



T O M M C G R A T H

T M

VISITING WRITERS SERIES

PHOTOGRAPH BY THOM TAMMARO



"Now the long freight of autumn goes smoking out to the land.
My possibles are all packed, but still I do not leave.
I am happy enough here, where Dakota drifts wild into the universe..."

—Tom McGrath, from "Beyond the Red River Valley"

Thursday, September 17: Todd Boss

4:00 p.m. Talk on the Writer's Craft

8:00 p.m. Reading

Both events in CMU • 101

Todd Boss's best-selling debut poetry collection,



Yellowrocket, was published in 2008 by W. W. Norton & Co. to rave reviews. His award-winning poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *New England Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and else-

where. His poems have been nationally syndicated on public radio and in Ted Kooser's "American Life in Poetry." Boss grew up just across the poverty line on an 80-acre cattle farm near Fall Creek, Wisconsin. He earned an MFA in poetry from the University of Alaska-Anchorage. For the past five years, Todd has been the Director of External Affairs at the Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis. He lives in north suburban Saint Paul with his wife and two children.

www.toddbosspoet.com/Todd.html

All events are free and open to the public.

The Tom McGrath Visiting Writers Series is supported by a generous grant from the Solomon Comstock Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation and by Moorhead State College alumnus Tom Sand.

For further information contact Thom Tammaro at 477.2199 or visit the website www.mnstate.edu/finearts

Thursday, October 15: Dean Hulse & Merrie Sue Holtan

7:30 p.m. Reading / King Hall Auditorium • 110

The Tom McGrath Visiting Writers series is pleased



to celebrate the publication of new books by two of our very own MFA in Creative Writing graduates. Please join us for an evening of conversation and readings by Dean Hulse, author of *Westhope: Life as a Former Farm Boy*, and Merrie Sue Holtan, author of

Power and Stride: The Nancy Burggraf Story (also includes a DVD produced by Holtan).

Dean Hulse is a freelance writer and an activist for issues of land use, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture. He lives in Fargo, North Dakota.

www.upress.umn.edu/Books/H/hulse_westhope.html

Merrie Sue Holtan has been an instructor in communication studies for more than twenty years and



currently teaches at Minnesota State University Moorhead. She has been a freelance feature and public relations writer for over twenty-five years with more than three hundred

published articles at local, regional and national levels. Holtan is managing editor of *Open Magazine* in Fargo. In 2008, she was chosen as the Communicator of Achievement by North Dakota Professional Communicator. She and her husband, Rev. Phil Holtan, live on Big Pine Lake, Perham, Minnesota. They have three grown children.

www.aboutndpc.org/contests/coa_2008ndpc.html

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Wednesday and Thursday, October 21 and 22: Patricia Hampl

Wednesday, October 21; 4:00 p.m. Talk on the Writer's Craft / King Hall Auditorium • 110

Thursday, October 22: 4:00 p.m. Reading / King Hall Auditorium • 110

Patricia Hampl's most recent book is *The Florist's*



Daughter, winner of numerous "best" and "year end" awards, including the *New York Times* "100 Notable Books of the Year" and the 2008 Minnesota Book Award for Memoir and Creative Nonfiction. *Blue*

Arabesque: A Search for the Sublime (2006), was also one of the *Times* Notable Books. Hampl first won recognition for *A Romantic Education* (1981), her memoir about her Czech heritage, awarded a Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship. This book and subsequent works have established her as an influential figure in the rise of autobiographical writing in the past twenty-five years. *Virgin Time* (1993) is a meditation about her Catholic upbringing and an inquiry into contemplative life. She is the author as well of two collections of poetry, *Woman before an Aquarium*, and *Resort and Other Poems*. *I Could Tell You Stories*, her collection of essays on memory and imagination, was a finalist in 2000 for the National Book Critics Circle Awards in General Nonfiction. In 2004 the Minnesota Historical Society Press published *The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald* edited and with an introduction by Hampl. And in fall 2008 *Tell Me True: Memoir, History and Writing a Life* came out from the same imprint, co-edited by Hampl and Elaine Tyler May with essays by fourteen memoirists including the editors. Hampl's fiction, poems, reviews, essays and travel pieces have appeared in many publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Best American Short Stories* and *Best American Essays*. From 1990-1995 she was a MacArthur Fellow. She lives in St. Paul and is Regents Professor and McKnight Distinguished Professor at The University of Minnesota.

<http://www.patriciahampl.com/>