a free lance writer, received her MFA from UVA. Most recently, she edited and contributed to the poetry collection *Some Say Tomato* (1993).

Robert A. Strong teaches politics at Washington and Lee and is a visiting professor for 1994-95 at the Miller Center of Public Affairs. His most recent book is *Decisions and Dilemmas: Case Studies in Presidential Foreign Policy Making* (1993).

Beth Sutton is the author of *A Pony for Keeps* (1991), *The Pony Champions* (1992), and *Racing for Keeneland*. She teaches a workshop for writers of children's literature through the UVA School for Continuing Education.

William L. Tazewell is a local writer, critic, and former book reviewer for the *Norfolk Virginia Pilot* and the *Charlottesville Observer*. He recently completed a history of Newport News to be published next year.

Kenneth Thompson teaches government and foreign affairs at UVA, and is Director of the Miller Center of Public Affairs. His most recent books include *Traditions and Values in Politics and Diplomacy* (Louisiana State U Press, 1992) and *Fathers of International Thought* (Louisiana State U Press, 1994).

Beverly Van Hook is the author of the *Super Granny* children's mystery series, about a grey-haired detective who drives a red Ferrari and fights crime.

Maryanne Voller's writing has appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *GQ*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Esquire*, *Time* and many other publications. Her first book, *Ghosts of Mississippi: The Murder of Medgar Evers, The Trials of Bryon De La Beckwith and the Haunting of the New South*, will be published by Little, Brown in April 1995.

Leslie Walker is the author of *Sudden Fury* (1989) and the Maryland editor of *The Washington Post*. She graduated from UVA in 1974.

Charles Wright teaches creative writing at UVA. In 1993 he received a Distinguished Contribution to Letters Award from the Ingram Merrill Foundation and the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize. He has also published over eight volumes of poetry, including *Xiona* (Windhover, 1990), as well as translations and a collection of essays and interviews. Selected for the new literary map of Virginia.

James Sterling Young teaches government at UVA and is the director of the Miller Center of Public Affairs Program on the Presidency. He is author of the Bancroft Prize-winning book *The Washington Community, 1800-1828* (Columbia U Press, 1966).