NCWN 2011 SPRING CONFERENCE
ELLIOTT UNIVERSITY CENTER, UNC GREENSBORO
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

The North Carolina Writers' Network and the Center for Creative Writing in the Arts bring you a full day of workshops on the campus of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. We're giving you more of what you've asked for -- small classes, top writing faculty, and intensive workshops in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, playwriting, publishing, and public speaking.

Keynote: Carole Boston Weatherford

Register Online | Download a Registration Form

Spring Conference 2011 is made possible with support from the Center for Creative Writing in the Arts, UNC-Greensboro, and the North Carolina Arts Council.

Conference Classes

Register Online | Download a Registration Form

All-Day Workshops

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Closed Writing What You've Lived (All-Day Fiction) with David Halperin

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Closed Writing For Your Life: How Personal Narrative Morphs into Memoir (All-Day Nonfiction) with Marianne Gingher

Intensive Half-Day Workshops with

- Traci O Connor (fiction)
- Anjail Rashida Ahmad (poetry)
- Edmund R. Schubert (fiction)
- Kevin Morgan Watson (publishing)
- Joseph Mills (poetry)
- Paul Cuadros (nonfiction)
- Angela Harwood (marketing)
- Carole Boston Weatherford (childrens)

Choose one of the all-day workshops , which meet in the morning and resume after lunch.

Or

Choose from among the half-day workshops and select one class for the morning session and another class for the afternoon session.

Either way,

- Registration from 8:00 - 9:00 am
- Morning sessions from 9:00 - 10:30 am
- Keynote Reading from 10:45 - 11:45 *Open to the Public!
- Lunch with an Author! - Keep the conversations going 12:00 - 1:00 pm
- Faculty Readings 1:00 - 2:00 pm
- Afternoon sessions from 2:30 - 4:00 pm
- Publishing Panel from 4:00 - 5:00 pm *Open to the Public!
- Publisher Exhibits open all day

See the full schedule for more information about the day's activities.

Register Online | Download a Registration Form

Costs

Early registration ends Tuesday, April 22. **Members may register on-site April 30 for $135.**

Early registration:

- $99 for members
- $150 for non-members
- You can join the Network when you register, and pay the $99 registration fee plus the appropriate
  $75 standard 1-year membership
  $55 senior (65+), student, disabled membership
  $130 2-year membership

$130 household 1-year membership

On-site registration as a walk-in:

- $135 for members
- $165 for non-members

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Scholarships

If you would like to apply for a scholarship, please send a C.V. and a letter of interest to ed@ncwriters.org
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Cancellations

Cancellations must be made in writing and arrive at the Network office by **4 pm, Friday, April 22**, for you to receive a 50% refund. Send request to ed@ncwriters.org. No refunds for cancellations received after April 22 or for no-shows.

Nearby Hotels

For favorable rates at the following hotels, mention that you are attending an event at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

- Greensboro Marriott, Downtown, www.marriott.com/gsodt
- Troy-Bumpas Inn Bed and Breakfast, www.troy-bumpasinn.com

Faculty Biographies: Spring Conference 2011

Register Online | Download a Registration Form

Keynote

Carole Boston Weatherford is the author of 19 books. Her books have received the *New York Times* Honor, Coretta Scott King Award, and **NAACP**

Spring Conference Faculty

Anjail Rashida Ahmad is currently the director of the Black Scholar Writing program at North Carolina A&T, *The Black Scholar*, *Oxford*

Dan Albergotti is the author of *The Boatloads* (BOA Editions, 2008), selected *The Cic*

Traci O Connor is the author of the short story collection *Postcards From Endangered Species*, published by Tarpaulin Sky Pr *Sky Pr*

Paul Cuadros is an award-winning investigative reporter and author whose work has appeared in *New York Times*, *Time*

Marianne Gingher writes fiction and non-fiction. Her latest book, *Adventures in the Earth Band*, is a memoir of her writing life, and *Long S*

Before he became a novelist, **David Halperin** was professor in the Religious Studies Department at the UCLA. He participated in
www.davidhalperin.net

Angela Harwood is the director of sales and marketing at Travelnorth Canada. She lives in Blairmore. She

Joseph Mills has published three collections of poetry: *Love and Other Collisions*, *Angels, Thieves, and Women*, and *Swimmer*

Edmund Schubert is the author of over thirty-five short stories and one novel. He's held a variety of jobs, including *Driving Crest* (Oct. 2008). He's held a variety

Kevin Morgan Watson is the founding editor of Press 53, a small literary publishing company in Winst

Ross White is the editor of *Inch*, a magazine of short po

FULL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Register Online | Download a Registration Form

8 – 9 am Registration
8 am – 6 pm Exhibits & Book Sales Open

9 – 10:30 am Workshop Session I

Writing What You've Lived (All-Day Fiction) with David Halperin Closed
"Write what you know" is familiar advice. Many of us start out writing fiction with stories taken from our most powerful personal experiences. This writing has the strength of authenticity. But it also has its pitfalls. We can shackle ourselves to "what really happened," hold our stories back from becoming all they can be. Rejection letters from editors and agents tell us we've fallen short.

We'll devote the morning session to working together on this issue—the challenge of turning transformative experience into transformative fiction, of giving our writing the power of free imagination without forsaking the deeper power of truth. The afternoon session will be spent discussing participants' submissions.

Writing For Your Life: How Personal Narrative Morphs into Memoir (All-Day Nonfiction) with Marianne Gingher Closed
So you have a weird or wild or provocative story about your own life to tell. "I should write a book about my life," you've probably said a thousand times. But is the narrative you're contemplating worth an entire book? Maybe it's a story you can tell in a few pages. How do you know? How much is too much and how much is too little? What makes your story truly distinctive? How could you keep a reader reading? How might you generate suspense? The workshop will focus on crafting the personal narrative and examining its possibilities (or limitations) for expansion, including lots of good writing prompts for mining "forgotten" stories. You don't have to have a "big" story to write. You only have to *believe* it's big. Recommended reading: *This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff.

The Telling Detail (fiction) with Traci O Connor

In response to the question, *What makes a story work?*, Flannery O'Connor suggests, "that it is probably some action, some gesture of a character that is unlike any other in the story, one which indicates where the real heart of the story lies." It is through, and upon, such telling moments that the enormous energy, beauty, even magic, of good fiction emerges. So, just what is a "telling detail"? How do we, as writers, uncover them? How do we recognize them? Further, how can we realize and sustain the kind of writing practice that engenders this kind of creative discovery and revelation, rather than disallowing it all together?

Elegies, Laments and other Lyric Notions (poetry) with Anjail Rashida Ahmad

The heralding of springtime is often fitfully anticipated beneath the chilly husk of winter's long night, and this year has been no exception. Is April really the cruelest month? Sometimes the effort to move forward can be compounded by that which remains within us unresolved. In this workshop, we will explore the elegiac form and its usefulness for exercising sorrow's pangs. While elegy has traditionally been reserved for mourning the dead by offering hope and consolation through religion, philosophy, or culture, we will turn our attention to its modern and contemporary descendents which follow a different path that regularly questions all possibility of resolution. As 21st century poets, we will also take up the form to confront our notions of loss and the sorrow that can intrude upon the personal, intellectual, and cultural aspects of daily life. Through our use of the elegy to explore how loss touches each of these areas, we can become aware of that which defines us around notions of family, marriage, community and ideas of the self.

Writing and Selling Science Fiction and Fantasy with Edmund R. Schubert

Whether you're writing short stories or novels, there are certain elements that define science fiction and fantasy. This workshop will provide an overview of those elements, as well as looking at the most effective way to work your Big Concept into a story. Learn the difference between the Big Concept and The Most Important Thing. Learn the importance of establishing firm rules in speculative writing. We'll read aloud some story openings and discuss why certain ones work and others don't, and conclude with a question and answer period.

Packaging Yourself as a Writer with Kevin Morgan Watson

You've been writing and writing and you are finally ready to send your manuscript to a publisher. But is a great manuscript enough? In today's market, publishers large and small are looking for a package: a great manuscript delivered by a seasoned writer with connections and readers. In this workshop, Kevin Morgan Watson, founder of Press 53, will discuss several strategies writers can employ to gain an edge before approaching a publisher.

10:45 – 11:45 am Keynote Address by Carole Boston Weatherford
12 – 1 pm Lunch
"Lunch with an Author" sign-up at Registration Table
1 – 2 pm Faculty Readings

2:30 – 4 pm **Workshop Session II**

Writing What You've Lived (All-Day Fiction) with David Halperin Closed

Writing For Your Life: How Personal Narrative Morphs into Memoir (All-Day Nonfiction) with Marianne Gingher Closed

"The Worst Things Ever": Metaphors, Similes, and Beautiful Dangerous Images (poetry) with Joseph Mills
Metaphors, similes, and figurative language can be an efficient, powerful way to pack multiple meanings and connotations into a single image. In this workshop, we'll discuss this key writing technique and its uses in poetry, as well as its applications in other genres.

Nonfiction Memoir and Narrative Journalism with Paul Cuadros
This workshop is designed to cover the ins and outs of writing a nonfiction book that also incorporates memoir, using narrative journalism techniques of reporting, researching information, and writing for this genre. The workshop will employ the use of the instructor's own book, *A Home on the Field*, as a template for researching, crafting a non-fiction book proposal, writing the manuscript, and selling it to a publisher and promotion. Workshop will be discussion-led with a question-and-answer session on proposals, publishing, and crafting a manuscript.

Successful Marketing: How to Reach Your Readers and Sell Your Book with Angela Harwood
Whether you're a published author or a writer looking to publish, knowing how to market your book effectively is imperative to the desired end result: selling your book to a wider audience. In this workshop we'll discuss marketing must-haves and marketing myths. Learn which marketing

techniques really work and why. Learn how to make your book more appealing to booksellers by reaching the end consumer: your readers. We'll discuss real examples of successful marketing campaigns, and we'll work together to come up with the best marketing plan for your book, whatever your budget.

Think Anyone Can Write a Children's Book? with Carole Boston Weatherford
Well, anybody can't, but perhaps you can. This much is certain: Writing a children's book is more than mere kids' stuff. You definitely have at least one book in you. So how do you get it out of you and into the world? This workshop will explore the wide world of children's publishing, including categories, trends, resources and making the pitch. Participants will also tackle a writing exercise that summons their inner child.

4 – 5 pm **Publishers Panel**
with Dan Albergotti , Angela Harwood , & Ross White

5 – 6 pm Open-Mike Readings
Sign-up at Registration Table

Spring Conference 2011 Schedule at a Glance

Register Online | Download a Registration Form

Saturday, April 30

8:00 - 9:00am Registration

Exhibit Tables and Book Sales (open from 8:00 am - 6:00 pm)

9:00 - 10:30am

Workshop Session I:

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Writing What You've Lived (All-Purpose Fiction) with Carol Edgarian

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Writing For Your Life: How Personal Narrative Metamorphs into Memoir (All-Day Nonfiction) with Marianne Gingher

-

The Telling Detail (fiction) with Travis O Connor

-

Elegies, Laments and other Poems (poetry) with Aurelia Fraser Nidia Ali Ahmad

-

Writing and Selling Science Fiction and Fantasy with Eric Flint R. Scott Bakker

-

Packaging Yourself as a Writer with Kevin Morgan Watson

10:45am - 11:45pm

Keynote Address by Carole Boston Weatherford

12:00 - 1:00pm Lunch on your own OR "Lunch with an Author": A new chance for the Network to r

Elliott Center Food Court and Commons
Link: http://euc.uncg.edu/services/foodcourt/
Exhibit Tables Open, Book Sales

1:00 - 2:00pm Faculty Readings

2:30 - 4:00pm

Workshop Session II

-

Writing What You've Lived (All-Day Fiction) with David Halperin

-

Writing For Your Life: How Personal Narrative Morphs into Memoir (All-Day Nonfiction) with Marianne Gingher

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Successful Marketing: How to Reach Your Readers and Sell Your Book with Angela Harwood

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Think Anyone Can Write a Children's Book? with Carole Boston Weatherford

4:00 - 5:00pm

Publishers Panel with Dan Albergotti, Angela Harwood, & Ross White

5:00 - 6:00pm

Open-Mike Readings
Sign-up at Registration Table