

WKU's Department of English presents the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual

Mary Ellen & Jim Wayne Miller

*Celebration of Writing*  
*Sunday, October 20, 2019, 2 p.m.*

*at the Kentucky Museum*



**The annual celebration is presented in honor of WKU's first Poet Laureate, Professor Mary Ellen Miller & Dr. Jim Wayne Miller, former KY Poet Laureate.**

**The program will include recognition of the student winners of this year's Fiction Contest with a presentation by guest judge & fiction writer Katy Yocom, author of *Three Ways to Disappear*.**

**Welcome — Dr. Rob Hale**

**Recognition of Finalists — Dr. Rob Hale**

**Finalists**

<b>Ella Corder</b>	Somerset, KY
<b>Blair Correll</b>	Bowling Green, KY
<b>Cameron Fontes</b>	Louisville, KY
<b>Mara Lowhorn</b>	Gallatin, TN
<b>Emra Mehmedović</b>	Bowling Green, KY
<b>Michaela Moore</b>	Hendersonville, TN
<b>Alicyn Newman</b>	Bowling Green, KY
<b>Brandon Peters</b>	Bowling Green, KY
<b>Mikaila Smith</b>	Madisonville, KY
<b>Adrianna Waters</b>	Florence, KY

**Recognition of Winners — Katy Yocom**

**"We Are In This Together: On Art and Empathy" — Katy Yocom**

**Refreshments and Book Signing**

## "Landing"

By Mary Ellen Miller from *The Poet's Wife Speaks*

We bent over backwards to re-wind the years  
as if we knew we were evolving, shedding  
some invisible membrane we were reluctant  
to let go.

We have always been too cerebral.

Were we trying to freeze-frame some process  
like those cameras aimed at flowers  
to catch nature in its act?

Or were we hoping some nubbin-like  
new beginning might yet emerge and surprise us?

God, we were restless and so frightened.  
Not of each other.

Dark (clockwise and obedient)  
made a smooth and noiseless landing.

It was time, we knew, to unbuckle.

Such heavy luggage on the carousel—  
the kind that has no music.

How much pretense is involved here?

I think not much.

Between us two, metaphor may be the only thing  
we understand.

**Katy Yocom** was born and raised in Atchison, Kansas. After earning a degree in journalism from the University of Kansas, she moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where she has lived ever since. Her novel *Three Ways to Disappear* (Ashland Creek Press, 2019) won the Siskiyou Prize for New Environmental Literature and was named a Barnes & Noble Top Indie Favorite. She lives with her family in Louisville and serves as associate director of the low-residency graduate writing programs of the School of Creative and Professional Writing at Spalding University, where it's her great good fortune to work with writers every day.

**The Mary Ellen and Jim Wayne Miller Celebration of Writing** is a contest hosted annually by WKU and is open to students with an English major or minor as well as those in creative writing classes.

The contest is named after Dr. Jim Wayne Miller who taught German at WKU for over thirty years until his death in 1996, and his wife, Professor Mary Ellen Miller, who taught poetry and literature at WKU for 55 years until her death in 2018. A writer in many genres, Dr. Miller would be best known for his poetry and numerous books including: *Copperhead Cane* (1964), *The Mountains Have Come Closer* (1980), and *Newfound* (1989). Professor Miller was also well-known for her poetry. She published many poems as well as the collection, *The Poet's Wife Speaks* (2011). Together with Morris Allen Grubbs, she also published *Every Leaf a Mirror: A Jim Wayne Miller Reader* (2014).

To donate to the celebration, supporters may make gifts through the WKU Foundation at WKU, 292 Alumni Ave., Bowling Green, 42101, or at [alumni.wku.edu/millerwritingfund](http://alumni.wku.edu/millerwritingfund).