Natasha Trethewey Recap

By Micah Bradley

Natasha Trethewey is a United States Poet Laureate and the State Poet Laureate of Mississippi. She visited Rollins College as the second guest of Winter With the Writers on February 12. Her poetry collection, *Native Guard* (2006), won the Pulitzer Prize. Her newest collection is entitled *thrall* (2012).

For her master class, Trethewey choose to do a Q&A about her craft at 4 p.m. in Bush Auditorium. The set-up was similar to the typical master class, with all the interns sitting around her on the stage. But instead of critiquing student work, each intern asked Trethewey two questions about her process of writing and publishing poems. Trethewey gave insightful answers about her writing process, including how poetry forms have influenced her works, what themes she thinks are important, and some of her poetic influences. She also talked about the publishing process, commenting on her relationship with her publisher, how she ordered her collections, and how she wanted them categorized with the Library of Congress. Trethewey also read several poems from her books *Native Guard* and *thrall* to illustrate her points about craft.

At 7:30, Trethewey held a well-attended reading, Q & A, and signing. During the reading, Trethewey focused on poems from her most recent collection, *thrall*. Many of the poems focused on her relationship with her father and the issue of race. Most of the poems were inspired by the history of race issues as seen through paintings and artwork. After the reading, Winter With the Writers Director Carol Frost asked Trethewey questions taken from the audience, most of which related to writing poetry. A book signing followed.

Next Thursday, Malena Mörling and Katie Farris will be the guests of Winter With the Writers.