

2006-2007 JAMES AND MARY OSWALD DISTINGUISHED WRITERS SERIES

Department of English – University of South Carolina Aiken

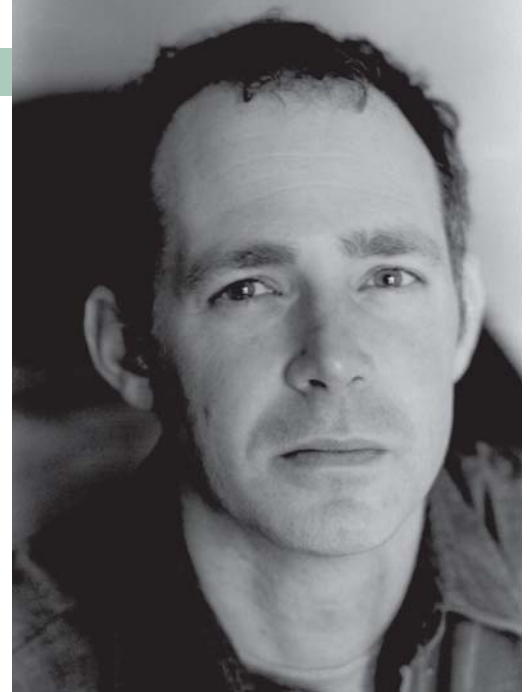
Brock Clarke

Tuesday, October 10, 2006, 8 p.m.

Main Stage, Etheredge Center

“Animated by the author’s nimble wit and scathing intelligence, characters burn and stumble and scour their way across one another’s lives...striving to etch a lasting mark on the world,” wrote one commentator about the fiction of Brock Clarke.

A native of upstate New York, Clarke is the author of a novel *The Ordinary White Boy* (Harcourt 2001) and two short story collections: *What We Won't Do* (Sarabande 2002), which won the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, and *Carrying the Torch* (University of Nebraska Press 2005), which is set mostly in South Carolina and Georgia and which won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Fiction. He is currently Associate Professor of English at the University of Cincinnati.



Rebecca McClanahan

Tuesday, February 20, 2007, 8 p.m.

Main Stage, Etheredge Center

An award-winning poet and essayist, Rebecca McClanahan is the author of four books of verse, one volume of personal essays, and two books of writing instruction. Her poems have appeared in some of the country’s most prestigious journals; and in 2007, Iris Press will publish *Deep Light: New and Selected Poems*, a collection representing twenty years of creative output. McClanahan, the author of *Word Painting* (1999) and *Write Your Heart Out* (2001), is also in much demand across the country for her writing workshops.

The focus of her reading at USCA will be her collection of interrelated essays entitled *The Riddle Song and Other Rememberings* (University of Georgia Press 2002), winner of the Glasgow Prize in Nonfiction. These “lyrical, compelling, and compassionate” essays “unravel the mysteries behind familial relationships.”

In 1985, thanks to the support of Dr. Robert Alexander, Chancellor Emeritus, the Department of English established an annual visiting writers’ series. In 1995, this series was renamed the James and Mary Oswald Distinguished Writers Series in honor of two longtime Aiken residents who created an endowment to enhance departmental initiatives to promote general interest in the English language and its literatures.

For more information on the series, please write Dr. Tom Mack at the Department of English, USC Aiken, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801, call 803-648-6851, send an e-mail to tomm@usca.edu, or visit www.usca.edu/english/oswald.asp online.