Dori Sanders was born in York County, South Carolina, where her family still raises Georgia Belle and Alberta peaches on one of the area’s oldest black-owned farms. Her debut novel, Clover, has become a national bestseller and classroom favorite. This winner of the Lillian Smith Award for Southern literature tells the story of Clover Hill, a black girl learning to live with her new white stepmother, Sara Kate, after her father dies in a car wreck on the night of his wedding. Clover, intelligent and smart-mouthed, must learn to adjust to the new stepmother written off by other family members because of her race and background. As Clover sees Sara Kate struggle with her own grief, she starts to accept her, a woman not as “mighty strange” as she initially thought. The two come to seem “[p]eaches picked from the same tree, but put in separate baskets.” Sanders uses unique metaphors and Southern dialect to create a vivid image of life on a rural South Carolina farm, exploring understanding and loss in this tale of a family coming together.

Dori Sanders is also the author of a second novel, Her Own Place, and a cookbook, Dori Sanders’ Country Cooking.

Denise Shaw is Associate Professor of English and Women’s Studies at the University of South Carolina Union, where her areas of specialty include Southern literature and the twentieth-century American novel and where she has twice received the Distinguished Teaching Award. In addition to authoring scholarly publications and teaching classes in American and Southern literature and Women’s Studies, she is currently mentoring students for a Magellan Scholars grant. Professor Shaw’s Association of Carolina Emerging Scholars talk examines how the interruptions of food and foodways following Hurricane Katrina affected a shift in both the tourism industry and familial and community identities. In exploring the writings coming out of Louisiana following Katrina, Shaw describes how certain lacks—food scarcity, scattered families, and a fractured connection to heritage—complicated recovery, preservation, and restoration.