

# Poetry forum begins meeting tomorrow

By Jessica Stanley  
Staff Writer

ECU's Poetry Forum will hold its first meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 15, at 8 p.m., in Mendenhall Student Center.

The Forum, sponsored by the English department and funded by the SGA, is directed by Dr. Peter Makuck, professor of English and editor of *Tar River Poetry*. According to Makuck, the Forum offers an informal workshop atmosphere in

which writers may receive critical feedback and "direction" from members of the group.

The structure of the Forum is similar to but less demanding than a poetry writing class. Participants are encouraged to bring copies of their work to distribute to members of the group (members range from novices to published poets), and discussions focus on refining works-in-progress.

In addition to its bi-monthly meetings, the Forum also offers its

members free public readings and workshops conducted by poets of national stature. Welsh poet and short-story writer Leslie Norris, the first guest of the semester, is scheduled to give a reading on November 4 at 8 pm.

The Forum, nearing its 25th year at ECU, was founded by Vernon Ward. Ward also served as editor of *Tar River Poetry*, which was, at that time, a publication of the Poetry Forum. Makuck was hired in 1976 to replace the retiring

Ward as director of the Forum and editor of *Tar River Poetry*. *Tar River Poetry* has, since then, become a national publication, separate from the Poetry Forum, but still closely associated with it.

Throughout the academic year (with the exception of the first meeting on September 15), the Forum will be meeting on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m. in Mendenhall Student Center. For more information, contact Dr. Makuck at 757-6580.

## Poet swings through campus

By Jessica Stanley  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Nov. 4, award-winning poet and short-story writer Leslie Norris will be coming to campus to read from his works and to conduct a writing workshop.

Norris is the author of *Making the White Fields: Poems 1967-80*, *Selected Poems*, *Norris's Ark* (a collection of children's verse), and *Sliding* (a collection of stories). *Sliding* has earned Norris the triannually awarded International Katherine Mansfield Award in Fiction, and the David Higham Memorial Prize.

A frequent contributor to *The Atlantic* and *The New Yorker*, Norris has taught at a number of universities in England and America and was a Theodore Roethke Lecturer

at the University of Washington. As a teacher and a writer, Norris has lived in England, Wales and Washington. He currently lives in Utah and is a Professor of English at Brigham Young University.

Norris's visit is sponsored by The Poetry Forum, directed by Professor Peter Makuck of ECU's English Department.

The reading will be held on Nov. 4 at 4:00 p.m. in room 1032 of the General Classroom Building. The writing workshop will be held on November 5 at 9:30 a.m. in room 2011 of the General Classroom Building.

Further information about the upcoming visit or The Poetry Forum can be obtained by contacting Professor Makuck at 757-6580.



Leslie Norris