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**Fred Chappell to be Honored as 2010 Caldwell Laureate**

**Chappell Receives Award in the Humanities on October 8**

GREENSBORO, NC (October 1, 2010) ó On October 8, at 7 p.m. in UNCG's School of Music Recital Hall, author and educator **Fred Chappell** receives the 2010 [John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities](#), North Carolina's most prestigious public humanities honor. The Caldwell Award is given annually by the [North Carolina Humanities Council](#) to exceptional individuals who throughout their lives and careers have strengthened the educational, cultural, and civic life of North Carolinians. The award is named for the late Dr. John Tyler Caldwell, former chancellor of North Carolina State University. The event, which includes a dessert reception, is free and open to the public.

UNCG Chancellor **Linda P. Brady** will bring greetings at the celebration. UNCG professor of rhetoric and composition and Humanities Council vice-chair **Hephzibah Roskelly** will deliver the Caldwell Lecture in the Humanities, "Knowing Your Place." The [Touring Theatre of North Carolina](#) will perform *Ole Fred Speaks of Family*, an original dramatic work drawn from poetry and prose by Chappell and commissioned by the North Carolina Humanities Council for the occasion. Chappell's sister, **Becky Anderson** of Asheville, will present the award.

Fred Chappell inspires eloquence among his friends and colleagues. UNCG professor of writing and NC author **Michael Parker** speaks of Chappell's "fierce and idiosyncratic vision of time, place, and consciousness." NC Writers' Network executive director **Ed Southern** describes Chappell as "the Sherlock Holmes of writers: he notices things that others don't, makes connections that others don't." NC author and 2008 North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame inductee **Lee Smith** calls him "our resident genius, our shining light."

Chappell, born in Canton, NC, earned graduate and undergraduate degrees at Duke University and for forty years taught at UNCG, where he helped establish the M.F.A. Writing Program, the third oldest in the U.S. and ranked as one of the top in the nation by *Poets & Writers*.

Parker writes, "What makes Fred such a stellar teacher is the fact that he's such a stellar student. He is intellectually curious & voracious might be the better word & and though he is certainly erudite and deeply and widely read, his authority is of the quiet stripe, always accommodating and generous."

Chappell has received the O. Max Gardner Award, the highest honor the University of North Carolina system can bestow on a faculty member, and in 1988 was appointed the Burlington Industries Professor of English. In 1999 UNCG established the Fred Chappell Creative Writing Fellowship.

Author of over two dozen books of poetry, fiction, and criticism, Chappell served as the Poet Laureate of North Carolina from 1997-2002 and was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame in 2006. Among Chappell's awards are the Sir Walter Raleigh Prize, the Prix de Meilleur des Livres Étrangers (Best Foreign Book Prize) from the Academie Francaise, the North Carolina Award in Literature, and an Award in Literature from the National Institute of Arts and Letters. For his poetry he has received the Aiken Taylor Prize, Yale University's Bollingen Prize, and the Roanoke-Chowan Poetry Prize eight times over. Chappell is also the recipient of the North Caroliniana Society Award, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the Ragan-Rubin Award, the Thomas Wolfe Prize, and the Zoe Kincaid Brockman Award. Recently, he was a visiting scholar in the North Carolina Humanities Council's Teachers Institute, *Appalachian Voices*.

Chappell's latest books are *Shadow Box*, a collection of poetry, and *Ancestors and Others*, a volume of new and previously published short stories. His work has been translated into many languages, including Finnish, Arabic, Hindi, Chinese, and Farsi. Chappell's voice, his vision, and his exploration of place reach far beyond his native Appalachia.

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The [North Carolina Humanities Council](#) is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Council serves as an advocate for lifelong learning and thoughtful dialogue about all facets of human life. It facilitates the exploration and celebration of the many voices and stories of North Carolina's cultures and heritage. In addition to [grants](#) and [publications](#), the Council offers the [Road Scholars](#) speakers bureau; the [Let's Talk About It](#) library discussion series; the 2010 traveling exhibition [Museum on Main Street](#), in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution and rural communities statewide; the [Teachers Institute](#), a professional development program for the state's public school teachers [Literature and Medicine](#), a scholar-facilitated book discussion group for hospital staff to reflect on the larger mission of medicine; and [NC Roadwork](#), an initiative encouraging the examination of local history related to routes of human passage. To learn more about the North Carolina Humanities Council, visit [www.nchumanities.org](http://www.nchumanities.org).