The UCLA Friends of English Program History 1986-2007

2006-2007
Robert Cohen: Varieties of Romantic Experience
Professor Charles Lynn Batten: The Historical Context of Waiting for Godot
Opening performance of Waiting for Godot by the Gate Theatre of Dublin
Chang-rae Lee: Alfoft
Professor Frederick Burwick: Coleridge’s Translation of Goethe’s Faust
Deborah Eisenberg: Twilight of the Superheroes
Peter Behrens: The Law of Dreams
Professor H. A. Kelly: Satan: A Biography
Dr. Rita Charon: Henry James: The Perilous Fate of the Teller, or What Bench? What Desolation?

2005-2006
Lily Tuck: The News from Paraguay
Joan Silber: Heaven: A Ring of Stories
Lisa See: Snow Flower and the Secret Fan
W. S. Merwin: Migration: New & Selected Poems
Joan Didion: The Year of Magical Thinking
Allan Gurganus: White People
Edward P. Jones: The Known World
Leslie S. Klinger: The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes
Colm Tóibín: The Master
Professor John Dagenais: Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela simulation
Tab Hunter: Tab Hunter Confidential: The Making of a Movie Star
Annual Dinner: Lawrence Grobel: The Art of the Interviewer

2004-2005
Diane Johnson: L’Affaire
Stephen Greenblatt: Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare
Agapi Stassinopoulos: Conversations with the Goddesses
Professor N. Katherine Hayles: The Strange Worlds of David Foster Wallace
David Foster Wallace: Brief Interviews with Hideous Men and Oblivion
Jonathan Franzen: The Corrections
Merchant of Venice: A film screening and discussion with producer Barry Nevidi, with an introduction by Dr. Stephen Dickey
Sharon Cameron: The Sea Is the Sea: The Unpersonified Impersonal in Melville’s Billy Budd
Marilynne Robinson: Gilead
Bloom: A film screening and panel discussion, hosted by Professor Jack Kolb
Annual Dinner: Benjamin Schwarz: Riding the Waves with The Atlantic: The Changes Elite Magazines Face in a Post—9/11 World

2003-2004
Jeffrey Eugenides: Middlesex
Peter Carey: My Life as a Fake
Wanda Coleman: Angel Baby Blues
Tobias Wolff: Old School
Stephen Dickey: Shakespeare’s The Winter’s Tale, with performances by Dan Christiaens, Joe Herold, Danny Oberbeck, and Gary Bell
Estelle Gershgoren Novak: Poets of the Non-Existent City
Jeanne McCulloch and Monica Simpson: A lecture and discussion
Jonathan Kirsch: God Against the Gods: Sacred Texts and the War Between Monotheism and Polytheism
Martin Amis, joined by Christopher Hutchins: Yellow Dog
Professor Frederick Burwick: Bacchus and Romantic England: Keats, Coleridge, and Other Imbibers

2002-2003
Patrick Stewart with Professor A. R. Braunmuller and Dr. David S. Rodes: An afternoon reading Shakespeare
Mona Simpson, Dr. Carolyn See, et al.: Readings from The Library of America
Pamela Kaufman: The Book of Eleanor: A Novel of Eleanor of Aquitaine
Peter Dennis: Bolder! Selections from Winnie the Pooh by A. A. Milne
Strange Fruit: A film screening and discussion with writer-director Joel Katz
Stephen Cooper: The Fiction of John Fante
Professors Calvin Bedient, Harryette Mullen, and Stephen Yenser with Joy Harjo: An evening of contemporary poetry
Professor Frederick Burwick: Death’s Jest Book
David Birney, Vincent Dowling, and others: Poetry and Literature of Ireland: “Never Give All the Heart…”
Mary Robertson, curator at the Huntington Library: Gloriana! The Golden Legend of Elizabeth I
Stanley Wells: Shakespeare: For All Time
Doug Dutton, Jonathan Kirsch, Wendy Werris: Brave New World of Books
Annual Dinner: Professor Jayne Lewis: A Ghost in the Age of Reason

2001-2002
Al Pacino: Looking for Richard
Professor Stephen Yenser and others: A tribute to James Merrill
Mona Simpson: Off Keck Road
Gina Nahai: Faith, Fundamentalism, and Fiction: A Writer’s Journey from the East to the West
Jerreth Merrin: Bat Ode
Professor Mark Seltzer: Serial Killers
Eva Marie Saint and Jeff Hayden: On the Divide
Annual Dinner: Professor Thomas Wortham: Ain’t It a Shame What We’ve Done to Mark Twain?

2000-2001
Margaret Atwood: A private reception
Adrienne Cooper and zalmen Mlotek: Yiddish on the American Scene: A concert of Yiddish songs
Professor J. D. McClatchy and friends: A Longfellow evening
Professor Barbara Packer: White Ashes, with a performance by Mary Stark
James Fadiman: The Other Side of Haight
Miriam Margolyes with Professor A. R. Braunmuller: Shakespeare on Stage
Ron Gottesman with Professor James Goodwin: The Encyclopedia of Violence
Seamus Heaney: A private reception
Aimée Bender: An evening in conversation
Annual Dinner: Dr. David S. Rodes: Shakespeare’s The Tempest

1999-2000
Simon Winchester: The Professor and the Madman
Frank Dwyer and Mary Stark: Sarah Siddons, Actress and Woman
Richard Reeves: The New History: The Triumph of the Visual
Professor Janet Hadda, Kenneth Turan, Leonard Nimoy: Yiddish on the American Scene
David Wong Louie: The Barbarians Are Coming
Paul Vangelisti: Los Angeles Writing 1932–1998
John Rechy: The Myth of LA-LA Land
Professor Jascha Kessler and Julia Barrett: On writing
Frank McCourt: Father’s Day Reflections
Annual Dinner: Professor V. A. Kolve: A Special Kind of Folly: The Middle Ages Imagines Us

1998-1999
Andrea Barrett: Art as Exploration and Discovery
Eric Foner: The Story of American Freedom
Professor Greg Sarris: Writing, Teaching, and Fiction
Professor N. Katherine Hayles: Monstrous Bodies and Literary Forms: Experimental Electronic Fiction
David Ferry: Gilgamesh, Horace, Virgil, and Others
James Ellroy: Off the Record, on the QT, and Very Hush Hush
Professor Rafael Pérez-Torres: Movements, Music, and Magic in Contemporary Poetry
John, Sean, and MacKenzie Astin and Paul Day Clemens: A performance in John Brichut’s Just Let Me Say This about That
Alix Kates Schulman: On autobiography
Benita Eisler: Byron: Child of Passion, Fool of Fame
Joanna Trollope: Other People’s Children
Annual Dinner: Professor Michael J. B. Allen: Shakespeare in Love with Cleopatra

(Please turn over)
1997-1998
Steve Wasserman with Warren Olney: Can Literature Survive in Mass Culture?
Kevin Starr: The Historical Novel in America: Settings and Uses
Garrison Keillor: Wobegon Boy
Frank McCourt: Angela's Ashes
Professor Charles Lynn Batten: Things Fall Apart: 20th-Century Art and Literature
Professor Martha Banta: Mamie, Alice, Undine, and Gitl: American Women Breaking Loose, circa 1900
T. Coraghessan Boyle: Riven Rock
Professor Eric Jager: The Book of the Heart
Joseph Heller: Autobiographical remembrances in Now and Then
Joy Harjo: Visiting professor of poetry performing with Poetic Justice
Studs Terkel interviewed by Digby Diehl: My American Century
Mary Gordon: Spending
John Lithgow, et al.: A celebration of Lyrical Ballads at the Huntington Library
Ian Frost: Byron in Hell: His Life and Love
Merlin Holland: Oscar Wilde’s grandson discusses Wilde’s life and work
Lisa and Dr. Carolyn See: Salon with prominent Los Angeles authors (mother and daughter) discussing their work
Roy Blount, Jr.: On humor

1996-1997
Bruce Jay Friedman: A Father's Kisses
Professor Helen Deutsch: Alexander Pope, Samuel Johnson, and the Disease of Writing in 18th-Century England
Roger Ebert: Celebrating 100 Years of Great Movie Making
Walter Mosley with Professor Richard Yarborough: A reading and discussion
Roddy Doyle: Dramatic reading of The Woman Who Walked Into Doors
Neil R. Davison: James Joyce, Ulysses, and the Construction of Jewish Identity
John Irving: A discussion of his works in progress
Julia Barrett: The Third Sister
Professor Paul Bergman: Reel Justice: The Ethics of Movie Lawyers
Professor James Goodwin: A lecture on Phototexts of the Depression
Professor Michael Galchinsky: The Origin of the Modern Jewish Woman Writer

1995-1996
James Ellroy: American Tabloid
Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy: The Right to Privacy
Professor Donald Cosentino: Imagining the Divine in Haitian Voudou
Charlton Heston: Dramatic readings from classic literature and a discussion of In the Arena
Professor James Shapiro: Shakespeare and the Jews
Professor Thomas Hines: William Faulkner and the Tangible Past: The Architecture of Yoknapatawpha
Professors N. Katherine Hayles and Paul Sheats: Romanticism, Chaos Theory, and Tom Stoppard’s Arcadia

1994-1995
John Gregory Dunne: What Is the Truth in Hollywood?
Lynn Redgrave: Shakespeare for My Father
Professor Anne Mellor: The Art and Poetry of William Blake
Professor Jenny Sharpe: What Columbus Failed to Discover: The Year of the White Bear
Dr. David S. Rodes and Professor A. R. Braunmuller: The French Renaissance in Prints
Digby Diehl: Big Screen, Little Screen, What Good Is the Written Word Now?
Professor Christopher Grose: Uncovering the Undiscovered Bilgewater Manuscript, with a performance by The Miltones!
Patrick O’Brian and Charlton Heston: In dialogue

1993-1994
Professor Blake Allmendinger: Git Along, Little Doggerel: Cowboys and Poetry
Bernice Kert: Discussing Abby Aldrich Rockefeller: The Woman in the Family
Professor Martha Banta: Edith Wharton’s Tragic The House of Mirth: What Price the Free Spirit?
Roger Rosenblatt: Informal discussion of The Art of the Essay
Professor Deborah Shuger: The Eye of the Beholder: Modern and Renaissance Mirrors of the Self

1992-1993
Sir Ian McKellen with Professor Michael J. B. Allen: Richard III: Thou Elvish-Marked, Abortion, Rooting Hog!
Professor Mitzi Myers with UCLA librarian David Zeidberg: Children’s Literature in Literary and Lyrical Perspective
John Mortimer: Dunster
Professor King-Kok Cheung: Talkstory: Reinventing Tales from the Western Canon
Professor Jayne Lewis: Mary, Queen of Scots: Queen of a Thousand Histories
Professor Peter Brown: To Be a Pilgrim: Chaucer, Canterbury, and the Afterlife of the Canterbury Tales
Professor Stephen Yenser: The Fire in All Things

1991-1992
Isabel Allende: Readings and discussion
Professor Charles A. Berst: O Pshaw! G. B. S., the Devil, and God
Dr. David S. Rodes and Professor Robert Watson, with assistance by Roger Rees: The Bard, from Page to Stage
Janet Sternburg: On her work
Angelica Huston: Dramatic reading of the poetry of William Butler Yeats
Professor J. D. McClatchy: Paintings into Poems

1990-1991
Celeste Holm, Norman Cousins, Cynthia Gregory, Bella Lewitsky, and George de la Peña: Honoring Agnes de Mille
Professor Michael Rose: An Invitation to Education: Shaping America’s Educational Agenda
Professor Ruth Yeazell: Was Jane Austen a Feminist?
Roger Rees and Patrick Stewart: Reading of Every Good Boy Deserves Favour
Professor Richard Yarborough: The Harlem Renaissance

1989-1990
Bebe Moore Campbell: A reading and discussion
Tina Howe in conversation with Sylvie Drake: Painting Churches
Charles Champlin with Art Seidenbaum: Back There Where the Past Was
Professor George Guffey: Literature and the Sciences
Patrick Stewart: Reading from Le Morte D’Arthur
Professor Stephen Yenser: A reading and discussion

1988-1989
Charles Champlin, Wanda Coleman, Walter Matthau, and Roger Simon: The Raymond Chandler 100th Birthday Celebration
Brian Moore: The Craft of Writing
John Barth: Reading from his latest work
Professors Reginald Foakes, Robert Watson, and Michael J. B. Allen: Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Theatre
Professor Albert Hutter: Classic Novels as Theatre, with musical excerpts with Christopher Carothers and Kay Peterson

1987-1988
Jack Miles: Honoring the 1987 winners of the Los Angeles Times Book Review Book Awards
Professors A. R. Braunmuller and Charles A. Berst with Meredith MacRae and Patrick Stewart: Readings from the works of Harold Pinter
Professor Anne Mellor: Romantic Poetry and Romantic Landscape Painting
Dr. Carolyn See and Aram Saroyan: Remembering Lost Neighborhoods: Conversations about Los Angeles

1986-1987
Joyce Carol Oates: Reading from her work
The Royal Shakespeare Company: With commentary by Dr. David S. Rodes and Professors Michael J. B. Allen and A. R. Braunmuller
Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey in conversation with Dr. David S. Rodes: Drama and Journals as Literary Forms
Professor Martha Banta: American Women
The Dickens Players: In performance
Professor V. A. Kolve: Chaucer and the Visual Arts