Announcer: The Missouri State Journal, a weekly program keeping you in touch with Missouri State University.

Emily Yeap: This fall and upcoming spring, Moon City Press at Missouri State University will bring several authors to campus for its 2017-2018 Moon City Reading Series. The lineup is diverse, featuring novelists, short fiction authors, poets and student writers. I'm Emily Yeap. Michael Czyzniejewski is associate professor of English at MSU and reading series coordinator. He joins me today to share more details.

Czyzniejewski: Moon City Press is an independent non-profit organization that's stationed here in the Department of English at Missouri State University and we publish the stories and histories of the people of the Ozark but also have branched out into an international literary press. We publish books by people from all over the United States, all over the world and also focus on people living right here in the Ozarks and Missouri, Arkansas, everywhere that we can.

The Moon City Reading Series is a series of readings that take place, usually on Friday nights at the PSU Theatre and we bring a variety of authors in from a variety of artistic backgrounds to come in and give presentations of their work. It's usually in the form of a fiction or poetry or nonfiction reading but we've had other such events to add some diversity and some kind of an eclectic view to the whole series.

Emily Yeap: The next reading series event is on October 20th at 7 p.m.

Czyzniejewski: Coming up we have Michelle Ross who is author of the story collection, There’s So Much They Haven’t Told You, which won our 2016 Moon City short fiction award. That's a competition, an international competition for authors who have short story collections that are yet unpublished. Michelle entered and out of a whole bunch of really, really good books, we chose her book and to help her promote the book and celebrate, we're bringing her to campus on October 20th.

Emily Yeap: On November 10th at 7 p.m., several students will get the chance to present their works.

Czyzniejewski: Every semester we have what's called our Student Invitational Reading, where the creative writing faculty at MSU picks around six or seven of their most accomplished students to go up and give a reading together. It's everybody's favorite event of the semester and we try to pick students of every genre. We pick a couple fiction writers, we pick a couple poets, but Jennifer Murvin has been teaching comics and graphic illustration in our department so she usually has at least one person presenting their graphic novels that they've been working on. We get the overhead set up so it's a more visual presentation. We try to bring in again, an eclectic group of people doing different things.

Emily Yeap: Czyzniejewski explains how authors are chosen for the reading series.

Czyzniejewski: There's just hundreds and even thousands of writers out there who have published books who are looking to go and promote their books at universities. Those are the plum events 'cause you come and you meet with students and you have a nice venue and then a lot of people buy your books afterwards. People write me all the time and want to be part of the Moon City Series. Since we can only have a few events a semester, we usually choose people like Michelle who won our book contest. We choose our Moon City authors first and anybody who publishes a book with us can come in and do a reading for us. I'm still wondering if that writer who lives in Siberia, if we're going to agree to fly them in and have a reading or not.

We also have something called the Missouri Author Series, where we try to bring in a least one or two Missouri authors to bring this warm feeling about Springfield and MSU to other writers in the state so we have a St. Louis writer named Anne Valente, whose recent novel, Our Hearts Will Burn Us Down, will be coming on January 26th. We're just always on the lookout to bring in Missourians, we're always looking to bring our own authors in and that doesn't leave a lot of room for a lot of other people but we're always looking.

Emily Yeap: The reading series is free and open to the public. Czyzniejewski says it's a unique experience, especially for people who have never been to an author reading.

Czyzniejewski: It's interesting to see somebody who's never seen an author read their own work to have them read that author's work and then see them in person and make that connection between this book, this amalgamation of paper and an actual living human being that is there and actually wrote those things. They're always really inspired by that. We really bring the best of Springfield out to the public, then we also get a chance to bring the best of the outside community to Springfield.

Emily Yeap: To find out more about Moon City Press and the reading series, visit moon-city-press.com or contact Czyzniejewski at 417-836-5418. I'm Emily Yeap for the Missouri State Journal.

Annnouncer: For more information, contact the office of University Communications at 417 836-6397. The Missouri State Journal is available online at ksmu.org.