

“Pat Conroy at The Citadel” Symposium: Saturday, March 3, 2018

The “Pat Conroy at The Citadel” Symposium will feature a lineup of distinguished speakers discussing Conroy’s work, life, and legacy, and his connections to The Citadel and the Charleston area. The symposium, which will be free and open to the public, will include ample time for questions and discussion from members of the public. This one-day event will celebrate one of South Carolina’s best-known and most popular writers with a series of individual talks and panel discussions by Conroy experts and Conroy’s friends and loved ones.

Symposium speakers:

Catherine Seltzer: Associate Professor of English at Southern Illinois University. Seltzer is the author of *Understanding Pat Conroy* and a forthcoming biography of Conroy.

Nathalie Dupree: Best-selling author, chef, and cooking show host. The four-time James Beard Award winner is also Founding Chairman of the Charleston Food and Wine Festival.

Cassandra King: Best-selling novelist whose five novels, one book of nonfiction, and short stories, magazine articles, and essays have won numerous awards and honors. King and Conroy married in 1998.

John Warley: Critically acclaimed novelist, Citadel classmate and Citadel baseball teammate, and lifelong friend of Conroy.

Joe Riley: Mayor of Charleston for forty years, Riley oversaw the transformation of Charleston into a global destination for travel and business, and now teaches at The Citadel (his alma mater) as the first Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Endowed Chair of American Government and Public Policy.

Brian Hicks: Senior writer and metro columnist with the Charleston *Post & Courier*, author or co-author of five books, and the recipient of numerous professional awards, including South Carolina Journalist of the Year and Best Humor Columnist in the Southeast.

Jonathan Haupt: Executive Director of the Pat Conroy Literary Center, past Director of the University of South Carolina Press, member of the South Carolina Academy of Authors’ Board of Governors, and co-editor of an anthology of seventy writers’ essays about Conroy.

Shannon Faulkner: Educator in the Greenville County Schools whose experiences as The Citadel’s first female cadet led to a decades-long friendship with Conroy.

Kirk Curnutt: Professor and Chair of English at Troy University, award-winning novelist, and scholar of American literature.

Alexander Macaulay: Associate Professor of History at Western Carolina University, award-winning teacher and scholar, author of *Marching in Step: Masculinity, Citizenship, and The Citadel in Post World War II America*, and Citadel graduate.

Gregg Smith: Citadel graduate and close friend of Conroy who played a crucial role in the reconciliation between Conroy and The Citadel.

9:00 – 10:45 (Holliday Alumni Center)

Nathalie Dupree: "Military Brats"

John Warley: "Conroy the Cadet"

Alex Macaulay: "The Education of a Writer: 'The Resonant, Unmistakable Sound' of Pat Conroy and The Citadel"

Jonathan Haupt: "The Boy with the Books: Pat Conroy and The Citadel's Daniel Library in Memoir & Fiction"

11:00 – 12:15: Keynote Address (Holliday Alumni Center)

Catherine Seltzer: "'A Product of this Artistry': Pat Conroy and The Citadel"

1:30 – 3:00 (Holliday Alumni Center)

Cassandra King: "Life with Pat Conroy"

Shannon Faulkner: "Pat Conroy: My Champion, My Mentor, My Brother"

Gregg Smith: "Conroy's Reconciliation with The Citadel"

3:15 – 5:30 (Holliday Alumni Center)

Joe Riley: "Recollections of Conroy"

Kirk Curnutt: "Pat's Kind of Fame: The Celebrity Writer from the 1970s On"

Brian Hicks: "Dispatches from The Prince of Tides"