SUMMER COMMUNITY OF WRITERS

JULY 24-AUGUST 3, 2014

SCHEDULE

Sheila Squillante, Associate Director, MFA Program (814) 880-1377/SSquillante@Chatham.edu

Erin Hutton, MFA Program Assistant (813) 205-7058/Ehutton@Chatham.edu

Alicia Barnes, SCW Assistant (412) 897-1965

OFFICE HOURS FOR SHEILA SQUILLANTE, 2nd Floor Lindsay House

Friday, July 25: 4:30-5:30

Monday, July 28: 3:00-4:30

Tuesday, July 29: 3:00-4:30

Friday, August 1: 5:00-6:00

Core Faculty:

Dinty W. Moore, Keynote Speaker & Nonfiction Workshop

Pam Houston, Fiction Workshop

Katherine Ayres, Multi-Genre Prose Workshop

Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Poetry Workshop

NOTE: ALL PROSE WORKSHOPS WILL BE BROKEN INTO TWO SESSIONS:

Session 1: July 25, 26, 28, 29

Session 2: July 30, 31, Aug. 1, 2

STUDENTS PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE IN THE CORRECT SESSION AT THE CORRECT TIME. THIS DOES NOT AFFECT POETRY WORKSHOP.
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014

2:00-4:00  Arrival & Registration. Mellon Lobby.


5:30-6:30  Dinner on your own

6:30-7:30  Opening Reception. Mellon Board Room. *Heavy hors d’oeuvres served.*

7:30-9:00  Keynote Speech & Reception: Dinty W. Moore. Mellon Board Room.

*Compassion is a Verb: A Grammar Lesson for the Heart of the Writer*

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2014

8:30-9:15  Continental Breakfast. Sanger Hall.

9:15-10:30  Orientation: Sheila Squillante. Sanger Hall.

10:45-12:00  Craft Lecture: Dinty W. Moore. Sanger Hall.

*On Finding Your Voice and Why it is Best to Start Looking Close to Home*

12:00-1:30  Lunch on your own

1:30-4:30  Writing Workshops

- Fiction Workshop: (Pam Houston, instructor). Location: McGuire Room, Library
- Multi-Genre Prose Workshop (Katherine Ayres, Instructor). Location: Coolidge 29
- Creative Nonfiction Workshop (Dinty W. Moore, instructor). Location: Devore Room, Mellon
- Poetry Workshop (Julia Spicher Kasdorf, instructor). Location: Dilworth 100

4:30-6:00  Open time for writing, individual conferences & dinner on your own

6:00-7:30  Low-Res Life Talk. *Required for low-res participants only.* Devore Room, Mellon.

Time management tips for your degree and best practices for thriving during your MFA shared candidly between seasoned and incoming students. *No mentors allowed!*

7:30  Open night for writing
**SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2014**

9:00-12:00  Writing Workshops

12:00-1:30  Lunch on your own

1:30-2:45  Craft Lecture: Julia Spicher Kasdorf. Sanger Hall.

*Writer as Witness*

In the age of instant information and intimate revelations, how can writers exploit the readers' need to know? Or how do authors make use of their own need to speak up? This craft lecture will explore the documentary current in all genres, but especially its recent revival in poetry and cross-genre forms.


*Objects from a Walk, Collected on a Table: Generating Creative Writing by Working with the Associative Mind*

*Note: each participant must bring an object to this session that they would consider a personal talisman.*

4:30-8:00  Open time for writing, individual conferences & dinner on your own

8:00-9:30  Faculty Readings. Mellon Board Room. *Cookies served.*

Julia Spicher Kasdorf & Sheila Squillante

**SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014**

9:00-12:00  Morning open for writing/conferences

12:30  Field trip to Eden Hall. (Mandatory) Transportation provided. Meet in front of chapel for vans or carpools. *Eat before arrival or bring your lunch/snacks!*

1:30  Tour of Eden Hall Farm. Tour Guide: Emily Gallivan.

2:30-3:30  Nature Writing Exercise led by Pam Houston

3:30-5:30  Writing Time

5:30-6:30  Barbecue dinner (provided)
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2014

9:00-12:00  Writing Workshops
12:00-1:30  Lunch on your own
1:30-2:45  Craft lecture: Pam Houston. Sanger Hall.

Corn Maze

Corn Maze looks at the ever-troublesome dividing line (I actually think of it as more of a large flower filled meadow) between fiction and nonfiction. It is about language's ultimate refusal to sit still and mean, and therefore our lifelong unrequited love affair with it. It is about Truth with a capital T and truth with a small t, about the power of story versus the power of facts, about the Venice of Las Vegas and the Venice of Italy, about metonymy versus metaphor, Tim O’Brien and James Frey, the autobiographical novel, the lyric essay, and how maybe we ought to take a lesson from the poets and just calm the heck down.

3:00-8:00  Open time for writing, individual conferences & dinner on your own
8:00-9:30  Faculty Reading: Pam Houston & Sarah Shotland. Mellon Board Room. Cookies served.

TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2014x

9:00-12:00  Writing Workshops
12:00-1:30  Lunch on your own
1:30-2:45  Craft Lecture: Sarah Shotland on creative writing pedagogy. Sanger Hall.
3:00-4:00  Open time for writing, individual conferences
4:00-5:00  Words Without Walls info session with Sarah Shotland (optional). Sanger Hall.
5:00  Dinner on your own

Bring your notebooks, laptops, spreadsheets and those just-begun or almost-
finished works and let’s write together! Open mic from 8:30-9:30.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2014**

9:00-12:00  Writing Workshops
12:00-1:45  Lunch on your own and writing time

**OR,**

Self-directed place-writing adventure. Suggestions and directions will be offered. **STUDENTS MUST PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THESE TRIPS.**

5:30-8:00  Dinner on your own & open time for writing
8:00-9:30  Graduating MFA Students Reading and Celebration. *Snacks & cake served.*

**THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2014**

9:00-12:00  Writing Workshops
12:00-1:00  Lunch on your own
12:45-4:00  Words Without Walls class observation. (optional, but must reserve ahead of time) Meet in front of chapel to carpool.
1:30-2:45  Open time for writing, individual conferences
3:15-4:30  MFA Alum Roundtable: *How to Work Your Degree!*
Sarah Leavens, Alicia Barnes, Ian Riggins, Dakota Garilli. Sanger Hall.

5:00  Dinner on your own & open night for writing

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2014**

9:00-12:00  Writing Workshops
12:00-1:20  Lunch on your own
1:30-2:45  Craft Lecture: Kathy Ayres. Sanger Hall.
Shhh. Don't tell. They'd banish us, you know...

A look at the power of secrets to develop narrative and character voices, and increase dramatic tension.

3:15-4:30 Craft Lecture/Reading: Chris Barzak. Sanger Hall.

4:30-8:00 Open for writing, individual conferences & dinner on your own

8:00-10:00 Words Without Walls Reading & Reception with Kathleen Ryan of the Appalachian Prison Book Project. Readers: Mia Tulzic and Eric Boyd. Mellon Board Room. Snacks & drinks served.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2014

9:00-12:00 Writing Workshops

12:00-1:20 Lunch on your own

1:30-3:30 Publishing Roundtable. Sanger Hall.
Dave Housley (Barrelhouse) Rachel Mennies (AGNI), Sheila Squillante (PANK), Jeffrey Condran & Robert Peluso (Braddock Avenue Books)

3:30-8:00 Open for writing, individual conferences & dinner on your own

8:00-9:30 Faculty Reading: Dave Housley & Rachel Mennies. Mellon Board Room. Cookies served.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2014

8:30-9:15 Continental Breakfast. Sanger Hall.