



ENMU WILLIAMSON LECTURESHIP PLANNED FOR THURS-SAT, APRIL 11-13

The 47th annual Jack Williamson Lectureship is scheduled for Thursday-Saturday, April 11-13, at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. Special guest is Martha Wells of Texas, with Colorado's Connie Willis as Mistress of Ceremonies.

A campus tradition since 1977, the Lectureship annually draws well-known authors to visit ENMU and discuss the interactions of science and the humanities. The theme of this year's Lectureship is "Oh, The (In)Humanity."

Williamson, long-time SF author and professor of English passed away in 2006. Williamson's novella, "The Ultimate Earth," won a 2001 Hugo Award, and his last novel, *The Stonehenge Gate*, was released in 2005.

Wells has been an SF/F writer since her first fantasy novel was published in 1993, and her work includes *The Books of the Raksura* series, the *Ile-Rien* series, *The Murderbot Diaries* series, and other fantasy novels, most recently *Witch King*. She also has written media tie-in fiction for *Star Wars*, *Stargate: Atlantis*, and *Magic: the Gathering*, as well as short fiction, YA novels, and non-fiction. She has won Nebula Awards, Hugo Awards, Locus Awards, and a Dragon Award; and her work has appeared on the Philip K. Dick Award ballot, the BSFA Award ballot, the *USA Today* Bestseller List, the *Sunday Times* Bestseller List, and the *New York Times* Bestseller List. Her books have been published in 28 languages. She is also a consulting producer on the *Murderbot* series for Apple TV+.

Other participants confirmed so far include Darynda Jones, Jeffe Kennedy, Arkady Martine, Kelly Robson, Vivian Shaw, Lauren C. Teffeau, Ian Tregillis, Sarena Ulibarri, Walter Jon Williams, Cordelia Willis and Courtney Willis.

Cordelia Willis opens the Lectureship festivities with a forensic talk Thursday, April 11, at 3:00 pm.

On Friday, April 12, Wells will give a Guest of Honor address after an introduction by Willis at a luncheon 12:00 pm in the Campus Union Ballroom, with seating starting at 11:30 am. Luncheon cost is \$15.00 with reservations needed by March 31.

The Lectureship finishes up Saturday morning with a Creative Writing Workshop led by Connie Willis.

Updates at enmu.edu or david.sweeten@enmu.edu.

2023 GOODREADS CHOICE AWARDS

Winners of the 2023 Goodreads Choice Awards for the "best books of 2023," as chosen by users of the site, were announced December 6. There are several winners of genre interest.

BEST FICTION: *Yellowface* by R.F. Kuang. BEST SCIENCE FICTION: *In the Lives of Puppets* by T.J. Klune (co-GoH at Bubonicon 55). BEST FANTASY: *Hell Bent* by Leigh Bardugo. BEST ROMANTASY: *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros.

BEST HORROR: *Holly* by Stephen King (T. Kingfisher's *A House with Good Bones* also nominated). BEST YOUNG ADULT FICTION: *The Final Gambit* by Jennifer Lynn Barnes. BEST YOUNG ADULT FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION: *Divine Rivals* by Rebecca Ross. BEST YOUNG ADULT FICTION: *Check & Mate* by Ali Hazelwood.

Goodreads reported 5,879,213 votes cast, up from 5,779,854 in 2022, and 5,674,480 in 2020. For a full list of categories and nominees, see the official website.

LOCUS 2023 RECOMMENDED READING LIST

It's time for *Locus Magazine's* annual list of reading recommendations. Published in *Locus Magazine's* February 2024 issue, the list is assembled by Locus editors, columnists, outside reviewers, and other professionals and well-known critics of genre fiction and non-fiction. They looked at 1,012 titles in short fiction and long fiction. The final recommendations, trimmed down to a somewhat reasonable-length list, are their best recommendations for readers' consideration.

Of interest to Bubonicon and New Mexico fans are:

SF NOVELS: *Starter Villain* by John Scalzi, *System Collapse* by Martha Wells, and *The Road to Roswell* by Connie Willis. FANTASY NOVELS: *Blade of Dream* by Daniel Abraham, *Paladin's Faith* by T. Kingfisher (Ursula Vernon),

UPCOMING ASFS MEETINGS

- **Tonight:** Space Historian Loretta Hall talks on "Microbes In Space: Friend Or Foe."
- **March 8:** The Club Auction with Bob Vardeman & Patricia Rogers as your auctioneers. Look for 2-7 donations, plus quarters and dollar bills. Plus a bonus edition of *ASFACTS* since this one is small...
- **March 22:** Bubonicon 56 Guest Nominations...
- **April 19 - One Week Late:** Jim Greenhouse, Space Science director at the NM Museum of Natural History & Science, talks on Solar Eclipses.
- **May 10:** Author Diana Rowland visits. Plus the Spring issue of *ASFACTS* (deadline May 6).
- **June 14:** Artist Jeff Benham of 7000 BC talks on "How Comics Animate Culture."

Craig Chrissinger, normal editor. Darth Vader, guest editor each December. Please Send All Correspondence to — PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176-7257. Contact: (505) 266-8905 or via cwcraig@nmia.com. *ASFACTS* published February, April, July & October for ABQ SF Society, *SITHFACTS* each December. NEXT DEADLINE: Monday, March 4.

2024 Club Officers: Craig Chrissinger & Jessica Coyle, co-Zec Secs (505) 266-8905. Eric Klammer, Moderator. Marian Skupski, Alternator. Cupid, holiday host. **Bubonicon Chair:** Craig Chrissinger (505) 559-0931.

My Brother's Keeper by Tim Powers, and *Witch King* by Martha Wells. HORROR NOVELS: *A House with Good Bones* by T. Kingfisher.

COLLECTIONS: *The Best of Catherynne M. Valente, Volume 1* by Catherynne M. Valente. ILLUSTRATED & ART BOOKS: *Voyaging, Volume 1: The Plague Star* by George RR Martin, art and adaptation by Raya Golden. NOVELLAS: *Thornhedge* by T. Kingfisher, *Rose/House* by Arkady Martine, and *After Many a Summer* by Tim Powers.

BOOK GROUP KEEPS READING

The Droids & Dragons SF Book Group meets at 7:30 pm Monday, February 19, at Jason's Deli (northwest corner of Louisiana & America's Parkway NE – across the street from Bubonicon's Marriott Hotel) to discuss *American Elsewhere* by Robert Jackson Bennett. The group then focuses on *The Terraformers* by Annalee Newitz on Monday, March 18 at Jason's Deli.

Meetings of D&D are open to all interested readers on the third Monday of each month. Books for discussion are chosen two months in advance, and group members receive a 20% discount on selected novels at Page One Books in the Mountain Run Shopping Center. For more info, contact Leah at msransom@hotmail.com or Craig at 266-8905.

HOWARD WALDROP PASSES AWAY

Author Howard Waldrop died January 14. He was 77 years old, reports Locusmag.com. Waldrop was one of the most accomplished and celebrated authors of short fiction, known for his erudite, playful, and allusive work. His most famous story, "The Ugly Chickens" (1980), won World Fantasy and Nebula Awards, and was a Hugo Award finalist.

Waldrop's first work of genre interest was "Lunchbox" in *Analog* (1972), and he went on to publish scores of stories, including seven Nebula Award finalists and eight Hugo Award nominees. His stories were collected in *Howard Who?* (1986), *All About Strange Monsters of the Recent Past* (1987), *Night of the Cooters* (1990), *Going Home Again* (1997), *Dream Factories and Radio Pictures* (2001), *Heart of Whitenesse* (2005), *The Horse of a Different Color (That You Rode in On) / The King of Where-I-Go* (2006), *Things Will Never Be the Same: A Howard Waldrop Reader: Selected Short Fiction 1980-2005* (2007), *Other Worlds, Better Lives: A Howard Waldrop Reader: Selected Long Fiction 1989-2003* (2008), and *Horse of a Different Color* (2013). *Custer's Last Jump and Other Collaborations* (2003) features stories he cowrote with others, and some of his early work was collected in *H'ard Starts: The Early Waldrop* (2023).

He wrote two novels, collaborative SF *The Texas-Israeli War: 1999* (1974, with Jake Saunders) and alternate history/time-travel tale *Them Bones* (1984). *A Dozen Tough Jobs* (1989) is a novella retelling the Labors of Hercules set in 1920s Mississippi.

Waldrop also was one of the founders of the *Wild Cards* universe, with the story "Thirty Minutes Over Broadway!" in the 1987 first volume of the series.

In a post, co-editor Melinda Snodgrass noted, "Howard's inclusion in *Wild Cards* set the course for the

series when he insisted on setting his story about Jetboy in 1946. George and I had just planned to start the series in 1986 with the release of the virus, but Howard being Howard actually made the whole series far more fascinating and interesting when we had that historical perspective. We would never have had Roger's Sleeper or Walter's Witness, and George writing as Hunter S. Thompson and Tom Wolfe without Howard's insistence on setting Wild Card Day on his birthday."

Waldrop was born September 15, 1946, in Houston, MS, but spent most of his life in Texas, and much of his writing was set in the American South and Southwest. He was a member of the Turkey City Writing Workshop, and taught at the Clarion Writers Workshop. Waldrop was a beloved and major figure in the Texas writing community, and was famous for his hilarious readings at conventions. In 2021, he received a World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement.

BUBONICON 55 PLANNING BEGINS

by Craig W. Chrissinger, con chair

We're six weeks into 2024 now, and planning for Bubonicon 55 is just beginning. A hotel contract was signed at the end of December, so three-day passes went on sale January 16.

Weekend Passes currently are \$42.00, and they go up April 26 to \$48 each, remaining so through August 10. They can be purchased in person at club meetings – or by mailing payment (with the PDF pre-registration form from the website) to "Bubonicon Inc" at 933 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 500-208, Albuquerque, NM 87108; or by paying online with a credit card.

Bubonicon 55 is August 25-27 at the Albuquerque Marriott Uptown, Louisiana Blvd NE at I-40. This year, we should be two weeks after the New Mexico Comic Expo and a week before DragonCon in Atlanta. The Marriott is offering sleeping rooms at \$149 single-quad occupancy, with free WiFi in sleeping rooms. Reservations are needed by August 5. That's 1-800-228-9290.

Our special guests this year are Mur Lafferty, TJ Klune, Ursula Vernon & Kevin Sonney, and artist Dale Ray Deforest. We're expecting many con regulars, and Mandy Self and Jessica Coyle again are assistant chairs.

We're asking for all Fan Programming proposals/requests for time & space to be submitted by the end of Wednesday, May 1. Some planned programming includes the Green Slime Awards, the mass autographing session, the usual two auctions, the costume contest, fan/video programming, and kids programming.

More info to come in the next couple of months!

EDITOR NOTES TO FILL THIS SPACE

- WE HAVE A NEW KITTEN in our house, again! Kaylee Coco joined our family on January 31. Gizmo & she are getting along very well so far, and both are way cute.

- WE WENT to COSine in Colorado Springs with Lauren Tefteau in mid-January. Had a nice & fun time.

- THIS ISSUE is small & abbreviated. Ran out of time, sorry! Submissions needed. Doing a March issue with deadline of Monday, March 4. Take care. - Craig C.