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Florida Author to Give Reading, Sign Books Nov. 9 at Little Chapel

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Mary Jane Ryals, an acclaimed author with family ties to Winthrop, will visit the campus Nov. 9 for a reading and book signing.

Ryals will read from her new novel, “Cookie and Me,” on Nov. 9 from 7-7:45 p.m. in the Little Chapel. After the reading, Ryals will autograph books until 8:15 p.m. A Friends of Dacus Library business meeting will follow the reading and book signing sessions.

The author, who lives in Tallahassee, Fla., has a number of connections to Winthrop University. Her grandmother, Eunice Stogner Brewton '24, earned her A.B. in education at Winthrop. In addition, Ryals’ brother, Robert Ryals, works as a reference librarian at Dacus Library.

Ryals, a native of Florida, is an award-winning author of nonfiction, poetry and short stories who serves as editor of the Apalachee Review literary magazine and works as a research associate at Florida State University’s College of Business. She is the 2006 winner of the Second Annual Yellow Jacket Press Chapbook Contest for Florida Poets. In addition, Ryals has been named the 2008-2010 Big Bend Poet Laureate. She has published a poetry collection, “The Moving Waters” (2008); a nonfiction book, “Getting into the Intercultural Groove: Intercultural Communication for Everyone” (2006); a chapbook, “Music in Arabic” (2006), the winner of the Yellow Jacket Book Prize; a short story collection, “A Messy Job I Never Did See a Girl Do” (1999); and a collection of poetry in “North of Wakulla: An Anhinga Anthology” (1990).

The Nov. 9 reading and book signing are free and open to the public.

For more information about the reading/book signing, contact Antje Mays at 803/323-2274 or maysa@winthrop.edu.