

# *Young Writers Conference*



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE **UT**  

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MARTIN

**Friday, November 4, 2011**

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

UT Martin

Boling University Center

**The University of Tennessee at Martin**  
**Friday, November 4, 2011**

*Young Writers Conference*

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*Introduction*

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**UT Martin Boling University Center**

**8:30 am-3:00 pm**

This one-day conference, designed for students in grades 9-12, offers a series of writing workshops taught by UT Martin faculty and visiting writer Betty Palmer Nelson. Students can attend hands-on workshops in writing poetry, fiction and non-fiction, as well as songwriting, and collaborative writing. This year we are pleased to add workshops on book binding techniques and writing letters of application. Other events include a luncheon, a reading and book signing by visiting author Betty Palmer Nelson, and an open mic reading for students. Students will have the opportunity to read 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 \$8 for students and \$15 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 28th, along with a check for the conference registration fee made payable to UT Martin.

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## Schedule

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

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

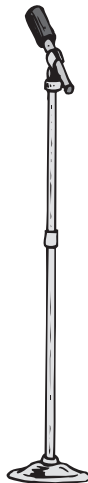
- Writing Effective Letters of Application – *Lynn Alexander*
- The Bindery -- *Mattie Davenport and Colt Lemons*
- Word Weaving: A Poetry Workshop – *Anna Clark*
- Creative Nonfiction: An Emerging Genre -- *Jenna Wright*
- Where Do Ideas Come From? – *Tiffany Emerson*

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

- Creating Authentic Voices and Characters in Fiction – *Betty Palmer Nelson*
- Courting the Muse: A Songwriters' Workshop – *David Carithers*
- Writing Down the Bones: A Basic Writing Workshop for Every Skill Level – *Beth Walker*
- We Wrote It Together – A Collaborative Writing Exploration – *Heidi Huse*
- Thinking, Feeling and Writing about a Place -- *Tim Hacker*

12:30-1:45 **Lunch and Keynote Reading** by *Betty Palmer Nelson*, University Center Ballroom

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



## Session I 9-10:30

### Writing Effective Letters of Application

*Lynn Alexander*

Do you sometimes struggle figuring out what to say in a letter of application? Are you worried about what should go in for a scholarship, summer program, or university application? In this workshop we will talk about what the people who read these letters are looking for—and how to make your letter stand out from the rest (without florescent paper). We will also take the time to do a little writing so that you have some practice before you try out our ideas for real. And finally, we will end with the information you need to give your references so that they can write a letter that will make a difference.

### The Bindery

*Mattie Davenport and Colt Lemons*

Having your work bound in book form is something any writer appreciates. The pages, the cover, the stitching that holds it together—all are part of the millennia-old tradition of book binding. In this workshop, we will explore the parts of a book, how a book is put together, and what choices bookmakers have for making a book unique. You will learn about the modern-day chapbook, a form of hand-made book that is cost-efficient and as easy or complicated as the writer chooses. You will also create your own personalized journal using a common binding technique. Instead of waiting for a publisher to print your book, why not learn how to make unique, hand-made treasures with your work for as little as the cost of printing and paper?

### Word Weaving: A Poetry Workshop

*Anna Clark*

“The poem,” wrote Wallace Stevens, “refreshes the world.” Inspired by Stevens’ idea that words are a way of expanding the senses, of discovering things and of making them new, participants in this energy-filled workshop will read several poems from Kenneth Koch’s and Kate Farrell’s anthology *Sleeping on the Wing* and will write original poems stimulated by their reading. The general workshop goal will be for each writer to “weave” three refreshingly original pieces. Raise high your pens and pencils and come together in this workshop at the Young Writers Conference. We will explore, experiment, and create!

### Creative Nonfiction: An Emerging Genre

*Jenna Wright*

Many are calling creative nonfiction the “emerging genre” in creative writing. In this creative nonfiction session, you will experience the distinction between nonfiction and creative nonfiction, as well as the issues of truth, creativity, and responsibility to audience. You will explore tips on the craft of writing creative nonfiction, hear published and award-winning creative nonfiction read by student and faculty authors, and write and share your own “short” creative nonfiction. You should leave this session with at least one original creative nonfiction draft and a motivation to continue writing.

### Where Do Ideas Come From?

*Tiffany Emerson*

After this workshop, participants should be able to answer this question, “Where do ideas come from?” They will be exposed to

several sources of inspiration for ideas for creative work. We often long to tell a story that we would like to get out, but we often don't know how to get started, or where to get ideas. Participants will explore several ways to get their creative juices flowing, including using the following: using various words and phrases for prompts, writing from a different character's perspective, using focused memory references, using "what if" questions, and responding to pictures and newspaper titles, and working from a skeleton scenes to fill out. By the end of this workshop, the participants will have experience in practicing a couple of these techniques, have a creative piece that they could develop into a longer work, and know how to get ideas for further creative writing.

### **Session II – 10:45-12:15**

#### **Creating Authentic Characters and Voices in Fiction**

*Betty Palmer Nelson*

What makes a fictional character compelling, unique and believable? One key to character development is voice; a great character needs a great voice. In this workshop, we'll explore the process of developing characters and voices in fiction. We'll discuss how to create authentic voices using historical context and regional dialect, and we'll explore how to get those character voices in our heads onto the page.

#### **Courting the Muse: A Songwriter's Workshop**

*David Carithers*

This session will explore the ingredients of a great song, with a focus on lyrics and structure. Carithers will briefly share one of his original songs, discuss his creative influences, and offer advice to aspiring songwriters. Then

participants will have time to create new songs or revise material they are working on and share with the group. Since the focus is on the written and spoken word, no musical background is required. If you like poetry, songs, and writing, and would like time to create/revise some of your own and share with a supportive audience, you will enjoy this session. A limited number of instruments will be available (i.e., one or two guitars, a tambourine, etc.), so students are encouraged to bring their own.

#### **Writing Down the Bones: A Basic Writing Workshop for Every Skill Level**

*Beth Walker*

Ever been told to flesh out your writing with detail, in essence to put some meat on those bones? But that can't happen until you have those bones—a basic structure—in place. And let's be honest: everybody is back to the basics when facing a blank page. Based on Natalie Goldberg's workshops and bestselling book, *Writing Down the Bones*, we'll get plenty of practice in the basics—freewriting in timed intervals. This workshop is ideal for the slow writer, the perfect writer, the cross-outer, and the now-whater. It's also perfect for the writer who can't stand to be critiqued. As Goldberg says, there is no good or bad; it's just writing. Whatever your attitude or skill-level, Goldberg's techniques will help improve your writing speed and confidence. So come ready to write.

#### **"We Wrote it Together": A Collaborative-writing Exploration**

*Heidi Huse*

Everyone hates collaborative projects. Well, let's have some fun writing with other writers for a change, to see how merging your

own creative genius with others' words can sometimes soar beyond what you might have crafted individually. You'll have a chance to write with classmates, friends, or teachers, as well as with total strangers. And the sky's the limit for what you can write with others in this workshop: poetry, a short story, a persuasive essay or great speech, and/or even a one-act screen play! Then you and your artistic co-creator(s) will have the opportunity to share your work together at the open-mike session after lunch.

### **Thinking, Feeling, and Writing about a Place: The New Martin Luther King Memorial**

*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.

This presentation will use computer technology, especially still photographs, video clips, and animations, to learn how the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—which is, after all, "one simple, single, unforgettable thing"—creates a sense of catharsis in the visitor. Then we'll apply what we've learned—first by talking, then by writing—to the brand new Martin Luther King Memorial.

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## Guest Author

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**Betty Palmer Nelson**, a native Tennessean, has published five novels with St. Martin's Press about a multigenerational family in the state. She has taught college English for over 40 years, most recently at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, and formerly at her undergraduate alma mater, Muskingum University. Her graduate work was at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has a son and daughter and two grandsons and lives in Hendersonville.

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## Workshop Leaders

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**Lynn Alexander** currently serves as the Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. She teaches nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature, women's literature, and literary theory. Before earning her Ph.D. she worked as a technical writer for Murray Jones Murray Engineers and as an associate editor for Continental Heritage Press. She also has worked as a freelance technical writer for American Airlines and IPS Engineers.

**David Carithers** is an Associate Professor of English and has been teaching 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 teaches composition and literature courses and often leads international travel-study experiences. She is an advisor for Writers' Guild, a student group at UT Martin.

**Mattie Davenport** graduated from UT Martin in 2008 with a degree in English. As a student at UTM, she edited *BeanSwitch*, the campus literary magazine, and created a new magazine for the campus LGBT group. She got her master's degree from Oregon State University. While there, in an effort to have a publication just for the love of a good story (as opposed to many that focused on messages and causes), she started Parhelic Ring, a magazine dedicated to fantasy, science fiction, and horror. She now teaches freshman composition courses at UT Martin. She works for *Mixitini Matrix*, an online journal about and for creative collaboration. In her spare time, Mattie produces hand-made books that often showcase local authors and artists.

**Tiffany Emerson** is currently an adjunct English instructor at UT Martin, where she is on her sixth year of teaching first-year composition courses. She also works as a Writing Center consultant at UT Martin. Previously, she was an English learning specialist with the UT Martin TRiO Student Support Services. Ms. Emerson has experience in tutoring and teaching students of various grade levels and skills. She graduated from UT Martin with a B. A. in English and Spanish and a M. S. in Education. She also attained a M.A. in English from Murray State University in Murray, KY, where she was a teaching graduate assistant. She has attended the West Tennessee Writing Project Summer Institute and has been a participant in several writing-related workshops over the last several years. She enjoys motivating and helping students to accomplish their goals and develop their skills in writing and using language, providing a foundation for future learning and achievement.

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## Workshop Leaders, cont.

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**Tim Hacker** has been around language and foreign language all his life. His mother was the child of immigrant, 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 22 years he has taught college-level English Composition, the last 14 of them at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Heidi Huse** has been teaching in the UT Martin Department of EMFL for ten years. Her own writing centers in persuasive essays and rhetorical analysis, and she has had her writing published both online and in print, including a chapter in a democracy education anthology, an online essay about language, and a collaborative article with other UT Martin Department of English faculty. She is currently completing a book on women's gun rhetoric. Heidi is an avid peace and animal advocate and a vegan. She supports recycling, community gardening and sustainable living on campus and in the local community.

**Colt Lemons** graduated from UT Martin in 2008 with a degree in English. A lifetime of reading and a love of good stories resulted in a passion for writing that struck in high school and persisted over the years. He had several stories published in UTM's literary magazine, *BeanSwitch*, and hopes to one day have his work accepted by a national publication. He is currently working part-time and seeking entry to grad school.

**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.

**Jenna Wright** teaches fiction and creative nonfiction workshops at UT Martin. She has a M.F.A. in creative writing. Her writings have been featured in several publications, including Tennessee English Journal, Kentucky English Bulletin, Southern Discourse, Poetry Analysis: Understanding and Critiquing Poetry, and Calliope. This year the creative writing anthology *Flashlight Memories* published "Escape in a Rocking Chair," one of her creative nonfiction writings. Wright is chair of the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at UT Martin.

### NOTES:

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UT Martin

Young Writers Conference 2011

Student Registration Form 1071201

Registration forms must be received by October 28

Cost of registration is \$8, 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 1-5 for each session, 1 being your first choice.

Session 1, 9-10:30

\_\_\_ Writing Effective Letters of Application

\_\_\_ Word Weaving: A Poetry Workshop

\_\_\_ Where Do Ideas Come From

\_\_\_ The Bindery

\_\_\_ Creative Non Fiction: An Emerging Genre

Session 2, 10:45-12:15

\_\_\_ Creating Authentic Voices and Characters  
and Voices in Fiction

\_\_\_ We Wrote It Together

\_\_\_ Courting the Muse: A Songwriters Workshop

\_\_\_ Writing Down the Bones

\_\_\_ Thinking, Feeling, Writing About Place

- 1. Return Completed Registration Forms to: ECOS, 110 Gooch Hall, The University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN 38238
2. Fax completed form to: 731-881-7984
3. Online at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php
Select: Young Writers Conference
Registration Form - Student

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 2011

Teacher Registration Form 1071202

Registration forms must be received by October 28

Cost of registration is \$15, 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 1-5 for each session, 1 being your first choice.

**Session 1, 9-10:30**

- Writing Effective Letters of Application
- The Bindery
- Word Weaving: A Poetry Workshop
- Creative Nonfiction: An Emerging Genre
- Where Do Ideas Come From

**Session 2, 10:45-12:15**

- Creating Authentic Characters and Voices in Fiction
- Courting the Muse: A Songwriters Workshop
- Writing Down the Bones
- We Wrote It Together
- Thinking, Feeling, Writing About Place

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ecce/nondegree/home.php](http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php)  
Select: Young Writers Conference  
Registration Form - *Teacher*

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**[www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php](http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php)**

# Questions?

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In compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (The Clery Act), UTM's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on or around the campus and UTM's emergency response and evacuation procedures. You can view the report at <http://www.utm.edu/departments/finadmin/publicsafety/annualreport.php> or you may obtain a paper copy of the report by contacting the Office of Public Safety, 215 Hurt Street, Martin, TN 38238 or calling (731) 881-7777.

Data on intercollegiate athletics program participation rates and financial support may be found at [http://www.utm.edu/webshare/consumer\\_docs/09-10%20DOE-EADA%20Report.pdf](http://www.utm.edu/webshare/consumer_docs/09-10%20DOE-EADA%20Report.pdf) and printed copies may be obtained through the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, 1022 Elam Center, Martin, TN 38238 or by calling (731) 881-7660.



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