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1-15-2013

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University Relations, "Third Annual Prairie Gate Literary Festival to be Held this Spring" (2013). *Campus News Archive*. 351.

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**Third Annual Prairie Gate Literary Festival to be Held this Spring**

*Summary: The third annual Prairie Gate Literary Festival will be held at Morris February 21 through 23, 2013.*

(January 15, 2013)-The third annual Prairie Gate Literary Festival will be held at the University of Minnesota, Morris Thursday, February 21, through Saturday, February 23, 2013. The festival aims to build the role of the literary arts in Morris and the surrounding community. All are welcome to take part in this exciting three-day event.

The mission of the Prairie Gate Literary Festival is to provide the University and Lake Region of Minnesota unique opportunities to learn from and interact with published writers and other professionals in the field of literary arts through a variety of activities. During the festival, aspiring writers and literary enthusiasts can enjoy free public readings as well as workshops and discussions with nationally and internationally recognized authors.

Invited writers are chosen for the diversity of their backgrounds and styles as well as their ability to connect with audiences. This year the festival will welcome novelist Brian Malloy, poet Mary Biddinger, poet/novelist/spoken word artist Ed Bok Lee, memoirist Patti See, and fiction writer Adam McOmber, whose first novel was released to critical acclaim in September 2012. Both Lee and Malloy are recipients of the Minnesota Book Award—Lee in 2011 for poetry and Malloy in 2009 for young adult fiction.

“The Prairie Gate Literary Festival is a great time for literary enthusiasts in West Central Minnesota to hear from old favorites and up-and-coming writers without having to drive to Fargo or the Twin Cities,” says Jayne Blodgett, metadata and technical services coordinator of Briggs Library. “This year's writers represent a wide-range of topics and styles from a gothic novel set in Victorian England to a family dealing with Alzheimer's to the immigrant experience in Minnesota. There is something for everyone at the literary festival.”

This activity is funded by the Friends of the Prairie Gate Literary Festival, Briggs Library, Briggs Library Associates, the UMM English Discipline, the Friends of the Morris Public Library, the International Programs Committee, the UMM Division of the Humanities, the UMM Alumni Association, the Imagine Fund, the Commission on Women, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Additional information on the festival, workshop registration, presenter biographies, and suggested reading is available [online](#).

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