

# The Great Smokies Writing Program

SPRING 2012

The Community Writing Program of the University of North Carolina Asheville

## WORKSHOPS IN POETRY & PROSE

### **From Sophocles to “Social Network”: A Screenplay Workshop**

(Lang 372, 2 credit hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Maryedith Burrell**

This class is good for beginners as well as struggling screenwriters. Students will explore elements of drama and visual storytelling, decipher cinematic vocabulary and learn ways to bring characters to life. Everyone will take a story from inspiration to Act One. Bring a pen, notebook and/or laptop. No books on screenwriting! Before the first class: 1) Think of a story you want to tell. 2) Watch the following three movies -- *The Lion In Winter* (Peter O'Toole & Katherine Hepburn,) *Chueless* (Alicia Silverstone & Paul Rudd,) and *The Godfather Part I* (Marlon Brando & Al Pacino.) Reading list will be provided (one story, one play, one script.) Warning: This is an adult course. There may be language, violence, nudity and historical content.

Maryedith Burrell is an award-winning screenwriter currently producing a feature documentary (*Paws & Stripes*) about veterans with PTSD and re-writing her original film, *Dominion*, for the producer of *Super 8*. She has worked as a writer for major studios (Paramount, Disney, Universal, Sony) major networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, HBO, Showtime, A&E and Discovery,) and even for Granada UK, Plaza Media Germany and Canal+ in Europe. An author with features, TV movies, sitcoms, documentaries and sketch comedy under her belt, Ms. Burrell has also written and directed improv revue, musical comedy and opera for the stage. She began her career as an actress in the theatre and moved on to do films, star in TV series like *Fridays* and *Parenthood*, guest star on everything from *The Tonight Show* to *ER* and also enjoyed recurring roles on *Seinfeld* and *Home Improvement*. She lives in Asheville and is completing her MLA degree at UNC Asheville.

10-week class – Starts February 14, Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm at the Randolph Learning Center, 90 Montford Avenue, Asheville.

### **Exploring Poetry’s Voices of Love: A Poetry Workshop**

(Lang 372, 2 hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Jeff Davis**

Some of the oldest verse that’s come down to us sings the praises of the beloved. From the poets of ancient Egypt to Sappho, Catullus,

Dante, Shakespeare, and Donne, and on to Jack Gilbert, Linda Gregg, and other masters of our own era, relationship with the courted, loved, and often lost Other has offered fertile ground for the Muse. In this class, we’ll delve into some of this vast body of work, explore its emotional range, and look, too, at the forms that the exploration of the complex feelings involved in love relationships has taken over the centuries. We’ll do some work in form, to plumb the possibilities that the constraints of the sonnet, for example, offer, but we’ll also draw on other approaches to articulating love. We’ll explore the relevant work of e. e. cummings and Black Mountain College’s Robert Creeley, among others. We’ll see, too, what the writers of the Oulipo workshop can offer us. The results should be delightful and exciting – and, who knows, might even help us give new voice to the feelings we have for the Others in our own lives.

Jeff Davis’s book *Natures* was selected by Poet Laureate Katherine Stripling Byer as a North Carolina Notable Book for 2006, and featured on the Laureate’s web site. He attended UNC-Greensboro’s MFA program in creative writing, studied with Robert Creeley at the State University of New York at Buffalo. His poems have appeared in *Lillabulero*, *Iron*, *Asheville Poetry Review*, *The Nantahala Review*, and other little magazines. His books include *Transits of Venus* (2005), and *Natures: Selected Poems, 1972 – 2005* (2006). Since 2005 he has hosted the radio program *Wordplay*, which celebrates poets and writers of creative prose; it’s now available each Sunday at 5:00 PM via AshevilleFM.org, and a catalog of the show archive is posted at <http://www.naturespoetry.blogspot.com>.

10-week class – Starts February 14, Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm at Montford Books & More, 31 Montford Avenue, Asheville.

### **Who Knows Where or When?: A Fiction Workshop**

(Lang 372, 2 credit hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Marjorie Klein**

“You can tell a lot about a person’s character by his way of eating jellybeans.” Ronald Reagan.

Who is this person? And where is he eating those jellybeans? In the kitchen, at midnight, from a bag hidden high on a shelf? Or off the floor in a 1940s candy store, capturing errant candies spilled by a careless clerk? Who and where--character and setting--are fundamental elements of any story. Each shapes the other in a symbiotic relationship that can lead to the development of plot. Character-driven

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stories are the ones that capture our hearts and make us wonder at the vagaries of life's experience; when and where these stories happen imbues both character and plot with depth and understanding. We'll use in-class prompts, as well as out-of-class exercises, to create characters in settings that serve, not only to create a sense of place, but to enhance the development of both character and plot. From this assemblage of characters and places, a finished story will emerge which we will workshop during the last two weeks of class.

Marjorie Klein's first novel, *Test Pattern* (Wm. Morrow Publishers, 2000; HarperCollins/ Perennial 2001, and recently released as an e-book) was a Barnes and Noble "Discover Great New Writers" selection. Her narrative nonfiction has appeared in various publications, including 20 years of free-lance work for *Tropic*, the Miami Herald's Sunday magazine. Recipient of a Florida Individual Artist Fellowship, she has taught at the University of Miami, Warren Wilson College, UNC Asheville's Center for Creative Retirement and the Great Smokies Writing Program. She is a member of Southern Artistry, and served as a preliminary judge for the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. She recently completed a novel, *Shifting Gears*, and is working on another. (see: [www.marjorieklein.com](http://www.marjorieklein.com))

10-week class – Starts February 14, Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm at the Randolph Learning Center, 90 Montford Avenue, Asheville.

### **The Devil You Know: The Art, Skill and Thrill of Writing Your Memoir**

(Lang 372, 2 credit hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Brian Lee Knopp**

A memoir is neither a diary made public nor a rough draft for your obituary. It is a word kaleidoscope conveying the most colorful expressions of your life, often through the prism of a single intense experience. But beware! Memoir writing is a heroic quest for clarity amid chaos, a daring rescue of the truth trapped inside your life's labyrinth. *Should you do it? Absolutely. Can you do it? Of course. You were born for the task. How do you do it?* By building up memory muscles, strengthening your capacity for empathy and informed imagination, and improving your language reflexes in order to convey your experience in the most vivid, convincing and authentic narrative possible. This course will require in-class and at-home writing assignments and class pre-writing or "lifestorming" sessions—all dedicated to transforming a life lived into an unforgettable work of art. Required Reading: Janisse Ray's *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* and William Zinsser's *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*.

Brian Lee Knopp is the author of the memoir *Mayhem in Mayberry: Misadventures of a P.I. in Southern Appalachia*, the bestselling book for 2010 at Malaprop's Bookstore/Cafe. The book was featured on C-SPAN Book TV and UNC-TV, nominated as a 2009 Finalist for

the SIBA (Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance) Nonfiction Award, and excerpted in *Now & Then: The Appalachian Magazine*. He is a former criminal defense investigator, private investigator, and professional sheep shearer with an M.A. degree in English Literature from the University of Texas at Austin. His book reviews and essays have been published in several regional magazines and local media. As a licensed P.I., sheep shearer, and avid outdoorsman, he has roamed extensively throughout western North Carolina.

10-week class – Starts February 14, Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm at the Randolph Learning Center, 90 Montford Avenue, Asheville.

### **The First Forty: A Fiction Workshop for Intermediate or Advanced Writers**

(Lang 372, 2 hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Vicki Lane**

This ten session workshop is aimed at those writers with a novel in progress, almost completed, or completed but in need of a final polish. Each student will submit the first forty pages (half at the beginning of the course, the rest during the sixth week) of his work in progress for discussion and critique by the class and close editing with written comments by the instructor. We will focus on the effective use of key techniques such as creating an intriguing opening line and a compelling first chapter, creating a likable and/or engaging protagonist, weaving in back story in small, manageable doses, setting up a dilemma that begs to be resolved -- in general, producing a page-turner. We will attempt to weed out the mistakes that mark the amateur writer and turn each student into a discerning editor of his own work. The goal will be to polish those first forty pages till they are ready to catch the attention of an agent, an editor, a publisher and make them ask for more. The text will be the highly acclaimed *Don't Sabotage Your Submission* by career manuscript editor Chris Roerden (Bella Rosa books --ISBN 978-1-933523-31-6.)

Vicki Lane is the author of *The Day of Small Things*, 2010, as well as the Elizabeth Goodweather mystery series from Bantam Dell. (*Signs in the Blood*, 2005; *Art's Blood*, 2006; *Old Wounds*, 2007, *In a Dark Season*, 2008, and the forthcoming (10/18/11) *Under the Skin*. Vicki holds a MA in English from the University of South Florida and taught high school English at a prep school in Florida. She said goodbye to all this in 1975 and, seduced by The Whole Earth Catalog and Mother Earth News, moved with her husband to a mountain farm in Madison County where she learned how to milk cows and raise tobacco. In 2000, she remembered that she was an English major and decided to try her hand at a mystery novel. One brief class later and she was on her way. In 2005, at the age of 62, she saw her first novel published. In 2009, her fourth novel was nominated for an Anthony -- one of the mystery genre's most prestigious awards. Learn more about

Vicki and her writing at her website <http://vickilanemysteries.com/> and her blog <http://vickilanemysteries.blogspot.com/>.

10-week class – Starts February 15, Wednesday evenings 6:00-8:30pm at Montford Books & More, 31 Montford Avenue, Asheville.

### **Come to Your Senses: A Memoir Writing Workshop**

(Lang 372, 2 credit hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Jennifer McGaha**

Memoir writing involves more than simply telling a story. It involves recognizing the stories you most want to share, then relaying those stories in courageous and compelling ways. This course will incorporate exercises designed to trigger memories and to increase the writer's awareness of the sensory details surrounding those experiences. We will do in-class writing exercises, read examples of well-crafted memoirs, and read and reflect on each other's work.

Jennifer is a native of western North Carolina, and both her literary nonfiction and her nonfiction work reflect her deep Appalachian roots. Jennifer earned her M.A. in English from Western Carolina University and teaches part-time at Brevard College, where she serves as nonfiction editor for the *Pisgah Review*. Her work has appeared in over twenty magazines and literary journals including *Blue Mesa*, *Lumina*, *The Portland Review*, *Compass Rose*, *Slow Trains*, *North Carolina Literary Review*, *New Southerner*, *Wilderness House Literary Review*, *Smoky Mountain Living Magazine*, and *BackHome Magazine*. Her essay "Leanin' Back" received runner-up in the 2009 New Southerner nonfiction contest and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. When she is not writing or teaching, Jennifer enjoys running and hiking in the Pisgah National Forest with her six dogs.

10-week class – Starts February 15, Wednesday afternoons, 2:00-4:30pm at The Kellogg Center, 11 Broyles Road, Hendersonville.

### **True Stories: A Creative Nonfiction Workshop**

(Lang 372, 2 credit hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Sebastian Matthews**

This class is designed for both beginning and experienced writers. In it, we will work with a variety of nonfiction forms, including personal essay and memoir. Throughout the semester, we will read and discuss a host of published creative nonfiction, workshop each other's work, and explore revision strategies. We will address issues of craft in new pieces and works in progress.

Sebastian Matthews is the author of a collection of poems, *We Generous* (Red Hen Press,), and a memoir, *In My Father's Footsteps*

(Norton). He co-edited, with Stanley Plumly, *Search Party: Collected Poems of William Matthews*, a recent finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Matthews teaches in the Low-Residency MFA Program at Queens University and also teaches part-time at Warren Wilson College. He edits *Rivendell*, a place-based literary journal. His poetry and prose have appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, *Brilliant Corners*, *Georgia Review*, *New England Review*, *Poetry Daily*, *Poets & Writers*, *Seneca Review*, *Tim House* and *Virginia Quarterly Review*, among others. Matthews is the recipient of a North Carolina Artist Grant.

10 week class – Starts February 15, Wednesday evenings, 6:00-8:30pm at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts, 225 W. State Street, Black Mountain.

### **Risky Business: A Poetry Workshop**

(Lang 372, 2 credit hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Pat Riviere-Seel**

This is a poetry workshop that will push you out of your comfort zone and help you discover the poems you need to write. By exploring new terrain that challenges your imagination, your language, your beliefs, what you know or think you know, and even your world view you can write poems that amaze and surprise. A Chinese Proverb states, "A bird sings not because he has an answer but because he has a song." What are your songs? How do you write? What do you write? As a starting point to explore how some contemporary poets are approaching the art and craft of poetry the text will be *The Best American Poetry 2011* (Scribner Poetry, ISBN 978-1-4391-8149-2; ebook: 978-1-4391-8151-5). The class will include in-class writing, weekly assignments, and reading and discussion of work produced by class members.

Pat Riviere-Seel is the author of two poetry collections: *The Serial Killer's Daughter* (2009), winner of the NC Literary and Historical Society's Roanoke Chowan Award for Poetry, and *No Turning Back Now* (2004), which was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her poems have appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies. A former newspaper journalist, she is a runner and holds an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte. For more information visit [www.patriviereseel.com](http://www.patriviereseel.com).

10-week class – Starts February 15, Wednesday afternoons, 4:00-6:30pm at the Mountain Heritage Center 113 Green Mountain Drive, Burnsville.



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## **Heart of the Story: Writing for Young Readers**

(Lang 372, 2 hours) Instate Tuition: \$235.84

**Joy Neaves**

This class is for serious writers who are working on picture books, poetry, or longer works of fiction intended for children and young adults. A workshop approach will emphasize reading and critiquing each other's work. This course will explore writing exercises and readings related to various aspects of craft. Instructor will respond to all submissions and will explain how to break into publishing, how to think like your editor, and how to market your published work. Class will also include discussions of the business of publishing and ways to approach editors and agents.

Joy Neaves has over ten years of experience as an editor of children's picture books, poetry, middle grade, and young adult fiction. As senior editor at Front Street, she worked with novelists Andrea Cheng, Clay Carmichael, Emily Smith Pearce, Zu Vincent, Shenaaz Nanji, Mary Ann McGuigan, Lindsay Lee Johnson, and Adam Osterweil; the poet Charlotte Pomerantz; and the illustrators Craig Smith, David Udovic, Nicole Wong, Candice McDonald, and Rob Shepperson. She is currently the Assistant Director of the University Writing Center at UNC Asheville and a freelance editor at [www.namelos.com](http://www.namelos.com).

*10 Week Class – Starts February 14, Tuesday evenings, 6-8:30pm at the Randolph Learning Center, 90 Montford Avenue, Asheville.*

## **Keeping Ourselves Company: An Advanced Creative Prose Workshop**

(Lang 473, 3 credit hours) Instate Tuition: \$353.76

**Tommy Hays**

This class is for advanced prose writers, who have projects they are working on or who want to start something new in either fiction or memoir. Emphasis will be on reading and critiquing each other's work. *The instructor will respond at length to submissions.* Instructor's permission required for admittance. Applicants should contact Tommy Hays at [hays@main.nc.us](mailto:hays@main.nc.us).

Tommy Hays' latest novel, *The Pleasure Was Mine*, has been chosen for numerous community reads, the latest being the Wayne County Read 2012. His novel was read on NPR's "Radio Reader" and was a Finalist

for the SIBA (Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance) 2006 Fiction Award. Tommy has published two other novels -- *Sam's Crossing* and *In the Family Way*, a selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club and winner of the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award. He has a new novel excerpt in the forthcoming *27 Views of Asheville*, and he also contributed a chapter to Malaprops Bookstore's recently released collaborative novel *Naked Comes the Leaf Peepers*. He is Executive Director of the Great Smokies Writing Program and a Lecturer in the Master of Liberal Arts Program at UNC Asheville. He also teaches in the low residency MFA Program at Murray State University in Kentucky.

*15-week class – Starts January 26, Thursday evenings, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Asheville School, 360 Asheville School Road, Asheville.*

## **Prose Master Class**

(Lang 473, 3 credit hours) Instate Tuition: \$353.76

**Elizabeth Lutyens**

The Prose Master Class is a next step for those who are looking for an intensive writing and critiquing experience. This small group workshop is limited to experienced writers who are working on an ongoing project: a collection of essays or stories, a novel, a memoir. Master Class members will begin the semester with new pages ready to be critiqued and will submit at least three times during the 15-week semester. This is a workshop for those who are committed to writing – not just to writing well, but also to writing a lot. An equally important commitment is that class members will give the best possible attention to the work of others. Each class begins with a craft session requiring outside reading or with spontaneous writing based on a craft element the group has been examining.

Admission to the Master Class is by invitation and comes from Tommy Hays. The instructor is Elizabeth Lutyens, who previously led the "Hanging in There Advanced Prose Workshop" for four semesters. She is a graduate of the MFA in Writing Program at Warren Wilson College and is completing her own ongoing work: a novel set in Boston and the Port Royal islands of South Carolina during the early 1860s. She is also editor of *The Great Smokies Review*, the online literary magazine published by The Great Smokies Writing Program and UNC Asheville.

*15-week class beginning January 24. Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Asheville School, 360 Asheville School Road, Asheville.*



### Cost

Please make checks payable to UNC Asheville. Payment must accompany application. Please allow 3-4 weeks for refunds.

- Visiting Student Application (one-time) Fee: \$20
- In-State Residents (Persons living in NC 12 months prior to enrolling are residents)
  - Tuition and technology fees are \$117.92 per credit hour:
  - 2-credit-hour course (10 weeks): \$235.84
  - 3-credit-hour course (15 weeks): \$353.76
- Non-State Residents
  - Tuition and technology fees are \$578.46 per credit hour:
  - 2-credit-hour course (10 weeks): \$1156.92
  - 3-credit-hour course (15 weeks): \$1735.38

### Class Size

To ensure that students receive individual attention from the instructor, enrollment is limited. In some courses, the instructor's permission is required for admission. See course descriptions where applicable.

*The Great Smokies Writing Program wishes to thank Malaprop's Bookstore/Café for its support of the Writers at Home series.*

### Registration Information

Applications are available at the following website:  
[www.unca.edu/gswp](http://www.unca.edu/gswp) or you can email: [nwilliam@unca.edu](mailto:nwilliam@unca.edu) or call 828/251-6099.

Nancy Williams  
 Asheville Graduate Center, Karpen Hall #107, CPO #2140  
 UNC Asheville, One University Heights, Asheville, NC 28804-8509

Tommy Hays, Executive Director  
 Nancy Williams, Administrator

*The Great Smokies Writing Program is committed to providing the community with affordable university-level classes taught by professional writers, and to giving voice to local and regional writers through Writers at Home, its free reading series.*

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