

USF Hosts 25th Annual English Language & Literatures Conference

Roger Reeves to be Keynote Speaker

Joliet, Ill.- On Saturday, Nov. 12 the English Department at the University of St. Francis will host the 25th annual English Language and Literatures (ELL) Conference, sponsored by First Community Financial Bank. The ELL Conference is an excellent opportunity for students across the country to present papers, field questions and further hone their argumentative thinking skills in a challenging but supportive environment. The conference will be held at USF's main campus in Joliet at 500 Wilcox St.

Roger Reeves will be this year's keynote speaker. Reeves' first book of poems, "King Me," has won the Larry Levis Reading Prize, a PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award, and the Zacharis Prize. He was a recipient of a 2015 Whiting Award, a 2013 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and a Ruth Lilly Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation in 2008.

Reeves earned his B.A. in English from Morehouse College, M.A. in English from Texas A&M, MFA from the Michener Center at the University of Texas at Austin, and his Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently an assistant professor of poetry at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Those who are interested in presenting at the conference should be recent graduates, current undergraduates or high school students taking Advanced Placement courses. Papers submitted should be approximately 2,000-3,000 words or 1,500 to 2,000 for Advanced Placement and introductory students. Papers can relate to any of the following topics:

- English literatures
- Literatures in translation
- Comparative literature
- Critical theory
- Film
- Creative writing
- Teaching English
- Special sessions for introductory and AP English students

The deadline for submissions is Thursday, Sept. 15. Submissions can be sent to ell@stfrancis.edu. Participants should remember that a conference presentation looks great on resumes and graduate school applications!

Additional information about area hotels and a link for online registration can be found at stfrancis.edu/ell. Registration cost is \$25; admission fee for non-participants is complimentary. Lunch cost for registrants is \$12. USF student participants will receive lunch for free.

The University of St. Francis, in Joliet, Ill., serves 3,700 students nationwide, offering undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs in the arts and sciences, business, education, nursing and social work. There are 47,000 USF alumni across the globe. For information, call 800-735-7500 or visit stfrancis.edu. University of St. Francis: Bigger thinking. Brighter purpose.

Photo Caption: Keynote speaker Roger Reeves will present at USF's 25th annual English Language & Literatures Conference. More information and a link for registration can be found at <http://stfrancis.edu/ell>.

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