Lakeland Community College
Community Learning Division

15th ANNUAL

WESTERN RESERVE WRITERS MINI-CONFERENCE

Saturday
March 25, 2006

A few of the topics:

Alternative Opportunities for Writers

Jumpstart Your Stalled Novel

Keep Your Plot Moving

and
Many more interesting topics

15th Annual Western Reserve Writers Mini-Conference
Saturday, March 25, 2006 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Conference Coordinators: Deanna R. Adams and Nancy E. Piazza

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration and Coffee

9:00 a.m. Welcome to Lakeland: Betsy Ehinger, Director of Community Learning
Overview of Conference – Deanna R. Adams

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Fun with Fiction	Secrets of Creative Nonfiction	Writing for Children	Get the Lead Out: Writer's Block	Research & Interviews for Books & Articles
Michael Salinger	**Deanna Adams**	**Annette Sheldon**	**Barbara Snow**	**Ted Schwarz**

One-On-One Proofreading Consultations with **Nancy E. Piazza** (limited to four).

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Jumpstart Your Stalled Novel	Creativity through Poetry	Creating Credible Characters	Websites & Blogging	Articles: From Idea to Print
Nicole Hunter	**Michael Salinger**	**Erin Nowjack**	**Steve FitzGerald**	**Karen Sandstrom**

11:45 - 12:45 p.m.

What It Takes To Be a Writer	Self-Publishing Your Fiction	Alternative Opportunities for Writers	Do You Need An Agent?	Keep Your Plot Moving
Malcolm Wood	**Nicole Hunter**	**Joe Valencic**	**Deanna Adams**	**Scott Lax**

12:45 p.m. Networking Reception with refreshments, Book Sale and Author Signing

Fee: $55 CRN 80769
Lakeland Registration, Lakeland Community College, 7700 Clocktower Dr., Kirtland OH 44094-5198
For more information, call 440-525-7116 or 1-800-589-8520
Online information, www.lakelandcc.edu/comeduc/

Deanna R. Adams is a freelance writer whose articles and essays have appeared in *Ohio Magazine*, the *Plain Dealer, Northern Ohio Live*, *Lake County Business Journal, Today's Family, Ohio Writer,* and others. Her book, "Rock 'n' Roll and the Cleveland Connection" was named a 2003 finalist for the Ohioana Award for nonfiction and for excellence in research for the 2003 ARSC Awards (Association for Recorded Sound Collections). Class Descriptions – SECRETS OF CREATIVE NONFICTION: Discover how to take fiction techniques and incorporate them into your nonfiction to bring your story to life. This session will spark ideas, give helpful suggestions, and inform you on the markets available. DO YOU NEED AN AGENT? This is a question most every writer ponders sometime in his or her writing career. This class will cover what you need to know about agents, cover what an agent can and can't do for you, and where to look for the right one to meet your needs.

Award-winning editor **Nancy E. Piazza** is a published writer with 17 years of editing experience. She is profiled in the National Directory of Editors and Writers, M. Evans and Company, Inc., 2005, and listed in the Ohio Arts Council's Directory of Ohio Creative Writers. Through her business, Writeperson Ltd., she edits nonfiction books, novels, short stories, articles, essays, memoirs, and proposals for aspiring as well as published writers. Nancy edited "The Dead of Winter" by author Bill Warnock, Penguin Group, 2005. For a free editing consultation, e-mail Nancy at editor@writeperson.com or visit: www.writeperson.com. Session Description – ONE-ON-ONE PROOFREADING CONSULTATIONS: Scheduled 15-minute consultations will be reserved in advance and will take place concurrently with the first conference session. The focus will be how to catch grammar, punctuation, and word-usage errors in a friendly, helpful environment. E-mail Nancy to request one of four free conference consults. Writers who are registered for the conference and have a confirmed reservation time with Nancy will receive advance notification to bring one double-spaced page of their work.

Conference Presenters

Steve FitzGerald has published online for 15 years and works with writers developing and publishing online projects. He edits LakewoodBuzz.com, an independent community news website, and Hall of Fame journalist Roldo Bartimole on ReadRoldo.com. FitzGerald finds his own voice writing the "Lakewood Life" blog on the *Plain Dealer's* Cleveland.com. Class Description – WEBSITES and BLOGGING: Whether you're a seasoned pro or beginning writer, you can't ignore the Internet anymore – it's where the readers are. FitzGerald, publisher of LakewoodBuzz.com and ReadRoldo.com, and longtime *Plain Dealer* blogger, will help you with your online writing ideas and answer all questions about writing for websites and weblogs.

Nicole Hunter wrote the award-winning novel, "Waiting for the World to End" (Universe 2004). She is a summa cum laude graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College, where she received the A.W. "Bud" Collins Jr. Creative Writing Prize. Nicole supports Project: LEARN, Cleveland's largest organization for adult literacy, with a percentage of her book royalties and through volunteerism. Visit www.nicolehunterbooks.com. Class descriptions – SELF-PUBLISHING YOUR FICTION: Learn how to stand out in the crowd of self-published novelists with ideas for finding a writing mentor, perfecting your manuscript, and broadening your insights into marketing psychology. Nicole will also detail self-publishing costs and marketing strategies, allowing time for questions and discussion. JUMPSTART YOUR STALLED NOVEL: Is your half-written novel languishing in your head or desk drawer? Let award-winning novelist Nicole Hunter revive your creative energies with her proven methods - from pragmatic to improvisational – for finishing your manuscript.

Scott Lax is an author, movie producer, playwright, Senior Writer for *Northern Ohio Live*, and Director of the School of Writing for the Fairmount Center for the Creative and Performing Arts. His first work of fiction, "The Year That Trembled," a Vietnam-era coming-of-age story, was named one of 1998's best works of fiction by the *Denver Post*, turned into a feature film, for which, as a producer, he won four first-place film festival awards, and was made into an internationally distributed DVD and TV movie. Scott also adapted his novel for a produced stage play and is currently working on a new novel. Class description – KEEP YOUR PLOT MOVING: Literary writing is nice on your resume, but readers also need to be interested in what happens next in your stories. Scott Lax will give tips and examples on how to keep your characters doing something, your story moving forward by showing not telling, and how to keep readers reading your fiction -- from start to finish.

Erin Nowjack's first novel "Harvey and Eck" was published by Zumaya Publications in 2005 and is a finalist for the 2006 Eppie award. She freelances for area publications and is also editor of the *Broadview Journal*. Nowjack contributed a chapter and an afterword to her brother John O'Brien's (author of "Leaving Las Vegas") posthumously published novel, "The Assault on Tony's." Class Description - CREATING CREDIBLE CHARACTERS: What makes one character fall flat and the next completely dazzling? This class will reveal the tools and techniques a writer needs to make characters into people, so real readers can't bear to leave them.

Author, promoter, and performer, **Michael Salinger** has presented his brand of creative writing instruction to teachers and students from Land O' Lakes Florida, to Homer, Alaska. Class Descriptions – FUN WITH FICTION: Salinger leads the group through writing exercises that explore story structure, imagery, and metaphor in short fiction. Be prepared to write, let loose, and have a good time. CREATIVITY THROUGH POETRY: Explore your hidden creativity through poetry. Free associations lead to structure and revision, a definite cure for writer's block and a jump-start for the imagination.

Karen Sandstrom is features editor at the *Plain Dealer*. She was previously book editor and has had a variety of writing and editing assignments at the paper. She is a graduate of the journalism school at Bowling Green State University. Class Description - ARTICLES: FROM IDEA TO PRINT: This class will provide you with ways of generating ideas and gathering information and structuring your articles.

Ted Schwarz is the author, co-author, or ghost of more than 100 books and well over 2,500 articles and short stories. He has written for radio and television, and his work has been translated into more than a half-dozen languages. His interviews with everyone from the Hillside Strangler, to the four-time Chairman of the Navajo Nation, to legends in the entertainment world, are in the Ted Schwarz Archives of Arizona State University in Tempe. Class Description – RESEARCH & INTERVIEWS FOR BOOKS AND ARTICLES: Editors pay big money for digging up facts that are interesting, provable, and not just copied from often inaccurate Internet resources. Schwarz shows how to research everything from someone's life story to true crime, history, science, religion, and other fields using both interviews and original resources.

Annette Sheldon sold her first children's book, "Big Sister Now," to Magination Press, the printing arm of the American Psychological Association. Recently retired after 19 years as a children's librarian and storyteller, she continues to write and present school programs on the subject of writing, reading, and following dreams. She and husband Harry share four children and ten grandchildren and live on a farm in Austinburg. Class Description – WRITING FOR CHILDREN: You *can* get your book published! Learn how to submit your manuscript with "outside-the-box" suggestions, which rules you can break, and which ones you can't.

Barbara Snow has been a correspondent for the Lake County *News Herald*, the *Plain Dealer*, and has written for national trade journals, annual reports, advertising pieces, and chapbooks. In addition, she prepares press releases, presentations, and speeches, including one presented at a Senate subcommittee hearing. When not writing or thinking about writing, Barbara works at Mentor Public Library and teaches at the Western Reserve School of Cooking. Class Description – GET THE LEAD OUT: WRITER'S BLOCK: Everyone talks about writing "someday," and with the help of this class, "someday" is now. Learn how to motivate yourself to write, jump past writer's block, stop self-editing before the words are even on the paper, decide keyboard vs. pencil, and hush the internal censor.

Joe Valencic has promoted personalities and institutions as varied as Tiger Woods, Bob Dole, Wimbledon, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He has produced more than a hundred TV spots, as well as two documentaries screened at international festivals. He writes and lectures on marketing, American history, and popular culture for publications and conferences in the U.S. and Europe. Class Description - ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS: This class will help you discover many additional writing outlets to earn extra income and exposure. Some of them include brochures, DVDs, newsletters, and commemorative publications, where companies and organizations seek versatile writers to persuade, explain, or entertain through their work.

Malcolm Wood started writing in college and put it aside to obtain degrees in chemistry and economics. Fifteen years ago, he wrote and published a series of economic analyses on specific industry sectors, which got him back to writing. He has finished six novels and is working on two additional novels while currently coordinating the Westside Writers fiction-critiquing group in Westlake. Class Description – WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A WRITER: This session will cover some of the rules and gritty realities of writing, with a quick review of "do's and don'ts" that can make or break your piece. The emphasis is on the craft of writing and how to avoid the common mistakes that bedevil the aspiring writer.

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One registration form per participant. Please copy form as needed.

A one-time application form is needed for new students. Please call 440-525-7116 for information.

Lakeland ID #_____ or

SS# _____
For new students

Birthdate _____ Gender M___ F___

___ American Indian or Alaskan ___ Hispanic
___ Asian or Pacific Islander ___ White, Non-Hispanic
___ Black, Non-Hispanic

Name (Last) _____

First _____

Signature _____
Required for each registration

Home Address (No. & St)

_____

City _____ ST _____

Zip _____ Phone # _____

____ Check Enclosed _____ Amount

___ VISA ___MasterCard ___ Discover

Exp. Date _____

Card No. _____

FEE: $55 (no discounts) Sec. #80769 WC

CHECK: payable to Lakeland Community College

MAIL: Lakeland Community College, Registration, 7700 Clocktower Dr, Kirtland OH 44094-5198.

TELEPHONE: Register by phone using VISA, MasterCard, or Discover. Call 440-525-7116, 440-525-7812, or toll free 1-800-589-8520.

FAX: to 440-525-7651 (Only registrations with credit card numbers or PO forms can be faxed.)

ONLINE registration **www.lakelandcc.edu**