



15th Annual Kentucky Writers Conference

Sponsored by:

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Theme: Focus on Fiction

Friday, April 20, 2017

9am-3:30 pm

WKU South Campus, 2355 Nashville Road

Session 1: 9:00-10:15am	Session 2: 10:30-11:45am	Session 3: 12:45-2:00pm	Session 4: 2:15-3:30pm
Conference Room 303	Conference Room 303	Conference Room 303	Conference Room 303
Sarah Loudin Thomas - Setting as Character	Jessica Strawser - 10 Top Lessons from 10 Years of Bestselling Author Interviews	Michael Moreci – Building Worlds: Crafting Sci- Fi/Fantasy Stories that Feel Real	Mitali Perkins - Creating a Sense of Place in Fiction
FICTION	PUB	FICTION/PUB	FICTION
Room 214	Room 214	Room 214	Room 214
Andrew Shaffer - Nonfiction Book Proposals	Tracee de Hahn - Plotting versus “Pantsing”	Alma Katsu - Conflict	Jacob Appel - Marketing Short Fiction: The Science of Publishing
NONFICTION	FICTION	FICTION	PUB
Room 217	Room 217	Room 217	Room 217
Wendy Tyson - Writing the First Draft	Julie Hensley – Inventory: Creating a Warehouse for Character Development	Max Garland - Poetry and Place	Corabel Shofner - It’s Never Too Late
FICTION	FICTION	POETRY	PUB
Room 218	Room 218	Room 218	Room 218
Cheryl Hopson - Poetry	Catherine McKenzie - Hating on the Draft	R. Dean Johnson – Defamiliarization: How Details Win the Day Details	C.J. Redwine - Query Writing 101
POETRY	FICTION	FICTION	PUB

FICTION = workshops relating specifically to writing a work of fiction (novels, short stories, etc.)

PUB = workshops relating to the subject of publishing (editing, revising, querying, preparing a manuscript, etc.)

NONFICTION = workshops relating to writing nonfiction (memoir, essay, etc.)

POETRY = workshops relating to writing poetry (poetic forms, subject matter, etc.)

Kentucky Writers Conference

FRIDAY

SESSION 1 - 9:00 – 10:15am

Conference Room 303

Sarah Loudin Thomas - Setting as Character

Appalachia is practically its own character in my novels. We'll talk about how place can add depth to a story. How do you choose your setting? How do you bring it to life? How much research should you do? We'll answer those questions and others you might have about bringing your setting to life. Come ready to jump in and participate through a combination of discussion and exercises!

Room 214

Andrew Shaffer - Nonfiction Book Proposals

Got an idea for a nonfiction book or memoir? Before you invest months or years writing it, hold up! Nonfiction publishing isn't like the fiction market—you don't need to have a completed manuscript before querying agents. New York Times bestseller Andrew Shaffer—author of two nonfiction titles for HarperCollins—will help you turn your idea into a slickly-formatted book proposal.

Room 217

Wendy Tyson - Writing That First Draft

In "Writing That First Draft," Wendy discusses what writers need to know about starting that writing process. Some of the topics she goes over in the workshop includes: Getting Started: Attitude Matters; Courting Inspiration; and Sketching the Big Picture That First Draft: Character & Conflict; Whose Story Is It?; Where Do I Begin? Revise, Revise, Revise: Start With the Big Rocks; Avoid Common Problems; Finding Your Beta Reader Now What?: Submit or Self Publish?

Room 218

Cheryl Hopson - Poetry

A workshop on poetry as a form of resistance and recovery, with a specific focus on the work of June Jordan. We will also deal with subject matter, tone, and imagined and real interlocutors in poetry.

SESSION 2 – 10:30am – 11:45am

Conference Room 303

Jessica Strawser - 10 Top Lessons from 10 Years of Bestselling Author Interviews

This session distills a decade of collected wisdom into the all-time best insights into the creative process, the writing life, the craft of writing and the business of publishing. Get new perspectives on revolutionizing your writing routine, following the path of your story, revising with the right mindset, persevering through rejection, and more—from award-winners and bestsellers including Alice Walker, David Sedaris, David Baldacci, Patricia Cornwell, Khaled Hosseini, Brad Meltzer and Lisa Scottoloni.

Room 214

Tracee de Hahn - Charting your path: Plotting versus "Pantsing"

In this workshop we will examine various strategies to plot fiction, particularly mysteries or thrillers. Attention will be paid to developing an idea across plot points as well as examination of the arc of the story. We will work through various methods of tracking plot - including Excel spread sheets and more traditional note cards and posters.

Room 217

Julie Hensley - Inventory: Creating a Warehouse for Character Development

Get ready to empty the pockets, drawers, and glove compartments. In this fiction workshop, we'll create inventories to enrich character development. We'll learn how the physical characteristics of a character (eye color, hair style, height) are much less important to readers' understanding than the objects the characters encounter and with which s/he interacts. Inventory is where action and characterization meet, making it an essential part of plot.

Room 218

Catherine McKenzie - Hating on the Draft

So you've started writing your novel, but how do you get it finished? How do you know if it's any good? How can you motivate yourself to keep going? Join Catherine McKenzie for a workshop on tools to move past the beginning of your novel and get it done.

SESSION 3 – 12:45pm – 2:00pm

Conference Room 303

Michael Moreci – Building Worlds: Crafting Sci-Fi/Fantasy Stories That Feel Real

Join author and comics writer Michael Moreci as he discusses how to build rich, believable worlds in your fiction--after all, the galaxy far, far away started somewhere, and the same can be said for Middle Earth, Hogwarts, and so many other places that live in our imaginations.

Room 214

Alma Katsu – Conflict in Fiction

It's easy to underestimate how much conflict you need to hook your readers (spoiler alert: you need A LOT). Alma Katsu will teach you how to layer different types of conflict to create a compelling story that readers won't be able to put down, no matter the genre.

Room 217

Max Garland - Poetry and Place

How to write from where you are, or where you've been. Using examples from contemporary poets, discussion of how poets use language, image, detail, metaphor to convey the living essence of a place. Practical ideas for more fully seeing, expressing, and discovering the life of a place through poetry.
Author Bio:

Room 218

R. Dean Johnson - Defamiliarization: How Details Win the Day

Whether you're writing fiction or nonfiction, a big part what gives your narrative voice and makes it your own, are the details you include. But how many do you need, and how do you know which ones are best? With a crash course on Charles Baxter's ideas on "defamiliarization," we'll look at some seminal works that get the details just right, and we'll do a few exercises to see if we can't start getting them right ourselves.

SESSION 4 – 2:15pm – 3:30pm

Conference Room 303

Mitali Perkins - Magic Carpet: Creating a Sense of Place in Fiction

In this interactive, hands-on workshop, participants will learn how to weave together the three strands of plot/emotion, place, and character into a single, gripping scene. They will be equipped to engage the

five senses in creating a sense of place to transport readers directly into the scene. Participants will write in class and some will be chosen to receive constructive feedback on the spot from the instructor in a guided, positive discussion.

Room 214

Jacob Appel - Marketing Short Fiction: The Science of Publishing

The age of the computer and the Internet has led to an explosion of outlets for short fiction. Literally several thousand journals, both in print and on line, offer respectable venues for publication. How should an aspiring author choose among them? And what are the secrets to success in the publication game? In this session, an author who has garnered more than two hundred acceptance letters and 20,000 rejection slips in the course of his efforts to publish short fiction offers his "tricks of the trade" on such subjects as market selection and submission, contests, cover letters, "best of" anthologies, red flags, how to build a portfolio that will appeal to agents, and how to market a collection. The purpose of this session is to demystify the submission and selection process, ultimately leading to a more impressive acceptance to submission ratio. While writing is an art, publishing short fiction is as much a science as a creative endeavor--one that the determined and informed student can master. After devoting so much time, energy and emotion to creating short fiction, why should an author leave publication to chance?

Room 217

Corabel Shofner - It's Never Too Late

Ella Fitzgerald once said, "Don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong." Meet a 64-year-old writer who, after a rewarding career in law, and after raising three children, never gave up on her dream to become a published author. She is proud to call herself a 'mature writer.' Her hope is to inspire other mature writers not to give up on their dreams of publication in the midst of a business that often seems more favorable towards youth. She will offer practical tips to others for whom writing might be a second, third, or even fourth career, to help them enter, survive, and thrive in the jungle of traditional publishing.

Room 218

CJ Redwine - Query Writing 101

Learn how to write a query or book blurb that will captivate agents, editors, and readers! Experienced teacher and bestselling author C.J. Redwine breaks the query writing process down into a simple, 3 step method, and answers all of your query-related questions. Bring a copy of your current query to participate in C.J.'s anonymous, on-the-spot critiques as time permits.

SATURDAY

No registration necessary; see website for more information. Descriptions below.

Workshop Descriptions:

9:00am-9:50am: Lorie Langdon & Carey Corp – The Joy and Pain of Co-Authoring

Join Carey Corp and Lorie Langdon, co-authors of the best-selling DOON Series, for a workshop on the advantages and disadvantages of co-writing, how to best leverage strengths and weaknesses when working with others, and some of the hard won lessons they've learned after publishing a combined eight books. Whether you are considering co-authoring a novel, collaborating on a project, or just want to publish your own book, their decade of experience in the publishing industry will leave you with sage insight, pragmatic strategies, laughter, and hope.

11:00am-11:50am: Alisha Klapheke – Fight Scenes 101

Author by day and martial arts instructor by night, Alisha Klapheke will show you how to make your action scenes believable, relatable, and exciting. Watch this writer perform self-defense moves and learn how to get your fight scenes right!

Noon-12:50pm: Geoffrey Girard – Get Published in an Hour

Step-by-step ideas and devices to finally tackle -- or get started on -- all phases of the publication process. In one hour, explore/learn proven advice and techniques via hands-on exercises to (1) actually finish your latest project and (2) submit to agents and/or publishers. From cover letters and novel pitches to time-management tips, networking, and the various options of self-pub.

1:00-1:50pm: Courtney Stevens & Kristin Tubb – First Pages Critique Workshop

An editor or agent will often remark that they know on Page One if they'll continue reading a manuscript. This First Page Critique Workshop is a unique opportunity to gain insight into the techniques involved in crafting an attention-grabbing first page. Anonymous first pages will be chosen randomly, read aloud to the group, and Courtney C. Stevens and Kristin O'Donnell Tubb will discuss the ever-important question: how do I keep readers reading? **Attendees of the workshop will need to bring two copies of the first page of a manuscript-in-progress.** Please do not include your name on the manuscript, and please use traditional formatting (12-point font, double-space paragraphs), to strive for enough time to cover all attendees' stories. Positive critiques, thoughtful feedback, and constructive discussion of what constitutes an excellent first page is the goal!