Writing and Linguistics cosponsors third ‘Statesboro: The Write Place’ festival

November 7, 2013

On Thursday, November 14, at 7 p.m. in the Emma Kelly Theater, members of the community will once again have the opportunity to experience the diversity and richness of the literary arts in Statesboro. Collaborating with the Averitt Center, the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau, Statesboro Magazine, and Friends of the Library, the Department of Writing and Linguistics continues its commitment to promote regional writers through sponsorship of the third annual Statesboro: The Write Place literary festival.

During Thursday’s reading, the main event of the festival, six writers will read from their works. Among the authors are faculty from the Department of Writing and Linguistics: Zach Bush (poetry), Sarah Domet (fiction), and Christina Olson (poetry). Other readers include Jordan Fennell, a graduate of Georgia Southern who is working on his first novel, and Maya Van Wagenen, a local 15-year-old whose first book is coming out in 2014: Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek. Maya’s talent was recognized last year when she was a winner in the high school creative writing contest that Write Place sponsors.

The headliner for Statesboro: The Write Place is Tony Arata, an award-winning songwriter and alumnus of Georgia Southern. Arata’s song “The Dance,” performed by Garth Brooks, won the 1990 Song of the Year Award from the Country Music Association. His songs have also been performed by Emmylou Harris, Bonnie Raitt, Clay Walker and Randy Travis.

The weeklong festival includes events at the Statesboro Regional Library, where children’s authors will read from their works and the Friends of the Library will host writers’ workshops. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the Department of Writing and Linguistics at 912-478-0141.

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. CLASS, the University’s College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity, and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations, and the world.
Georgia Southern University’s Opera program will present American composer Stephen Sondheim’s *Company* on November 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. on campus in the Performing Arts Center. Admission is free. The situations of the show contain mild adult language and subject matter.

*Company* (1970) marked a turning point for Sondheim and the world of musical theater. Though he wrote the music and lyrics for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Sondheim was best known as the lyricist for the hits *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*. *Company* was his first critical success as composer-lyricist and earned Tony Awards for best lyrics, music, book, scenic design, producer, director and new musical.

The show breaks from the tradition of book musicals such as *Oklahoma* and *Sound of Music* that tell a story. *Company* takes the audience through an exploration of marriage as they meet five couples and Bobby, the single friend who connects their stories while examining his own relationships. The show takes many humorous turns such as one couple holding a karate match in their living room, a bride who sings her frenzied fears at the prospect of matrimony, and Bobby’s girlfriends declaring “You Could Drive A Person Crazy.” The characters also have reflective moments as the husbands contemplate their “Sorry – Grateful” inner struggle with marriage while Bobby progresses from wanting someone who will “Marry Me A Little” to seeking true commitment in the final “Being Alive.”

The Georgia Southern Opera cast includes students who are both music majors and non-majors and undergraduate and graduate students; audiences will recognize cast members David Hopkins and Jacob Furse from recent Georgia Southern Opera and Averitt Center productions. Set design is by Kelly Berry of the Department of Communication Arts. The show is under the musical direction of Michael Braz, and the orchestra is conducted by Carolyn Bryan; Arikka Gregory is the director of Georgia Southern Opera. Funding for Georgia Southern Opera is provided by the Office of the Vice-President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

For more information, contact the Department of Music at 912-478-5396.

The Department of Music is housed in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. CLASS, the University's College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity, and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations, and the world.