

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karen Johnson, Exec. Director of Communications
Phone: 906-487-7348, E-mail: karen.johnson@finlandia.edu

Date: January 19, 2009

“Heikki Heikkinen” Subject of Free Writer’s Seminar this Thursday

HANCOCK – Thursday, January 22, from 4:00 to 5:30, local fiction author Lauri Anderson will discuss, “The Birth of Heikki Heikkinen.” His talk will take place at the Finlandia University Chapel of St. Matthew, Hancock.

The event is free and open to the public.

Anderson will talk about the role models in his life who led to the creation of his recurring fictional character, Heikki Heikkinen.

Anderson will also read passages from his work that are representative of Heikki’s world view as a first-generation immigrant in northern Maine and the Copper Country.

Anderson incorporates humor, satire, and irony in his stories of Upper Peninsula Finns. Heikki Heikkinen, for example, has his strong likes and dislikes: he loves his beer, fishing, and growing potatoes; he hates barbeque grills, his smartass nephew from Lansing, and all the flatlanders. He especially dislikes his neighbor, Hilda Maki, whom he manages to torment even after his death.

The January 22 seminar is the first of a series of seminars titled, “The Writer’s Journey,” in which poets, fiction and non-fiction writers, and journalists will share their work and discuss the writing process.

Anderson is an English professor at Finlandia University. He is the author of multiple short-story collections, including *Back to Misery Bay* (2007), *Impressions of Arvo Laurila* (2005), *Misery Bay* (2001), *Children of the Kalevala* (1997), *Heikki Heikkinen and Other Stories of Upper Peninsula Finns* (1995), and *Hunting Hemingway’s Trout* (1990).

For additional information, please contact Suzanne Van Dam at 906-487-7515 or suzanne.vandam@finlandia.edu.