The Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana

presents the fifth annual

**Just Listen to Yourself**

**The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets**

Tuesday, April 21, Noon to 1:30 p.m.

State Library Seminar Center, 701 N. Fourth St., Baton Rouge

Just Listen to Yourself

**Ralph Adamo’s** seventh collection of poems is *Ever: Poems 2000-2014*, published by Lavender Ink. Previous volumes include *Waterblind: New and Selected Poems* (2002) and two of Lost Roads’ Publishers’ earliest books, *Sadness at the Private University* (1977) and *The End of the World*. A 2003 NEA Fellow, he is associate professor of English at Xavier University and edits the *Xavier Review*.

**Jack B. Bedell** is professor of English and coordinator of creative writing at Southeastern Louisiana University where he edits *Louisiana Literature* and directs the Louisiana Literature Press. His latest collections are *Bone-Hollow, True: New & Selected Poems*; *Call & Response*; *Come Rain, Come Shine*; *What Passes for Love*; and *At the Bonehouse*, all from Texas Review Press.

**Darrell Bourque** is a former Louisiana poet laureate and the recipient of the 2014 Louisiana Book Festival Writer Award. His most recent books are *Megan’s Guitar and Other Poems from Acadie* and *if you abandon me, comment je vas faire: An Amédé Ardoin Songbook.* He is working on a new manuscript *Trellis* with sets of poems on Amédé Ardoin, Cléoma Breaux Falcon and Iry Lejeune.

**Carlos Colón**, a retired librarian, was named the first Caddo Parish poet laureate in April 2014. A man of many wigs, he has masqueraded as would-be socialite “Almira Gulch” in the *Shreveport Journal* and as “Haiku Elvis” on the Queen Mary.

**Peter Cooley** is Senior Mellon Professor in the Humanities and Director of Creative Writing at Tulane University. He has published nine books of poetry, eight of them from Carnegie Mellon, most recently *Night Bus to the Afterlife*. He has won an ATLAS grant from the state of Louisiana and the Marble Faun Poetry Award from the Faulkner Festival in New Orleans.

**Dorothy Early Davis** is a retired Southern University librarian and has studied writing with Sue Owen, Lisa Vice, Marilyn Nelson, Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady. Her writings have appeared in the *Louisiana Library Association Journal, National Anthology of Poetry for Teachers* and local commemorative programs. She is working on a poetry series about Clementine Hunter.

**Gina Ferrara** is from New Orleans. She has two chapbooks and two full length books. *Carville: Amid Moss and Resurrection Fern* (2014) and *Amber Porch Light* (2013) are her latest collections. *The Poetry Ireland Review, Callaloo* and *Muse and Stone* are a few of the journals in which her work has appeared.

**Ashley Mace Havird,** of Shreveport, has published two chapbooks and a full-length collection, *The Garden of the Fugitives*, which won the 2013 X.J. Kennedy Prize. Her poems and short stories have appeared widely in such journals as *Shenandoah, Southern Review* and *Virginia Quarterly Review*. Awards include a 2002 Louisiana Division of the Arts Fellowship in Literature.

**Julie Kane** was the 2011–2013 Louisiana Poet Laureate. Winner of the National Poetry Series, the Donald Justice Poetry Prize, an Academy of American Poets Prize, a Glenna Luschei Prairie Schooner Poetry Prize and other awards for her writing, she teaches at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Her most recent book is *Paper Bullets*, a collection of humorous poems.

**Madeleine LeCesne**, a senior at Lusher Charter School, studies creative writing in the Certificate of Artistry Program under Brad Richard. This past fall, Michelle Obama appointed LeCesne as one of five National Student Poets, the nation’s highest honor for young poets producing original work.

**Melinda Palacio’s** poetry chapbook, *Folsom Lockdown*, won Kulupi Press’s Sense of Place 2009 award. Her poetry collection *How Fire Is a Story, Waiting* received First Prize in Poetry at the 2013 International Latino Book Awards. *Ocotillo Dreams* (ASU Bilingual Press, 2011) is her award-winning novel.

**Alison Pelegrin** is the author of three poetry collections, most recently *Hurricane Party* (2007) and *Big Muddy River of Stars* (2011), both University of Akron Press. The recipient of fellowships from the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the National Endowment of the Arts, her poems have appeared in *Poetry, Ploughshares* and *The Southern Review*.

**Chancelier “Xero” Skidmore** is a poet, musician and educator from Plaquemine, Louisiana. He serves as executive director of Forward Arts Inc., which is an arts and youth development non-profit. He has recently completed a manuscript entitled *upBEAT-DOWNbeat*, a collection of musician poems. He hopes that someday it will be published.

**Afton Wilky** is a multi-disciplinary artist—writing, sound, digital media and book arts. She is the author of *Clarity Speaks of a Crystal Sea* (Flim Forum Press, 2014). Her work is forthcoming or in journals such as *Black Warrior Review, LIT* and *Alice Blue Review*. She is the managing editor at *The Volta*.

**Andy Young’s** first full collection of poetry is *All Night It Is Morning*, published by Dialogos Press. Her writing has also appeared in three chapbooks and in publications in Lebanon, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico and throughout the United States. With her partner, Khaled Hegazzi, she translates poetry from the Arabic. They also founded *Meena*, a bilingual literary journal.

**Ava Leavell Haymon,** Louisiana poet laureate, is a poet, playwright, editor and teacher. Her latest book is *Eldest Daughter*, from LSU Press. She teaches poetry writing in Louisiana and New Mexico and edits the Barataria Poetry Series for LSU Press.