

***Preface for 2016 Writers' Festival Magazine**

Dear Reader,

My first exposure to Atlanta's literary scene began during my first year of college with the Agnes Scott Writers' Festival. This event quickly became something I eagerly looked forward to each year. Now, as a senior, I am excited to be involved in the planning and promotion of such an event. Each festival brings life-changing writers and books that I now cannot imagine not knowing; I have no doubt that this year's lineup, featuring Richard Blanco, Dani Shapiro, and Charleen McClure '10, will be no different.

The Writers' Festival, now in its 45th year, is a time where fellow lovers of literature come together to celebrate the work of both emerging and well-established writers, to gain insight and ask questions about other writers' interests and creative processes, and to receive the push to breathe life into our own projects waiting to be acknowledged. Invented in the 1440s, Johannes Gutenberg's printing press helped progress the spread of books and knowledge to the greater public during the European Renaissance. It for this reason that the printing press is a central theme for this year's celebration.

The writers featured in the magazine this year each function as an unique piece of type in our festival's printing press. Whether writers of poetry, fiction, drama, or nonfiction, each has something to say, their imprint to make on the world. Read these, and after you are done, take a moment to reflect on them as a whole. What do each come together to say about the experiences, values, and concerns of 2016?

I hope you will enjoy the following works and, of course, the festival events as much as we do.

Happy Reading,

Sydney Love '16