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## Rwandan Travels Influence Poet's Work in Special Presentation

Winthrop University

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# Rwandan Travels Influence Poet's Work in Special Presentation

## Quick Facts

- Burleson's presentation will be at 11 a.m. in 101 Owens Hall.
- His poetry reading will be at 7 p.m. in the Little Chapel.



ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA -- **Poet Derick Burleson** has traveled to other lands throughout his decades-long career.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, he will share how those travels have shaped and influenced his work in a special presentation and poetry reading at Winthrop University.

Burleson's talk, "**From the Peace Corps in Rwanda to the Wilderness in Alaska: Poet Derick Burleson's Journey Through Changing Cultures and Landscapes**," will cover not only his experience in the Peace Corps, but how his poetry is rooted in the culture in which he lived. His presentation will take place at 11 a.m. in **101 Owens Hall**. A live poetry reading will be at 7 p.m. in the **Little Chapel**. Both are free cultural events and open to the public.

Burleson published his first book, "Ejo: Poems, Rwanda 1991-94," in 2000, winning him the Felix Pollak Prize in poetry. He has published two more books since then, and his poems have been featured in "The Georgia Review," "The Kenyon Review" and "The Paris Review," among others.

He was the 1999 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry.

Burleson now lives in Alaska and teaches in the MFA program in Creative Writing at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

For more information, contact Instructor of English Mary Martin at 803/323-4554 or e-mail her at [martinme@winthrop.edu](mailto:martinme@winthrop.edu).

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