



**BRIAN TURNER**

### **Here, Bullet**

If a body is what you want,  
 then here is bone and gristle and flesh.  
 Here is the clavicle-snapped wish,  
 the aorta's opened valves, the leap  
 thought makes at the synaptic gap.  
 Here is the adrenaline rush you crave,  
 that inexorable flight, that insane puncture  
 into heat and blood. And I dare you to finish  
 what you've started. Because here, Bullet,  
 here is where I complete the word you bring  
 hissing through the air, here is where I moan  
 the barrel's cold esophagus, triggering  
 my tongue's explosives for the rifling I have  
 inside of me, each twist of the round  
 spun deeper, because here, Bullet,  
 here is where the world ends, every time.

# VMI'S FOURTH ANNUAL **POETRY SYMPOSIUM**

**MARCH 4 & 5, 2011 AT VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE**

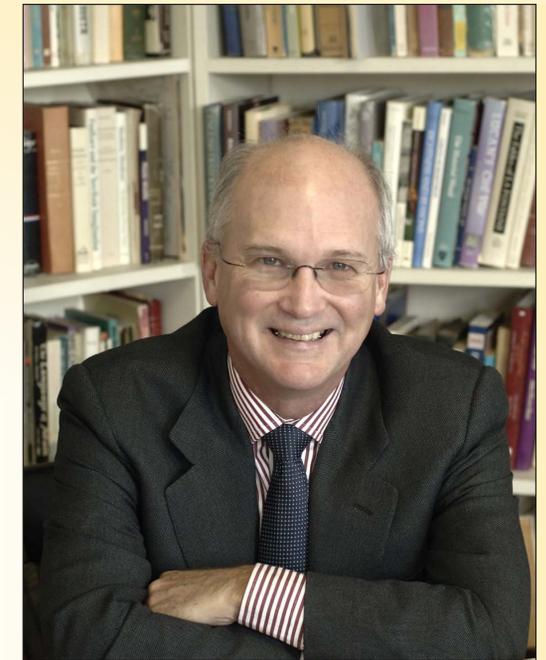
Featuring

Celebrated Iraq War Poet

**BRIAN TURNER**

Renowned Scholar

**JAMES A. WINN**



**JAMES A. WINN**

### **From *The Poetry of War***

War dismembers bodies, scattering limb  
 from limb. Poetry re-members those bodies  
 and the people who lived in them, making  
 whole in verse what was destroyed on the  
 battlefield. The technology of warfare tears  
 people, armies, and cities apart; it divides in  
 order to conquer. The technology of poetry  
 binds together all the ways that words can  
 move us; it combines in order to enrich.

And students from thirteen area colleges: VMI, Washington and Lee, Southern Virginia, Sweet Briar, Hollins, Roanoke,  
 James Madison, Old Dominion, UNC-Asheville, Richmond, William and Mary, Mary Washington, and Lynchburg



### **FRIDAY, MARCH 4**

7:45 p.m. - Reading by Brian Turner

Gillis Theater, Center for Leadership & Ethics

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 5**

1 p.m. - Keynote by James A. Winn

Gillis Theater, Center for Leadership & Ethics

All-day presentations of original student papers on poetry, original student poems  
 and a panel on the Poetry of War.

**THESE EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND ARE FREE OF CHARGE.  
 THEY ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GLADYS KRIEBLE DELMAS FOUNDATION; VMI'S DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND  
 FINE ARTS, INSTITUTE WRITING PROGRAM, CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS, AND OFFICE OF THE DEAN;  
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