

UNCW MFA alumna celebrates first published novel

by TORI BOONE
Staff Writer

UNCW Master of Fine Arts (MFA) alumna Nancy Jones will read from her first published novel "Molly" Tuesday, March 28 at 8 p. m. in King Auditorium.

"It's such a special occasion for me," Jones said. "There's nothing more wonderful than doing a reading for people you know and love and I look forward to taking questions."

Jones plans to read from the forward and opening chapter of "Molly" to give people a feel for the book, which was published in the beginning of March by Crown Publishing.

"It's nice for people to get a sense of where a novel is grounded and where it's headed in the opening chapter," Jones said.

"Molly" tells the story of two young girls growing up in Illinois in the 1940s. Betsy, one of the main characters, is infatuated with her friend Molly and wants to be just like her.

According to Jones, her book is about the way a girl grows into a young woman.

"My niece Elizabeth has reminded me that a young girl is a creature at once radiant and vulnerable. My hopes and fears for her are in this book," Jones said.

The novel is inspired by Vladimir Nabokov's novel, "Lolita." Jones' love for

the book began when she was taking a graduate fiction workshop at George Mason University.

"We read it in my workshop and I loved it. I was more fascinated with the female character Dolly than with the male character Humbert," Jones said.

Jones hopes that "Molly" will have a place in women's studies. She wants her novel to trigger discussion among readers.

"I hope parents will reflect on their own lives and the lives they would like their children to have," Jones said. The book was Jones' MFA thesis. Rebecca Lee, assistant professor in the creative writing department and Jones' thesis chair, read "Molly" before anyone else.

"I was shocked when I read "Molly" because the final copy is similar to the first draft," Lee said.

Jones made it clear to Lee that "Molly" paid homage to Nabokov rather than challenging to him.

Lee is looking forward to the reading. "I'm expecting it to be a rich experience because Nancy is so open about what she learned about the process of writing her book," she said.

Dr. Sue Richardson, assistant professor in the English department, will teach "Molly" later this semester in her "American Literature from 1870 to the Present" class. Richardson said that her class will



Nancy Jones will read from her first novel "Molly" in King Auditorium March 26 at 8 p.m.

focus on post-modern dilemmas in "Molly."

"My initial impression of 'Molly' was a fantastic one," Richardson said. "From what I've read, it's gripping, and you're attracted to the characters Betsy and Molly."

"Molly" is currently available in hardback at bookstores across the country. Fans can also pick up a copy following the reading at the reception and book-signing. The reading is free and open to the public.

Briefly...

Corcoran curator presents St. John's lecture

Eric Denker, Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Corcoran Gallery of Art and head of tours and lectures at the National Gallery of Art will present a lecture on "American Women Printmakers from Cassatt to Bishop" March 29 at 11 a.m. He will include discussions of nineteenth century expatriate printmakers, the Provincetown school, Peggy Bacon, and the explosion of printmaking during the depression. Admission is \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members.

Music department presents jazz events

March 24 the swing band will host a dinner dance at Alleigh's. March 26, the jazz faculty will perform in Kenan Auditorium at 8 p.m. March 31, as part of the university's guest artist jazz festival, saxophonist Vincent Herring will perform with the big band and April 1 the Vincent Herring Quartet will play in Kenan Auditorium.

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