The Daily Collegian
New England's Largest College Daily online

Pulitzer prize-winning poet to visit Smith

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Issue date: 12/1/08 **Section:** News

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mark Strand will visit Smith College Tuesday Dec. 2, for a reading in Stoddard Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Strand is a former U.S. Poet Laureate to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. A poet laureate is a poet appointed by a government and often asked to write poems for government events.

He has written 11 books of poems, including "Blizzard of One," which won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1999.

Strand has also written a collection of short stories, several volumes of translations, anthologies, three children's books and several monographs on contemporary artists. In addition, Strand has published articles and essays on painting and photography, and written several books on painting.

His poems are known for their clarity and deeply inward sense of language, and he has been described as existential, playful and mysterious-a poet of simple words and sentences that culminate in powerful universal experiences.

Strand has been the recipient of many distinguished honors, including a fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation in 1987, a Guggenheim fellowship in 1975 and the Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Academy of American Poets in 1974, for "The Story of Our Lives."

Strand is a former chancellor of The Academy of American Poets and teaches English and comparative literature at Columbia University.

The reading will be followed by a book sale and signing. The reading is free and open to the public.

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