Stephen Graham Jones

Tuesday, October 23, 2012, 8 p.m.
Main Stage, Etherredge Center

A native of West Texas, Stephen Graham Jones is a major figure in contemporary Native American literature, especially in its more experimental forms. He is a prolific writer, the author to date of over a dozen novels and a hundred and thirty short stories. Among his most notable titles are The Fast Red Road, A Plainsong (2000), which follows the half-blood Pidgin on his quixotic quest to find the stolen body of his father; All the Beautiful Sinners (2003), which traces Blackfoot lawman Jim Doe’s hunt for a serial killer; and Ledfeather (2008), which recounts how teenager Doby Saxon discovers a link to the past that informs the present. Jones currently teaches in the MFA program at the University of Colorado Boulder. Visit his author website at www.demontheory.net.

Nikky Finney

Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 8 p.m.
Main Stage, Etherredge Center

Born and raised on the coast of South Carolina, the daughter of a school teacher and a civil rights attorney who later became our state’s first African American chief justice, Nikky Finney spent years as a photographer before eventually finding her poetic voice. The author of four books of poetry, she won the National Book Award in 2011 for her latest volume Head Off & Split, which commemorates “emblematic figures and events in African American history.” In addition to her poetry, Finney is the author of a short story cycle Heartwood (1997) and a verse anthology The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South (2007). She currently teaches creative writing at the University of Kentucky. Visit her author website at www.nikkyfinney.net.

In 1985, thanks to the support of Dr. Robert Alexander, Chancellor Emeritus, the Department of English established an annual visiting writers’ series. In 1995, this series was renamed the James and Mary Oswald Distinguished Writers Series in honor of two longtime Aiken residents who created an endowment to enhance departmental initiatives to promote general interest in the English language and its literatures.

For more information on the series, please contact Dr. Tom Mack at the Department of English, USC Aiken,
471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801,
call 803-641-3479 or send e-mail: tomm@usca.edu