

# Writers' Nook

## SPEAKERS

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*Richard Calhoun Lecturer in  
Contemporary American  
Literature*

## Mary Gordon (February 8, 1996)

Mary Gordon has written several acclaimed novels, including *Pearl*, *Spending*, and *The Company of Women*, that explore relationships between parents and children, family dynamics, moral and religious conflicts, and the conflicts faced by modern women, among many other issues. Her nonfiction works include a biography of Joan of Arc, memoirs about her father (*The Shadow Man: A Daughter's Search for Her Father*) and mother (*Circling My Mother: A Memoir*), and essay collections. She is the recipient of numerous literary awards, including an O. Henry Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her writing constitutes an important contribution to Irish-American literature.

Born and raised in New York City, Gordon's Irish-Catholic upbringing has strongly influenced her work. She received her BA from Barnard College and her MA from Syracuse University. She lives and works in New York City, where she is McIntosh Professor of English at Barnard College.

Gordon participated in interviews and a public reading on February 8, 1996, as the year's Richard J. Calhoun Reader in Contemporary American Literature. Professor Alma Bennett published a featured interview with Gordon in the *South Carolina Review* 28.1 (Fall 1995), which led to Bennett's eponymous *Conversations with Mary Gordon* (University Press of Mississippi, 2002).

