

# Writer brings 'a very personal kind of poetry'

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Aquinas hosts  
well-known poet  
for two lectures

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BY ANN BYLE  
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Poet Diane Wakoski weighs every word she chooses, looking for exact meaning and subtle nuance. This author of more than 40 collections of poetry knows how to layer her work with words that dig deep below the surface.

"One of the aspects of poetry I like is that by nature poetry wears a costume of figurative language, where everything is compared to everything else," said Wakoski in a recent interview. "In a funny sense, a poem is a kind of strip tease, in that the reader is entranced first by the costume, and finally by the finale."



Diane  
Wakoski

Wakoski will be the final speaker this week in the Aquinas College Contemporary Writers Series' 2004-2005 season. Considered a legend

## IF YOU GO

### Author visit

Michigan poet Diane Wakoski will read from and discuss her poetry at two free events:

**Wednesday:** 7:30 p.m. at Wege Ballroom at Aquinas College, 1607 Robinson Road SE

**Thursday:** 12:30 p.m. in the Loutit Room at Aquinas

Wakoski is University Distinguished Professor of English and poet-in-residence at Michigan State University. She has been in Michigan since 1970. She is often named among the foremost contemporary American poets and, in 2003, she received the Author of the Year Award from the Michigan Library Association.

Wakoski talks of what she likes most about poetry and how it is the opposite of what she calls one of the great language poisoners: television news.

"Poetry forces us to think precisely. You have to find the exact word that expresses your meaning and reveals something else. Broadcasters don't speak very well; they use clichés and are often in