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Award-Winning Poet to Speak at Conference

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Cedarville University Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages will host “Living in the Kiln,” the 2016 undergraduate literary conference, on February 13. Visiting poet Karen An-Hwei Lee, Ph.D., will read from her works at the conference co-sponsored by Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), Cedarville University’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

The conference centers on the theme “Living in the Kiln: Reviving the Self through Literary Conversation.” Presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m. and go throughout the day until 4:45 p.m. Lee has authored several books of poetry, including “Phyla of Joy and Ardor” and won the Kathryn A. Morton Prize. She is also a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Individual Artist’s Grant and is a voting member of the National Book Critics Circle.

Lee also published “Anglophone Literatures in the Asian Diaspora: Literary Transnationalism and Translingual Migrations,” a book of criticism surrounding European literature during the Asian Diaspora. Lee’s other writings include two chapbooks: “God’s One Hundred Promises” and “What the Sea Earns for a Living.”

“We’re very honored to be hosting Karen Lee here at Cedarville University. I’m very impressed with her humility and dedication to Christ, which makes her work so unique,” said Julie Moore, associate professor of literature. “Her work is brilliant and original. She is a perfect fit for our conference.”

The conference will also feature undergraduate students reading original works of literary criticism and creative writing pieces. Several regional universities have been invited to participate in the conference.

“This will be an outstanding opportunity for our students to develop ideas and participate within a professional academic environment,” said Peggy Willfong, Ph.D., professor of English and the conference organizer. Willfong serves as adviser for AKD and recently received a 2015 Excellence in Education award from Ohio Magazine.

For participants, a $15 fee covers registration materials, refreshments, lunch and the keynote lecture.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,711 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.