“The Year of the Book” properly describes the focus of the 2013-2014 Oswald Writers Series, which is dedicated to the publication of the landmark anthology entitled A Shared Voice (Lamar University Press), edited by Tom Mack and Andrew Geyer, both USCA English faculty. This collection of paired tales by writers from Texas and the Carolinas will be launched in October with a reading of one set of linked stories: “Thank You,” a characteristically over-the-top narrative by George Singleton, and the equally hilarious “Nasty Things” by Terry Dalrymple. Jan Seale’s program in the spring will feature not only a selection of her finely crafted poems but also a reading of her anthologyed tale “To Reap, To Thresh.”

Concurrent with the October reading will be an exhibition of paintings by Austin-based artist/singer-songwriter Eric Beverly, who did the cover art for the book.

George Singleton & Terry Dalrymple
Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 8 p.m. • Main Stage, Etherredge Center

Raised in Greenwood, South Carolina, George Singleton is a master of the comic short story. His career was launched when he published his first collection, These People Are Us, in 2001. Since then, his stories and novels have gained him a host of devoted readers and wide critical acclaim, including the 2011 Hillsdale Award in Fiction from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Singleton currently holds the John C. Cobb Endowed Chair in the Humanities at Wofford College. His latest book is Stray Decorum.

Having grown up in the Texas Hill Country, Terry Dalrymple uses much of that formative experience in his numerous short stories, which critics have praised as “character-driven fictions that convey the mysterious magic of human relationships.” The founding editor of the Concho River Review, he is currently the John Cargile Professor of English at Angelo State University, where he has taught for over thirty years. His latest book is Salvation and Other Stories.

Jan Epton Seale
Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 8 p.m. • Main Stage, Etherredge Center

Appointed Texas Poet Laureate in 2012, Jan Epton Seale is the author of seven volumes of poetry, two books of short stories, 2 books of nonfiction, and 9 children's books. Critics have hailed her poetry as “gentle, funny, in your face, zany, sensuous, ripe, and touching”; Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Maxine Kumin has found her best poems “especially delightful in their transgression of our daily norms.” Seale lives in the Rio Grande Valley. Her latest book is Appearances. For more information on her work, visit www.janseale.com.