

Tentative Program as of 6-27-2024 Send corrections to bruce.gentry@gcsu.edu

- Most venue labels for conference events are thoroughly tentative.
- We'll update this program approx. every two weeks.
- This conference is presented with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this conference do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Flannery O'Connor's Second Century: Looking Forward, Looking Back

Registration will be open 3-5 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 11, Location TBA

Thursday, Sept. 12

Registration 8:30 am–5 pm, Location TBA

Session 1—10-10:30 am, Special Collections Reading Room
Tour of Special Collections and related rooms in Georgia College Library
Presenter: **Jordyn Street**, Georgia College

Session 2—10:30-11:30 am, Venue A
Chair: **Marshall Bruce Gentry**, Georgia College
"Andalusia: The Key to Understanding the Source of Flannery O'Connor's Fiction"
Presenters: **William Walsh** and **Lauren Dose**, Reinhardt U

Session 3—10:40-12 noon, Venue B
A Forum on *Wildcat*
Chair: **Robert Donahoo**, Sam Houston State U
Presenters: **Margaret Earley Whitt**, U of Denver
 Carol Loeb Shloss, U of Pennsylvania
 Blue Profitt, Georgia College

The three presenters will talk briefly about some of their impressions of the movie *Wildcat*, and then audience members will be invited to join the discussion.
There will be refreshments.

Session 4—11-11:30 am, Special Collections Reading Room
Tour of Special Collections and related rooms in Georgia College Library
Presenter: **Holly Croft**, Georgia College

Session 5—11:40 am-12:40 pm, Venue A
Chair: **Marshall Bruce Gentry**
Book Release for *Flannery at the Grammys*
Presenter: **Irwin J. Streight**, Royal Military College of Canada
Streight's book will be available for purchase during this session; he'll answer questions and sign books. There will be refreshments.

Session 6—12:15-1:30 pm, Venue B

X-Positive Heuristics for Liberating O'Connor Criticism

Chair: **Richard Utz**, Georgia Tech

Presenters: **Carole K. Harris**, New York City C of Technology, "Biography of a Friendship: Maryat Lee and Flannery O'Connor"

Jennifer Renee Blevins, U of South Carolina, "Fat Girls, Abjection, and Epiphany in O'Connor"

Jesse G. Swan, U of Northern Iowa, "Sabbath Lily Plays House with the New Jesus"

Session 7—12:50-1:50 pm, Venue A

Teaching O'Connor

Session Chair: **Jessica McQuain**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Sue Whatley**, Stephen F. Austin U, with former students **Mark Perkins** and **Rae Bynum**, "Ethical Complications with the 'Racist' Label: Recovering Flannery O'Connor through New Historicism and Reader-Response Approaches,"

Mahailey Oliver, Corsicana High School, Corsicana, TX, "Teaching O'Connor in Public High Schools"

Session 8—1:45-3:15 pm, Venue B

Session Chair: **Marshall Bruce Gentry**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Jim Sisson**, Middle Georgia State U, "'Take it All Off!': Flannery O'Connor's Sacred-Erotic Exhibitionism in *Wise Blood* and 'A Temple of the Holy Ghost'"

Christine Atkins, SUNY-Corning Community C, "Flannery O'Connor as Queer Artist"

Eric Hughes, Middle Tennessee State U, "Flannery O'Connor and the Discomforts of Home"

Avis Hewitt, Grand Valley State University, "Predatory Players / Late Lovers in O'Connor's Short Fiction"

Session 9—2-3:15 pm, Venue A

Chair: **Monica Carol Miller**, Middle Georgia State U

Presenters: **Kerry Neville**, Georgia College, "Lapsed Catholic"

W. F. "Bill" Monroe, U of St. Thomas, "Positivity and Its Discontents: Kate & Flannery vs. Joyce & Joel"

Heidi Johnson, C of St. Scholastica, "Sisters: Flannery O'Connor's Connections to Women Religious"

Session 10—3:30-5 pm, Venue A

Session Chair: **Robert Donahoo**, Sam Houston State U

Presenters: **Doug Davis**, Gordon State C, "Flannery's Shercoes: Reading O'Connor in the Age of Barbenheimer"

Ashley Massey, U of North Alabama and Tennessee Higher Education in Prison Initiative, "Content Farming: Flannery O'Connor and the Farm Woman Influencer"

Matt Davis, Washington and Lee U, "The Restoration of Andalusia"

Session 11—3:30-5 pm, Venue B

Session Chair: **Taylor Black**, Duke U

Presenters: **Joelle Troiano**, Duke U, "The Anagogical and/as the Profane: What It Takes to Talk about God in O'Connor's 'Parker's Back'"

Clarke W. Owens, Independent Scholar, "'Parker's Back': The Role of Mastery"

Jason Anthony Walker, U of Texas at Dallas, "Buried in Baptism: Religious Trauma, Sacramental Violence, and O'Connor's Complicated Portrayal of Redemption in *The Violent Bear It Away*"

Jeremiah Davis, Huntingdon U, "'The Only Way Out Is Through': Despair and Faith in *Wise Blood* and *The Violent Bear It Away*"

Session 12—6-7 pm, Andalusia Interpretive Center

Keynote Speech by **Karen M. Gravel**, Lord Aeck Sargent, "Places of Influence—Understanding and Preserving the Environment of a Writer"

Introduction by **Matt Davis**, Washington and Lee U

Followed by reception

Friday, Sept. 13

Registration 8:30 am–5 pm, Location TBA

Session 13—9-10:30 am, Venue B

Session Chair: **Margaret Earley Whitt**, U of Denver

Presenters: **Kathleen Lipovski-Helal**, U of Texas at Austin, "Flannery O'Connor at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center"
Dorian Speed, U of St. Thomas, "Bad Mentors and Terrible Teachers in Flannery O'Connor's Work"
Joonna Smitherman Trapp, Emory U, "Teaching Flannery O'Connor: Stories, Archives, and Assignments"

Session 14—9-10:30 am, Venue C

Converging at the Crossroads: Benny Andrews, Flannery O'Connor, and Alice Walker

Session Chair: **Nagueyalti Warren**, Emory U

Panelists: **Amy Alznauer**, Northwestern U
Gabrielle Dudley, Emory U
Tina Dunkley, Independent Cultural Historian, Independent Curator, Artist
Rosemary Magee, Emory U
Nagueyalti Warren, Emory U

This panel will explore the various crossroads these three artists encountered in literature, life, and art, and also the various crossroads the panelists encountered on their years-long curatorial journey for the recent exhibit at Emory U.

Session 15—10:45 am-12 pm, Venue C

Readings

Session Chair: **Marshall Bruce Gentry**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Jessica McQuain**, Georgia College
Kerry Neville, Georgia College

Session 16—10:45 am-12 pm, Venue B

Using Flannery O'Connor in Creative Writing

Session Chair: **Sidonia Serafini**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Ranjani George**, U of Toronto, "Dear Flannery, Love, Viji: O'Connor's Iowa Years"
Georgia Newman-Powell, Georgia College, "'A Heavy Weight in the Darkness': Channeling Flannery in the 21st Century"

Session 17—2-3 pm, Venue B

Book Release for *Flannery O'Connor's Manhattan*

Chair: **Marshall Bruce Gentry**, Georgia College

Presenter: **Katheryn Krotzer Laborde**, Xavier U of Louisiana, "Come Hell AND High Water: Pulling Together a Book about Flannery O'Connor (No Matter How Hard the Gods Tried to Stop Me)"

Laborde's book will be available for purchase during this session.

Session 18—2-3 pm, Venue C

Flannery O'Connor's Letters

Session Chair: **Monica Carol Miller**, Middle Georgia State U

Presenters: **Christine Flanagan**, St. Joseph's U, "'Dear Flannery': Investigating Flannery O'Connor through the Lens of Literary Epistolography"
Will Brantley, Middle Tennessee State U, "A Letter to Flannery Regarding Her Letters"

Session 19—3:15-4:30 pm, Venue B

The Georgia College Oral History Project

Session Chair: **Stephanie Opperman**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Stephanie Opperman**, Georgia College
Charlotte Aexel, Georgia College

Session 20—3:15-4:30 pm, Venue C

Readings

Session Chair: **Kerry James Evans**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Peter Selgin**, Georgia College
Sarah Gordon, Georgia College

Session 21—4:45-6 pm, Venue B

Session Chair: **Marshall Bruce Gentry**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Irwin J. Streight**, Royal Military C of Canada, "O'Connor's Rock 'n' Roll Rebel, Rufus Johnson"
Colin Cutler, Guilford Technical Community C, "Down to the River: Developing *Tarwater*"
Monica Carol Miller, Middle Georgia State U, "'It Was Punk': Reconsidering Rock and Roll Flannery O'Connor"

Session 22—4:45-6 pm, Venue C

Session Chair: **Roger Stanley**, Union U

Presenters: **Colleen Warren**, Taylor U, "The First Shall Be Last and the Last Shall Be First: Race Revisions in Flannery O'Connor's Reconsiderations of 'The Geranium'"
Robert Donahoo, Sam Houston State U, "Recovering the Power to Vomit"
Carol Loeb Shloss, U of Pennsylvania, "Regina after Flannery"

Session 23—8-9 pm, Venue C

Keynote address by **Lisa Hinrichsen**, U of Arkansas, "The Haunting Landscape: Flannery O'Connor's Exploration of Humanity in the Anthropocene"

Introduction by **Katie Simon**

Saturday, Sept. 14

Registration 8:30 am–5 pm, Location TBA

Session 24—9-10:15 am, Venue B

The Middle School Literacy Project at Georgia College

Chair: **Jordan Cofer**, U of Minnesota Morris

Presenters: **Jordan Cofer**, U of Minnesota Morris
Jessica McQuain, Georgia College

Session 25—9-10:15 am, Venue C

Flannery O'Connor & Race I

Chair: **Matt Bryant Cheney**, U of Tennessee

Presenters: **Amy Alznauer**, Northwestern U, "White Girl and Frizzly Chicken: Flannery O'Connor on her Own Racial Upbringing"
Colin Cutler, Guilford Technical Community C, "Writing from Across the Tracks"
Patricia Ann West, Savannah State U, "Eracism: Sticks, Stones, 'Bad' Words, and Flannery O'Connor's Displaced Characters"

Session 26—10:30 am-12, Venue C

Flannery O'Connor & Race II

Chair: **Colin Cutler**, Guilford Technical Community C

Jordan Rowan Fannin, Berry College, "Anticipating White Tears: O'Connor's Reckoning with the Present through the Generative Failures of the Past"

William Gonch, Ave Maria U, "The Racial Grotesque: Grace, Irony, and Idolatry in 'Judgment Day' and 'The Artificial [N-Word]'"

Katie Simon, Georgia College, "Traveling While Black: Mobility and Race in Flannery O'Connor's 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find'"

Matt Bryant Cheney, U of Tennessee, "The Space Between Principle and Taste: Mapping Race and Racism in O'Connor Scholarship"

Session 27 —10:30-12, Venue B

Chair: **Ann McCutchan**, Independent Scholar

Presenters: **Randall S. Wilhelm**, Independent Scholar, "Darkness Visible: A Closer Look at Flannery O'Connor's Linoleum Cuts"

Jessica Schnepf, Ave Maria U, "Children of Violence: Grace and the Grotesque in Flannery O'Connor, Kirstin Valdez Quade, and Martin McDonagh"

Johanna Church, Johnson and Wales U, "Wolves Among Sheep: Religious Distortion and Deception in Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood* and Davis Grubb's *The Night of the Hunter*"

Lucy Robertson, Florida State U, "Losing My Religion: The Un-Adaptability of O'Connor's Work, the Fidelity of Horror, and the Legacy of Southern Gothicism"

Session 28—2-3 pm, Venue C

Keynote Speech by **Mab Segrest**, Connecticut College, "How DO Mules Fly?"

Introduction by **Katie Simon**

Session 29—3:15-4:30 pm, Venue C

Readings

Session Chair: **Marshall Bruce Gentry**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Michaela Reed**, Georgia College

Martin Lammon, Georgia College

Session 30—3:15-4:30 pm, Venue B

Session Chair: **Nancy Beasley**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Calvin Coon**, U of Arizona, "'Naturally a Hog Should Be on All Fours': Animal Symbols and Animal Lives in O'Connor's 'Revelation'"

Charlotte Aexel, Georgia College, "A Heap of Things Worse than a Hog: Recontextualizing Pigs in O'Connor's Fiction"

Song (Joseph) Cho, Liberty U, "Understanding Grace through Biblical Allusions in Flannery O'Connor's 'Revelation'"

Session 31—4:45-6 pm, Venue B

Session Chair: **John J. Han**, Missouri Baptist U ???

Presenters: **Matthew D. Sutton**, Morehead State U, *The Raw Sound of the Human Voice: Flannery O'Connor's Soundscape*

Nina Laville, Great Hearts Northern Oaks, San Antonio, "'Daddy's Blood': Enoch Emery's Childlike Vulnerability in *Wise Blood*"

Benjamin Brothers, U of South Florida, "Punishing Spiritualism and Selling Salvation: Hazel Motes, Evangelical-Capitalist Propaganda, and Taulkinham's Panoptic Reflex"

Session 32—4:45-6 pm, Venue C

Readings

Session Chair: **Marshall Bruce Gentry**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Kerry James Evans**, Georgia College
Alice Friman, Georgia College

Session 33—8-9 pm, Venue C

Keynote Poetry Reading by **Mark Jarman**, Vanderbilt University

Introduction by **Kerry Neville**

Sunday, Sept. 15

Session 34—12:15-1:45 pm, Venue C

Session Chair: **Craig Martell**, Osher Institute, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Presenters: **Benjamin Crace**, Tennessee Tech U, "Finding the Pentecostal Spirit in 'A Temple of the Holy Ghost'"
Craig Martell, Osher Institute, U of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, "The Seeds, Roots and Fruits of O'Connor's Embrace of Carmelite Spirituality"
Sue Whatley, Stephen F. Austin U, and **Jill Hernandez**, Texas Tech U, "Obligatory Forgiveness, Atrocity, Process Theodicy, and Flannery O'Connor"

Session 35—12:15-1:45 pm, Venue B

Session Chair: **Heidi Johnson**, C of St. Scholastica

Presenters: **John Hayes**, Augusta U, "Beyond the Bible Belt: A Skeptical View of the South's Religious and Nonreligious Landscape"
Ann Ritter, Georgia State U, "O'Connor in 1964: A Firestorm Outside and In"
Taylor Black, Duke U, "The New Lost Cause: Re-Reading Flannery O'Connor During the Time of MAGA"
Mary Graw Leary, Catholic U of America, "Screaming into the System: The Symbiotic Relationship Between Flannery O'Connor, the Law, and Lawyers"

Session 36—2-3:30 pm, Venue B

Session Chair: **Taylor Black**, Duke U

Presenters: **Susan Srigley**, Nipissing U, "Death and the Imagination in Flannery O'Connor's Art"
John J. Han, Missouri Baptist U, "Twilight Is Stealing: Aging in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction"
Olivia Simoni, Duke U, "Like a Bullet in the Side: Death and the Afterlife in Flannery O'Connor's Short Stories"
Kathleen Marion Sullivan, Christendom College, "*Ars Moriendi*: Preparing for Death in Flannery O'Connor's 'The Enduring Chill'"

Session 37—2-3:30 pm, Venue C

Readings

Session Chair: **Michaela Reed**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Jeffrey Maclachlan**, Georgia College
Jordan Crider, Georgia College
Sandra Worsham, Georgia College

Session 38—3:45-5 pm, Venue B

O'Connor and Other Writers

Session Chair: **Sandy Dimon**, Georgia College

Presenters: **Carmine Palumbo**, East Georgia State U, "Flannery O'Connor, John Kennedy Toole, and the Last Great Mystery of Southern Literature"

Rachel Wall, Georgia Highlands C, "Not out of the Woods: Flannery O'Connor Connections in the Writings of Janisse Ray and Mary Hood"

Simon Ross, U of Mississippi, Narrative Distinctions between 'The Train' and *Wise Blood*"

Session 39—3:45-5 pm, Venue C

Wildcat Through Archives

Session Chair: **James S. Owens**, Georgia College

Panelists: **Holly Croft**, Georgia College

Jordyn Street, Georgia College

James S. Owens, Georgia College

Index of Presenters, Chairs, Exhibitors (as of 6-27-24) with session numbers

Charlotte Aexel, Georgia College, 19, 30

Amy Alznauer, Northwestern U, 14, 25

Christine Atkins, Corning Community C, 8

Nancy Beasley, Georgia College, 30

Taylor Black, Duke U, 11, 35, 36

Jennifer Blevins, U of South Carolina, 6

Carol Bokros, Mercer U, exhibitor

Will Brantley, Middle Tennessee State U, 18

Benjamin Brothers, U of South Florida, 31

Rae Bynum (with Whatley), 7

Matt Bryant Cheney, U of Tennessee, 25, 26

Song (Joseph) Cho, Liberty U, 30

Johanna Church, Johnson and Wales U, 27

Jordan Cofer, U of Minnesota Morris, 24

Calvin Coon, U of Arizona, 30

Benjamin Crace, Tennessee Tech U, 34

Jordan Crider, Georgia College, 37

Holly Croft, Georgia College, 4, 39

Colin Cutler, Guilford C, 21, 25, 26

Doug Davis, Gordon State C, 10

Jeremiah Davis, Huntington U

Matt Davis, Washington and Lee U, 11, 12

Melanie DeVore, Georgia College, exhibitor

Sandy Dimon, Georgia College, 38

Robert Donahoo, Sam Houston State U, 3, 10, 22

Lauren Dose, Reinhardt U, 2

Gabrielle Dudley, Emory U, 14

Tina Dunkley, Independent Cultural Historian, Independent Curator, Artist, 14

Kerry James Evans, Georgia College, 20, 32

Jordan Rowan Fannin, Berry C, 26

Christine Flanagan, St. Joseph's U, 18

Alice Friman, Georgia College, 32

Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College, 2, 5, 8, 15, 17, 21, 29, 32

Ranjani George, U of Toronto, 16

William Gonch, Ave Maria U, 26

Sarah Gordon, Georgia College, 20

Karen Gravel, Lord Aeck Sargent, Inc., 12

Mary Graw Leary, U of Georgia, 35

John J. Han, Missouri Baptist U, 31, 36

Carole K. Harris, New York City C of Technology, 6

John Hayes, Augusta U, 35

Jill Hernandez, Texas Tech U, 34

Avis Hewitt, Grand Valley State U, 8

Lisa Hinrichsen, U of Arkansas, 23

Eric Hughes, Middle Tennessee State U, 8

Mark Jarman, Vanderbilt U, 33

Heidi Johnson, C of St. Scholastica, 9, 35

Katheryn Krotzer Laborde, Xavier U of Louisiana, 17

Martin Lammon, Georgia College, 29

Nina Laille, Great Hearts Institute, San Antonio, 31

Kathleen Lipovski-Helal, U of Texas, Austin, 13

Jeffrey MacLachlan, Georgia College, 37

Rosemary Magee, Emory U, 14

Craig Martell, Osher Institute—UW-Milwaukee, 34

Ashley Massey, U of North Alabama and Tennessee Higher Education in Prison Initiative, 10

Ann McCutchan, Independent Scholar, 27

Jessica McQuain, Georgia College, 7, 15, 24

Monica Carol Miller, Middle Georgia State U, 9, 18, 21

W. F. “Bill” Monroe, U of St. Thomas, 9

Kerry Neville, Georgia College, 9, 15, 33

Georgia Newman-Powell, Georgia College, 16

Mahailey Oliver, Corsicana High School, TX, 7

Stephanie Opperman, Georgia College, 19

Clarke Owens, Independent Scholar, 11

James S. Owens, Georgia College, 39

Carmine Palumbo, East Georgia State C, 38

Mark Perkins (with Whatley), 7

Blue Profitt, Georgia College, 3

Michaela Reed, Georgia College, 29, 37

Ann Ritter, Georgia State U, 35

Lucy Robertson, Florida State U, 27

Simon Ross, U of Mississippi, 38

Jessica Schnepf, Ave Maria U, 27

Mab Segrest, Connecticut C, 28

Peter Selgin, Georgia College, 20

Carol Loeb Shloss, U of Pennsylvania, 3, 22

Katie Simon, Georgia College, 24, 26, 28

Olivia Simoni, Duke U, 36

Jim Sisson, Middle Georgia State U, 8

Dorian Speed, U of St. Thomas. 13

Susan Srigley, Nipissing U, 36

Roger Stanley, Union U, 22

Jordyn Street, Georgia College, 1, 39

Irwin J. Streight, Royal Military College of Canada, 5, 21

Kathleen Marion Sullivan, Christendom C, 36

Matthew D. Sutton, Morehead State U, 31

Jesse Swan, U of Northern Iowa, 6
Joonna Trapp, Emory U, 13
Joelle Troiano, Duke U, 11
Richard Utz, Georgia Tech, 6
Jason Anthony Walker, University of Texas at Dallas, 11
Rachel Wall, Georgia Highlands C, 38
William Walsh, Reinhardt U, 2
Colleen Warren, Taylor U, 22
Nagueyalti Warren, Emory U, 14
Patricia Ann West, Savannah State U, 25
Sue Whatley, Stephen F. Austin U, 7, 34
Margaret Earley Whitt, U of Denver, 3, 13
Randall S. Wilhelm, Independent Scholar, 27
Sandra Worsham, Georgia College, 37