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Writers at the Rock:

Poetry & Fiction Series at Simon's Rock Begins March 7

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA— The Poetry & Fiction Series at Bard College at Simon's Rock returns to campus this spring and is open to the public, beginning on March 7.

The Writers at the Rock: Poetry & Fiction Series readings will take place in-person on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in Blodgett House on the campus of Simon's Rock. All readings are free and open to the public. The first reading in the series will take place on Thursday, March 7 with author Tiana Clark.

"We've had Pulitzer Prize winners, National Book Award winners, Guggenheim Fellows, MacArthur genius grant winners, and rising literary stars whose work just continues to find new readers around the world. And this doesn't happen in a big auditorium—the readings take place in the Blodgett House living room, where we can have real conversations with the writers. The students always ask great questions, and the writers often tell me that they're blown away by how deeply engaged the students are with the writers' work," shared Dean of Faculty and Curriculum Development and Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Literature Brendan Mathews, who is a coordinator for the Poetry & Fiction Series.

Authors in the 2024 Poetry & Fiction Series include Tiana Clark, Alexis Schaitkin, Ama Codjoe, and Paul Yoon.

For more information about the Poetry & Fiction Series, visit the [Simon's Rock Events Calendar](#).

[March 7](#)

Tiana Clark is the author of *I Can't Talk About the Trees Without the Blood*, winner of the Agnes Lynch Starret Prize. She has received the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, an NEA Literature Fellowship, the Amy Lowell Poetry Traveling Scholarship, and a Pushcart Prize.

March 28

Alexis Schaitkin is the author of the novel *Elsewhere*, named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice, and ALA Notable Book, and longlisted for the Carol Shields Prize. Her previous novel *Saint X* was a *New York Times* Notable Book and was adapted into a limited series for Hulu.

April 4

Ama Codjoe is the author of *Bluest Nude*, winner of the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize and finalist for both the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Poetry and the Paterson Poetry Prize. She has received an NEA Literature Fellowship and a Whiting Award.

April 18

Paul Yoon is the author of five works of fiction, most recently *The Hive and the Honey*, a finalist for the 2024 Story Prize. He is the recipient of the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Poetry & Fiction Series

For over thirty years, the Poetry & Fiction Series has hosted prominent and upcoming poets and fiction writers, including Seamus Heaney, Annie Prolux, Derek Walcott, John Edgar Wideman, Susan Sontag, Rita Dove, and many more. Open to the community, the readings are preceded by a conversation with Simon's Rock students and followed by a Q&A with the attending audience. Coordinated by Brendan Matthews, the series consists of four readings over the course of the spring semester.

About Simon's Rock

[Bard College at Simon's Rock](#) is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors. The Princeton Review's *Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

[Bard Academy at Simon's Rock](#) is the nation's first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students' future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.

[The Bard Queer Leadership Project](#) (BQLP) is a revolutionary, new Bachelor of Arts degree program designed for, and by, LGBTQIA+ college students to elevate LGBTQIA+ students and college graduates into leadership roles in school and across the workforce while serving as a space for actualizing educational practices designed for students to thrive. The centerpiece of BQLP is a four year dual major B.A. degree combining Queer Leadership with a second academic field.

For more information, visit simons-rock.edu and bardacademy.simons-rock.edu

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