MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

JULY 2013

MFA Residency Reading Series

FEATURED VISITING WRITERS

Claire Vaye Watkins

Saturday, July 6, 2013, at 7 p.m. in the Clara M. Eagle Gallery

Reception/Book-Signing following at the Faculty Club.

Claire Vaye Watkins was born in Bishop, CA, in 1984. She was raised in the Mojave Desert, first in Tecopa, CA, and then across the state line in Pahrump, NV. A graduate of the University of Nevada-Reno, Watkins earned her MFA from Ohio State University, where she was a Presidential Fellow. Her stories and essays have appeared in *Granta, One Story, Paris Review, Ploughshares, Glimmer Train, Best of the West 2011, Best of the Southwest 2013*, and elsewhere. Watkins has received fellowships from the Writers' Conferences at Sewanee and Bread Loaf. Her collection of short stories, *Battleborn* (Riverhead Books), won the 2012 Story Prize, the 2013 Rosenthal Family Foundation Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. *Battleborn* was also named a Best Book of 2012 by the *San Francisco Chronicle, Boston Globe*, *Time Out New York* and *Flavorwire*, and a Best Short Story Collection by NPR.org. In 2012, the National Book Foundation named Watkins one of the "5 under 35" best writers. An assistant professor at Bucknell University, Watkins is also the co-director, with Derek Palacio, of the Mojave School, a non-profit creative writing workshop for teenagers in rural Nevada.

Marcus Wicker

Sunday, July 7, 2013, at 7 p.m. in the Clara M. Eagle Gallery

Reception/Book-Signing following at the Faculty Club.

Marcus Wicker was born in Ann Arbor, MI. His first book, *Maybe the Saddest Thing*, published in October 2012 by Harper Collins, was selected by D. A. Powell for the National Poetry Series. The recipient of a 2011 Ruth Lilly Fellowship, he has also held fellowships from Cave Canem, the Fine Arts Work Center, and Indiana University, where he received his MFA. Wicker's work has appeared in *Poetry, Beloit, Third Coast*, and *Ninth Letter*, among other journals. Marcus is a professor of English at the University of Southern Indiana and poetry editor of *Southern Indiana Review*.

> "The dialogues, love letters and reflections throughout this wonderful debut show us what it is to be in vigilant conversation with the world and with the self."
> ~ Terrence Hayes, Author of *Lighthead,* Winner of the National Book Award

Davy Rothbart

Wednesday, July 10, 2013, at 7 p.m. in the Clara M. Eagle Gallery

Book-Signing to follow on site.

Davy Rothbart is the creator of *Found Magazine*, a frequent contributor to public radio's This American Life, and the author of a book of personal essays, *My Heart Is An Idiot*, and a collection of stories, *The Lone Surfer of Montana, Kansas.* He writes regularly for *GQ Magazine* and *Grantland,* and his work has appeared in *The New Yorker, The New York Times,* and *The Believer.* His documentary film, *Medora,* about a resilient high-school basketball team in a dwindling town in rural Indiana, premiered in March 2013 at the SXSW Film Festival. Rothbart is also the founder of Washington II Washington, an annual hiking adventure for inner-city kids. H splits his time between Los Angeles, CA, and his hometown of Ann Arbor, MI.

Larry O. Dean (Featured Alumni Reading)

Saturday, July 6, 2013, at 3 p.m. in the Clara M. Eagle Gallery

Larry O. Dean, poet, singer, and songwriter, was born and raised in Flint, MI, and received his MFA degree from Murray State University. He teaches literature and composition as an adjunct English instructor and works as Poet-in-Residence in the Chicago Public Schools through the Poetry Center of Chicago. His first book is *Brief Nudity* (2013).

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