

**MFA@FLA PRESENTS THE 2016 FLORIDA WRITERS FESTIVAL**  
UF grad students host four authors in November



**Gainesville, Fla.** – The Florida Writers Festival will feature Christian Wiman, Jenny Offill, A. E. Stallings, and Allan Gurganus. The authors will read from their works and hold informal talks. All events will take place in the Ustler Hall Atrium, on the University of Florida campus. The festival is free and open to the public.

The festival, which is in its 67<sup>th</sup> year, is presented by the 2017 class of MFA@FLA, the Creative Writing Program of the Department of English, University of Florida and sponsored by The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research. It is made possible by generous donations from Terry and Dorothy Smiljanich and the Office of the Provost of the University of Florida.

For further information please contact Eileen Rush ([floridawritersfestival@gmail.com](mailto:floridawritersfestival@gmail.com)). For general MFA@FLA program information see [www.english.ufl.edu/crw/](http://www.english.ufl.edu/crw/). For the latest in festival news visit [Facebook.com/floridawritersfestival](https://www.facebook.com/floridawritersfestival).

**SCHEDULE OF FLORIDA WRITERS FESTIVAL EVENTS:**

**CHRISTIAN WIMAN & JENNY OFFILL**  
Readings 8 p.m., Friday, November 4  
Ustler Hall Atrium

CHRISTIAN WIMAN, JENNY OFFILL, A. E. STALLINGS & ALLAN GURGANUS  
Craft Talks 1 p.m., Saturday, November 5  
Ustler Hall Atrium

A. E. STALLINGS & ALLAN GURGANUS  
Readings 8 p.m., Saturday, November 5  
Ustler Hall Atrium

**Christian Wiman** is Senior Lecturer in Religion and Literature at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, teaches at the Yale Divinity School, and was editor of *Poetry Magazine* from 2003 to 2013. He has published four books of poetry: *Once in the West* (FSG, 2014), finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; *Every Riven Thing*; *Hard Night*; and *The Long Home* (Nicholas Roerich Prize); a collection of essays, *Ambition and Survival: Becoming a Poet*; and a memoir, *My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer* (FSG, 2013). Wiman's translations of Osip Mandelstam are collected in the volume *Stolen Air* (Ecco, 2012). His next poetry collection, *Hammer Is the Prayer*, will be published in November 2016. Wiman is a recipient of both the Ruth Lilly and Wallace Stegner Fellowships and he has also been a Guggenheim Fellow. His poems and essays have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and the *New Yorker*, among others.

**Jenny Offill** is the author of two novels. *Last Things* (FSG 1999) was selected as New York Times Notable Book and was a finalist for the LA Times Award for First Fiction. Her second novel, *Dept. of Speculation* (Knopf, 2014), was chosen as one of the top ten books of the year by the *New York Times Book Review* and was shortlisted for the Folio Award, the LA Times Book Award and The Pen/Faulkner Award. It has been translated into eleven languages. In addition, she has written several books for children. The most recent, *Sparky* (Schwartz & Wade), received the 2015 Charlotte Zolotow Award and has been adapted into a play. She is also the co-editor of two collections of literary essays, *The Friend Who Got Away* (Doubleday, 2005) and *Money Changes Everything* (Doubleday, 2007), which she produced in collaboration with the novelist Elissa Schappell. Offill was the recipient of 2006 NYFA Award and won the Ellen Levin Award for a novel-in-progress in 2012. She is currently a visiting writer in the MFA program at Syracuse University.

**A. E. Stallings** is an American poet who has lived in Greece since 1999. She is a recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim and MacArthur foundations, and has received a translation grant from the NEA. Her most recent collection, *Olives*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her new verse translation of Hesiod's *Works and Days* is forthcoming with Penguin Classics.

**Allan Gurganus's** fiction has been translated into sixteen languages. Books include *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, *White People*, *Plays Well with Others*, *The Practical Heart*, and most recently *Local Souls*. Gurganus's essays are seen on the op-ed page of the *New York Times* and in *The New York Review of Books*. A finalist for the Pen-Faulkner Prize, he has won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, the American Academy's Sue Kaufman Prize for best first novel, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lambda Literary Award and the National Magazine Prize.

Film adaptations of Gurganus's work have won four Emmys. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Gurganus co-founded Writers Against Jesse Helms. His novel-in-progress is *The Erotic History of a Country Baptist Church*.