

It's Elemental: How Water is Immersed in Our Language, Psyche, and Artistic Expression

Tuesday, October 20, 2020: 4:00-5:00 PM

Panel Presenters

Dr. Catherine Carter

Faculty in the Department of English, Dr. Catherine Carter's collections of poetry with LSU Press include *The Memory of Gills* and *The Swamp Monster at Home*, and *Larvae of the Nearest Stars* (2019). Her poetry has won the *North Carolina Literary Review's* James Applewhite Prize, the NC Literary and Historical Society's Roanoke-Chowan Award, and Jacar Press' chapbook contest, it has also appeared in *Best American Poetry 2009*, *Orion*, *Poetry*, *Ecotone*, *Tar River Poetry*, and *Delmarva Review*, among others. She is a professor of English at Western Carolina University.

Carolyn Grosch

Carolyn Grosch is the Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Western Carolina University Fine Art Museum. She has 16 years of experience in the museum field with expertise in collections management, curatorial practice, and academic museum programs. Grosch believes in the value of interdisciplinary and object-centered learning and strives to make the Museum a site where disciplines across campus can come together in discussion. Her curatorial research has centered on site-specific installation, contemporary photography, the intersections of contemporary art and pop culture, and those themes and artists of importance to Western North Carolina, including studio glass and Cherokee art and culture. She holds a Masters Degree in Art History and Museum Studies from Tufts University with specializations in contemporary art and collections care. Her recent exhibitions include *Resounding Change: Sonic Art and the Environment*, a campus theme-inspired project co-curated with musicologist Tyler Kinnear featuring contemporary artists who use sound to engage with environmental issues; and *Curious Terrain: WNC From the Air*, an exhibition of aerial photographs that captured the unique qualities of our region's built environment and raised broader questions about humanity's impact on the land through agriculture, energy, industry, and housing.

Dr. Windy Gordon

Dr. Winford "Windy" Gordon graduated summa cum laude from Wofford College in 1977. He then completed his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1982. After graduate school Gordon taught at UNC-Chapel Hill, NC Wesleyan College, Warren Wilson College, Brevard College and came to Western Carolina University in 2004. At Western Gordon teaches and serves as the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Psychology.

Gordon also has a long history with rivers. In 1978 he began racing whitewater canoe. This sport really became his passion. He earned a spot on the US National Team three times, each with a different partner. He won numerous medals in national championships across almost two decades of competition. He won a gold medal at the Internationeuax de France racing for the United States in 1986 and a World Championship at the Project RAFT Championship in Turkey in 1994. In 1996 Gordon competed in the Olympic trials for the Atlanta Olympic Games.

Even more than racing Gordon was a teacher on the river. He was a senior instructor of canoe and kayak at the Nantahala Outdoor Center where he worked in the summer from 1984 until 2012. In 1997 Gordon combined his passions for teaching, environmental activism and paddling when he led the inaugural Voice of the Rivers expedition. With 7 other kayakers he paddled 1,882 miles from Brevard, NC to the ocean at the end of the Mississippi River. During the trip the team spoke to more than 6,000 people about the importance of protecting our region's rivers.