

2007 Speaker



Photo by Dolores Johnson

Denise Watson Batts

Denise Watson Batts is a member of a four-person team of writers that specializes in narrative writing. Batts wrote her first story on the underside of her parents' wooden coffee table when she was thigh-high. She likes to believe she's gotten better since then. She's been a staffer for the *The Virginian-Pilot* for 15 years and spent a year at *The St. Petersburg Times* in Florida. Even though she's written about the famous—Betty Friedan—and the infamous—John and Lorena Bobbitt—she prefers stories of everyday life and everyday people, such as an afternoon at a Girl Scout summer camp, a high school drama team's quest to stage one of Broadway's toughest shows or a man who still repairs typewriters in the computer age. She has won regional and national honors for feature writing. Batts is a 1990 graduate of Norfolk State University and grew up in Norfolk. She is married with two children

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