



2026



THIS YEAR'S FRS EVENTS ARE HELD ON CAMPUS IN GRIFFIN GATE, LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST OUTSIDE CORNER OF BUILDING 60 (STUDENT CENTER).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2:00 - 3:20PM

NOVELIST/MEMOIRIST **MYRIAM GURBA**: featured guest of the 2026 Lester Bangs Memorial "Banned Books" Reading; award-winning author of the true-crime memoir, *Mean*, and the California botanical memoir, *Poppy State*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2:00 - 3:20PM

NOVELIST **OSCAR HOKEAH**: author of *Calling for a Blanket Dance*, winner of the 2023 PEN/Hemingway Award

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2:00 - 3:20PM

POET AND EDITOR **BLAS FALCONER**: editor-in-chief at *Poetry International Online* and author of *Rara Avis*, winner of the Thom Gunn Award

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

NEW VOICES STUDENT READING: popular semesterly event showcasing student writing talent curated from this semester's Creative Writing Program courses

NOVELIST, MEMOIRIST, ESSAYIST, AND REVIEWER

MYRIAM GURBA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2-3:20PM, GRIFFIN GATE (BLDG. 60)

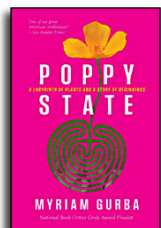
Writer and activist Myriam Gurba is the author of the short story collection, *Dahlia Season* (Manic D Press 2007), winner of the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction, and *Mean* (Coffee House Press 2017), a true-crime memoir ranked in *O, the Oprah Magazine*, as one of the "Best LGBTQ Books of All Time,"



and named by *The New York Times* as one of 2017's five best memoirs. Her essay collection, *Creep: Accusations and Confessions* (Avid Reader Press/Simon & Schuster 2023), was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle award for Criticism and winner of the Lambda Literary Award for Bisexual Nonfiction.



Photo by
Geoff Corder



Gurba's most recent book, *Poppy State: A Labyrinth of Plants and a Story of Beginnings* (Timber Press 2025), is a botanical memoir showcasing California flora, and inspired by the experience of *susto*, a condition of soul loss.

Gurba stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vox*, *Paris Review*, and elsewhere. Her 2019 critical review of Jeanine Cummins's novel, *American Dirt*, went viral and helped spark national debate about race, representation, and publishing practices in the United States.

Find out more about Myriam Gurba on her official website:

myriamgurba.com.



Myriam Gurba is the keynote presenter of the Lester Bangs Memorial "Banned Books" Reading. Held annually to honor Grossmont College alumnus and legendary rock critic for *Rolling Stone* and *Creem*, Leslie Conway Bangs, who popularized terms such as "punk rock" and "heavy metal," this year's Lester Bangs Memorial Reading coincides with U.S. National Banned Books Week (October 4 through 10, 2026).

The **FALL READINGS SERIES** is a presentation of the Grossmont College English Department's Creative Writing Program. For more info and resources about this year's events, visit grossmont.edu/frs.



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NOVELIST OSCAR HOKEAH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2-3:20PM, GRIFFIN GATE (BLDG. 60)



A regionalist Native American writer of literary fiction, Oscar Hokeah is the author of the coming-of-age story, *Calling for a Blanket Dance* (Algonquin Books 2022). Inspired by his Cherokee, Kiowa, and Mexican heritage, Hokeah's debut novel captures the intertribal, transnational, and multicultural aspects of the Cherokee community of Tahlequah and the Kiowa community in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Calling for a Blanket Dance is the 2023 winner of the prestigious PEN/Hemingway Award and the Native Writer Award through the Taos Summer Writers Conference. Hokeah's writing is also available in *Poets & Writers*, *Literary Hub*, *American Short Fiction*, and elsewhere.

Hokeah continues to live in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he was raised, and has worked over the last two decades with at-risk youth. Find out more about Oscar Hokeah on his official website: oscarhokeah.com.



POET AND EDITOR BLAS FALCONER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2-3:20PM, GRIFFIN GATE (BLDG. 60)



Photo by
Emily Petrie

Poet Blas Falconer is the author of five poetry collections, including *Rara Avis* (Four Way Books 2024), winner of the Thom Gunn Award. Falconer is also a co-editor for *The Other Latin@: Writing Against a Singular Identity* (U. of Arizona Press, 2011). His poems have been featured by *Poetry*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Harvard Review*, *Verse Daily*, *Poetry Daily*, *Poetry Society of*

America, *the Academy of American Poets*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere.

Currently a Professor of Poetry for San Diego State University's MFA program, Falconer is editor-in-chief at *Poetry International Online*. His awards include a 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, the Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award from Poets & Writers, a Tennessee Individual Artist Grant, the New Delta Review Eyster Prize for Poetry, and the Barthelme Fellowship. Learn more about Blas Falconer on his website: blasfalconer.com.



NEW VOICES STUDENT READING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 6-7:30 PM, GRIFFIN GATE (BLDG. 60)



This popular showcase of writing talent is curated from the Creative Writing Program's current semester of workshops and classes. Students are included by invitation of their writing instructors to perform original works of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and hybrid forms. Learn about our Creative Writing Program and our student-produced literary journal, *Acorn Review*, at grossmont.edu/cwp.