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Two Arts & Education Council Conference Authors Receive National Honors for Writing

Over the course of one week two authors who will participate in the Arts & Education Council's Conference on Southern Literature have received major national honors.

Wendell Berry, poet, fiction writer, essayist and conservationist, was presented with the National Humanities Medal on March 2. Berry was among 10 recipients of the award presented by President Obama in the White House.

On February 22 novelist and short story writer Richard Bausch was nominated for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award in Fiction for his collection of short stories, *Something is Out There: Stories* (Knopf).

The AEC Conference will take place April 14 to 16 in the

Tivoli Theatre.

“We are thrilled that participants in our conference are receiving accolades just weeks before the event,” said AEC executive director Susan Robinson. “We bill our speakers as among the most distinguished writers in the country, and these accolades confirm our claim.”

Both Berry and Bausch are members of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, the Chattanooga-based organization that encourages and recognizes excellence in the literary arts. The Fellowship archives are located at UTC, and the organization holds its biennial meetings in conjunction with the conference.

The author of more than 40 works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, Wendell Berry has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, and a National Institute of Arts and Letters award for writing. a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, a National Institute of Arts and Letters award for writing and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Jean Stein Award.

His more than 40 books include the novel *Hannah Coulter* (2004), the essay collections *Citizenship Papers* (2005) and *The Way of Ignorance* (2006), and *Given: Poems* (2005). His more recent works include *The Mad Farmer Poems* (2008) and *Whitefoot* (2009).

Berry, who lives on a farm in Kentucky, will take part in a conference panel discussion on “A Writer’s Response to Environmental Threats—Preserving the Southern Landscape.”

A past Chancellor of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, Richard Bausch will participate in a panel discussion on "The Ultimate Conflict -- Writing about War" during the literary festival at the Tivoli Theatre.

Holder of the Moss Chair of Excellence in English at the University of Memphis, Bausch last year received the Dayton Peace Prize for his novel *Peace*. He was honored at a ceremony in Dayton, Ohio, where he accepted the \$10,000 first prize in the fiction category.

A Georgia native, Bausch is the author of 11 novels, including *Rebel Powers*, *In The Night Season*, *Hello To the Cannibals* and *Thanksgiving Night*.

His stories have been collected in *Spirits*, *Someone To Watch Over Me*, *The Stories of Richard Bausch*, *Wives & Lovers: 3 Short Novels*. *Something is Out There* is his most recent publication.

Bausch has won two National Magazine Awards, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Writer's Award and the 2004 PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story.

For more information about the Conference on Southern Literature or to register call 423.267.1218 or visit www.SouthernLitConference.org.

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