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For more information, contact:
Elizabeth Wylie, Executive Director
Elizabeth@andalusiafarm.org
478-454-4029

Sin, Insanity and Collards Highlight Andalusia Farm's "February Four"

Each Sunday in February Celebrates Flannery O'Connor's Literary Legacy

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. – Sin, insanity, collards, Toni Morrison and Paris Trout will be among the Deep South topics discussed at the Tenth Annual "February Four" presentations celebrating the literary legacy of Flannery O'Connor at Andalusia Farm.

"We've renamed our traditional February Lecture Series the 'February Four' to reflect the range of presentations from readings to new media," said Elizabeth Wylie, executive director of the Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation, which operates the farm where the author wrote most of the work that established her as one of the world's foremost 20th Century writers.

"Each presentation will be podcast, so we can reach a much larger audience than ever before," Wylie said in announcing the literary lineup. The public is invited to attend the presentations, which will take place each Sunday in February from 3-5 p.m. at the farm on U.S. 441, four miles north of downtown Milledgeville. The presentations will last from 3-4 p.m., followed by receptions, 4-5 p.m. Ample parking is available.

Here is the schedule for the February Four:

- Feb. 1 -- "Writing Difference: Toni Morrison and Flannery O'Connor." Carolyn Denard, founder of the Toni Morrison Society and associate provost and professor of English at Georgia College, will discuss the ways Morrison and O'Connor addressed "difference" in their fiction. Whether it's in their depiction of race, class, religion, age, insanity or regional culture, both authors "insist and permit reflection on the sterile power of difference," Denard says.
- Feb. 8 -- "Sin or Insanity: Flannery O'Connor's 'The Partridge Festival' and the film version of Pete Dexter's 'Paris Trout.'" Both O'Connor and Dexter used Milledgeville's infamous Stenbridge murders to create powerful fiction. Georgia College English Professor Bruce Gentry, editor of the Flannery O'Connor Review, and Mab Segrest, the Martha Daniel Newell Scholar in Residence at Georgia College for the spring semester, will investigate moral responsibility as it relates to psychological problems. "Sin or

Insanity” is part of a film festival on southern psychiatry in the 1950s being organized by Segrest.

- Feb. 15 – “Collards and Consumption in ‘A Stroke of Good Fortune’.” David A. Davis, associate professor of English at Mercer University, will discuss modern foodways and O’Connor’s story “A Stroke of Good Fortune.” The story illustrates the anxiety of modernity, where industrial processes have displaced organic human relationships.
- Feb. 22 – “Mourning Flannery” and “Hazel Motes is Not Black.” Katheryn Krotzer Laborde, associate professor of English at Xavier University of Louisiana, visited Andalusia in 2011 to do fieldwork to prepare for a course on O’Connor. She will read from her essay “Mourning Flannery,” which was inspired by her trip, and her piece “Hazel Motes is Not Black,” which explores, with humor, what it is like to teach O’Connor’s work at a Historically Black University.

“The presentations are going to be stimulating and each one unique, but we also encourage visitors to come early to tour the farm, enjoy nature and check out all the improvements we’ve made in the past year,” Wylie said.

The Andalusia Wise Pod podcasts can be accessed at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/andalusia-wise-pod/id957920196>

ABOUT THE FLANNERY O’CONNOR-ANDALUSIA FOUNDATION

The Foundation is dedicated to the restoration, preservation and appreciation of Andalusia, the final home of Flannery O’Connor, and to perpetuate her place in the roster of great writers of the 20th Century. The 544-acre farm is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Sunday. For more information: www.andalusiafarm.org