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**June 21 – 24, 2018**

**Guest Speakers**

**Linda Camacho**

**Allison Lyons**

**Quressa Robinson**

**Paul Tremblay**

**Paul Tremblay**

(AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR)

Paul Tremblay is the author of the seven novels including the award-winning [A Head Full of Ghosts](http://pr.harpercollins.com/books/Head-Full-Ghosts-Paul-Tremblay/?isbn=9780062363237), Disappearance at Devil's Rock, The Little Sleep, and the forthcoming The Four. His fiction and essays have appeared in The Los Angeles Times and numerous Year’s Best anthologies. He is the author of the short speculative fiction collections [In the Mean Time](http://www.powells.com/biblio/1-9781926851068-1) and Compositions for the Young and Old. He served as fiction editor of [CHIZINE](http://www.chizine.com/) and as co-editor of Fantasy Magazine, and was also the co-editor the [Creatures](http://www.powells.com/biblio/62-9781607012849-0) anthology (with John Langan). Paul is currently on the board of directors for the [Shirley Jackson Awards](http://www.shirleyjacksonawards.org/) as well.

Paul is very truthful and declarative in his bios. He once gained three inches of height in a single twelve hour period, and he does not have a uvula. He has a master’s degree in mathematics, teaches AP Calculus, and once made twenty-seven three pointers in a row.

**Linda Camacho**

(AGENT GUEST OF HONOR)

Linda Camacho graduated from Cornell with a B.S. in Communication and has seen many sides of the industry. She’s held various positions at Penguin Random House, Simon and Schuster, Writers House literary agency, and Prospect Agency. She's done everything from foreign rights to editorial to marketing to operations, and somewhere in between all that (and little sleep), Linda received her MFA in creative writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Now an agent at Gallt & Zacker Literary, she's seeking middle grade, young adult, and adult fiction across all genres (particularly upmarket and women’s fiction/romance); also seeking select picture book and graphic novel writer-illustrators. Diversity of all types welcome!

**Quressa Robinson**

(AGENT GUEST OF HONOR)

Quressa Robinson joined the Nelson Literary Agency in 2017 after working at a previous agency and as an editor for five years. She is originally from San Francisco, but has been living in New York City for over a decade. As a New York based agent, she is eager to build her YA and Adult lists. When not curled on her couch reading, she plays video games, enjoys too much TV–mostly *Sailor Moon* and *Harry Potter* (Slytherin!), eats delicious things, drinks champagne, hangs out with her very clever husband, and adds another “dramatic” color to her lipstick collection. So, give her stories that will make her geek out. If you can make her have an epic fangirl squee–have stories featuring fairies and warrior princesses with afros and rainbow dreads or envision winter elves inspired by an Asian or Latinx culture–then you are definitely a match. She's also looking for stories with best friends like Molly and Issa on *Insecure*, enemies to lovers, coming-of-age stories, *The Breakfast Club* with a twist, family drama and witches (!), and alpha heroes paired with witty heroines. If you have bold, fresh, or quirky stories they will be right up her alley. She's also looking for stories that feel timeless and timely despite the current climate or when they were originally written. Or give her something she didn’t know she desperately needed. Above all, give her stories she can become deeply passionate about.

**Allison Lyons**

(EDITOR GUEST OF HONOR)

Allison Lyons is an Editor on Harlequin Intrigue. She has been with the company for nearly 20 years and has worked with more authors than she can count. Although her focus is on romantic suspense, she works on a variety of stories, including contemporary western romances by *USA TODAY* bestselling author Delores Fossen for HQN Books. Her author base is extremely active, with many writers publishing 3-5 books per year. And yet she’s always on the hunt for fresh voices, new twists on tried-and-true themes and a story that’s so good, it will hook her from the very first page. When not working, Allison enjoys reading for fun, trying new foods, seeing movies, traveling and exploring the city that, even as a native, she can never get enough of. You can find Allison on both Twitter, @Allison\_Lyons, and Instagram, NYC\_Editor\_Life.

**Module Presenters**

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| **Fred Adams, Jr.** is a retired Penn State University English Instructor with a love for the old pulp fiction of the 30s and 40s. He has written 16 novels in the last four years, eight in print and the rest pending. He has also contributed to anthologies published by Airship 27 Productions, Pro Se Press, Flinch Books and Laurel Highlands Publishing. His novels include the Hitwolf series, the Six-Gun Terrors series, The C. O. Jones series, and the Sam Dunne series, His novel Dead Man's Melody was nominated Pulp Novel of the Year in the 2017 Pulp Factory Awards and his novel The Eye of Quang-Chi has received the same nomination in the 2018 awards. He characterizes himself in one sentence: I live in abject terror of boredom.Horror author **Michael Arnzen** has won four Bram Stoker Awards for books like Grave Markings, Proverbs for Monsters and others. Recent work has appeared in The Year's Best Hardcore Horror anthology and Dissections literary journal. Arnzen has taught fulltime in the MFA in Writing Popular Fiction program since 1999.**J.R. Baird** is a student at the University of Pittsburgh where she is studying Communication Studies and English writing. She has previously led workshops for the Teen Book Festival through Barnes and Noble and was a presenter at last year’s In Your Write Mind Conference. Between classes and writing, J.R. can be found with a book in one hand and an iced coffee in the other..**Aaron C. Bennett** lives in Illinois, with his cat, dog and partner in crime. He spends his days shepherding area college students through the sometimes daunting task of learning to write college-level essays. He earned an MFA in Writing of Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. When not teaching or writing, he plays rugby.**Tori Bovalino** is a writer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She holds a B.A. in English fiction writing and anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh and will be continuing her education at Royal Holloway, University of London. Tori is represented by Dr. Uwe Stender at TriadaUS Literary Agency and can be found on Twitter and Instagram at @toribov**Jen Brooks** is a former high school English teacher and track & field coach turned full time writer. She is the author of YA contemporary fantasy In A World Just Right from Simon and Schuster Books For Young Readers. You can learn more about her at [www.jenbrookswriter.com](http://www.jenbrookswriter.com).**Valerie Burns** was born and raised in Indiana. By day she is a Manager for a call center. At night, Valerie writes cozy mysteries. Her first book, The Plot is Murder, released in 2017 and was nominated for an Agatha Award for Best First Novel. Her second book, Read Herring Hunt released in April 2018. Valerie currently lives in Tennessee. |
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| **A.J. Culey** is a teacher, world traveler and writer with an out-of-control imagination. When driving, standing in lines or doing chores, she’s often imagining cats in flight, antlers exploding from human heads and rabbits wrestling tigers. If caught giggling at nothing, she just shrugs and says, “I crack myself up.” She speaks several languages, but has been unable to acquire the ones her animal friends speak, though she does have frequent, often one-sided, conversations with them anyway. They don’t seem to mind. |
| **Desi D** writes fantasy, space opera, contemporary fiction, and non-fiction. She considers herself to be an oddball with an overactive imagination.**Luke Elliott** has a B.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Florida where he studied and wrote literature and poetry. Later, he earned an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. These days he writes sci-fi, fantasy, horror, but will go wherever the inspiration takes him. In August of 2017, he started and co-hosts the "Ink to Film" podcast, where he discusses books and their subsequent film adaptations. In between writing, podcasting, and occasional gaming, he collects and reviews quality single malts and is always happy to pour a dram for company.You can find him online on twitter (@luminousluke) or on www.lukeelliottauthor.com or learn more about his podcast at www.inktofilm.com.**Timons Esaias** is a satirist, writer and poet living in Pittsburgh. His works, ranging from literary to genre, have been published in twenty languages. He has also been a finalist for the British Science Fiction Award, and won the Asimov's Readers Award. His story "Norbert and the System" has appeared in a textbook, and in college curricula. His SF short story "Sadness" was selected for three Year's Best anthologies in 2015. Recent genre appearances include Asimov's, Analog and Lightspeed. His full-length Louis-Award-winning collection of poetry -- Why Elephants No Longer Communicate in Greek -- was brought out by Concrete Wolf. His poetry publications include Atlanta Review, Verse Daily, 5AM, Pittsburgh Poetry Review, Willard & Maple, Asimov’s Science Fiction and Elysian Fields Quarterly: The Literary Journal of Baseball. He is Adjunct Faculty at Seton Hill University, in the Writing Popular Fiction MFA Program.**Carrie Gessner** received a BA in English from Carnegie Mellon University and an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. She writes speculative fiction and literary fiction and drinks a lot of tea. When she's not writing or reading, she likes to go for walks in the park with her greyhound.**J.L. Gribble** writes the urban fantasy/alternate history Steel Empires series, which includes Steel Victory, Steel Magic, Steel Blood, and the upcoming Steel Time. Her other jobs include medical editing, Netflix watching, cat snuggling, and blogging for SpeculativeChic.com. You can find her at jlgribble.com. |
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| **Rebecca Halsey** holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Georgia. Her debut novel Notes of Temptation was published by Samhain in Feb 2016. In addition to writing fiction, Ms. Halsey is a contributing editor for Flash Fiction Online. After serving as an information warfare officer in the U.S. Navy, Ms. Halsey spent eight years as a civilian cybersecurity analyst for the Dept of Defense. She now writes a monthly report for CrowdStrike Intelligence. Her analysis covers cybersecurity trends, eCrime threats, hacktivism, and targeted intrusion adversaries worldwide. She resides in Maryland with her husband and three children. When she isn't writing, she is in the garden, cooking to the sound of Jazz music, or just playing dumb match-3 games on her phone.**C.A. Jacobs** is a world traveler and adventurer who spends her time equally between reading, writing, hiking, rock climbing, watching animated movies, and world-building with her extensive Lego collection. When not at home with her library and Legos, she travels the world to experience new cultures and conduct research for story ideas. She has so far spent time in over thirteen countries throughout various parts of the world, which contributes to her views on diversity in characters throughout her stories. Most of her characters tend to be rather clumsy, for all that they save the world. To find some of the inspiration for her stories and characters, visit her website at http://cajacobs.com**Scott A. Johnson** writes horror, sci-fi, and dark urban fantasy. His fourteenth book, Shy Grove: A Ghost Story, was just released.**K.P. Kulski** writes dark fantasy and horror and teaches history to a host of captive college students. She served nine years in both the U.S. Navy and Air Force and has worked in multiple job fields from cryptology, video game design to National Geographic. She holds an MA in Ancient and Classical History, MFA in Writing Popular Fiction and a graduate certificate in Intelligence Studies. Together, E.J. Lawrence and K.P. (both 2017 graduates of the SHUWPF program) run "Unbound," a weekly blog dedicated to showcasing women in literature and history. You can read more about them and Unbound at www.cannotbecontained.com.**Anna La Voie** is a developmental editor with 8 years of experience helping authors attain the strongest, clearest representation of their vision. Her MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University and experience leading workshops and slush reading for a genre focused publisher have provided her a strong toolbox of editing skills to help writers shine. |
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| **E.J. Lawrence** writes fantasy and teaches British Literature to high school and undergraduate students. She holds an MA in English Literature and an MFA in writing popular fiction. She’s an Arthurian aficionado, and a lover of the medieval romance. Together, E.J. and K.P. Kulski (both 2017 graduates of the SHUWPF program) run "Unbound," a weekly blog dedicated to showcasing women in literature and history. You can read more about them and Unbound at www.cannotbecontained.com.**Samantha Lienhard** is a graduate of the Seton Hill University Writing Popular Fiction program and an affiliate member of the Horror Writers Association. She mainly writes horror and fantasy, but occasionally works in other genres. She also loves video games and has worked on several indie game scripts.**Mary Mascari** writes science fiction, fantasy, and mystery. She graduated from SHU WPF in 2016 and her short stories have appeared in several anthologies. She's a plotter who pantses, using Scrivener on her MacBook Air. She believes in well-commented code and that Han shot first. Follow Mary on Twitter at @geekyMary.**Rhonda Mason** is a speculative fiction writer and author of the space opera trilogy THE EMPRESS GAME (Titan Books). She is a 2006 graduate of Seton Hill’s Writing Popular Fiction masters program, and has dual bachelor’s degrees in Environmental Geology and History. Being a writer is her dream job, but her second choice would be professional student. Assuming, of course, someone else was paying her tuition bill. She makes her home in Southwest Florida, AKA the surface of the sun, along with her Marine Biologist husband and an ancient rescue bulldog with anxiety issues. When not writing, she is reading, stand-up paddle boarding, snorkeling, learning to draw (that’s not going well), learning to paint with acrylics (that’s going worse) and watching her gluten-free baking attempts flop. But hey, at least she’s happy. She is represented by Richard Curtis of Richard Curtis Associates and is a member of SFWA.**Cara McKinnon** (Carrie Miller) is the author of the Fay of Skye fantasy romance series. She is addicted to adding magic to other genres and creating fantasy hybrids. She is a 2012 alum of the Writing Popular Fiction program and has kept coming back for more ever since. She lives on the East Coast of the US with her husband, two kids, and an over-sized lap dog named Jake.Ever a student of the written word, **Mike Mullig** is proud member of the Class of 2006. He writes speculative fiction (under the pen name Mike Brendan), but he likes basing the fantastic in something real. Mike is also a technologist, a practitioner of Okinawan Karate, a fuzzy-Dad to two cats, and the first victim of Sniper Jesus. If you want to see a grown man cry, just ask him about that last one. |
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| **Donna J. W. Munro** has spent the last seventeen years teaching high school social studies. Her students inspire her every day. An alumni of the Seton Hill Writing Popular Fiction program, she published pieces in Every Day Fiction, Syntax and Salt, Dark Matter Journal, the Haunted Traveler, Flash Fiction Magazine, Astounding Outpost, Door=Jar, Spectators and Spooks Magazine, Hazard Yet Forward (2012), Enter the Apocalypse (2017), Killing It Softly 2(2017), Beautiful Lies, Painful Truths II (2018), and several upcoming anthologies. Contact her at https://www.donnajwmunro.com**Priscilla Oliveras** is a Kensington Publishing author & four-time Golden Heart® finalist who writes contemporary romance with a Latin flavor. Proud of her Puerto Rican-Mexican heritage, she strives to bring authenticity to her novels by sharing her Latinx culture with readers. Since earning an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University, she serves as English adjunct faculty at her local college and teaches an online course titled “Romance Writing” for ed2go. Priscilla is a sports fan, a beach lover, a half-marathon runner and a consummate traveler who often practices the art of napping in her backyard hammock. To follow along on her fun-filled and hectic life, visit her on the web at www.prisoliveras.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/prisoliveras or on Twitter via @prisoliveras.**Kelly Parlin** graduated from Seton Hill University's Writing Popular Fiction MFA program in 2017, and currently works as a youth services librarian in Providence, RI. A self-proclaimed fanfiction addict, Kelly reads and experiments with multiple genres, though her favorites are fantasy, young adult, romance, and any category that involves LGBTQ characters. She has a short story published with NineStar Press, and her first novel will debut at the end of 2018. Feel free to approach her about anything fanfiction, and keep in mind her two biggest fandoms: Supernatural and the Marvel Cinematic Universe.**Sherry Peters** is a Certified Life Coach who works with writers to push past the self-doubt holding them back. Sherry graduated from the Odyssey Writing Workshop and earned her M.A. in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. Her debut novel Mabel the Lovelorn Dwarf placed 1st in the 2014 Writer’s Digest Self-Published e-Book Awards in the YA category. Her first two novels were nominated for the Aurora Award for Best YA novel. For more information on Sherry or her coaching, visit her at www.sherrypeters.com**Sheri Queen** received her MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. She grew up in the Hudson Valley region of New York—an area she loves to depict as a backdrop for her stories—and enjoys traveling to new places where she is constantly discovering inspirations for her writing. She especially loves visiting old graveyards.**Symantha Reagor** is a proud Seattle transplant. As a child, she spent recess reading or writing poems. She attempted her first Nanowrimo challenge in her college years and soon realized there was no going back and enrolled at Seton Hill University and received her M.F.A. in Writing Popular Fiction. She works in the video game industry and has contracted for companies 343 Industries and Nintendo. She writes Romance and Science-Fiction/Fantasy.**Mary Rogers** is a native of Brooklyn, New York, now living the warm life in Southern California with her husband and too many shelter pets. They have four grown children, and a history of delusions, financial insolvency, and general exhaustion which was curiously cured when said kids grew up and moved on. She is impatiently awaiting grandchildren to fill her heart and her arms, and let's face it, to watch her kids enjoy all that fun themselves.Mary is a former English teacher, and her love of literature became a love of romance. After reading them by the boatload she turned to writing them. The best romance is a true one, and Mary would like to thank her own romantic hero-- her husband Chris. She also thanks their kids, their pets, and their friends for the laughter and wine. Lots and lots of wine. Fitness: Zumba freak, yoga freak, pilates freak, currently starting HIIT with Les Mills, and doer of all sorts of silly workout tapes, such as Chalene Johnson's Turbo Fit, Misty Tripoli's Body Groove, Alice Bracegirdle's BellyFit, Jana someone or another's death battle Figure 8 Fitness (which I see as a stealth pointed attack from a Soviet operative against Americans launched one pelvic tilt at a time), and Yoga Booty Ballet. I am uncoordinated, but I do it anyway.**Deanna Sjolander** graduated in 2004 with a Master’s in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. She is currently the Senior Editor for Rook Creek Books and a freelance editor in her spare time. Her first novel, Sophie and the G-Man will be out later this year.Meteorologist turned novelist, **Maria V. Snyder's** been writing fantasy and science fiction since she was bored at work and needed something creative to do. Fifteen novels and 24 short stories later, Maria’s been on the New York Times bestseller list, won a half-dozen awards, and has earned her Master’s degree in Writing from Seton Hill University where she's now part of the MFA faculty. She also enjoys creating new worlds where horses and swords rule, 'cause let's face it, they're cool, although she's been known to trap her poor characters in a giant metal cube and let them figure out how to get out.Edgar® and Agatha Nominated author **Victoria Thompson** writes the Gaslight Mystery Series, set in turn-of-the-century New York City and featuring midwife Sarah Brandt. Her latest, Murder on Union Square, was a May 2018 release. City of Lies is the first book in her new Counterfeit Lady series, a November 2017 release from Berkley. The second book in the series, City of Secrets, will be out in November 2018. She also contributed to the award winning writing textbook Many Genres/One Craft. Victoria teaches in the Seton Hill University master's program in writing popular fiction. She lives in Illinois with her husband and a very spoiled little dog. |
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| **Miles Watson** was born in Evanston, Illinois. The son of a prominent Chicago journalist, he took an early interest in writing and published his first short story at 17. He holds undergraduate degrees in Criminal Justice and History and served as a law enforcement officer for nearly ten years before moving to Los Angeles, where he worked on television shows like HEROES, CSI: NEW YORK, TRUE BLOOD, THE WALKING DEAD and THE ORVILLE. He has also worked extensively in video games, including many of the most popular titles such as CALL OF DUTY. A martial artist since his teens, he holds a black belt in White Tiger Taekwondo. In 2012 he graduated from Seton Hill University with an Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction, and was the recipient of that program's first-ever Endowed Scholarship. He is the author of the critically-acclaimed CAGE LIFE series of novels, whose first volume was recently named Zealot Script's "Best Indie Book of 2016" and also took runner-up in Shelf Unbound's 2016 Indie Book Awards, as well as KNUCKLE DOWN, and the short story collection DEVILS YOU KNOW. |
| USA Today Bestseller **Jaye Wells** is a former magazine editor whose award-winning speculative fiction novels have hit several bestseller lists. She holds an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University, and is a sought-after speaker on the craft of writing. When she’s not writing or teaching, she loves to travel to exotic locales, experiment in her kitchen like a mad scientist, and try things that scare her so she can write about them in her books. She lives in Texas. |

***Scheduled times subject to change due to WPF Program needs.***

*Changes will be announced at registration if they occur.*

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| ***THURSDAY, JUNE 21*** |
| **3:00-6:00 PM** | **Lynch 114** | Registration |
| **3:00-5:00 PM** | **Boyle 156** | **Promptapolooza**/Donna Munro and Deanna SjolanderCome and write your heart out. A fun, laid back, prompt-based writing workshop meant to help spur creativity and sharpen writing tools. Come with laptops charged and ready to type or pencils sharpened and ready to scribe.  |
| **5:00-6:00 PM** | **Boyle 156** | **Pitch Practice**/Deanna SjolanderThis is part of the Thursday open workshop day: Yay! You've written a book! Now you need to sell it. Sell it?! Whether you have some ideas or no idea where to start, this interactive workshop allows you to work among your peers to practice your pitch.  |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Free Write Among Friends**/Non-DirectedHogwarts on the Hill + you + time to write = Awesome |
| ***FRIDAY, JUNE 22*** |
| **8:00-3:00 PM** | **Lynch 114** | Registration |
| **7:00-9:00 AM** | **Lynch 114** | Coffee Bar at Registration |
| **8:00-8:50 AM** | **Boyle 356 & 370** | **Breakfast Peer Critiques Sessions**/Moderator TBAIn this session, participants will give peer critiques of one another’s 10-page submission. Please come to the session having fully read the submitted works and with either written or typed notes on each submission to return to each author. |
| **9:00-9:50 AM** | **Boyle 356** | **Pitch Mastery**/Deanna Sjolander You’ve written your pitch, you’ve even practiced! Come to this session and hear from Pitch Masters as they relate their best practices, their best (and worst!) pitch stories and more! |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Free Write** |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Know Thou Character/**Desi D (Desiree Dorman)How to create a strong first appearance with any character is about learning who your character is. I will go over a couple of examples of published authors characters that make an excellent first appearance. The importance of backstory and how to use it without info dumping. There will be five activities where participants will learn by doing. |
| **10:00-10:50 AM** | **Boyle 370** | **Writing for the New Pulp Fiction Market/**Fred Adams Jr.A discussion in five parts: 1. What constitutes “New Pulp” fiction? 2. Writing series novels to expand sales 3. Working with established pulp characters. 4. Learning from the old guard. 5. Who’s publishing new pulp? Handouts, including a list of presses currently publishing this genre will be included. |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Plotting Backward/**Anna LaVoieIn this module I will focus on macro plotting as a way to explore an idea and decide if it is worth pursuing before you get 20,000 words into a dead end. By starting at the end and ensuring the author knows where, even in a general sense, the story is going, I hope to save authors that frustrating moment when they realize their story has fizzled out or has an unsound premise. Using elements of Debra Dixon's GMC and the Three Act Structure, I will show authors how to turn their initial idea into a broad outline with a clear beginning, middle, and end. |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Those First Few Lines: Four Ways to Start Your Story/**Tim EsaiasYou already know how a story starts, you've seen hundreds of them. Still, it can be intimidating, so we'll review four key methods. We'll actually try them out on your current project, so you'll leave with more possibilities than you can use. Malt balls will play a significant role in the procedure |
| **11:00 AM-12:00** |  | Lunch on Your Own |
| **12:00-12:50 PM** | **Boyle 156** | **Twitter Hashtags/**Sam Lienhard#MSWL? #PitMad? #CpMatch? Twitter has become a valuable resource for writers, but only if you know which hashtags to use and what they mean. In this workshop, we'll take a look at some of the best Twitter hashtags for writers, including pitch contests, WIP celebrations, and more. Whether you're ready to query or just want to connect with other writers, there's a hashtag for you! |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Women’s Weapons: Why Don’t Our Clothes Have Pockets?/**C. A. JacobsHave you ever had a character about to do battle with the Forces of Darkness and she can't figure out how to fit the giant magical sledgehammer into her 18th Century ball gown? A space-adventurer who gets all of their space suit accessories stuck on the bulkhead while trying to save crewmembers after a space battle? A young teenager who needs to carry a tampon but doesn't have any usable pockets? For guys, it's usually easy because all their clothes come with built-in, usable pockets. Women, sadly, are often much less fortunate with their attire options. This module intends on providing your characters with viable options for transporting whatever weapons they require for their story with the clothing options available. |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Writing about Hackers and Cybersecurity/**Rebecca HalseyFormer U.S. Navy information warfare officer and civilian cybersecurity analyst, Rebecca Halsey, walks attendees through all things hackers, hacking, and information security. Anyone writing characters that are computer scientists, hackers, or anything else cyber-related should attend and ask questions about the latest trends. Additionally, Ms. Halsey can cover how data security issues may affect authors. |
| **1:00-5:00 PM** | **Admin 202 Admin 203** **Admin 211**  | **Individual Pitch Sessions** (8-10 min sessions for each pitch)**Admin 202 - Linda Camacho****Admin 203 - Quressa Robinson****Admin 211 - Allison Lyons** |
| **1:00-3:00 PM** | **Admin 212** | **Author Guest of Honor Critiques with Paul Tremblay** (15 minute pre-scheduled sessions) |
| **1:00-1:50 PM** | **Boyle 370** | **Painting with Words/How to Improve Description in Your Writing/**Symantha ReagorThroughout my time in the Writing Popular Fiction Program I was often told that I was a “sparse writer” and that while my scene or chapter was really good, it needed more description or that I needed to convey more emotion. No matter how many times I was told this, my internal thought was always the same. “If I knew how then I would have done it the first time I wrote it!” After reading the book “Word Painting” by Rebecca McClanahan I suddenly understood description and emotion in a new way. This module with teach writers - even writers that prefer sparse description – how to layer description and emotions. I will teach about the different types of description (scientific, sensory, emotional, poetic) and how to incorporate the five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell) into a given scene. I will also cover methods for layering in emotional descriptions (a character doesn’t just “feel” an emotion. There are physical manifestations of every emotion.) |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Idea vs Story: Creating a Full Length Novel/**Anna LaVoieHow many times have you gotten a nifty idea, sat down to start writing… and run out of oomph thirty pages later? A great idea is a great idea, but how do you turn it into a complete story with a beginning, middle, and end? Influenced by a range of plotting and world building methods, I will share my approach to expanding upon an initial idea and fleshing out the necessary pieces to create a full-length novel. |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Blueprint for Writing Success**/Sherry PowersThere is no magic trick to writing. Writing itself isn’t hard. Persisting at it, completing a story, pursuing a career as a writer is. Distractions and self-doubt get in our way. It doesn’t have to be that way. We are the architects of our own success. Our writing lives are our masterpiece designs. In this interactive workshop, participants will develop tools necessary for building the writing life they want.  |
| **2:00-2:50 PM** | **Boyle 156** | **You Are Here: Deepening the POV/**Scott JohnsonPOV gives people fits, and this is how you can deepen yours to put the reader into your story |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Pitching Your Personality**/J. R. Baird and Tori BovalinoHumans are scary but we're all here for the write reasons. This workshop features discussions on branding, the buddy system, conferences, and networking. Come for the writing, stay for the new friendship.  |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Dissecting the Romance Plot Using You’ve Got Mail/**Priscilla OliverasThe romance plot is far more than a simple: boy meets girl, boy gets girl, they live Happily Ever After. Let’s face it, a plot like that makes for a dull story, the opposite of the Keeper Shelf novel we aspire to write. Using teachings from the classic textbook A Natural History of the Romance Novel written by Pamela Regis as a guide, this presentation will detail the eight essential and three optional elements of a romance novel Regis explores in her book. Then, with the help of scenes from the classic romantic comedy “You’ve Got Mail”, attendees will see how the eight essential elements, with the help of one of the three optional elements, can be woven together to create a Keeper Shelf novel/film—one that meets your readers’ expectations and has them clamoring for more. |
| **3:00-3:50 PM** | **Boyle 156** | **“So You’ve Signed Your Contract, Now What?” Publishing Experiences Panel**/Priscilla Oliveras, Rhonda Mason, Jen Brooks, Luke ElliotPublished, newly contracted or debut authors share their experiences in the first year or two since they "signed with a publisher" or "decided to self-pub" or "had their debut released.” (what I learned, what I did okay, what I'd do differently). |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **“She Would Not Yield”: Writing Realistic Female Characters in Historical Settings**/E. J. Lawrence and K. P. KulskiOf course it's important to write realistic female characters, even in your medieval fantasy or historical romance...but there's no need to fill your historic world with damsels-in-distress or even impose modern expectations on historical women. E.J. Lawrence--a lover of medieval literature--and K.P. Kulski--an expert in medieval history--will show you how to draw inspiration from women, both real and literary, in the ancient and medieval worlds. If you think these damsels only hung around towers waiting to be rescued by knights-in-shining-armor, be prepared to enter a world of powerful queens, wise scholars, bloodthirsty warriors, and even swashbuckling pirates--and leave with fresh new ideas for your own "badass female character." |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Fitness and Movement for Writers/**Christina Stitt, Mary Boland-Doyle, Chris Daniels, and Aaron Bennett |
| **4:00-4:50 PM** | **Boyle 356** | **Mastering Promises and Payoffs in Fiction**/Jaye WellsGood stories don’t happen by accident. To master the art of delivering satisfying tales, writers must learn how to effectively make story promises in Act One as well as how to deliver satisfying payoffs by The End. This class will explore the types of promises you must make from the first line of your story, demonstrate a variety of tools you can use to make those promises, and offer strategies to avoid cheating your readers out of satisfying payoffs.  |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Why? The Question that can Save Your Plot**/ Scott A. JohnsonFor everything you do in fiction, the question must be asked Why? And if you don't know, you've got a plot hole. |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **It’s Not A Mystery/**Victoria ThompsonMystery plots can be used in any genre. Victoria Thompson will show you how to create a mystery plot that you can use for a true mystery novel or plug into a novel of any genre.  |
| **5:00-5:50 PM** | **Boyle 356** | **X-Ray Your Scene**/Mary MascariThis workshop gives participants a practical tool they can use to evaluate written scenes to figure out why they might not be working.  |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Using Fanfiction Tropes to Spice Up Your Stories and Spark New Ideas/**Kelly ParlinAre you stuck on your story or having trouble coming up with a new idea? Not sure of a scene, a character, a plot? Well, fanfiction tropes might be the answer to your writer woes! In this module, we'll start by discussing what we love (or hate) about our favorite characters, then boil them down to their base elements before shaping them into something new. After that, we'll use fanfiction tropes to transplant those characters into different genres, which allows them to be viewed in a fresh light. What if your hard-boiled detective was suddenly a king who had to send his people to war? What if your regency heroine sprouted wings, or your scientist woke up in the body of their assistant? How would they react? Scenes and plot lines naturally develop from there based on the resulting genre or genre mash-up.Fanfiction tropes encourage exploration, and this kind of harmless, fun exercise can break you free of your writer's block and even give you more story ideas to play with in the future! |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Writing Violence**/Miles WatsonThe module is an analysis of the techniques available to write violent sequences effectively in any genre. We will analyze the use of color, speed, internal monologue, the senses, and even punctuation to bring violent passages to life (and to death!). Emphasis is placed on the fact that violence is defined as a state of "highly excited action" and not merely bloodshed, so the module has great utility for all writers of fiction. Getting your handouts in airline barf bags is merely a bonus.  |
| **5:30-6:30 PM** |  | Dinner on your own |
| **6:00-8:00 PM** |  | **WPF Thesis Readings**Observe the readings offered by the Writing Popular Fiction graduates. All attendees of IYWM are welcome and encouraged to attend. A list of topics is available at registration. |
| **9:00-Midnight** | **McKenna Center** | **Costume Ball**Theme: Storybook LandCostumes are encouraged, but not required.Join us for our annual costume ball! Finger foods will be provided, and there will be a beer/wine cash bar. Come in your best storybook ensemble, or come as you are! Prizes will be awarded for best costumes. Come and dance the night away! |
| ***SATURDAY, JUNE 23*** |
| **8:00-3:00 PM** | **Lynch 114** | Registration |
| **7:00-9:00 AM** | **Lynch 114** | Coffee Bar at Registration |
| **8:00-1:00 PM** | **Boyle Lobby**  | **Red Pen Query Session**All conference attendees should bring a query letter or two (personal info removed) to be read and edited by a variety of conference attendees.  |
| **8:00-8:50 AM** | **Boyle 356** | **Publishing and Marketing for Indie Authors/**Carrie GessnerParticipants: Carrie Miller/Cara McKinnon, A.J. Culey, Sheri Queen Flemming, Carrie Gessner. The panelists have experienced the highs and lows of independent publishing firsthand, and they're prepared to help you navigate the learning curve. Bring any and all questions about: editors, formatting, covers, marketing, reader interaction (social media/blogging/newsletter), distribution channels, ISBNs, illustrators, and more. |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Behind the Scenes of Military Life**/J. L. Gribble, Bill Huff, Alex Savage, K.P. Kulski, Michael K. Ingram.So much information on the military that authors research is geared toward things like rank structure, combat, munitions, and life in the field. However, the majority of service members operate behind the scenes rather than on the front lines, where there is plenty of additional story fodder to be mined. Essential personnel can be in any career field, from intel, to cybersecurity, to maintenance, to food services (after all, an army marches on its stomach).In addition, while it’s cliché to say that the service member is not the only one who sacrifices, another important perspective is from family members. Whether they follow around the world or are left behind during deployments, they have stories of their own.This panel of current service members, veterans, and dependents is ready to share their unique experiences of life in the military (and life attached to the military) and answer questions from the audience. Panel members:Bill Huff, Active Duty Navy (enlisted and officer)Alex Savage, former Navy and Army officer, current Navy spouseK.P. Kulski, former enlisted member of the Navy and Air Force Signals Intelligence Field, Navy brat, mil-to-mil spouseMichael K. Ingram, former enlisted Navy Intelligence Analyst, mil-to-mil spouseJ.L. Gribble, former Air Force and Army brat, current Air Force spouse |
| **9:00-9:50 AM** | **Boyle 356** | **Writing Through the Saggy Middle by Focusing on Character/**Guest Agent Linda Camacho |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Developmental Editing Pt 1/**Guest AgentQuressa Robinson |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Writing Dialog/**Miles WatsonThis module takes a deep look at the craft of writing dialogue. We will begin with the Whys -- why does some dialogue seem to have the dreaded "cadence of the typewriter" while other dialogue seems to burst off the page? Why does our dialogue sometimes sound so good in our minds but "listen" so badly when it is read aloud, and does that really matter? Are "good and bad dialogue" universal absolutes, or does the definition change from genre to genre? And if there are universal truths, what are they? What techniques can we utilize to make dialogue punchier and more effective regardless of our genre? At the end of this module you will have a better understanding of how to make the spoken word work WITHIN the written one.  |
| **10:00-10:50 AM** | **Boyle 356** | **Emotion is Not a Dirty Word Pt. 1/**Maria V. SnyderNo matter how complex your plot is or how beautiful your descriptions are, or how well you can use a metaphor, if your readers don't care about your characters, you've lost them. Many writers are reluctant to incorporate emotions and emotional reactions for their characters for fear of being called out on writing "purple prose," or for being "overly dramatic." This module will help guide you in adding in a layer of emotional complexity to your stories. |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Developmental Editing Pt 2/**Guest AgentQuressa Robinson |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Hybrid Authors**/Guest Editor Allison Lyons |
| **11:00-11:50 AM** | **Boyle 356** | **Emotion is Not a Dirty Word Pt 2**/Maria V. SnyderSecond part of workshop, but you can still jump in. No matter how complex your plot is or how beautiful your descriptions are, or how well you can use a metaphor, if your readers don't care about your characters, you've lost them. Many writers are reluctant to incorporate emotions and emotional reactions for their characters for fear of being called out on writing "purple prose," or for being "overly dramatic." This module will help guide you in adding in a layer of emotional complexity to your stories.  |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Ten Craft Issues I See in Submissions and How to Fix Them/**Guest Agent Linda Camacho |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Flash Fiction Discussion and Workshop/**Donna J. W. Munro “Flash fiction is so hot right now.” ~MugatuA quick discussion of what it is, how to do it, and where to publish it. Then we will write some.  |
| **11:50-1:30 PM** | **Boyle 156** | **Guest Author Lunch**Lunch provided for pre-registered IYWM attendees.  |
| **1:30-2:20 PM** | **Boyle 156** | **Romance Suspense/**Guest Editor Allison Lyons |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Your Book Will Be Judged by Its Cover/**Carrie MillerCover design can make or break a book. Aside from a catchy blurb, it is an author's most important marketing tool. Most readers won't look past a bad cover to see if the book is good. Covers are even more important in the world of self-publishing, as you'll need all the help you can get to make sure you stand out in an oversaturated market.In this module, I will discuss elements of cover design such as color theory, negative space, focal points, thumbnail view, and font choices. I will also talk about researching trends—and when to subvert those trends. The class will also cover typical designer fees, how to find a designer, and the difference between pre-made and custom covers. There will also be a (very brief) section about DIY covers (mostly why not to do it). |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Wait, What Just Happened??? Using Ambiguity in Horror/**Guest Author Paul TremblayAmbiguity is often the soul of a horror story, or any kind of story for that matter, particularly given our identities and realities are much more ambiguous than we care to admit. (What, really?) Paul Tremblay will discuss the many ways in which to use ambiguity to your advantage in fiction and get you working on putting your own ambiguities to work. |
| **2:30-3:20 PM** | **Boyle 356** | **Mastering Your Cliches/**Luke ElliottWhen it comes to your writing, don't just mail it in. Using cliches in your prose might seem like just a drop in the bucket, but it can be a real kiss of death. But before you get all bent out of shape about it, never fear! This module can help you whip your prose into shape. Before long, you'll be turning a phrase with the best of them. |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Costuming and Historical Dress Reveals Character and Builds Skill/**Aaron Bennett, Carrie Miller, Deanna SjolanderPanelists will discuss the evolution of male clothing and how the different wardrobe pieces can affect your character. With expertise from medieval up to the modern day, our experts can answer pretty much all of your fashion questions.  |
|  | **Boyle 370** | **Genre in a Page/**Mike ArnzenWe will analyze short short stories less than one page long live in class to glean a few lessons for generating effective flash fiction. Even if you don't write flash, this exercise in brevity will help you tighten up your scenes for a genre audience. |
| **3:30-4:20 PM** | **Boyle 156** | **Special Guest Panel**Bring your questions about the publishing world. Our fantastic industry professionals (two agents, one editor and author) will be ready to give you answers. |
| **4:30-5:30 PM** |  | **Dinner on your own** |
| **5:30-7:00 PM** | **SHU Performing Arts Ctr-Johnson Room** | **Book Signings with Readings**Between 20 and 30 different authors available for book signings and personal questions about their craft. |
| **7:00 PM** | **SHU Performing Arts Center** | **Public Forum:** Enjoy a lecture by the special guest of the WPF program. All IYWM attendees are invited.   |
| **8:00-9:30 PM** | **SHU Performing Arts Ctr-Johnson Room** | **Book Signings with Readings**The authors are back, post Public Forum to sign their books and answer questions about their craft. Raffle basket winners will be announced. |
| **9:45 PM-Done** |  | **Ghost Tour** beginning at 9:45. Meet at Admin Lobby. |
| ***SUNDAY, JUNE 24*** |
| **8:00-9:00 AM** | **Lynch 114** | Coffee Bar |
| **8:00-8:50 AM** |  | **Morning Peer Critique Session**/Moderator TBAIn this session, participants will give peer critiques of one another’s 10 pages submissions. Please come to the session having fully read the submitted works and with either written or typed notes on each submission to return to each author. |
| **9:00-9:50 AM** | **Boyle 370** | **Writing Cops (and Criminals**)/Miles WatsonOne of the most daunting aspects of writing fiction is the performance of due diligence -- known to some by the dread term "research." Whether penning mysteries, thrillers, historical fiction, horror, or even certain types of romance, research of the criminal justice system is often necessary -- and to some, intimidating (or let's face it, boring!). As a ten year veteran of law enforcement, I offer a fast, fun module whose purpose is to educate writers on the basic nuts and bolts of the criminal justice system -- and its mirror-image, the criminal underworld. Avoid the sort of mistakes that make critics cringe, and dazzle audiences with your inside information. That, and listen to my autopsy stories.  |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Laugh Between Gunshots/**Fred Adams Jr.A discussion of the use of humor in horror, detective, western, and other genre fiction. |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Inspiration for the Small Stuff: You Did Remember to Have a Setting Right?/**Timons EsaiasWhat makes a setting convincing, even surprising, are those unexpected little details. Sure, you're thinking RESEARCH, but we'll talk about a different procedure: PLAYSEARCH. Playsearch involves tools that may seem unrelated [newspaper ads, magazine articles, catalogs, postcards, antique shops, specialty museums], but which remind you what a character typically has around them. We'll discuss how to go from This Thing to A Thing Like It, to The Thing your story requires. Nor will we hesitate, nay, we will do the thing. |
| **10:00-10:50 AM** | **Boyle 370** | **Good Grief: Using the Stages of Grief to Plot Your Novel**/Symantha ReagorThe stages of grief are universal and experienced by people from all walks of life and across all cultures. But people don't just grieve for the death of loved ones. People grieve over the loss of jobs or status, the end of a relationship (romantic or friend), the transition from one stage of life to another. Grieving is part of every stage of life and major change. As writers, it's important to show the emotional struggle a character goes through - their journey from grief to acceptance is critical. Being aware of the stages of grief and how/when your character moves through them will deepen the emotional resonance of every story and scene written. |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Abracadabra: Using Magic in Popular Fiction/**Scott A JohnsonHow to effectively use magic in your work.  |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Ten Things I Hate About Martial Arts (in popular media)/** Michael Mullig We see martial arts portrayed in pop culture, from Karate Kid to Iron Fist, in film, prose, graphic novels, and animation, and the quality can range from exquisite to abysmal. In this session, we will review some of things that rile up my chi and discuss how to avoid them -- or use them. |
| **11:00-11:50 AM** | **Boyle 370** | **Deepen Your Writing OR Going deep: Thrust your readers into a world of sensation with heightened descriptions**/Anna La VoieOnce you've drafted the bones of your novel, it's important to flesh it out with vivid description, genuine emotion, and themes that lead to a satisfying resolution by "The End." We will discuss various techniques that will help you layer in sensory description and emotional beats that will keep readers deeply engaged with your story. |
|  | **Boyle 156** | **Mastering the Great Agent Hunt/**Rhonda Mason and Jen BrooksYou’ve decided that signing with an agent is the right career move for you. Excellent! Now what?Where do you find agents? Which agents are taking new clients? Which agents are making book deals? How do you know if an agent will like your manuscript? How do you know which agents are right for you and your career?This module will teach you how to find the answers to those questions and many more. As authors who have been through the process (and heartbreak) several times before landing an agent, let us save you some time and headaches. We’ll tell you how we went about the agent search, what worked and what didn’t, and the things we wished we’d known before we mailed our first query letters. |
|  | **Boyle 356** | **Writing Dialog**/Miles Watson |
| **12:00-1:00 PM** |  | **IYWM Closing Luncheon**All attendees are welcome to attend this luncheon when the new graduates of the WPF program are celebrated and welcomed into the alumni community. |
| **1:00-2:30 PM** |  **Boyle 156** | **Alumni Business Meeting**WPF alumni are welcome to attend this meeting to discuss the IYWM conference, make suggestions, and recognize needs. |
| **3:00 PM** | **Cecilian Hall** | **WPF Commencement** |

**THINGS TO KNOW**

**Stop at Registration in Lynch Hall Room 114 to relax, enjoy a light refreshment and**

**check out the auction baskets!**

**Something for everyone.**

***Fill out the Weekend Survey and***

 ***receive a small gift in appreciation.***

**Network Access**

Scan for wireless network and select SHU

Register as a guest to use the network.

Wireless access is available campus wide.

**Overnight Guests** please carry your swipe card at all times for residence hall access. **Before departing Seton Hill, deposit room key and swipe card in Key Return on 1st Floor DeChantal or at Registration (Lynch Hall Rm 114). $50 fine for unreturned keys.**

**No Smoking** permitted in any inside area on campus. Smoking permitted outside areas only.

**Bookstore Hours**

Thursday 8-4

Friday 8-5

Saturday 11-1

**Important Phone Numbers**

 **Registration** 724-689-3291

 **Security Officer** 724-244-2192 or Ext 4911

 **Food Service** 724-838-4294 or Ext 4294

**NOTES**

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1 Seton Hill Drive

Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601-1599

724/830-1027