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Famous Author and Gardner-Webb Alumnus Ron Rash to Make Television Appearance

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Office of University Communications

July 3, 2012

Cleveland County Native Ron Rash To Discuss New Novel

BOILING SPRINGS, NC – Award-winning author and Boiling Springs, N.C., native, Ron Rash will be featured during the season premiere of “North Carolina Bookwatch” on UNC-TV (public television) this Friday, July 6 at 9:30 p.m. The show will spotlight Rash’s latest novel, “The Cove.” This marks the third appearance for Rash on the program, where he’s previously spoke about his books “Serena” and “One Foot in Eden.”

Rash’s new novel, “The Cove,” released in April by Ecco/Harper Collins, is set in Western North Carolina during World War I and tells the story of a mountain woman, Laurel Shelton, who lives in an isolated cove with her brother, Hank, a war veteran recently returned from France. Residents in a nearby town think Laurel is a witch, putting her strength in the face of adversity to the test. Later, romance blossoms when Laurel meets up with a stranger named Walter.

“The Cove” is set in North Carolina in the waning days of World War I. Ron Rash became interested in this time period when he came upon information about a North Carolina internment camp for Germans and a German ship docked in New York City prior to the outbreak of the war that ended up staying there for three years.

Since 1994, Rash, a native of Boiling Springs, N.C., has had numerous novels, short stories, and collections of poetry selected for various awards. Rash was a winner of the Fellowship of Southern Writers’ James Still Award and a former finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. His short story collection “Burning Bright” won him the Frank O’Conner Short Story Award, the world’s richest prize for the short story form. His last novel, “Serena,” received rave reviews in the New York Times and will be adapted into a motion picture in 2014. Hollywood superstars Bradley Cooper and Oscar-nominated Jennifer Lawrence, who recently starred in the worldwide box-office hit “The Hunger Games,” will play leading roles. Academy Award winner Susanne Bier will direct the film.

Rash, a Gardner-Webb alumnus, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University in 2009. He received a B.A. in English from GWU, and a M.A. in English from Clemson University in South Carolina. Today, Rash serves as Parris Distinguished professor in Appalachian Cultural Studies, where he teaches creative writing and Appalachian literature, at Western Carolina University, located in Cullowhee, N.C.

A repeat showing of UNC-TV's North Carolina Bookwatch featuring Rash will be shown on Sunday, July 8 at 5:00 p.m.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University offers a comprehensive academic experience that introduces students to the diverse world of ideas and to the people who think them, preparing them for career success and for engaged, responsible citizenship in their professional, civic, and spiritual communities.