

RHODES WEEKLY

Campus News And Information

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Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Komunyakaa will speak at Rhodes

One of America's most eminent poets will read from his works Wednesday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m. in Blount Auditorium. Admission will be free and open to the public.

Yusef Komunyakaa won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for his book of poems, *Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems 1977-1989* (Wesleyan University Press/Hanover, N.H.). The book also received the Kingsley-Tufts Poetry Award from the Claremont Graduate School in California and was a finalist for the 1993 *Los Angeles Times* Book Award.



Yusef Komunyakaa

A native of Bogalusa, La., Komunyakaa is a professor in the Council of Humanities and Creative Writing Program at Princeton University. He has published nine books of poems during the past 20 years, including the 1998 *Thieves of Paradise*, also published by

Wesleyan, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Komunyakaa's poems have appeared in dozens of journals and more than 40 anthologies, including

The Best of The Best American Poetry (1998), *The Best American Poetry* (1997, 1996, 1995, 1990), *The Pushcart Prize* (1989), *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* (1997) and *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (1997). His work has been translated into Czech, French and Italian and performed in concert at Boston Symphony Hall, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

Komunyakaa has won numerous additional honors for his work. Among the most notable of those are the 1998 Union League Civic and Arts Foundation Poetry Prize, the 1998 Morton Dauwen Zabel Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the 1997 Levinson Prize.

Magic City, a book of poems published by Wesleyan, was included in *The Village Voice's* Twenty-Five Best

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NEAR project for peaceable schools receives \$46,000 grant

The Partnership for Women's and Children's Health has approved funding that will allow Memphis Non-violence Education and Advocacy Network (NEAR) to continue and expand its violence prevention work with Memphis City Schools

Rhodes associate professor of psychology Marsha Walton has been working closely with NEAR to develop and evaluate the Peaceful Living and Learning Program (PLLP). The partnership grant for \$46,000 will allow NEAR



Marsha Walton

to expand teacher training and community involvement in creating peaceable schools.

Memphis Alliance for Public Health Research also has awarded \$15,000 to Walton and to Bill Akins, director of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, to fund their efforts to

learn more about children's experiences with conflict and to assess the effectiveness of the PLLP. Walton has had a dozen Rhodes

students involved in various aspects of this project.

"This is a wonderful example of how a Rhodes professor is using her professional training to better our community," says Bette Ackerman, psychology chair. "Recent violence in Dallas and St. Louis have prompted those cities to contact Dr. Walton and Memphis City Schools to request copies of programming she developed for our city schools following the Columbine shootings. As such, her initiatives are starting to have an influence that extends beyond Memphis."

The partnership grant is for one year with the potential for renewal. ■

McCarthy and students just do it with newspapers, water and glue

Associate professor of art history David McCarthy has charged the students in his Introduction to Visual Arts course with a mission: to create a great, big ball out of newspapers, glue and water.

When the ball reaches its projected meter-wide size in a few weeks, the class plans to roll the ball out of the Rhodes

sculpture studio, across North Parkway, through Overton Park and into the Brooks Museum of Art, where it will become part of a major exhibition titled "do it." The exhibition opens April 23.

"We read, we dip, we apply," McCarthy said last week as his students were doing just that. They read a stack of *New York Times* and *Commercial Appeal* newspapers, tore them into narrow strips, dipped them in a bucket of water and used a little glue to smooth the strips onto the ball.

"It's what I call 'cheap art'," McCarthy says. "The only expenses are the newspapers – and they're delivered anyway – and the glue to

make it all stick together."

The "do it" exhibition at Brooks is a collaboration among faculty and students at Mid-South colleges, universities and high schools. The concept began in 1993 in Paris and spread around the globe during the ensuing years. An artist will conceive the framework for a piece, and

involved in the concept of "do it" were trained during the 1960s.

"They visualized 'do it' as a way of bringing more people into the fold of creative arts," McCarthy says.

Art faculty Diane Hoffman and Val Valgardson also are producing "do it" pieces that the *Weekly* will highlight in upcoming issues. ■



Rhodes students Ben Binford '02 (left), Mark Yacoubian '03 (center) and Casey Cox '02 work on an art project for the "do it" exhibition opening April 23 at Brooks Museum of Art.

someone else creates the work.

In the case of McCarthy's paper ball, Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto came up with the idea and named it "Sculpture for Strolling."

McCarthy says many of the artists

Rhodes students win at literary festival

Once again, Rhodes students have competed successfully in the Southern Literary Festival contest for students from 23 Southern colleges and universities.

The student writing contest accepts submissions for six categories in writing: poetry, fiction, playwriting, formal essay, informal essay and literary magazines. Rhodes' *Southwestern Review* won first place for literary journals for the second consecutive year.

Lawton Fabacher '02 won honorable mention for her poem, "Carolina." Timothy Hayes '00 won first place in the formal essay category for his article "'Spinning

Theories': Victorians in Cultural Crisis in James's The Aspern Papers and 'The Beast in the Jungle.'" Amy Killebrew '00 won second place for her formal essay, "Ishmael and Ahab: Motley Attempts at Self-Definition."

The Southern Literary Festival will take place April 12-14 at the University of Louisiana, Monroe. The festival will include workshops in formal essay writing, poetry, informal essay and fiction, as well as open readings, talks and informal receptions.

Contact Tina Barr at 843-3979 for information on attending the festival. ■

Komunyakaa speaks

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Books for 1992.

Komunyakaa was the recipient of National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowships in 1981 and 1987.

In 1999, Komunyakaa was elected as chancellor of the board of the Academy of American Poets.

Komunyakaa has an M.F.A. from the University of California, Irvine, an M.A. from Colorado State University and a B.A. from the University of Colorado. He also has taught at Indiana University and been a visiting professor at Washington University and the University of California at Berkeley.

The Rhodes English Department and Creative Writing Program are sponsoring Komunyakaa's visit. ■

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People Profile



Russell Wigginton

Russell Wigginton

Position: Instructor of history for four years

Family: Wife, Anita Davis '90, assistant professor of psychology

at Rhodes, and a son, Ryan Davis Wigginton, 8 months old

People who had an influence on me: Herb Williams, my junior high basketball coach, taught me that the most important "secret to success" in

anything you do is hard work. Another person who influenced my life was historian John Hope Franklin, who persevered to become a renowned historian in the 1940s, an era when racial discrimination presented overwhelming obstacles. Asa Phillip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and his 40 years of civil rights activism are important to me. I admire his commitment to the cause.

Advice to others: Pick your battles carefully, but once you do, fight with all of your might. In other words: Stand for something(s).

Favorite book: Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. Dubois

Favorite music: Blues

Favorite comfort food: Cereal

What I enjoy doing in my spare time: Who has that with an 8-month-old? I mostly enjoy spending time with Anita and Ryan and watching sports.

What I like best about Rhodes: I like the ability to connect with students and potentially influence how history matters in their present and future lives.

Best memories: The birth of Ryan and our wedding day (in no particular order) ■

Earth Week to involve campus in environmental projects

The Rhodes College and Vollandine-Evergreen communities will observe Earth Week March 20-25.

Campus Green, along with the Kinney Program, Rhodes Activities Board and the Vollandine-Evergreen Community Association (VECA) are collaborating on Earth Week, which promises a variety of opportunities for people to participate in environmental causes.

"Our focus is on actively involving the campus in these activities," says Midu Bagrodia, president of Campus Green. "We would really like Rhodes' students to become aware of the local environmental issues, not just in Memphis, but at Rhodes and the surrounding Vollandine-Evergreen area as well.

"One of the best ways to make people aware is to expose them to these concerns. We hope that people who participate will be able to see the need for environmental action and develop an interest to learn more about the needs of the community."

On Monday, March 20, Earth Week commences with games at the

Burrow Refectory. The games, which will run from 5 to 6:30 p.m., will revolve around recyclables and will include an Earth cake prepared by ARAMARK Food Services.

On Tuesday, March 21, volunteers will plant flowers on the grounds of Rhodes' neighbor, the Memphis Zoo.

"Since the zoo is conveniently located across the street and admission is free on Tuesdays, we thought we would offer the opportunity to help and also see the zoo," Bagrodia says. "One of the goals of Earth Week is to have students working with the earth and in it, so this project seemed like it would tie Earth Week and fun together."

On Wednesday, March 22, Rhodes students will visit Snowden School, another neighbor. The group will provide some interactive events for the Snowden students and make recycled paper. They also will present a mini-program on what the children can do to get involved in environmental activities.

On Thursday, March 23, Rhodes volunteers will recycle the college's paper and aluminum waste at 6 p.m.,

as they regularly do on Thursdays. They also will hold car-exhaust checks from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the parking lot next to the Briggs Student Center. People will be able to test the amount of black pollution being emitted from their cars by holding white socks up to an exhaust pipe. The owner of the car with the cleanest emission will receive a free dinner, while the owner of the car with the dirtiest exhaust pipe will receive a free tune-up and cleanup.

On Friday, March 24, Campus Green and Rhodes Activities Board are co-sponsoring a "Commune with Nature" session in Trezevant woods on campus. The event from 8 to 10 p.m. will include a bonfire and snacks. Students are encouraged to bring musical instruments and merriment.

Earth Week concludes Saturday, March 25, with a cleanup of litter in the Vollandine-Evergreen neighborhood's Cypress Creek area. Campus Green and a student group, Friends of VECA, are organizing the project.

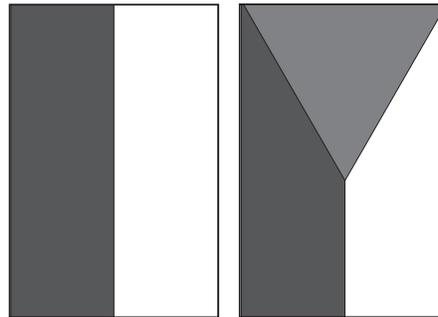
For more information about Earth Week and times of events, contact Bagrodia at 728-4027. ■

Student delegation to Model NATO achieves top distinction

Rhodes' participation in the 15th annual National Model NATO Conference in Washington, D.C., in February garnered a Distinguished Delegation Award.

The award, one of three such honors given, went to a delegation representing Poland. A second delegation of Rhodes students represented the Czech Republic.

"All of our students represented the college extremely well, and the



Poland

Czech Republic

international studies department is certainly proud of their achievement," says faculty adviser Steve Ceccoli, assistant professor of international studies.

It was Rhodes' second year to participate in the conference.

In addition, the students received a briefing on NATO issues at the Polish and Czech embassies by a Czech official. ■



New Faculty Publications

- Professor of international studies John F. Copper has released the second edition of *Historical Dictionary of Taiwan (Republic of China)*, published by The Scarecrow Press Inc./Lanham, Maryland and London.
- Associate professor of religious studies Steve McKenzie has written a new book, *King David: A Biography*, published by Oxford University Press/New York.
- Professor of international studies Andrew Michta has edited a new book, *America's New Allies: Poland Hungary and the Czech Republic in NATO*, published by University of Washington Press/Seattle and London.
- Associate professor of history Lynn Zastoupil has co-edited, with Martin Moir, *The Great Indian Education Debate: Documents Relating to the Orientalist-Anglicist Controversy, 1781-1843*, published by Curzon Press/Surrey, England. ■

Campus election results announced

Rhodes has announced results of the recent campus election of student officers for the 2000-2001 term. Their names and the offices to which they were elected are:

Rhodes Student Government president, Corliss Givens '00, a religious studies/pre-medicine major; RSG vice president, John Ramsey '02, a business and religious studies major; Board of Trustees representatives, Alison Lundergan '01, a political science major who will serve a second term, and Catherine Neelly '01, a religious studies major with a minor in English; Honor Council president, Amit Mirchandani

'01, a biology major with a minor in religious studies; Honor Council vice president, Ruchir Patel '01, a biology major; Social Regulations Commission president, Daru Lane '01, a business and Spanish major; and publications commissioner, Kasey Sweeney '01, a biology major.

RSG officers and new senators—to be elected on Tuesday, March 28—will take office on Thursday, April 27. ■



Antonio Benson (left) and Ruthal Kelsey were named ARAMARK's employees of the month for December and January, respectively. Benson has 13 years of service with ARAMARK at Rhodes, while Kelsey has 21 years of service as a supervisor and cook. "Antonio and Ruthal are two of the most reliable and dedicated employees I have at Rhodes," says ARAMARK Director Tim VanderMeersch.