



The Quill

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Summer Quill Writing Contest

The Summer Quill Writing Contest is open and submission in poetry, short fiction and nonfiction are being accepted.



The theme is "Passages." The photo of the door represents the various passages we've all encountered and gone through, or avoided, in our lifetime. What passage will you

Conference News

Conference FAQs

1. **I don't see pitch sessions or critiques on the schedule. When will they take place?**
Pitch and critique sessions will be scheduled based on the faculty member's teaching schedule. When you arrive and check in at the registration desk, you will be given a card listing your appointment time. Critiques and pitches will be going on throughout the conference.
2. **When will I find out who my critique faculty is? When will I find out who my pitch faculty member is?**
When you check in at the registration desk, you will be given a card with the name of your faculty member and the time you will meet for your critique and or pitch.
3. **What if I don't get any of my choices?**
We do our best to give each attendee one of their three choices. However, sometimes it's impossible. If we cannot assign you to one of your top three, we will call you, well before the conference, and discuss options with you.
4. **How does the faculty have time for all of the critiques, classes, meals and other time with attendees?**
Scheduling, scheduling, scheduling. We do our best to make sure each faculty member has time for everything, but sometimes it's a squeeze. Faculty members work the entire time, so please keep the following things in mind. When your critique time is over, please thank the faculty member and move on.

write about? Or does the actual door pictured invite you in? If so, where does it lead? What will you find behind it?

We'd like to receive at least 10 entries per category, so pick up your quills, pencils, pens, computers, chalk, crayons . . . whatever you write with and take a step, enter the passage and take us with you.

*Poetry - 40 lines
Prose (both fiction and nonfiction)
1,500 word limit
Deadline - July 31, 2009*

Remember, you can submit in each category, but only once per category.

Send entries via real mail with a cover letter with two copies to:

*Kim Blum-Hyclak
1315 Treetop Dr.
Lancaster, SC 29720*

OR send via e-mail with a cover sheet in the body and the entry as an attachment to rhyclak@comporium.net.

On the cover sheet, include name, title of entry, phone number, address, e-mail and category.

What Are You Waiting For?

*Here's some food for thought from SCWW
President Barbara V. Evers.*

Registration for our October conference is well under way, and I hope you're getting excited about the opportunities available this year. I recently read an article in *The Writer* magazine that outlined how to decide if a conference is right for you. Although it seems

Don't take up the next attendee's time. If you make a connection and get a request, don't "hog" the faculty member for the rest of the conference. You might wear out your welcome. And please, please, don't do anything creepy like send you manuscript to his or her room, don't stalk at the bar, don't try to hem someone up in the elevator, at the pool, or heaven forbid in the restroom. Keep it professional AT ALL TIMES.

5. What is the best way to choose who I want to critique my work?

Check out www.myscww.org/conference and look at the individual bios. Google the faculty members and find out what they're selling and what they may be looking for at the present time. Make sure you write what the faculty member sells.

6. Who do I contact about Carrie McCray?

Check out the contacts link on our Web site.

<http://www.myscww.org/conference/mccrayawards.php>

Kim Blum-Hyclak is in charge of the contest. You can e-mail her at rhyclak@comporium.net.

7. What kind of faculty member should I choose for my critique?

First, figure out what stage your manuscript is in. If it's finished, or nearly so, consider meeting with an editor or agent. If it's not, consider meeting with an author. Authors have a lot to contribute when it comes to craft. While agents and editors have their finger on the pulse of the market and help you assess marketability. Secondly, figure out what niche or genre your manuscript fits into. Don't waste your time or that of a faculty member with a "bad fit." Yes, someone may be a deal maker, and you might be tempted to meet with them because of their reputation. But that's not necessarily in your professional best-interest. Schedule a critique or pitch session with a faculty member who knows your genre.

8. Can you guarantee I will get one of the people I chose when I registered to critique me?

While we'd love to promise this, it's impossible. Rest assured, we'll do everything in our power to make sure you get one of your three choices. However, we can't guarantee it. If we can't place you with one of your top choices, we'll call or e-mail you and make every effort to schedule you with someone who is qualified to critique your genre.

9. Can I take classes different from those I registered for one I get to the conference?

Sure. The only exceptions are those classes that limit attendee numbers. Unless there's a class limit, you're free to shop all the classes and find the one that fits you best.

10. Will T-Shirts be available at the conference if I didn't order one when I registered?

We will print a small overage that will be available at the Book Nook. We advise you to get there as soon as you can, since we'll only be printing a few extra.

obvious to me, often I run into people who don't comprehend the value of a writing conference. So here's a few questions for those of you who have not registered yet:

1. Do you write for the joy of it? Each time I attend our conference, I meet new writers who share my passion for writing. This simple experience wakens my own muse and has provided some wonderful year-round relationships with people that I would never know, otherwise. Besides the wonderful opportunity to rub elbows with those who share our passion, we, also, get to attend craft-related workshops taught by authors and poets who know and understand our compulsion to write. If your writing needs a shot of energy, this is a great way to get it.

2. Do you want to improve your writing? Maybe your manuscript needs something, but you're not sure what "it" is. Our large selection of workshops offers many sources of inspiration and education. I attended the dialogue class two years in a row because I wanted to meet the authors teaching the workshop. To my surprise, the approach that these two people took differed greatly. I learned something valuable and VERY different both years. So, if you're looking at our schedule and think there's nothing different from last year, don't fool yourself. With 57 different workshops, there's always something new if you're willing to pursue the knowledge.

3. Do you hope to get published? Not everyone who writes is interested in this, but many of our members seek this acknowledgement of their work. Considering that our faculty includes 11 agents and 8 editors and publishers, you can't deny the opportunity this conference gives you to make those important connections with the publishing industry. Whether you have a finished manuscript or not, these

We'll also have some new SCWW items this year for sale at the Book Nook.

11. Who do I call or e-mail if my question hasn't been answered?

You can call Carrie McCullough at 706-564-7998. Her e-mail address is mcculloughca@bellsouth.net. You can call Lateia Sandifer at 803-671-1664 or e-mail her at lateia.sandifer@gmail.com. Both of us are on the East Coast and we take calls from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. All of our staff members are volunteers, so please be patient if it takes a few hours for us to get back to you. We WILL return your calls/e-mails. If we don't contact you within 48 hours, feel free to call or e-mail again.

Want to Save \$100 at the Conference?

Jim McFarlane, Membership Chairman, will maintain a list of conference attendees wanting to save money by sharing a room at the Hilton. The current list is one male and one female. Contact Jim at jimmcfarlane@juno.com and he'll tell you who else is interested.

Meet Our Poet Faculty

Paul Allen teaches courses in poetry, form and meter, and writing song lyrics at The College of Charleston, where he is a professor of English. His poems have appeared in a number of journals as well as in several anthologies.



He has received the South Carolina Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship in Poetry twice, the Mary Roberts Rinehart Award (George Mason University), the Vassar Miller Poetry Prize from the University of North Texas Press, the John Williams Andrews Narrative Poetry Prize from Poet Lore, the Distinguished Research Award from The College of Charleston (2007), and a Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses (XXXII, 2008).

His books include *American Crawl* (UNT Press, 1997), *His Longing* (FootHills Press, 2005), *Ground Forces* (Salmon Poetry, Ireland, 2008), and a new CD of original songs, "Waiting for the Last Bus."

He has presented his work at more than 100 venues, including Millennial Stage of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He has recently completed a one-month, six-city book launch tour of Ireland with standing room only audiences, selling out of books and CDs.

Chapter/Member/Sponsor Chatter

professionals can provide incredible insight into your efforts to get published. Pitches, queries, and synopses? These are just a few topics that our faculty will address. And don't forget that we offer several opportunities for you to sit down and talk one-on-one with these specialists. From faculty-hosted dinner tables to manuscript critiques and pitch sessions, your opportunities abound.

4. Do you ever wish that you could listen inside an agent's head? OK, that question might sound strange, but our conference does provide this unique opportunity through our slush fest sessions. How often can you eavesdrop on an agent's or editor's first reaction to a manuscript? Their comments, whether focused on your writing or not, can tell you a lot about what works and what doesn't. You might hear the one thing that makes your manuscript the one that grabs an agent's attention.

So, what are you waiting for? Our registration process is easy and waiting for you to visit!

Register at
<http://myscww.org/conference/registration-fees.php>

I look forward to seeing you this October.

Barbara V. Evers
President, SCWW 2009

For more information on the South Carolina Writers' Workshop and its upcoming conference, please visit the SCWW blog, <http://southcarolinawritersworkshop.blogspot.com>.

Camden Chapter

An excerpt from **Brenda Bevan Remmes'** 2008 book *Everything Happens at the Crossroads: A Narrative History of Eugene Whitefield Dabbs and Maude McBride Dabbs and Their Descendants* has been published in the Spring 2009 *Caroliniana Columns*. The article appears on pages 7-11 of the newsletter, available at <http://www.sc.edu/library/socar/uscs/#newsletter>.

Charleston Chatter

Congratulations to **Lindy Carter** whose short story "Sucker" will be published this summer in the *Charleston Post and Courier* as part of the South Carolina Fiction Project. Way to go, Lindy!

After several requests, and with the gracious help of a new co-leader, the Charleston Chapter is happy to announce the start of a new Mt. Pleasant/East Cooper branch. Our representative at the recent board meeting, **Rebecca Antley**, returned energized and enthusiastic with ideas to infuse new life into our group. In addition to our regular West Ashley meeting, we will also be meeting on the first Monday of the month at the Mt. Pleasant Regional Library beginning at 6 p.m. We realize this is very early for some people so we are exploring other venues for the future.

Given the number of members we have in the Charleston Chapter, and the lack of regular input, we recently sent out a chapter survey. It covered many subjects from choice of location and meeting frequency to ideas for fundraisers for conference sponsorships. The results we received have been enlightening, to say the least.

Rebecca has also set up a general e-mail address, scww.charleston@gmail.com which is more recognizable and will get to both of us. Members will continue to get e-mail from Mary Ogden (baddogrock@aol.com) and that address will still be viable.

Rebecca is an incredible asset to our chapter and we are very lucky to have her.

Greenville Chatter

North Carolina author Scott Pratt will be signing copies of his newest Joe Dillard mystery thriller, *In Good Faith* (Onyx, paperback, \$7.99), at *The Petigru Review* sponsor **Fiction Addiction** (newly moved to 1020 Woodruff Road, Greenville) from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 25. In contrast to Scott's first book, *An Innocent Client*, attorney Joe Dillard has switched sides and is now a prosecutor instead of a defense attorney.

Charleston resident and former CBS News producer Batt

Humphreys will be signing copies of his first novel, *Dead Weight* (Joggling Board, hardcover, \$26.95) at The **Fiction Addiction**. The novel brings to light true-life *To Kill a Mockingbird*-type events in 1910 Charleston, and is based on the life of Daniel Cornelius "Nealy" Duncan, the last man hanged by the state of South Carolina.

Members-at-Large

Ron Cooper of Ocala, Fla., has new novel, *Purple Jesus*, forthcoming from Bancroft Press.

Richard Allen Taylor, Co-Editor of Kakalak Anthology of Carolina Poets and SCWW member, will host readings featuring poets and artists whose work appears in the 2009 edition of the contest anthology. For details, e-mail kakalakpoets@gmail.com. Upcoming readings include:

- 11 a.m. Saturday, August 1 at McIntyre's Fine Books and Book Ends, 2000 Fearington Village Center, Pittsboro, N.C.
- 3 p.m. Sunday, August 9 at Malaprops Bookstore/Cafe, 55 Haywood Street, Asheville, N.C.
- 4 p.m. Saturday, August 15 at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Friendly Shopping Center, Greensboro, N.C.

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