Fall 2016 Literary Series Programme

Thursday 15 September 2016
Tony Barnstone

Title: From Vampires to Space Opera: The Poetry of Pulp Genres.
Poetry in Collaboration with Art and Music

Tony Barnstone is a Professor of English at Whittier College and the author of 18 books. He is a prolific poet, author, essayist, and literary translator. In addition to his numerous published books, his work has appeared in dozens of American literary journals, from APR to Poetry. His books of poetry are Impure (1999); the chapbook Naked Magic (2002); Sad Jazz: Sonnets (2005); The Golem of Los Angeles (2007); Tongue of War: From Pearl Harbor to Nagasaki (2009); a bilingual selected poetry, Buda en Llamas/Buddha in Flames: Antología Poética (2014), translated by Mariano Zaro; Beast in the Apartment (2014); and the graphic poetry collection Pulp Sonnets (2015), based on 20 years of research into classic pulp fiction, Gothic literature, B movies and comic books, illustrated by Amin Mansouri. Barnstone has also translated many books from the Chinese and is the editor of several world literature textbooks and the anthologies Poems Dead and Undead (2014) and Monster Verse: Human and Inhuman Poems (2015). With singer-songwriters John Clinebell and Ariana Hall he put out a CD of original music based on his poetry, Tokyo Burning: World War II Songs, available on CD Baby, Spotify, and Amazon.com. Among his awards: NEA, NEH, California Arts Council, the Poets Prize, Grand Prize of the Strokestown International Poetry Festival, Pushcart Prize in Poetry, Benjamin Saltman Award in Poetry, Pablo Neruda Prize in Poetry, Silver Award of the Independent Publishers Book Awards, and the John Ciardi Prize in Poetry.

Thursday 6 October
May-lee Chai

Title: "Dragon Chica: A Reading"

May-lee Chai is the author of eight books, including most recently the novels Tiger Girl and Dragon Chica. Her novels focus on and give insight into the Chinese and Cambodian immigrants’ experiences in the United States. Her family memoir, The Girl from Purple Mountain, which she co-authored with her father, Winberg Chai, was nominated for the National Book Award in nonfiction. Her memoir Hapa Girl was a Kiriyama Prize 2008 Notable Book.

Her short stories and nonfiction prose have been published in various anthologies, literary journals, magazines, and newspapers including ZYZZYVA, The Missouri Review, North American Review, Seventeen, and the Jakarta Post Weekender Magazine. She is the recipient of an NEA Fellowship in Prose.

[Thanks to Steve Overall, SMC English Dept., for suggesting her name for the Fall series.]
Thursday 10 November
Lisa Brackmann

Title: "Keeping Us In Suspense: People, Place and Politics: A Reading by Lisa Brackmann."

Lisa Brackmann is the critically acclaimed New York Times best-selling author of the Ellie McEnroe novels set in China. The latest, Dragon Day, was a Seattle Times Top 10 Mystery of 2015 and was short-listed for a Lefty award. Her next novel is Go-Between, coming July 2016. Her work has also appeared in The Wall Street Journal, Travel+Leisure and CNET. She lives in San Diego with a couple of cats, far too many books and a bass ukulele. You can find her online at www.lisabrackmann.com.

Thursday 1 December
John Garofolo

Title: “Dickey Chapelle Under Fire: A Presentation by John Garofolo”

John Garofolo is a former entertainment industry executive and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A commander in the US Coast Guard Reserve, he has more than twenty-five years of active and reserve military service and has taught writing at Yale, and continues to teach at the Coast Guard Academy. Dickey Chapelle Under Fire (2015), his first book, features photographs by Dickey Chapelle, who was at Iwo Jima during WWII and covered the battle of Okinawa, and later covered the Hungarian and Cuban Revolutions as well as the war in Vietnam. She became the first American female war correspondent killed in action (in Vietnam). Garofolo discusses her adventurous life and remarkable contribution. Thanks to a grant from the Brico Fund through the Milwaukee Press Endowment, he has also written a stage adaptation of Dickey Chapelle's life. Garofolo earned a PhD from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts and lives with his wife and daughter in Southern California.

[Sponsored by the SMC Veterans’ Resource Center]