



Young Writers Conference

Friday, October 30, 2009
8:30 am-3:30 pm
UT Martin
Boling University Center

THE UNIVERSITY of
TENNESSEE 
MARTIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN
Friday, October 30, 2009

Young Writers Conference

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Introduction

UT Martin Boling University Center

8:30 am-3:30 pm

This one-day conference, designed for students in grades 9-12, offers a series of writing workshops taught by UT faculty and visiting poet Bill Brown. Students can attend hands-on workshops in writing poetry, fiction, non-fiction, as well as songwriting and writing online. In this fourth annual workshop, we have the pleasure of adding a workshop in play writing. Other events include a luncheon, a reading and book signing by visiting poet Bill Brown, and an open mic reading where students will have the opportunity to share works created during the conference or other original writing created at home or in school. Throughout the day students will create pieces of writing, connect with other young writers from the region, and learn from outstanding writers and teachers of writing.

The conference registration fee is \$5 for students and \$10 for teachers and includes all workshops, readings and a luncheon. The conference is open to outstanding students recommended by their teachers on the basis of academic achievement and artistic promise. Teachers are encouraged, but are not required to attend along with their students. We do ask that recommending teachers follow their school policies in arranging for parent/guardian permissions for students who will be attending the conference.

Registration is limited to 100 participants on a first come, first serve basis. Registration forms must be received by October 23 along with a check for the conference registration fee made payable to UT Martin.

Schedule

8:30-9:00 **Check in & Registration**, Watkins Auditorium Lobby, Boling University Center

9:00-10:30 **Concurrent Workshop Sessions**

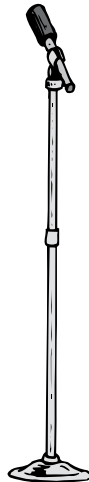
- Journeys – *Anna Clark*
- Web 2.0 Communication Technologies: Dynamic Writing and Communicating on the Web – *Beth Powell*
- Creating Tension in Poetry: Finding Your Pivotal Moments – *Bill Brown*
- From Aristotle to Archetypes: Plotting Genre Fiction – *Beth Walker*
- Flash Fiction – *Jenna Wright*

10:45-12:15 **Concurrent Workshop Sessions**

- Letting Others Tell Your Story: A Playwrights Workshop – *Ken Zimmerman*
- Museums of Conscience: Thinking and Feeling about the Past – *Tim Hacker*
- Courting the Muse: A Songwriter's Workshop – *David Carithers*
- Mapping the Senses in Poetry – *Leslie LaChance*

12:30-1:45 **Lunch and Keynote Reading** by Bill Brown, University Center Ballroom

2:00 – 3:00 **Open Mic Student Reading**, Watkins Auditorium, University Center



Session 1: 9-10:30

Journeys

Anna Clark

From Homer's *The Odyssey* to Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to vision quests, walkabouts, and motorcycle journeys spanning continents, the idea of the journey into truth appears again and again in folktales, history, and literary works. After an exciting overview (much group participation) of the journey theme, each workshop participant will create a character to start on a Corps-of-Discovery journey through landscape, space, and time. Join us at the trailhead!

Web 2.0 Communication Technologies: Dynamic Writing and Communicating on the Web

Beth Powell

Blogs, wikis, podcasts, Facebook, Myspace, Youtube--all of these make up what is known as "Web 2.0," a phrase describing dynamic, interactive web communication. In this workshop, we will explore writing for the web, discussing the way audio, visual, and verbal interact to create effective messages online. We will also experiment with one or more of these technologies. Don't worry if you don't have prior experience with these technologies--just be ready to write!

Creating Tension in Poetry: Finding Your Pivotal Moments

Bill Brown

All good writing is partially driven by suspense and tension. Poetry is no exception. In this workshop, we will explore the importance of tension in poetry and flesh out strategies that have worked for established poets. Participants will discover and write about pivotal moments in their own lives. If time allows we will focus on legacy, scars, tribute and portraits. Please come to write and share. My best gift to young writers is seeing them leave the workshop with the beginnings of real poems.

From Aristotle to Archetypes: Plotting Genre Fiction

Beth Walker

If you are a fan of *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter* or Edgar Allan Poe, Nancy Drew or Sherlock Holmes, not only will you enjoy discussing the major elements and ancient patterns at work in your favorite genre fiction, but you will enjoy applying these elements to your work as well. For our writing prompt, we will use one of the world's shortest stories to jumpstart your own science fiction, fantasy, or mystery.

Session II- 10:45-12:15

Letting Others Tell Your Story: A Playwrights Workshop *Ken Zimmerman*

This workshop will offer a brief intensive study that explores some of the playwright's steps in creating a play. We'll begin with learning how a playwright decides "what" to write about then move on to decisions regarding "who" can best tell the story. We'll make our discoveries through storytelling, writing exercises and role-playing.

Museums of Conscience: Thinking and Feeling about the Past *Tim Hacker*

A visitor to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, will learn nothing about the war in Vietnam. There is no map to locate Vietnam in the world; no names or dates of battles; no information about the military units that served there, and when. Yet the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is spectacularly successful. Why? As architecture critic Robert Campbell says, "the purpose of a memorial isn't memory; memory we can get from books. It's catharsis"—the emotional jolt we get from art. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial teaches us to feel something new about the war.

A very new movement in architecture tries to combine feeling and thinking about the past—functions typically attempted separately, in memorials and museums—in a different kind of structure called a museum

of conscience. This presentation will use computer technology, especially still photographs, video clips, and animations, to learn about three museums of conscience: the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, the Jewish Museum Berlin, and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. Each of these museums tries to create a different feeling in us about the Holocaust. We'll talk first, and then we'll write about how—and why.

Courting the Muse: A Songwriter's Workshop *David Carithers*

Join us as we discuss the ingredients of a great song, from the perfect hook to the right lyrics and structure. No musical background needed. If you like poetry, songs, and writing and would like to try to create some of your own, please join us. A limited number of instruments will be available (i.e., one or two guitars, tambourine, etc.), so students are encouraged to bring their own.

Mapping the Senses in Poetry *Leslie LaChance*

This workshop will offer students a chance to explore the relationship between the senses and poetic images. We'll study how published poets create unique, startling and memorable images, and then using all our senses as a sort of GPS, we'll map our way through our own world of images, composing original poetry along the way.

Guest Author

Bill Brown is the author of three chapbooks, four collections of poetry and a writing textbook. His most recent titles are *Late Winter* (Iris Press 2008) and *Tatters* (March Street, 2007). During the past twenty years, he has published hundreds of poems and articles in college journals, magazines and anthologies. In 1999 Brown wrote and co-produced the Instructional Television Series, *Student Centered Learning*, for Nashville Public Television. He holds a degree in history from Bethel College and graduate degrees in English from the Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College and George Peabody College. For twenty years, Brown directed an award winning writing program at an academic magnet school in Nashville. He retired in 2003 and accepted a part-time lecturer position at Vanderbilt University. In 1995 the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts awarded him The Distinguished Teacher in the Arts. He has been a Scholar in Poetry at the Bread Loaf Writers Conference, a Fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and a two-time recipient of Fellowships in poetry from the Tennessee Arts Commission. He and his wife Suzanne live in the hills north of Nashville with a tribe of cats.

Workshop Leaders

David Carithers has been an Assistant Professor of English at UTM since 2004. David received an M.A. from Western Carolina University in 2000 and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2004. He is Director of the West Tennessee Writing Project, has published essays on music and rhetoric, and enjoys making music with friends.

Anna H. Clark is a faculty member in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at The University of Tennessee at Martin where she also serves as co-coordinator of the Hortense Parrish Writing Center. She received an M.A. in English from The University of Missouri and has done additional graduate work at The University of Mississippi. She teaches composition and literature courses at UT Martin and leads interdisciplinary travel-study experiences primarily to Great Britain, Italy, and France. Anna is an advisor for Writers' Guild, a group of student writers who meet weekly to write and discuss their work, and a member of the Tennessee Writer's Alliance. Her poetry has appeared in state and regional publications.

Tim Hacker has been around language and foreign language all his life. His mother was the child of immigrants, and she grew up speaking German at home. Tim himself majored in Spanish and Portuguese as an undergraduate. He began his career teaching English as a Second Language with the Peace Corps in Thailand, where he became quite adept at Thai, and in Sri Lanka, where he learned a little bit of Sinhala and Tamil. For the past 20 years he has taught English Composition, the last ten of them at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Leslie LaChance teaches composition, modern drama and poetry writing at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she also serves as advisor to the student literary magazine, *BeanSwitch*. Her poems have been published in several literary journals, including *Apple Valley Review*, *The Greensboro Review*, *The Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Free Lunch*, *Juked* and *Broadsided*.

Workshop Leaders, cont.

Dr. Beth Powell teaches composition and technical communications at the University of Tennessee at Martin. One of her research interests includes multimodal composing, a type of composing that brings together different literacies (visual, aural, verbal) to create effective, meaningful messages. She is also an avid user of Facebook and blogs.

Beth Walker is a consultant for the University of Tennessee at Martin Hortense Parrish Writing Center and holds two master of arts degrees. Her graduate work includes the philosophy of artificial intelligence in science fiction and girls' detective fiction.

Ken Zimmerman is on the faculty of the Department of Visual and Theatre Arts at the University of Tennessee at Martin and formerly taught at the University of Memphis. For thirteen years he was the Artistic Director at Playhouse on the Square, a professional theatre in Memphis, where he performed and directed. At UT Martin he teaches acting, directing and playwriting. He is also the director of Vanguard Theatre productions for the school. He has sat on the grants panel for the Tennessee Art Commission and served as a responder for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

UT Martin

Young Writers Conference 2009
Student Registration Form 1071002

Registration forms must be received by **October 23**
Cost of registration is \$5, payable by check to UT Martin.

Your Name _____

Your Home Address _____

Your Phone _____

Your E-mail _____

Your School _____

Your School's Address _____

Your Grade _____

**To participate in the UT Martin Young Writers Conference, you must be recommended by a teacher at your school and have permission from a school attendance official to attend the workshop. You must also have the permission of a parent or guardian to attend.

Name of teacher recommending you for the conference _____
(please print)

Recommending teacher signature _____

Name of school attendance official _____
(please print)

Signature of school attendance official _____

Name of parent or guardian _____
(please print)

Signature of parent or guardian _____

Please Rank Your Workshop Preferences from 1-4 (first session) or 1-4 (second session), 1 being your first choice.

Session 1, 9-10:30

- Journeys Web 2.0 Communication
 Creating Tension in Poetry From Aristotle to Archetypes

Session 2, 10:45-12:15

- Letting Others Tell Your Story Museums of Conscience
 Courting the Muse: A Songwriters Workshop Mapping the Senses

1. **Return** Completed Registration Forms to:
ECOS, 110 Gooch Hall, University of
Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238
2. **Fax** completed form to: 731-881-7984
3. **Online** at: [www.utm.edu/departments/
ecos/courses_nondegree.php](http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecos/courses_nondegree.php)
Select: Young Writers Conference
Registration Form – *Students*

Payment

Check – Make check payable to UT Martin and mail to ECOS (see #1 to the left).

Credit/Debit Card – Please check one:

- Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit/Debit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

UT Martin

Young Writers Conference 2009

Teacher Registration Form 1071003

Registration forms must be received by **October 23**

Cost of registration is \$10, payable by check to UT Martin.

Your Name _____

Your Home Address _____

Your Phone _____

Your E-mail _____

Your School _____

Your School's Address _____

Courses You Teach _____

Please Rank Your Workshop Preferences from 1-4 (first session) or 1-4 (second session), 1 being your first choice.

Session 1, 9-10:30

- Journeys
- Web 2.0 Communication
- Creating Tension in Poetry
- From Aristotle to Archetypes

Session 2, 10:45-12:15

- Letting Others Tell Your Story
- Museums of Conscience
- Courting the Muse: A Songwriters Workshop
- Mapping the Senses

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Select: Young Writers Conference
Registration Form – *Teachers*

Payment

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Credit/Debit Card – Please check one:

- Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit/Debit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Questions?

Leslie M. LaChance

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