

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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English Department at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Hosts Reading by Pulitzer-Nominated Poet Cyrus Cassells Professor will Work with Miller and Moody High School Students at 'Authors Day'

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The English Department at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will host a reading by Pulitzer-Prize nominated poet Cyrus Cassells on Thursday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in Bay Hall, Room 104.

On Friday, April 3, Cassells, a professor of English at Texas State University in San Marcos where he teaches creative writing, will work with Miller and Moody high school students/authors participating in the English Department's annual University Authors Day program held on campus. Both events are hosted by the Haas Foundation, the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi English Department and College of Liberal Arts.

Cassells is the author of four books of poetry including "The Mud Actor" (1982), a selection of the National Poetry Series, and "Soul Make a Path Through Shouting." (1994), which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He is also the recipient of the William Carlos Williams Award, the Peter I.B. Lavan Younger Poet Award of the Academy of American Poets, as well as fellowships from the Lannan Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Poet Alicia Ostriker describes Cassells as "a mystic, a love poet, a poet of conscience, a poet of witness, above all a lyric poet whose alchemy makes beauty of bitterness." His newest work, *The Crossed-Out Swastika* (to be released in 2010), continues to explore the limitations of our experience, intelligence, and ability to connect emotionally with others, through the power of language.

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The Thursday night reading is open to the public. A book signing will immediately follow the reading. For more information, call the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi English Department at 361.825.3793.

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