The brain-child of education instructor Karen Backor, the SU Reading and Writing Academy has been changing lives for the last five years. The “Academy” welcomes youngsters who have been nominated by their teachers to “help” college students become better teachers. What the youngsters do not know is that they, themselves, are in need of remedial reading and writing education.

When the young students arrive on campus, they find smart, dedicated people who believe in their potential to learn and who are committed to increasing their young charges’ self-confidence and skills.

According to Backor, it is soul-satisfying to watch entire families change their views about education and even their life goals. As the children dramatically improve their reading and writing skills, their ambitions to finish school—and even go to college—grow. And, of course, pre-service teachers gain an impressive credit to put on their resumes: working successfully with at-risk children.

The SU Reading and Writing Academy is a contender for the 2012 Star Award for “Closing the Gaps,” a competition sponsored by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

November 19: “The Beginner’s Goodbye” by Anne Tyler
Moderator: Sally Hannay, associate professor of English

February 11: “The Reader” by Bernhard Schlink
Moderator: Silke Feltz, instructor (English, German)

March 4: “Between the Assassinations” by Aravind Adiga
Moderator: Dr. Mary Grace Antony, assistant professor of communication studies

April 15: “The Lifeboat” by Charlotte Rogan
Moderator: Dr. Candice Scott, associate VPAA for library, technology & academic services

All programs begin at 7 p.m. in the Scarle-Philips Room of the William Logan Library. For further details, please contact Silke Feltz, director of Monday Night Fiction, sfeltz@schreiner.edu.