

# NEWS RELEASE

## UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

[www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 13, 2009**

**WHAT:** Amherst Lit Series  
In Celebration of Amherst's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
New Writers Reading  
**Thursday, April 2 at 7PM at Wunderarts Gallery in Amherst**  
**Free and open to the public, no tickets are required. For more information call 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMas or online at [www.fineartscenter.com/amherstlit](http://www.fineartscenter.com/amherstlit)**

**IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release go online to:  
<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerseries/pressreleases/photo.html>

### **UMass Celebrates Amherst's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a Reading by Young Local Authors**

On Thursday, April 2 at 7PM at Wunderarts Gallery in Amherst, there will be a **New Writers Reading** where the public can hear some of our local, young award-winning authors read from their new books. Featured will be Chris Bachelder, Elizabeth Hughey, Jedediah Berry, and Lisa Olstein. Refreshments are generously provided by Portabella Catering. The event is free and open to the public. The reading is presented in celebration of Amherst's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by the UMass Fine Arts Center, the UMass MFA Program for Poets and Writers, and the Juniper Literary Festival. For information about other events associated with the Amherst Lit Series, visit [fineartscenter.com/amherstlit](http://fineartscenter.com/amherstlit).

Chris Bachelder is the author of the novels *U.S. !*, *Bear v. Shark*, and *Lessons in Virtual Tour Photography* (an e-book). His short fiction and essays have appeared in *Harper's*, *The Believer*, *McSweeney's*, *The Oxford American*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *New Stories from the South*, and elsewhere. Originally from Virginia, Bachelder has taught writing at New Mexico State University and Colorado College.

Elizabeth Hughey's poetry collection, *Sunday Houses the Sunday House*, won the 2006 Iowa Poetry Prize. A native of Alabama, Hughey attended Hollins College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she received her MFA. Her poems have appeared in *Shampoo*, *the Hat* and *the Southern Poetry Review* and are forthcoming in *La Petite Zine*. She lives and teaches in western Massachusetts.

Jedediah Berry is the author of the novel *The Manual of Detection* (Penguin, 2009). Berry was raised in the Hudson Valley region of New York State. His short stories have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Best New American Voices* and *Best American Fantasy*. He lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, and works as assistant editor of Small Beer Press.

Lisa Olstein is the author of two books of poems, *Radio Crackling*, *Radio Gone*, winner of the 2005 Hayden Carruth Award, and *Lost Alphabet* (Copper Canyon Press, 2009). She is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Centrum. Her poems have appeared in *The Iowa Review*, *American Letters & Commentary*, *Denver Quarterly*, and elsewhere. With Dara Wier and Noy Holland, she co-founded the Juniper Initiative for Literary Arts & Action. She serves as Associate Director of the MFA Program and Juniper Initiative.

For more information about Amherst's 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration visit [www.amherst250.org](http://www.amherst250.org).

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