Thursday, March 17, 2011, 8 p.m.
Main Stage, Etherredge Center

The Washington Post has called Percival Everett “one of the most adventurously experimental of modern American novelists.” To date, he has written 22 books, including 17 novels, 3 short story collections, and 2 volumes of poetry. Some critics have called Everett’s fiction “genre-ambidextrous” because of its sheer variety in both subject matter and form, including his retelling of Greek myth (For Her Dark Skin, 1990), his exploring the limits of absurdist narrative (American Desert, 2004) and his reinventing the Western (God’s Country, 1994 and Wounded, 2005).

Everett grew up in Columbia, but for years, he has made California his home. He is currently a Distinguished Professor of English at the “Other USC,” the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Friday, March 18, 2011, 7 p.m.
Atrium Lobby, Etherredge Center

With the 2002 publication of her first novel The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd took up residence on the best seller lists. Although she had already carved for herself an enviable reputation as a memoirist with such books as When the Heart Waits (1990) and The Dance of the Dissident Daughter (1996), her venture into fiction firmly established her literary credentials. Following the success of The Secret Life of Bees, which is now widely taught in high school and college classrooms, Kidd published The Mermaid Chair (2005) and Traveling with Pomegranates (2009), a dual memoir with her daughter Ann Kidd Taylor.

A Georgia native, Kidd currently lives beside a salt marsh near Charleston; the city serves as the backdrop of her next book, a historical novel set in the nineteenth century.

Sue Monk Kidd and Percival Everett will share the stage to read from and talk about their latest work. This event is free and open to the public, but seating is reserved. Tickets can be obtained by visiting the Etherredge Center Box Office (limit of two per person; no phone reservations).

Both authors will be signing copies of their books in the lobby after the reading.

For more information on the series, please contact Dr. Tom Mack at the Department of English, USC Aiken, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, SC 29801, e-mail: tom@usca.edu

Tickets are required for the March 17 reading; paid reservations are required for the March 18 induction.