SUMMER COMMUNITY OF WRITERS
JULY 21-31, CHATHAM EDEN HALL CAMPUS

SCHEDULE

Sheila Squillante, Associate Director, MFA Program, SSquillante@Chatham.edu
Brittany Hailer, MFA Program Assistant
Samantha Edwards, SCW Assistant

OFFICE HOURS FOR SHEILA SQUILLANTE: TBD

Core Faculty:
Christopher Barzak, Keynote and YA Prose Workshop
Lori Jakiela, Nonfiction Workshop
Jeff Oaks, Poetry Workshop
Sherrie Flick, Fiction Workshop

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016
3pm—5:00 Orchard Hall check in & registration. Esther Barazzzone Center (EBC)
5:00 Eden Hall Tour. EBC.
6:00-7:00 Opening Reception. EBC. Hors d’oeuvres served.
7:00-8:30 Keynote Speech & Reception: Christopher Barzak. EBC, Broadhurst Forum
9:00 Shuttle departs for Shadyside

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2015
9:15-10:30 Breakfast & Orientation: Sheila Squillante. All students, community members and core faculty required to attend. EBC.
11:00-12:00  Craft lecture: Jakiela. EBC 127/8

_There is No Dust in My House: On Mindful Writing about the Self and Others_

What are the costs of writing about living people and the costs of writing honestly and directly about one’s own life? The lecture will focus on the risks involved in this kind of writing -- which is most commonly connected with memoir, but crosses all genres and affects all writers -- as well as a discussion of the ethical/legal/moral complexities writers grapple with when we do our work of representing the world as we see it. I'll talk about what it means to write a true sentence, and offer ways for writers to think about how to push themselves to write close to the bone and why that matters so much.

12:00-1:00  Lunch on your own

1:00-4:00  Writing Workshops

  Fiction Workshop: (Sherrie Flick)—Ash (lodge)
  YA Prose (Chris Barzak)—Sustainability classroom. EBC. (downstairs)
  Creative Nonfiction Workshop (Lori Jakiela)—Dairy Barn.
  Poetry Workshop (Jeff Oaks)—Cedar (lodge)

4:00-6:00  Open time for writing & conferences

6:00  Dinner on your own

6:00  Low-Res Life Talk. No mentors allowed! Pizza served. Dining Nook. EBC.

7:00-8:30  Faculty Reading #1: Sherrie Flick & Jeff Oaks. EBC Broadhurst Forum.

9:00  Shuttle leaves for Shadyside

**SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2015**

9:30-12:30  Workshop

12:30-1:30  Lunch on your own

1:30-2:30  Craft Lecture: Chris Barzak. EBC 127/8

(Resources for the Imagination)

Where do you get your ideas? Sometimes the hardest stage for writers is finding inspiring concepts to work with. This lecture explores multiple ways to access creative concepts that only
you can write. From retellings of classic stories, to writing inspired by visual art, to sourcing from the personal without being autobiographical.

2:30-4:30  Writing Retreat #1: Find a beautiful, quiet spot and use these hours to consider the lesson from the day’s craft lecture and write.

4:30  Writing Reflection—return to EBC to discuss and share work.

5:00  Pool open!

6:00-7:30  MFA Barbecue. Bring your appetite! EBC.

9:00  Shuttle departs for Shadyside

SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2015

9:30-12:30  Workshop

12:30-1:30  Lunch on your own

1:30-2:30  Roundtable Discussion: Alison Taverna, Joe Bisciotti, Ryan Rydzewski, Dakota Garilli. EBC, 127/8

I Have to Write a Thesis! Help!

This panel of Chatham MFA alums & faculty will talk you off the ledge of panic and through some tips, pointers and best practices for preparing, surviving and thriving during the thesis process.

2:30-6:00  Open time for writing & individual conferences

4:00-5:00  Low-res info session with director. Required for low-res students only.

6:00  Dinner on your own

7:00-8:30  MFA Alum Reading: Alison Taverna, Dakota Garilli, Ryan Rydzewski & Joe Bisciotti. Hilda M. Willis Amphitheater (EBC if raining)

9:00  Shuttle leaves for Shadyside

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2015

9:30—12:30  Workshop

12:30-1:30  Lunch

1:30—2:30  Craft Lecture: Jeff Oaks. EBC 127/8
**Description, Distraction, Disruption, Destruction**

For many writers and readers description often seems simply decorative, by which they mean unnecessary, frilly, a kind of busy work, often beautiful but without either truth or action in it, without the elements of drama. I don’t want to discount that view because I think we’ve all encountered that kind of description, but use it as a starting point for thinking about description’s more subversive uses.

2:30-4:30 Writing Retreat #2—Find a beautiful, quiet spot and use these hours to consider the lesson from the day’s craft lecture and write!

4:30 Writing Reflection—return to EBC to discuss and share work

5:00-6:00 Happy Hour at the Scoreboard. Rt. 8. Students & Faculty and cheap beer, what could be better?

6:00 Dinner on your own

7:00-8:30 Write/Share/Submit! (& eat cookies). EBC.

   Bring your notebooks, laptops, spreadsheets and those just-begun or almost-finished works and let’s write together! Let’s share our efforts and then let’s learn some nuts and bolts of submitting and send your work out into the world!

9:00 Shuttle leaves for Shadyside

**Tuesday, July 26, 2015**

9:30-12:30 Writing

12:30-1:30 Lunch on your own

1:30-2:30 Craft Lecture: Sheila Squillante & Paul Bilger

Collaboration as Artistic Risk & Reward: A Talk & Gallery Show

It’s exhilarating to feel so inspired by someone else’s art that you want to join forces for your next magnum opus. But how to begin? And who gets to lead? And what happens if you disagree? And what happens to the product when it’s complete? We will talk about collaborative theory and praxis and the pleasures and pitfalls of creating with another artist.

2:30-4:00 Open for writing and conferences
4:00-5:00  Round Table Discussion: Rachel Kaufmann, Shannon Sankey, Kenny Gould, Karen Hillgrove. EBC 127/8

This panel of current student teachers will give you an overview of the WWW program, talking about how it has transformed them as teachers, writers and people.

6:00        Dinner on your own

7-8:30     Open Mic Night!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2015

9:30-11:30 Please choose one:

Yoga & Writing Kelsey Leach

Nature & Writing. Ryan Utz

The rest of this day is yours to use as you need/choose. It would be a great time to catch up on journals, work on revisions or explore the grounds.

Afternoon optional programming. TBD

7:00-8:30 Music Night! More info TBA.

9:00       Shuttle leaves for Shadyside (or should this be earlier?)

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2015

9:30-12:30 Workshop

12:30-1:30 Lunch on your own.

1:30-2:30 Craft Lecture: Richard St. John. 127/8 EBC.

Teaching or starving? Are there other alternatives?

There are far more MFA graduates than available teaching positions. So, how can you create and sustain a writing-related life outside a university setting? Drawing on professional experience that has included advertising, community development, nonprofit management and
literary publishing, Richard St. John will share supportive insights to help you imagine your own alternatives. Questions and discussion welcome!

2:30-4:30 Writing Retreat #3—Find a beautiful, quiet spot and use these hours to consider the lesson from the day’s craft lecture and write!

4:30 Writing Reflection—return to EBC to discuss and share work

5:00 Reading practice session. **Required for those participating in the graduating reading on Saturday, August 1.** Bring the work you plan to read. Broadhurst Forum, EBC.

6:00 Dinner on your own

7:00-8:30 Faculty Reading #2: Jakiela & St. John. EBC, Broadhurst Forum

9:00 Shuttle leaves for Shadyside

**FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2015**

9:30-12:30 Writing Workshops

12:30-1:30 Lunch on your own

1:30-2:30 Roundtable Discussion: Housley, Courage, Ekstrom & Squillante. EBC 127/8

*I Wrote a Thesis! Now What?*

What should I do with my manuscript? What are some pathways to journal and book publication? What does and agent do? Do I need one? How do I get one? How do I market my book once it exists? This panel of publishing professionals will answer these questions and others in a session meant to give you practical, applicable information and tools to use to support your work in the world.

3:00-5:00 Open time for writing/conferences

6:00 Dinner on your own

7:00-8:30 Faculty reading #3: Housley & Squillante. EBC, Broadhurst Forum

9:00 Shuttle leaves for Shadyside

**SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2015**
9:30-12:30  Writing Workshops

12:30-1:30  Lunch on your own (Low-res students meet in dining hall with director for info session #2)

1:30-2:30  Craft Lecture: Sherrie Flick. EBC 127/8

*Contagious Empathy: Embracing Risk as an Everyday Practice*

This talk will focus on creative writing beyond the chair/table/computer/page. In this age of extreme social media, how do we—as writers—engage with the outside world in a meaningful way? How can we learn to empathize and then process that empathy into meaningful words if we don’t connect with other humans? Using a variety of interdisciplinary examples and generative exercises, we will talk through some ways to get into the world, to observe, to learn, to empathize—with the goal of fueling our writing practices and engaging with what it means to be alive and human and creative in this world.

2:30-4:00  Writing Retreat #4—Find a beautiful, quiet spot and use this time to reflect on the lessons from today’s craft lecture and write.

4:00-4:30  Writing Reflection—return to campus to discuss and share work

4:30  Open for writing, conferences, or swimming

6:00  Dinner on your own

7:00-8:30  Graduating MFA Students Reading and Celebration. Eden Hall Barn. *Champagne & cake served.*

9:00  Shuttle leaves for Shadyside

**Sunday, July 31, 2015**