The University of Akron Wayne College in Orrville is hosting its 15th Annual Writers Workshop Saturday, April 7th, 2018.

This year’s workshop allows writers and aspiring writers to meet published authors and participate in sessions about demystifying the creative process, strategies behind a solid writing routine, how to target an audience, where emotions meet in poetry, the truth in nonfiction, and building a mystery board. As a participant, you will enjoy a continental breakfast followed by our authors’ concurrent workshop sessions, a panel discussion with the presenting authors, and lunch, followed by special guest D.M. Pulley.

Each workshop session runs 75 minutes (topics are detailed in this brochure). Please choose two of the six sessions to attend. Your $40 fee, due by March 23rd, covers everything for the day. Registration after the deadline will be $45 (including walk-ins that day).

After the awards ceremony, which recognizes student and regional writers, our speakers will have books for sale. Plan to spend time talking with them during the concluding sell-and-sign opportunity.

For program information or to register, contact Susan Ackerman at 330-684-8985 or sda1@uakron.edu

D.M. Pulley shares her journey from forensic engineer to best-selling author and the real-life mystery that inspired her first novel. In this informal discussion, she’ll discuss what it took for her to start and finish the book and the struggles of getting it published.

Before becoming a full-time writer, D.M. Pulley worked as a Professional Engineer, rehabbing historic structures and conducting forensic investigations of building failures. Pulley’s structural survey of a vacant building in Cleveland inspired her debut novel, The Dead Key, the winner of the 2014 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award. The disappearance of a family member formed the basis for her second historical mystery, The Buried Book. Pulley’s third novel, The Unclaimed Victim, delves into the dark history behind Cleveland’s Torso Killer. She lives in northeast Ohio with her husband, her two children, and a dog named Hobo and is hard at work on her fourth book.

2018 Writers Workshop Sponsors
- Auntie Anne’s Soft Pretzels
- Books in Stock – Used & Rare
- College Hills Honda
- Frank & Kathryn Bricker (in Memory of Raymond Buckland)
- Green Thumb Floral
- Kropf Wagner Law Firm, LLP
- Lehman’s
- The Daily Record
- V.I.P. Travel of Wooster
- Wayne Hills Honda
- White’s Ford on 57
- White’s Food on 57
- The Ashland Times – Gazette
- The Daily Record

To learn more about this event, visit: wayne.uakron.edu/writers-workshop.dot
Workshop Sessions

D.M. Pulley, Keynote Speaker

Facing the Blank Page

In this generative workshop, discussion sessions and guided writing prompts will begin to demystify the creative process and strategies behind a solid writing routine. As a historical mystery writer and former engineer, D.M. Pulley shares how various life experiences and career changes have influenced the writing process as well as the pitfalls and challenges of being a non-traditionally trained writer. Come and learn strategies to defeat writer’s block and overcome page fright.

Registration

Make check payable to The University of Akron Wayne College and mail registration form to: Susan Ackerman, The University of Akron Wayne College, 1901 Smucker Road, Orrville, OH 44667. To register by Fax, send registration form with credit card information or purchase order to 330-684-8985. A full refund will be made upon notice of cancellation received by March 23. No refunds will be made after this date, but you may substitute attendance by calling 330-684-8985.

Workshop Sessions

Jeff Gundy

What I Don’t Understand Is the Beauty

This workshop will explore places where beauty, pain, wonder, and language meet and mingle. How does poetry emerge from suffering? How do we find words, forms, and music to name, lament, and resist the struggles and traumas of this world, and celebrate the marvels that persist despite everything?

Biography

Jeff Gundy’s seven books of poems include Abandoned Homeland (Bottom Dog, 2015) and Somewhere Near Defiance (Anhinga, 2014), for which he was named Ohio Poet of the Year. His fourth prose book is Songs from an Empty Cage: Poetry, Mystery, Anabaptism, and Peace (Cascadia, 2013). His essays and poems appear in The Georgia Review, The Sun, Kenyon Review, Christian Century, Image, Cincinnati Review, Artful Dodge, and many other journals. He teaches at Bluffton University in Ohio and spent a recent sabbatical at LCC International University in Klaipeda, Lithuania.

Brad Ricca

Nonfiction Is 100% True (or Is It?)

How to Make a Creepy (but Effective) Mystery Board

Workshop 1

You undoubtedly have many stories to share with avid readers. But how do you decide which one to develop for the public? This workshop helps you explore personal experiences and creative fiction topics to choose one with a purpose. Aristotle believed that quality “art”, including literature, should both teach and entertain. In this session we will discuss ways in which personal life events or fictional themes can do both.

Workshop 2

After creating a piece of writing to be proud of, you are eager to share with readers. What are your next steps? In this session we will discuss how to target an audience, consider publishing options, and attract public attention to your writing. A few simple steps, well-planned, can often lead to increased interest in your work and invitations to share your story and perhaps write others.

Biography

Dr. Debra Johanyak was raised in Akron, Ohio. Her graduate studies included a year in Shiraz, Iran, where she held a teaching assistantship and witnessed the 1979 Iran hostage crisis. Debra began her professional career as an English instructor, and later, as an assistant professor at Kent State University before coming to the University of Akron Wayne College, where she currently is a professor of English. In addition to her book, Shakespeare’s World (Prentice Hall, 2004) and Behind the Veil: An American Woman’s Memoir of the 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis (University of Akron Press, 2006), several of her short stories and dozens of her articles have appeared in various literary magazines and journals.

Workshop 1

If fiction is made up, then does that mean nonfiction represents truth? Of what? And how do you go about writing something that absolute? In this session, we will question the boundaries of truth and...other stuff...in order to find out the best way to tell true stories that can resonate with your reader like fiction does. This session is for all writers interested in writing nonfiction or memoir and will include a writing exercise.

Workshop 2

In almost every cop or detective show, you will find someone who, in an attempt to solve a crime, has taken over a whole wall with photos, crude notes, and sometimes even color-coded string. In this session, we will learn how this technique can help writers of true crime, mystery, and pretty much anything else, not only find the narrative of their story, but the mystery at the heart of it. This session will include a writing exercise.

Biography

Brad Ricca is the author of Mrs. Sherlock Holmes: The True Story of New York City’s Greatest Female Detective and the 1917 Missing Girl Case That Captivated a Nation (St. Martin’s, 2017). He is also the author of Super Boys: The Amazing Adventures of Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster – The Creators of Superman (St. Martin’s, 2013), the first literary biography of the two creators of Superman, the world’s most iconic superhero. The book won the 2014 Ohioana Book Award for Nonfiction and was named a Top 10 Book on the Arts for 2013. He was born, lives, and works in Cleveland, teaching at Case Western Reserve University as a SAGES Fellow.

REGISTRATION

Each participant will be placed in two workshops, but workshop space is limited.

Face for each person is $40 — Total amount due $_____.

Address State Zip Code Phone

Date

Expiration Date

Race

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