

[The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters:](#)

A Poet and Her Legacies: Overview of All Fall 2023 Events

[Note: See pp. 4-6 for a record of events from earlier in 2023.]

August 2023:

August 30, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm: Reading Poetry by and Inspired by PWP

In-person event at TCU. This panel offers interpretive readings of poems by Wheatley Peters and of poetic texts inspired by her life and writings. Each presenter will offer commentary on a poem, pairing, or related cluster, along with suggestions for teaching about and learning from those text(s). The session spotlights both pathways to reading PWP's work and ways that a growing number of Black women poets have found inspiration for their own writings from studying PWP.

Location: TCU's BLUU Building, Beck/Geren Register [here](#) to attend.

Lead sponsors: John V. Roach Honors College (Ron Pitcock, Dean) and Humanities Texas



Presenters:

Mona Narain, Professor, English Department, TCU

Kelly Franklin, Doctoral Student, English Department, TCU

Linda K. Hughes, Addie Levy Professor of English, TCU

Theresa Gaul, Professor, English Department, TCU

Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Lorraine Sherley Professor of English, TCU (moderator)

Examples of potential poems for discussion, beyond those by Wheatley herself:

[June Jordan, "Something Like a Sonnet for Phillis Miracle Wheatley";](#) [Poem\(s\) by Alison Clarke from *Phillis*](#)
[Poem\(s\) by Drea Brown from *Dear Girl: A Reckoning*;](#) [Poem\(s\) by Honorée Jeffers from *The Age of Phillis*](#)

September 2023:

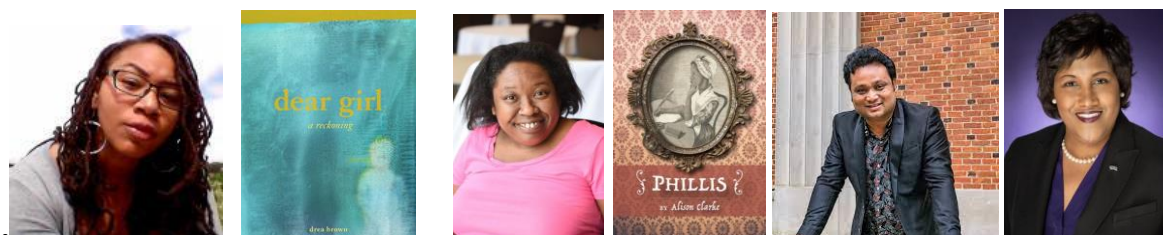
September 7, 4:30 ET, 3:30 CT (90 mins): "Poetic Legacies: Interpreting New Texts from Writers Inspired by Phillis Wheatley Peters"; **Dee J. Kelly Alumni Center, TCU; Cox C**

Register [here](#) for in-person attendance.

As an alternative, participants may register [here](#) for the Zoom webinar sponsored by UGA.

Dr. Drea Brown/[Dear Girl: A Reckoning](#); and Alison Clarke/[Phillis](#) moderated by Aruni Kashyap (UGA); hosted by **lead sponsor Dean Sonja Watson, AddRan College, TCU.**

Funding for this event is also provided by Humanities Texas.



drea brown

Alison Clarke

Aruni Kashyap

Sonja Watson

September 20 and September 27, 5:00 – 6:15 CT; 6:00-7:15 ET

Part I: Humanities Texas Webinar on Teaching Phillis Wheatley Peters (historical and literary culture contexts; overview of major works) (Dr. Sarah Ruffing Robbins/TCU, Dr. Barbara McCaskill/UGA, and Dr. Mona Narain/TCU)

Part II: Humanities Texas Webinar on Teaching PWP (representative close readings and poetic analyses) (Dr. Sarah Ruffing Robbins Dr. Barbara McCaskill, Dr. Mona Narain)

Teachers: To register, contact Humanities Texas via their website [here](#). PD credits provided.

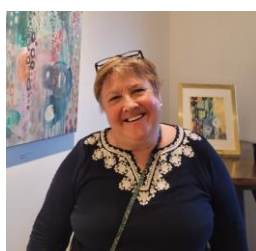


October 2023:

October 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. ET; 5:30-7:00 CT: “The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters: A Children’s Literature and Family Literacy Panel” Georgia Humanities Council/Athens-Clarke County Public Library webinar on Phillis Wheatley in children’s literature, children’s historical texts, and picture books to address issues germane to parents, librarians, and K-12 school educators; presentations by panelists scholar-teachers of African American children’s literature, including longtime educator and literacy expert Joann Wood and Dr. [Brigitte Fielder](#), University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dr. [Nicole Cooke](#) of the U of South Carolina.

Hybrid Event—Online Presentations With In-Person Watch Parties in GA and TX

Sponsors of webinar: Georgia Humanities Council, Athens/Clarke County Library, UGA



Brigitte Fielder, Nicole Cooke, and JoAnn Wood

Register [here](#) for in-person at either location or for online attendance.

October 17; 6:30-7:00 CT: “Celebrating DFW Writes PWP”—In-Person only in TX [Location: Palko 130 at TCU in Texas) Host and lead sponsor: Dean Frank Hernandez, College of Education

Following the webinar on children’s literature referenced above, Carmen Kynard and Endio Lindo will present awards for the winning entries in the “DFW Writes Wheatley Peters” contest for elementary, middle, and high school students. (TCU CAMPUS; College of Education; Palko 130)

Register [here](#) for in-person attendance at the awards event as part of the overall program.

[See below for more about the awards ceremony at TCU, Part II for this program in TX.]

Part II in Fort Worth, 6:30-7:00 p.m.; In-Person: "Celebrating DFW Writes PWP"

[Location: Palko 130 at TCU in Texas] Host and lead sponsor: Dean Frank Hernandez, College of Education

Following the webinar on children's literature referenced above, Carmen Kynard and Endio Lindo will present awards for the winning entries in the "DFW Writes Wheatley Peters" contest for elementary, middle, and high school students. (TCU CAMPUS; College of Education; Palko 130)

Register [here](#) for in-person at TCU for this program as part of the October 17 event in TX.

On-site hosts and presenters for in-person activities in Georgia and Texas on October 17



GA: Margaret Robbins



TX: Frank Hernandez, Carmen Kynard and Endia Lindo

November 2023:

Monday Nov. 6, 7:00 p.m. ET: Dramatizing Phillis Wheatley Peters

Theatre and Fine Arts Building, UGA (in-person event)

Staged reading and adaptation of Mary Church Terrell's 1932 "Historical Pageant-Play Based on the Life of Phyllis Wheatley" Contacts: Dr. George Contini, UGA Theatre and Film, and Dr. Barbara McCaskill, UGA English Dept. [tentative location: Fine Arts Building Lecture Hall 400]

November 15, 5:00-6:30 ET, 4:00-5:30 CT: "Honoring Wheatley Peters and Her Legacies: Reflecting Back and Imagining Future Work"--Scholarly Roundtable closing the 2023 initiative and envisioning future collaborations [webinar event]

Registration link available in fall 2023 on the PWP website

Stacie McCormick (TCU); Anne Frey (TCU); Seretha Williams (Augusta University); Britt Rusert (UMASS Amherst); Online webinar provided by UGA

Register [here](#).

Primary funding for this event was provided by Humanities Texas.



Previous Events, Held and Spring, 2023

Note: Where available for prior hybrid/virtual events, links to videos are provided below.

January 2023:

- **January 31, 2:30 ET, 1:30 CT (75 mins):** “Launching ‘The Genius Of Phillis Wheatley Peters: A Poet and Her Legacies’”—Scholarly roundtable kickoff (ZOOM webinar and recording), featuring speakers from TCU and UGA faculty in British Studies, American Studies, Transatlantic Studies, and related fields. From TCU, **Brandon Manning**, located Wheatley’s place in African American literary history and **Linda K. Hughes**, reflected on Wheatley Peters’ crucial place in women’s transatlantic poetry. From UGA, **David Diamond**, English and African American Studies, considered Wheatley’s original reception in and connections with Britain. Additionally, **Zanice Bond**, from Tuskegee’s Department of Modern Languages, Communication, and Philosophy, addressed Wheatley’s impact on and relevance to Civil Rights and social justice issues. [See a video recording [here](#).]



February 2023:

- **February 16, 10:00 a.m. ET, 9:00 a.m. CT (90 mins): UGA Symposium on the Book, talk by Professor Kim Coles, University of Maryland—“The Blood of Christians: Phillis Wheatley Peters and White Christianity.”** co-conveners Dr. Sujata Iyengar, Dr. Miriam Jacobson, Ms. Anne Meyers DeVine/UGA; Special Collections Libraries, Room 277, February 16th, 2023
- **February 16, 2:00 p.m. ET, 1:00 p.m. CT (90 mins): "Printing Early Modern Race: A Rare Books Workshop,"** exploring books about race and enslavement, including a first edition of PWP’s *Poems*, UGA Special Collections Libraries, Room 277; in-person

Presenters/Facilitators:

Prof. Kim Coles (University of Maryland)

Prof. David Diamond (UGA)

Prof. Miriam Jacobson (UGA)

Prof. Sujata Iyengar (UGA)

Librarian Anne Meyers DeVine

March 2023:

- **March 22, 4:00 ET, 3:00 CT: “Phillis Wheatley Peters in Material Memory”--American Antiquarian Society (AAS) archivists (recorded on ZOOM)** featuring print productions and ephemera contextualizing Phillis Wheatley Peters, her world, and her legacies as seen in print artifacts (Sarah Ruffing Robbins/TCU and Barbara McCaskill/UGA with Nan Wolverton and members of the AAS Staff and a special appearance by Honorée Fanonne Jeffers)

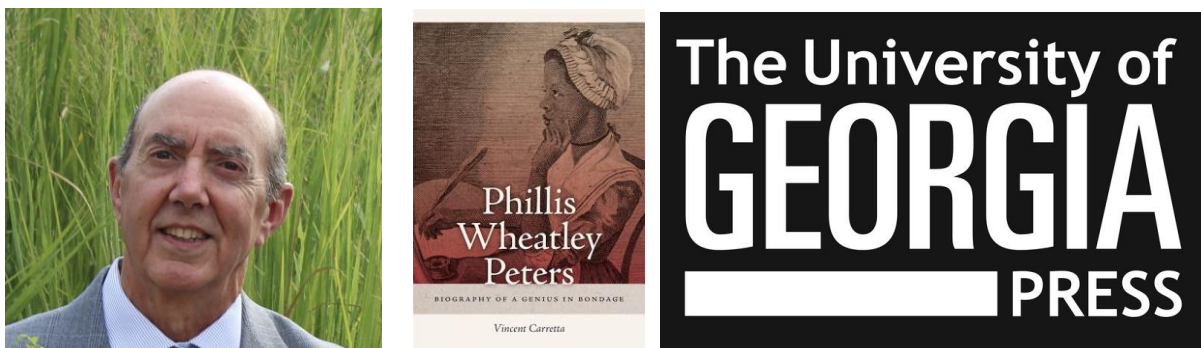
See a video recording [here](#).



April 2023:

- **April 3, 4:30-6:00 p.m. ET, 3:30-5:00 CT (90 mins): Book Talk by Professor Vincent Carretta: “Recovering the life of Phillis Wheatley Peters, 'A WONDER of the Age indeed!,'”** new and revised 2023 edition of his biography (organizers: Dr. Casie Legette/UGA, Nate Holley/UGA, and Lisa Bayer/UGA Press). Co-sponsored with UGA’s Colloquium in British Literature, the Mellon-funded Willson Center Global Georgia Program, and UGA’s Modernisms workshop (Susan Rosenbaum, Nell Andrew, and Rielle Nivitski) Livestreamed and recorded

See a video recording [here](#).



- **April 4, 10:00 a.m. ET, 9:00 a.m. CT (90 mins): “Re-reading a Life: Responding to Vincent Carretta’s New Biography of Wheatley Peters”—A Scholarly Roundtable** Scholars from around the globe, in English and other fields: livestreamed and recorded

See a video recording [here](#).

Panelists:

Tara Bynum, University of Iowa ; Keith Hughes, University of Edinburgh
George Elliott Clarke, University of Toronto; Lenora Warren, Cornell University

- **April 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m., CT (1 segment in a multi-hour event): “Phillis Wheatley Peters: The Power of Words and Literature’s Global Legacies for the Future,”** Short collaborative lecture as one element in the Add Ran College of the Arts biennial BACK-TO-CLASS NIGHT, *Liberal Arts at TCU 150: The Past, Present and Future*. Registration for this ticketed, in-person event required.
Presenters: Dr. Mona Narain and Dr. Sarah Ruffing Robbins
- **April 25, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET: “Race, Representation, and Self-Presentation in American Art.”** This gallery tour, co-sponsored by UGA’s Interdisciplinary Modernism/s Workshop and the Georgia Museum of Art, focused on the politics of race and representation in historical American art, inspired by Phillis Wheatley’s famous portrait. Led by **Jeffrey Richmond-Moll**, curator of American art at the museum.
- **April 26, 4:00-5:30 p.m. CT (90 mins): “Interdisciplinary Connections for Studying and Teaching Phillis Wheatley Peters”—Commentaries and Conversations**
- TCU teacher-scholars shared ideas for engaging with Wheatley Peters via approaches drawn from Girls’ Studies (Ariane Balizet), Science/Biology Studies of the Middle Passage (Molly Weinburgh), and Religion and Spirituality Histories (Alonzo Smith). Host and moderator: Mona Narain, PWP Project Codirector; TCU Campus (Palko 130)

May 2023:

May 31, TCU Campus: “DFW Writes Phillis Wheatley Peters” Carmen Kynard and Sarah Ruffing Robbins facilitated a Wheatley-Peters-themed writing workshop for teachers attending the TCU College of Education’s Summer Literacy Institute: Embracing Literacies in Our Community.



To promote student writing in response to the poet’s life and work, the session guided teachers through media-enhanced writing activities across different grade levels that engage and deepen students’ understandings of the social impact of poetics. The session also prepared DFW-area educators to enable youth participation in a [writing contest](#) for elementary, middle, and high school students linked to celebrating Wheatley Peters in the anniversary year of her 1773 *Poems’* publication. TCU CAMPUS (College of Education); in-person only

For information on the writing contest, visit these links:

<https://wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com/writing-contest.html>

Elementary poem-writing: <https://wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com/elementary-school-entry.html>

Middle grades letter-writing: <https://wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com/middle-school-entry.html>

High school multimedia reporting: <https://wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com/high-school-entry.html>