

**Literature Evenings Series Features Readings  
from Award-Winning Authors, Faculty, and Students**

**Bennington, VT:** [Literature Evenings](#), Bennington College's distinguished Wednesday night readings series, will highlight prestigious authors, faculty members, and student voices during its Spring 2019 series.

All readings begin at **7:00 pm** and are free, open to the public, and will take place in **Franklin House** on the College's [campus](#).

Literature faculty member [Michael Dumanis](#) calls the longstanding series "Bennington's opportunity to showcase new work by Bennington faculty and alumni, as well as some of the region's sharpest emerging poets and prose writers, a complement to our two other series, [Poetry at Bennington](#) and [Bennington Translates](#). This term, the series will feature three current faculty members and two alumni, as well as four acclaimed writers from New York and the Berkshires."

On [Wednesday, February 27](#), poet and fiction writer [Monica Ferrell](#) and poet [Jessica Fisher](#) will read. Ferrell has been a visiting faculty member at Bennington, and directs the creative writing program at Purchase College. Her publications include the poetry collections *You Darling Thing*, longlisted for The Believer Book Award in Poetry, and *Beasts for the Chase*, a finalist for the Asian American Writers Workshop Prize in Poetry, as well as the novel *The Answer is Always Yes*, which was featured on *Booklist's* "Top Ten Debut Novels of the Year." Fisher is the author of *Frail-Craft*, winner of the Yale Younger Poets Prize, and *Inmost*, winner of the Nightboat Poetry Prize. A recipient of the prestigious Rome Prize, she is an associate professor of creative writing at Williams College.

On [Wednesday, March 6](#), Literature Evenings welcomes [Andrea Lawlor](#), who is a lecturer in creative writing at Mount Holyoke College and a fiction editor for the magazine *Fence*, and has been awarded fellowships by Lambda Literary and Radar Labs. Lawlor is the author of the chapbook *Position Papers* (Factory Hollow, 2016), and the novel *Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl* (Rescue Press, 2017), a speculative history of early '90s identity politics during the heyday of ACT UP and Queer Nation, and a finalist for the Lambda Literary and CLMP Firecracker Awards.

On [Wednesday, March 13](#), faculty member [Natalie Scenters-Zapico](#) will read. Scenters-Zapico is the recipient of fellowships from the Lannan Foundation and CantoMundo. She is the author of *The Verging Cities* (Center for Literary Publishing 2015), winner of the

PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award, Great Lakes Colleges Association Award, National Association of Chicana/o Studies Book Award, and the Utah Book Award. Her second book of poems is the forthcoming *Lima: Limón* (Copper Canyon Press, 2019).

On [Wednesday, March 20](#), alumni [Joseph Grantham '16](#) and [Catherine Pikula '13](#) return to campus for Literature Evenings. Grantham is the author of the poetry collection *Tom Sawyer* (Civil Coping Mechanisms, 2018). A former bookseller at McNally Jackson and City Lights, he runs the independent publisher Disorder Press and writes for *The Nervous Breakdown*. Pikula is the author of the prose chapbook *I'm Fine. How Are You?* (Newfound, 2018), winner of the Newfound Prose Prize. Her writing has appeared in *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *Poor Claudia*, *Prelude*, and *Salt Hill*.

On [Wednesday, April 3](#), faculty members [Phillip B. Williams](#) and [Michael Dumanis](#) will read. Williams is the author of *Thief in the Interior*, winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and a Lambda Literary award. He received a Whiting Award and Ruth Lilly Fellowship and is the co-editor of the online journal *Vinyl*. Michael Dumanis, the editor of *Bennington Review* and the director of Poetry at Bennington, is the author of the poetry collection *My Soviet Union*, winner of the Juniper Prize for Poetry, and coeditor of the younger poets' anthology *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century*.

On [Wednesday, May 15](#), Literature Evenings welcomes [Salvatore Scibona](#). He is the author of two novels, *The Volunteer* (Penguin, 2019) and *The End* (Graywolf Press, 2008), a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the Young Lions Fiction Award. His work also appears in *A Public Space*, *Harpers*, and *The New Yorker*, and has been recognized with a New York Public Library Cullman Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Writers' Award, an O. Henry Award, and a Pushcart Prize.

The Literature Evenings series concludes with two events led by Bennington students. The reading on [Wednesday, May 22](#) will showcase Bennington seniors who have completed a creative or critical thesis, and the reading on [Wednesday, May 29](#) features fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction by current Bennington students.

Literature Evenings are a hallmark of Bennington College's active literary community. Literature and writing at Bennington are grounded in the idea that good writers are by definition good readers. Students discover that the act of writing is a conversation with other writers, past and present; that analysis is artful and imaginative; that creative writing is rigorous and thoughtful.

Bennington College aims to develop students' aptitude for critical thinking, analytical reading, scholarly writing, literary translation, and creative writing by engaging them in the concentrated study of a broad range of literary works and styles from antiquity to the present.

### About the Authors

**Michael Dumanis** is the author of the poetry collection *My Soviet Union* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), winner of the Juniper Prize for Poetry, and coeditor (with poet Cate Marvin) of the younger poets' anthology *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century* (Sarabande, 2006). His poems have appeared in journals such as *American Letters and Commentary*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Epoch*, *New England Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *Verse*. His writing has been recognized with residencies at Yaddo, Headlands Center for the Arts, and the Civitella Ranieri Center in Umbertide, Italy; a 2012 Creative Workforce Fellowship from the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture; fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the James Michener Foundation, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Wesleyan Writers' Conference; and a grant from the Ohio Arts Council. He is the director of [Poetry at Bennington](#).

**Monica Ferrell** has published two books of poetry and one novel. *You Darling Thing* (Four Way, 2018) is longlisted for The Believer Book Award in Poetry and recommended in *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Millions*. *Beasts for the Chase* (Sarabande, 2008) was a finalist for the Asian American Writers Workshop Prize in Poetry. *The Answer Is Always Yes* (Random House) was featured on *Booklist's* "Top Ten Debut Novels of the Year." The recipient of Civitella Ranieri Foundation and the MacDowell Colony residencies, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship, and a Discovery/The Nation Prize, she has taught fiction and poetry for the MFA Program at Columbia University, comparative mythology at Bennington College, and is Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Purchase College (SUNY).

**Jessica Fisher** is the author of *Frail-Craft*, winner of the 2006 Yale Younger Poets Prize, and *Inmost*, winner of the 2011 Nightboat Poetry Prize. Her poems appear in such journals as *The American Poetry Review*, *The Believer*, *McSweeney's*, *The New Yorker*, and *Tin House*, and her translations have been published in *The New York Review of Books* and *The Paris Review*. A 2012-13 recipient of the Rome Prize, she is an associate professor of creative writing at Williams College.

**Joseph Grantham '16** is the author of the poetry collection *Tom Sawyer* (Civil Coping Mechanisms, 2018). A former bookseller at McNally Jackson and City Lights, he runs the

independent publisher Disorder Press with his sister, writes for *The Nervous Breakdown*, and lives in Woodland, North Carolina, a town of 800, where he works in a pharmacy.

**Andrea Lawlor** is a visiting lecturer in creative writing at Mount Holyoke College and a fiction editor for the magazine *Fence*, and has been awarded fellowships by Lambda Literary and Radar Labs. Their writing has appeared in *The Brooklyn Rail*, *jubilat*, *The Millions*, and *Ploughshares*. Lawlor is the author of the chapbook *Position Papers* (Factory Hollow, 2016), and the novel *Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl* (Rescue Press, 2017), a speculative history of early '90s identity politics during the heyday of ACT UP and Queer Nation, and a 2018 finalist for the Lambda Literary and CLMP Firecracker Awards.

**Catherine Pikula '13** is the author of the prose chapbook *I'm Fine. How Are You?* (Newfound, 2018), winner of the 2018 Newfound Prose Prize and Chapbook Contest. She holds an MFA in poetry from NYU, and works as a executive assistant at the Center for Capitalism and Society at Columbia University. Her writing has appeared in *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *Poor Claudia*, *Prelude*, *Salt Hill*, and elsewhere. She has also worked as a teaching artist with Teachers & Writers Collaborative and completed the Teaching Artist Training and Internship Program with Community Word Project.

[\*\*Natalie Scenters-Zapico\*\*](#) is the recipient of fellowships from the Lannan Foundation and CantoMundo. She is the author of *The Verging Cities* (Center for Literary Publishing 2015), winner of the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award, Great Lakes Colleges Association Award, National Association of Chicana/o Studies Book Award, and the Utah Book Award. Her second book of poems is *Lima: Limón* (Copper Canyon Press, 2019). Scenters-Zapico joined the Bennington faculty in Fall 2018. As of 2019, she will be a professor at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

**Salvatore Scibona** is the author of two novels, the newly-released *The Volunteer* (Penguin, 2019) and *The End* (Graywolf Press, 2008), a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the Young Lions Fiction Award. His work also appears in such journals as *A Public Space*, *Harpers*, and *The New Yorker*, and has been recognized with a New York Public Library Cullman Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Writers' Award, an O. Henry Award, and a Pushcart Prize. In 2010, *The New Yorker* named him one of the "20 Under 40" fiction writers to watch. He is the Sue Ann and John Weinberg Director of the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library.

[Phillip B. Williams](#) is a Chicago, IL native and author of *Thief in the Interior*, winner of the 2017 Kate Tufts Discovery Award and a 2017 Lambda Literary award and finalist for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature (Poetry). He received a 2017 Whiting Award, 2013 Ruth Lilly Fellowship, and a Kenyon Review Writers Workshop fellowship. Williams is the co-editor in chief of the online journal *Vinyl*. He was a visiting faculty member at Bennington for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 academic years and joins as faculty in Fall 2018.

### Literature Evenings Spring 2019

Dates and times are subject to change. Please check [www.bennington.edu/events](http://www.bennington.edu/events) for the most up-to-date information. Events are free, open to the public, and take place on [Bennington College's campus](#).

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Wed. Feb. 27 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm

[Reading: Monica Ferrell and Jessica Fisher](#)

Franklin House

Monica Ferrell's *You Darling Thing* (Four Way, 2018) is longlisted for The Believer Book Award in Poetry. *Beasts for the Chase* (Sarabande, 2008) was a finalist for the Asian American Writers Workshop Prize in Poetry. *The Answer Is Always Yes* (Random House) was featured on *Booklist's* "Top Ten Debut Novels of the Year."

Jessica Fisher is the author of *Frail-Craft*, winner of the 2006 Yale Younger Poets Prize, and *Inmost*, winner of the 2011 Nightboat Poetry Prize.

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Wed. March 6 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm

[Reading: Andrea Lawler](#)

Franklin House

Andrea Lawlor is a visiting lecturer in creative writing at Mount Holyoke College and a fiction editor for the magazine *Fence*, and has been awarded fellowships by Lambda Literary and Radar Labs.

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Wed. March 13 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm

[Reading: Natalie Scenters-Zapico](#)

Franklin House

Natalie Scenters-Zapico is the recipient of fellowships from the Lannan Foundation and CantoMundo. She is the author of *The Verging Cities*, winner of the PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award, Great Lakes Colleges Association Award, National Association of Chicana/o Studies Book Award, and the Utah Book Award. Her second book of poems is *Lima: Limón*.

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Wed. March 20 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm

[Reading: Joseph Grantham '16 and Catherine Pikula '13](#)

Franklin House

Joseph Grantham '16 is the author of the poetry collection *Tom Sawyer* (Civil Coping Mechanisms, 2018).

Catherine Pikula '13 is the author of the prose chapbook *I'm Fine. How Are You?* (Newfound, 2018), winner of the 2018 Newfound Prose Prize and Chapbook Contest.

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Wed. April 3 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm

[Reading: Phillip B. Williams and Michael Dumanis](#)

Franklin House

Phillip B. Williams is the author of *Thief in the Interior*, winner of the 2017 Kate Tufts Discovery Award and a 2017 Lambda Literary award. He received a 2017 Whiting Award and 2013 Ruth Lilly Fellowship and is the co-editor in chief of the online journal *Vinyl*.

Michael Dumanis is the author of the poetry collection *My Soviet Union*, winner of the Juniper Prize for Poetry, and coeditor of the younger poets' anthology *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century*.

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Wed. May 15 | 7:00 - 8:00 pm

[Reading: Salvatore Scibona](#)

Franklin House

Salvatore Scibona is the author of two novels, the newly-released *The Volunteer* (Penguin, 2019) and *The End* (Graywolf Press, 2008), a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the Young Lions Fiction Award.

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Wed. May 22 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm

[Senior Readings](#)

Franklin House

Showcasing Bennington College seniors who have completed a creative or critical thesis.

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Wed. May 29 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm

[Student Readings](#)

Franklin House

Featuring fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction by current Bennington students.

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**BENNINGTON COLLEGE**

Among Bennington College's alumni are seven Pulitzer Prize winners, three U.S. poet laureates, the youngest winner of the Man Booker Prize, a MacArthur "Genius," countless *New York Times* bestsellers and National Book Awards.

Recent graduates have gone on to attend PhD and MFA programs in literature and creative writing at Stanford University, the Iowa Writers' Workshop, NYU, UVA, Columbia University, Cornell University, and Brown University. Graduates have had poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, journalism, and book reviews published or accepted by *The Atlantic Wire*, *The Awl*, *Boston Review*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Denver Quarterly*, *The Guardian*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Ploughshares*.

Rooted in an abiding faith in the talent, imagination, and responsibility of the individual, Bennington invites students to pursue and shape their own intellectual inquiries, and in doing so to discover the profound interconnection of things. Learn more at [bennington.edu](http://bennington.edu).