

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Registration – Wilkes University
University Center on Main (UCOM)
169 S. Main Street, Wilkes-Barre**

NOTE: PWC LANYARD REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

10:15 to 11:00 a.m.

Workshop – Writing with Rubrics
Laura Kieselbach
UCOM 210

This workshop is for writing teachers who want to introduce rubrics to their classroom. Participants will be walked through a rubric analysis using interactive and collaborative techniques. The strategies presented will offer teachers a tangible activity they can take back to their students and use in the classroom to promote a better understanding of the scoring process. These strategies are designed to help clarify academic expectations that constitute exceptional student writing. **This workshop will also be offered on Saturday at 1:45 p.m.**

Panel – Beyond the Facts: Creative Research for All Genres
Vicki C. Mayk, Barbara J. Taylor, Sam Chiarelli, Sandee Gertz
UCOM 201

In his book *The Art of Creative Research*, Philip Gerard asserts, “The very act of research can help you discover not just a subject worth writing about, but a way of writing about it.” In this panel, writers in multiple genres (fiction, nonfiction and poetry) will discuss how research has enriched and informed their creative process. Panelists will share how research has helped them make characters and plotlines more authentic, taken their work in unexpected directions and inspired new writing. The writers will also share favorite research tools and resources.

Craft Class – Cut to the Chase: Using the Techniques of Genre Fiction to Write Riveting Memoir and Literary Fiction
Ginger Moran
UCOM 207

Why do memoirs and literary fiction fail to get published? In this craft class, participants will learn about the one element needed to break out, and the simple four-step process to structure a novel or memoir. **This craft class will also be offered on Saturday at 11:45 a.m.**

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11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Workshop – Chaos and Rebirth: Approaches to Writing Addiction and Recovery

Aurora Bonner
UCOM 207

Whether you are writing about addiction, trauma, or mental health, writing recovery is messy and complex. Addiction and recovery stories have deep roots in literature, yet current authors offer new perspectives and approaches on writing that can inform your writing. This workshop wades into the murkiness and chaos of writing about the self through addiction and recovery by considering the craft and technique of several contemporary authors.

Presentation/Workshop – Focus and Redirection: Ending the Short Story

Leah Griesmann
UCOM 210

What does it mean to reach the final page, the final paragraph, the final line of the short story? Instead of tying things up in a bow, many powerful short stories end on a note of focus or redirection that echo the themes and conflicts within the story. In this presentation/workshop, we will look at stories by Edward P. Jones, Alice Munro, James Joyce, Margaret Atwood, Madison Smartt Bell, and Richard Bausch, paying close attention to the very last lines. In particular, we will examine how these short story authors step outside horizontal time and into the vertical depths of the story itself to end on a powerful note. Especially geared towards short story writers, this presentation will include close readings and a writing exercise on stories and endings. **This presentation/workshop will also be offered on Saturday at 3:00 p.m.**

Workshop – From Eye to I

Edward A. Dougherty
UCOM 212

The practice of profound empathy and imagination to inhabit another person's point of view is a refined craft that allows our words to reveal even more than the speaker intends. Participants will create descriptive images striving for language that both appeals to the senses and conveys feeling and insight. Working with photographs and paintings, each participant will select a single piece of artwork that resonates with them and create a monologue. **This workshop will also be offered on Saturday at 11:45 a.m.**

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on your own

Please see a list of local restaurant suggestions in the conference booklet.

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1:30 to 2:15 p.m.

Presentation – [Click Here to Submit: Developing a Submission Strategy](#)

Aurora Bonner
UCOM 212

Thousands of literary magazines and journals publish creative writing, making the submission process both exciting and daunting. Before you begin the submission process it's important to plan where, when, and how you submit your work. This presentation will cover how to plan, organize, and develop your submission strategy as well as how to use market research and personal branding to inform your submissions. Common reasons for rejections will also be presented.

Workshop – How to Improve Your Writing and Prepare it for Publication

Carolyn Oravitz
UCOM 207

This workshop provides valuable tips on improving your writing, avoiding common errors, and preparing your work for publication. Participants will receive instructor's 100-page textbook (*Write for Publication – Twenty Lessons to Improve Your Writing*). **This workshop will also be offered on Saturday at 4:15 p.m.**

2:45 to 3:30 p.m.

Panel – Filing the Serial Numbers Off: The Good and Bad of Learning from Fan Fiction

Shannon O'Shea, Karalyn Morris and Eric Parmer
UCOM 201

Famous, well-known and well-respected authors (Lev Grossman, Seanan McGuire, Neil Gaiman, Cassandra Clare, and E. L. James) have dabbled in fan fiction but it still has a bad rap in the writing community. Is fan fiction a set of fantastic training wheels or a pair of hobbling crutches? This panel will examine the good and bad of learning from fan fiction. **This panel will also be offered on Saturday at 1:45 p.m.**

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2:45 to 3:30 p.m.

Craft Class – Narrating History

Joe Kraus
UCOM 212

This presentation discusses challenges and strategies for taking the raw materials of history – whether documentary or oral history -- and converting them into a coherent narrative. **This craft class will also be offered on Saturday at 10:30 a.m.**

Office Hours – Nicole Frail

Sign-up at Registration in UCOM Lobby
UCOM 210

Meet one-on-one with a publishing house editor to discuss your project. **Office Hours will also be offered on Saturday at 10:30 a.m.**

4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

Pitch Session - Screenwriting

Dr. Bonnie Culver, Nicole Frail, Ross Klavan and Ken Vose
UCOM 201

Come pitch your film, novel, or memoir ideas to experienced pitch artists and a publishing house editor. Use the “pitch” they assist you in finding as an opening for your query letter or talk with an agent, editor. Learn how to sell your work. **This pitch session will also be offered on Saturday at 11:45 a.m.**

Craft Class – Immersing Yourself in Story: A Multi-week Approach to Writing Creative Nonfiction

Jennifer Judge Yonkoski
UCOM 207

This presentation combines pedagogy and craft and introduces checkpoints to ensure semester-long projects remain on task. Workshop attendees will work through exercises and discover ways to get out of their comfort zone and learn how to immerse themselves into writing about new topics. **This craft class will also be offered on Saturday at 4:15 p.m.**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

**Registration – Dorothy Dickson Dart Performing Arts Center
River and South Streets (enter through the South Street entrance)**

NOTE: PWC LANYARD REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

Bookfair hosted by Barnes & Noble
Dorothy Dickson Dart Performing Arts Center

9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Plenary Session: Jacquelyn Mitchard
Followed by author signing hosted by Barnes & Noble
Dorothy Dickson Dart Performing Arts Center

10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Office Hours – Nicole Frail
Sign-up at Registration in Dorothy Dickson Dart Performing Arts Center Lobby
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Presentation – Fostering a Connected Writing Community
Caitlin Downs
UCOM 210

Whether online or in person, literary communities help to support and enrich others while dispelling the notion that writing is a solitary experience. This presentation by members of two literary organizations will provide insight into developing your own literary community.

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11:45 to 12:30 p.m.

Pitch Session

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3:00 - 3:45 p.m.

Presentation - Leaning Into the Pain

Jacquelyn Mitchard
UCOM 210

Writers are only human; human instinct is to avoid emotional distress. And yet, the most arresting and engaging writing often comes from investigating our own acutely painful experiences — either in fiction or non-fiction. How do we bear it? How do we justify it? How do we accomplish it effectively? Jacquelyn Mitchard shares strategies for summoning grief, trauma, or shame, and why a writer can be better for taking that risk.

4:15 to 5:00 p.m.

Craft Class – Immersing Yourself in Story: A Multi-week Approach to Writing Creative Nonfiction

Jennifer Judge Yonkoski
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5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Dinner Hosted by Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing

Henry Student Center Ballroom **(PWC LANYARD REQUIRED)**

Bookfair hosted by Barnes & Noble (continues until 8:30 p.m.)

Dorothy Dickson Darte Performing Arts Center

7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Keynote address followed by author signing hosted by Barnes & Noble

Andre Dubus III

Dorothy Dickson Darte Performing Arts Center **(PWC LANYARD REQUIRED)**

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Andre Dubus III **Keynote Speaker**

Award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author Andre Dubus III will speak about the path that led him to become a writer—one that pulled him out of a life of violence and allowed him to find his voice through the arts.

Dubus grew up in mill towns on the Merrimack River along the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border. He began writing fiction at age 22, just a few months after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in sociology. He is the author of six books, three of which were *New York Times* bestsellers: *House of Sand and Fog*, *The Garden of Last Days*, and his memoir, *Townie*. His most recent book, *Dirty Love*—a collection of four short novellas—was chosen as a Notable Book and Editors' Choice from the *New York Times*, a Notable Fiction from *The Washington Post*, and a *Kirkus* Starred Best Book of 2013. His other titles are *The Cage Keeper* and *Other Stories* and *Bluesman*.

Jacquelyn Mitchard **Plenary Session Speaker**

Jacquelyn Mitchard is the author of 21 books of fiction and non-fiction for adults, young adults, and children, with more than four million copies in print worldwide, in 31 languages. They include *The Deep End of the Ocean*, the first selection of the Oprah Winfrey Book Club, a Number One *New York Times* bestseller, and adapted for a major motion picture by Michelle Pfeiffer as well as *The Midnight Twins*, now in development by Kaleidoscope Entertainment for an HBO series.

Mitchard's novels have won or been short-listed for the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction, The Bram Stoker Award, The Shirley Jackson Award, the Heartland Prize for Fiction and the UK's Talkabout Prize, and have included five *New York Times* bestsellers. She has also authored an essay collection (*Dispatches from the Mother Ship*) and a memoir, *Mother Less Child*.

She was editor in chief and curator of Merit Press, a realistic Young Adult imprint under the auspices of Simon and Schuster, and is now a mentor of fiction and non-fiction in the MFA Programs in Creative Writing at Miami University of Ohio and Wilkes University.

Mitchard served on the Fiction Jury for the National Book Awards and has been a fellow at The Ragdale Foundation, Yaddo, The Macdowell Colony, and Hedgebrook.

WILKES UNIVERSITY'S MASLOW FAMILY GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CREATIVE WRITING

Earn your master of arts and master of fine arts degree online with limited campus visits. We focus on the craft and business of writing in a mentoring atmosphere that embraces one-on-one guidance while immersing you in a community of working writers. Choose to study fiction, poetry, screenwriting, playwriting, creative nonfiction, publishing and making documentary films. Learn more at www.wilkes.edu/creativewriting.

PRESENTERS

Aurora D. Bonner lives and writes in the Endless Mountains. Her writing has or will appear in the *Colorado Review*, *Assay: Journal of Nonfiction Studies*, *Hippocampus Magazine*, and *Under the Gum Tree*. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Wilkes University. Follow her at @aurora_bonner or aurorabonner.com.

Sam Chiarelli earned his Creative Writing MFA at Wilkes University. His first book, *Dig: A Personal Prehistoric Journey* (Books By Hippocampus), explores humanity's fascination with dinosaurs, and will be released in November, 2018. His work has previously appeared in *Longridge Review* and *Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies*.

Bonnie Culver's twenty-plus plays have been produced from New York to Los Angeles by colleges, regional theatres, and equity companies. *Sniper* won the New Jersey Arts Council Perry Award for Excellence in the Production of an Original Play followed by a first class equity showcase at Center Stage, New York City, in 2005. In 2006, *Sniper* was included in the Florida Studio Theatre's Richard and Betty Burdick National Playwriting Reading series. Three of her screenplays were finalists in the Sundance Film Development program. Marlee Matlin's *Solo One Production* company optioned *Rainbow Man*. In 2015, her play *GPS* won the Piney Fork Short Play Festival in New York City won the festival as "best play" directed by Gregory Fletcher. She is the director/co-founder of the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Wilkes University.

Edward A. Dougherty is the author of 10 collections of poetry. Selections from his Book of Emblems (small calligraphic artwork and brief poems) have been displayed at the Word & Image Gallery and the Atrium Gallery in Corning, N.Y. He has also collaborated with visual artists at the State of the Art Gallery in Ithaca, N.Y., the Hours Festival, and through the Arts of the Southern Finger Lakes. He is the co-author of the guide for writers and writing groups *Double Bloom: Exercises for Poets*.

Caitlin Downs is a writer, student of creative writing at Wilkes University, adjunct instructor at three colleges (Pennsylvania College of Art & Design, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, HACC Lancaster campus), and a member of The Triangle, a Central Pennsylvania based literary organization that brings writers together.

Nicole Frail is a senior editor at Skyhorse Publishing in New York City. She acquires mostly in the categories of cooking and lifestyle/hobby and occasionally adult fiction, memoir, and young adult fiction. She has acquired and published hundreds of titles during her six years at Skyhorse. Recent titles include *The Summer of Jordi Perez (and the Best Burger in Los Angeles)*, *The Chickpea Revolution Cookbook*, and *Rainbow Relatives*, as well as award winners such as *The Fix* by Natasha Sinel, *Whole Bowls* by Allison Day, and *Vegan Love* by Maya Gottfried. She also offers select freelance editorial services at nicolefrail.com. Add her on Twitter at @nfrail17

Sandee Gertz is an educator and author. Her full-length collection of poetry, *The Pattern Maker's Daughter*, was published in 2012 by Bottom Dog Press. She has also completed a memoir and is working on a novel and new collection of poetry, *Trace of Salt*. A western Pennsylvania native, Sandee has been living in Nashville for nearly five years. She teaches Composition and Creative Writing/Poetry at Cumberland University. On Sundays at 11 CT, she

hosts a poetry radio show on Radio Free Nashville, called "Everyday Poetry; Poetry for the People!" Tune in at www.radiofreenashville.org.

Leah Griesmann has received grants and residencies from the MacDowell Colony, the Elizabeth George Foundation, the Swatch Art Peace Hotel, and a Steinbeck Fellowship in Fiction. Her linked story collection, *Stripped*, was a finalist for the Hudson Prize at Black Lawrence Press. She teaches writing at Seoul National University.

After serving for more than a decade as a public educator in both Florida and New Jersey, **Laura Kieselbach** is now the Education Specialist for the English department at East Stroudsburg University. Professor Kieselbach works closely with pre-service English education majors, promoting an understanding of skill in both reading and writing while advocating for awareness and competency of culture and diversity through pedagogical practices.

Ross Klavan's novella, *I Take Care Of Myself In Dreamland*, will be published in 2018. *Thump Gun Hitched* was published in 2016, both by Down and Out Books. His comic novel, *Schmuck*, was published in January, 2014 by *Greenpoint Press*. He's written screenplays for Paramount, Miramax, InterMedia, Walden Media, A&E and TNT. His original screenplay, *Tigerland*, was produced by *New Regency/Fox* and nominated for the Independent Spirit Award. The film was directed by Joel Schumacher, starring Colin Farrell.

Joe Kraus is professor and chair of English and Theatre at the University of Scranton. His fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared, among other places, in *The American Scholar*, *River Teeth*, *Southern Humanities Review*, and *Moment*. He is co-author of the history, *An Accidental Anarchist*, and his *The Kosher Capones*, a history of the Jewish gangsters in Chicago, is forthcoming from Northern Illinois University Press in 2019.

Vicki Mayk is a nonfiction writer whose work has appeared in *Hippocampus Magazine*, *Literary Mama*, and the *Manifest-Station*. She edits the magazine at Wilkes University, where she also teaches memoir workshops and a class for college freshmen about the power of story. She earned her MFA in the Maslow Family Graduate Creative Writing Program.

Ginger Moran taught at Fisk University and the University of Virginia before becoming a full-time writer and private book educator. She has published stories and essays in *salon.com*, *Oxford American*, and the *Virginia Quarterly Review* among many others. Her first novel, *The Algebra of Snow*, was nominated for a Pushcart Award. She has a Ph.D. in literature and Creative Writing from the University of Houston.

Karalyn Morris is an adjunct English professor. She has been published in *Body Parts*, *Shimmer*, and *The Flexible Persona*. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and a Best of the Year Horror Anthology. Not a writer of fan fic, Karalyn is an avid consumer.

Carolyn Oravitz presently teaches English at Luzerne County Community College. She has also written feature articles, business profiles, and a creative writing series for the *NEPA Independent Magazine* for ten years. Oravitz published a book used as a textbook for writing workshops and has taught writing workshops at various locations including Misericordia University.

Shannon O’Shea is a marketing copywriter. Her work has appeared in *The Flexible Persona*. She learned how to write using fanfiction.

Eric Parmer is the workshop leader of the Phoenix Fiction Writers.

Bill Schneider is the Associate Director of the Wilkes University Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing. He also serves as the Managing Editor of Etruscan Press. Following a long career in the music industry, Bill received his Bachelor of Science in Journalism Magna Cum Laude from Suffolk University. He also received his M.A. and M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Wilkes University. Bill’s essays and short stories have appeared in *Route 7 Review* (May 2017), *The Hamline Lit Journal* (April 2017) and *Middle Gray Magazine* (January 2014). He has also been published in the “No Regrets” issue of *Silly Tree Anthologies* (2014).

Barbara J. Taylor was born and raised in Scranton, Pa., and taught English in the Pocono Mountain School District for 31 years. She has an MFA in creative writing from Wilkes University where she wrote her debut novel, *Sing in the Morning, Cry at Night*, a *Publishers Weekly* “Best Book of Summer 2014.” Her second novel, *All Waiting Is Long*, is a stand-alone sequel in what will be a trilogy. She is currently working on book three.

Ken Vose has written for film, television, and stage. The film of his play *Papa: The Man, The Myth, The Legend*, co-authored with Jordan Rhodes, and based on the life of Ernest Hemingway, was selected Best Historical Drama at the 2010 New York Independent Film Festival. His other credits include *Greased Lightning* starring Richard Pryor, *Thundercats* and the novels *Oversteer* and *Dead Pedal*.

Jennifer Judge Yonkoski is a poet and essayist whose work has appeared in *Literary Mama*, *Under the Gum Tree*, *The Comstock Review*, and *Rhino*, among others. She teaches creative writing at King’s College and is the organizer of the Poetry in Transit program. She earned her MFA from Goddard College.