

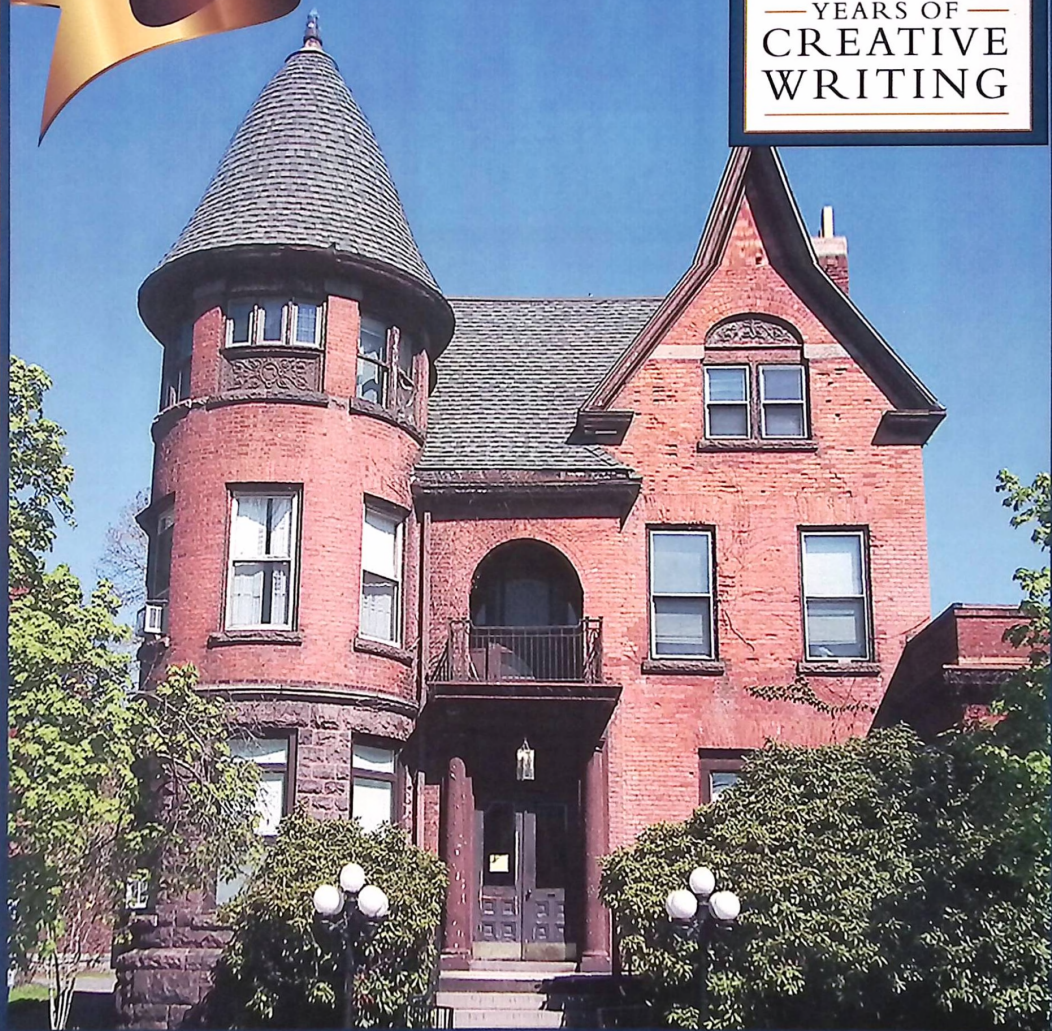


2005 - 2015

WILKES UNIVERSITY
CELEBRATES

10

— YEARS OF —
CREATIVE
WRITING



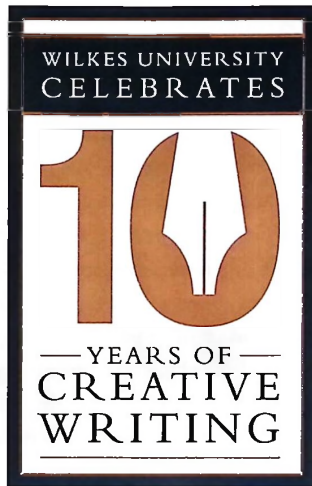


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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR
by Bonnie Culver

Ten years! A decade-long story and all of its requisite revisions to share with all of you. When Mike and I began talking about this program—only a twinkle in our eyes in 2003—we never imagined it would grow and morph into what it is today.

However, as with any draft of a “new work,” it has grown and it has morphed into its own organic self. Mike and I began with a vision, pronouncing key elements that would make this program different in all ways. Our founding faculty and board members, including Sir Norman Mailer, advised us to be practical, area/genre specific, and REAL. Throughout the years, we have asked the alums and students to tell us what worked and what didn’t. We revised further. All of that advice led to the writing-centered community we have now. Writer mentors who write, not talk about writing. Students who bring us new stories in their individual voices to tell.

And you have. Thank you. To our faculty, board members, alums and students, for shaping the program as it exists now and for the program it will be in another ten years. To the Wilkes University administration, thank you for your unwavering support and guidance over the last 12 years in allowing us to be...well...creative. I am so looking forward to this celebration and the next 10 years of this program.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS
Wilkes University's Graduate Creative Writing Program
2005-2015

Jennifer Diskin—CW office
Erin Delaney—CW office
Donora Hillard—CW office
James Warner—CW office
Sarah Traver—CW office
Amye Archer—CW office
Sarah Pugh—CW office
Anne Henry—CW office
Bernard Kovacs—CW office
Lauren Stahl—CW office
Jason Lewis—CW office
Brian Fanelli—Revise This!
Craig Czury—Poetry in the Schools Project
Lori A. May—Revise This!, South and Main
Thomas Simko—Revise This!
Corinne Nulton—Revise This!
Kelly Clisham—Staff, Revise This!
Marlon James—Provincetown Arts
Julie Steir—Athletics, assistant coach
Stephen Wignot—Graduate Education offices
Matthew Hinton—Research assistant to J. Michael Lennon, Mailer biography
Starr Troup—Etruscan Press
Marissa Phillips—Etruscan Press
Erin Miele—Etruscan Press
J.C. Alonso—Etruscan Press
Nicole DePolo—Etruscan Press
Hillary Transue—CW office/Etruscan Press
Nathan Summerlin—CW office/Etruscan Press
Justin Kassab—Kaylie Jones Books
McKenzie Cassidy—Kaylie Jones Books
Dawn Zera—Kaylie Jones Books
P. Casey Telesk—Kaylie Jones Books
Linda Minh Chau Nguyen—Kaylie Jones Books
Bill Schneider—Marketing/Communications
Rachel Strayer—Marketing/Communications

continued...

Willkes University celebrates

William Thomas—Marketing/Communications
Francisco Tutella—Marketing/Communications
Jeremiah Blue—Mesa, AZ Events Coordinator
Austin Bennett—Mesa, AZ Programs Coordinator
Debra Ellen—Mesa, AZ office
Mike Mortimer—Mesa, AZ film class instructor
Spencer Aubrey—Mesa, AZ office
Barry Wolborsky—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Sam Chiarelli—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Jessi Teevan—SenArt Film, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Shawn Hatten—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Dawn Zera—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Erin Miele—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Trilby Greene—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
James Gain—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Richard (Tony) Giamusso—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Shelby Fiske—SenArt Films, *Kids for Cash*, the movie project
Walter Lansberry—Alum, videographer

Alum editors at Etruscan Press:

Frank (Mike) Burnside, Nicole DePolo, Starr Troup, Jaclyn Fowler, Bill Schneider



PROGRAM STAFF

2003*-2006:

Dr. Bonnie Culver, Co-founder, co-director
Dr. J. Michael Lennon, Co-founder, co-director
*Program in development 2003-2005

2006-2009

Dr. Bonnie Culver, Co-founder, Director
James Warner, Office Assistant

2010-2012

Dr. Bonnie Culver, Co-founder, Director
James Warner, Assistant Director
Joyce Anzalone, Office Assistant

2012-2015

Dr. Bonnie Culver, Co-founder, Director
Dawn Leas, Associate Director
Joyce Anzalone, Office Assistant

Present

Dr. Bonnie Culver, Co-founder, Director
Bill Schneider, Interim Associate Director
Joyce Anzalone, Office Assistant



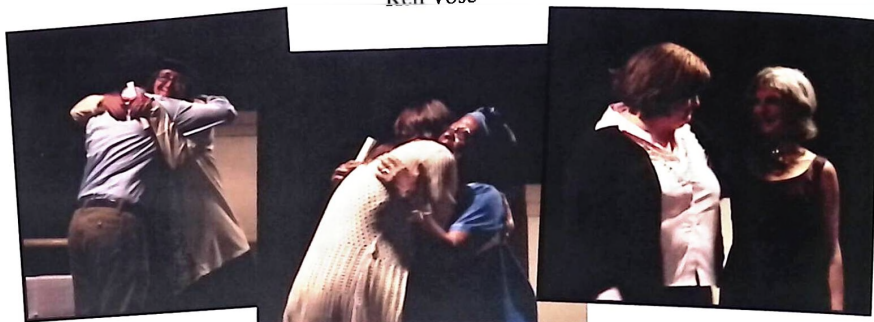
FACULTY

Founding Faculty 2003-2005

Nancy McKinley
Robert Mooney
Phil Brady
Kaylie Jones
Jan Quackenbush
Jean Klein

Christine Gelineau
Rashidah Ismaili AbuBakr
Juanita Rockwell
Michael Mailer
John Bowers
Christopher Busa

Ken Vose



Core Faculty (2005 to present)

Nancy McKinley
Robert Mooney
Sara Pritchard
Nina Solomon
David Poyer
Jeff Talarigo
Kaylie Jones
Taylor Polites
Cecilia Galante
Lori A. May
Laurie Loewenstein
Lenore Hart
J. Michael Lennon
Becky Bradway
Beverly Donofrio
John Bowers
Kevin Oderman

Christopher Busa
Phil Brady
Rashidah Ismaili AbuBakr
Tony Morris
Neil Shepard
Christine Gelineau
Robert Arthur
Jean Klein
Juanita Rockwell
Jan Quackenbush
Gregory Fletcher
Ken Vose
Ross Klavan
Michael Mailer
Richard Uhlig
Susan Cartsonis
Wendy Hammond

ADVISORY BOARD

Founding Advisory Board Members

Samuel Hazo
Beverly Hiscox
Larry Heinemann
Norman Mailer*
Colum McCann
Jack Scovil*

Advisory Board Members (2005 to present)

Susan Cartsonis
Toi Derricotte
Samuel Hazo
Larry Heinemann
William Heyen
Beverly Hiscox
H. L. Hix
William Kennedy
J. Michael Lennon
Norman Mailer*
Norris Church Mailer*
Robert May
Colum McCann
Larry Schiller
Carol Schneider
Jack Scovil*
Thomas Ward



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Jennifer Diskin Memorial

2013 Anthony Scott
2013 Andrea McGuigan

Bergman Foundation

2014 Dale Louise Mervine
2013 Linda Minh Chau Nguyen
2013 Ahrend Torrey
2013 Nathalie O'Brien
2012 Sara Scharrer

Beverly Blakeslee Hiscox

2014 Thomas Simko
2013 Joshua Horwitz
2012 Jason Carney
2011 Laura E.J. Moran
2010 Amye Barrese Archer
2009 Richard Fellingner
2008 Walter Lansberry

Norris Church Mailer

2014 Corinne Nulton
2013 Lori A. May
2012 Tyler Grimm
2012 Jason Carney
2011 Virginia Grove
2010 Morowa Yejide
2009 Taylor Polites
2008 Sharon Erby
2007 Craig Czury
2006 James Warner
2005 Marlon James

Etruscan Prize Winners

2014 Ahrend Torrey
2013 Kate Burrier
2012 J. Christopher Carney
2011 Joseph Schwartzburt
2010 Alysha Haran

COHORT DIRECTORY

John Bednarz, January-05
Brian Berkenstock, January-05
Frank (Mike) Burnside, January-05
Joyce Chmil, January-05
Erin Delaney, January-05
Jennifer Diskin, January-05
Gilbert Helmick, January-05
Donora Hillard, January-05
Marlon James, January-05
Peter Kaszyk, January-05
Leslie Kraft, January-05
William Landauer, January-05
Walter Lansberry, January-05
Dan MacArthur, January-05
Andrea McGuigan, January-05
Amy Mitchell, January-05
Aubrey Murrin, January-05
John (Nick) Pierce, January-05
John Plucenik, January-05
Patti Souder, January-05
James Warner, January-05
Susan Woerner, January-05
Stephanie Zbylicki, January-05
Krista Caponigro, June-05
Adam Carpenter, June-05
Joseph Cetta, June-05
Craig Czury, June-05
Nancy Deisroth, June-05
Nicole DePolo, June-05
Jennifer Freed, June-05
Kristen Gaydos, June-05
Gerald Gurka, June-05
Heather Harlen, June-05
Mary (MJ) Kelly, June-05
John Koloski, June-05
Brad Kurlancheck, June-05
Trudy Miller, June-05
Douglas (Reid) Mosley, June-05
James Scheers, June-05
Catherine (Cay) Templeton, June-05

Mark Will-Weber, June-05
Gretchen Yeninas, June-05
Love Beatty, January-06
Lancer Benson, January-06
Albert Difilippantonio, January-06
Aleksandra Djordjevic, January-06
Gary Frisch, January-06
Colin Gabler, January-06
Kari Gilbert Walgran, January-06
Kathleen Johnson, January-06
Lauren Kwiatkowski, January-06
Laurie Lowenstein, January-06
James Merryman, January-06
Judy Shandler, January-06
Leah Simms, January-06
Nancy Slowikowski, January-06
Cindy Taren, January-06
Sarah Traver, January-06
Stephen Wignot, January-06
Stacey Blue, June-06
Ronda Bogart, June-06
Joseph Bomba, June-06
Thomas Borthwick, June-06
Renee Butts, June-06
Lynn Carroll Hughes, June-06
Jack Chielli, June-06
Holly Christian, June-06
Wendy Cunningham Miller, June-06
William Howe, June-06
Matthew Koch, June-06
Diane Kovaleski, June-06
Dawn Leas, June-06
Mark Levy, June-06
Brandie-Lee Meng, June-06
Holly Mitchell, June-06
Kelly Morris, June-06
Chad Mullen, June-06
Luke Munski, June-06
Richard Priebe, June-06
Mary Schieb, June-06
Courtney Smith, June-06

Wilkes University celebrates



Barbara Taylor, June-06
 Kevin Voglino, June-06
 Jonathan Davies, January-07
 Jason Donnelly, January-07
 Sharon Erby, January-07
 Terry Friedman, January-07
 Kevin Haggerty, January-07
 Maureen Hooker, January-07
 Andrea Janov, January-07
 William Lowenburg, January-07
 James McCabe, January-07
 David Renshaw, January-07
 Laura Baudo (Sillerman), June-07
 Shirley Boatman, June-07
 Cory Brin, June-07
 Tara Caimi, June-07
 Andrew Clyde, June-07
 John Donoughe, June-07
 Viannah Duncan, June-07
 Angela Eckhart, June-07
 Richard Fellingner, June-07
 Kimberly Justice Fisher, June-07
 Ryan George, June-07
 Anna Gilgoff, June-07
 Joseph Giomboni, June-07
 Raenell Greene, June-07
 Matthew Hinton, June-07
 Keith Hubbard, June-07
 Debra Isaacs, June-07
 Russell Kile, June-07

Nicholas Lamb, June-07
 Carol Lavelle, June-07
 Jason Lewis, June-07
 Scott Lyons, June-07
 Valerie McGovern, June-07
 Tim McLoughlin, June-07
 Lori Mills, June-07
 Nicole Moschberger, June-07
 Lori M. Myers, June-07
 Sarah Pugh, June-07
 Jonathan Rocks, June-07
 Robert Rogers, June-07
 Beverly Schwartz, June-07
 Gretchen Shaw, June-07
 Michael Suppa, June-07
 Donna Talarico-Beerman, June-07
 Michael Workstel, June-07
 Mary Zbegner, June-07
 Scott Bove, January-08
 Chris Bullard, January-08
 Bill Coda, January-08
 Mark De Jong, January-08
 Julie Dennis, January-08
 Raphael Ezech, January-08
 Brian Fanelli, January-08
 Patricia Florio, January-08
 Guacari Gomez, January-08
 Shelly Harryman, January-08
 Shawn Hatten, January-08
 Anne Henry, January-08
 Melvin Homik, January-08
 Paul Hood, January-08
 Karen Kinley, January-08
 Sarah Koblish, January-08
 Bernard Kovacs, January-08
 Dennis Kraynak, January-08
 Monique Lewis, January-08
 Michelle Littles, January-08
 Carol MacAllister, January-08
 Joseph Nalbhone, January-08
 Taylor Polites, January-08
 Arthur Posocco, January-08
 Salvatore Rome, January-08
 Wendy Solomon, January-08

10 years of *Creative Writing*

Julia Steier, January-08
Jessi Teevan, January-08
Sally Toomey, January-08
Suzanne Bailey Herrera, June-08
Jennifer Bokal, June-08
Marc Boone, June-08
Vlynda Bryant, June-08
Bobbi Button, June-08
Lauren Carey, June-08
James Craig, June-08
Carla Dane, June-08
Geoffrey Forman, June-08
Benjamin Forsberg, June-08
Daniel Grassi, June-08
Sara Hando, June-08
Luciana Herman (Musto), June-08
Megan Kaleita, June-08
Amy Kaspriskie, June-08
Kimberly Loomis-Bennett, June-08
Todd McClimans, June-08
Kimberly Medlin, June-08
Lisa Megquier, June-08
Kacy Muir, June-08
Jacqueline Nash, June-08
Michael O'Brien, June-08
Adrienne Pender, June-08
Marissa Phillips, June-08
Christopher (Christoph) Purita (Paul), June-08
Dania Ramos, June-08
Lynn Reeder, June-08
Starr Troup, June-08
Salena Vertolomo-Fehnel, June-08
Helen Wasiakowski, June-08
Christopher Anderson, January-09
Amye Archer, January-09
Althea Bishop, January-09
Randolph Brzoska, January-09
Lauren Catron, January-09
Pamela Eyre, January-09
Jessica Foss, January-09
Wendy Garfinkle-Brown, January-09
Rachael Goetzke, January-09
Alysha Haran, January-09
Wendy Hess, January-09

Kim Jones, January-09
Ginger Marcinkowski, January-09
Gale Martin, January-09
Peter Phillips, January-09



William Prystauk, January-09
Hilary Ross, January-09
Jennifer Schulte, January-09
Julie Swartz, January-09
Joanne Thomas, January-09
Kurt Topfer, January-09
J.C. Alonso, June-09
Susan Catherine Arne, June-09
Amber Barron, June-09
George Below, June-09
Warren Eallonardo, June-09
Virginia Grove, June-09
Michelle Henriques-Wilson, June-09
Leandrea Hill, June-09
William Horn, June-09
Monique Horton, June-09
Bradley Huebner, June-09
Johanna James, June-09
Aisha Johnson, June-09
Kaitlin Keller Steiner, June-09
Ryan Klubeck, June-09
Annie Llewellyn, June-09
Brad Madden, June-09
Donna Malies, June-09
Kevin McDonough, June-09
Bridget McIntyre, June-09
Kerri Miller, June-09
Dino Perelli, June-09
Stephanie Riese, June-09

Wilkes University celebrates

Dane Rooney, June-09
Anastaysia Savage, June-09
Chad Shell-McGraw, June-09
Rachel Strayer, June-09
Angelina Teutonico, June-09
Ann Wallace, June-09
Denise Wallace, June-09
Michelle Wilson, June-09
Ben Winderman, June-09
Morowa Yejide, June-09
Leonardo Alves, January-10
Christina Aponte-Smith, January-10
Samantha Butts, January-10
Heather Davis, January-10
Cindy Dlugolecki, January-10
Shelby Fisk, January-10
Sande Gertz, January-10
Vito Gulla, January-10
Stanton Hancock, January-10
Sheree Inchaurregui, January-10
Angela Jackson, January-10
Dana Johnston, January-10
Jacqueline Kharouf, January-10
Kamron Klitgaard, January-10
Kasian Klute, January-10
Laura Moran, January-10

Cristina Negron, January-10
Tabitha Smith, January-10
Lauren Stahl, January-10
Matthew Wilkie, January-10
Rachel Alitizio, June-10
Julie Baird, June-10
Dario Beniquez, June-10
Ronald Borders, June-10
Randee Bretherick, June-10
Jason Carney, June-10
Jacob Donley, June-10
Jaclyn Fowler, June-10
Tyler Grimm, June-10
Sarah Hartman, June-10
Vicki Mayk, June-10
David McDonald, June-10
Erin Miele, June-10
Jeff Minton, June-10
Cindy Mock, June-10
Danielle Poupore, June-10
Carrie Reilly, June-10
Nathan Roggenkamp, June-10
Nathan Schreiber, June-10
Joseph Schwartzburt, June-10
Michael Shoupe, June-10
Joy Smith, June-10



10 years of *Creative Writing*

Douglas Troxell, June-10
Alina Vitali, June-10
Sabura Abdur-Rashid, January-11
Tina Blume, January-11
Chris Campion, January-11
Sandra Carroll, January-11
Jill Cassidy, January-11
Sam Chiarelli, January-11
Kevin Conner, January-11
Catherine Donges, January-11
Trilby Greene, January-11
Erica Hagood, January-11
Justin Kassab, January-11
James Melan, January-11
Dana Miller, January-11
Laurie Powers, January-11
Anthony Scott, January-11
Tim Smith, January-11
Rachel Wiren, January-11
Justine Yeager, January-11
Dawn Zera, January-11
Lorenzo Boone, June-11
Kaitlyn Burrier, June-11
Laura Duda, June-11
Demetrius Dudley, June-11
Michael Guichard, June-11
Deborah Kabwang-Makuma, June-11
Gabriel Lamberti, June-11
Heather Lowery, June-11
Lori A. May, June-11
Lois McAffrey-Lopez, June-11
Candi Murphy, June-11
Travis W. Nicholson, June-11
Joshua Penzone, June-11
Elizabeth C. Roe, June-11
Michael Soloway, June-11
Ashley B. Supinski, June-11
Heather Taylor, June-11
Pauline Threlkeld, June-11
Edith Adjoke Trenou-Dackey, June-11
Robert Antinozzi, January-12
Jasmine Bolen, January-12
Dwann Cutler, January-12
Josh Horwitz, January-12
Linda Minh Chau Nguyen, January-12
Bill Schneider, January-12
Nisha Sharma, January-12
Alyssa Waugh, January-12
Frances Williams, January-12
Robert Akrong, June-12
Michael Avishai, June-12
Maxwell N. Bauman, June-12
Cheryl Bazzoui, June-12
David Brubaker, June-12
McKenzie Taylor Cassidy, June-12
Dana Chase-Herber, June-12
Danielle Dunmire, June-12
Donna Ferrara, June-12
Charnette Hollander, June-12
Paul Jackson, June-12
April Line, June-12
Siobhan Lyons, June-12
Margaret McCaffrey, June-12
Kirsten Rector, June-12
Naiad Reich, June-12
Ashley Roman, June-12
Andrea Ruiz, June-12
Sara Scharrer, June-12
Autumn Stapleton-Laskey, June-12
Patrick Telesk, June-12
Carol Warren, June-12
Barry Wolborsky, June-12
Renee Allen, January-13
Austin Bennett, January-13
Draper Brown, January-13
Christopher Casino, January-13
Jessica Catron, January-13
Kelly Clisham, January-13
Elisabeth Costanzo, January-13
Caryn Devincenti, January-13
Reagan Dye, January-13
Sean Egan, January-13
Debra Ellen, January-13
James Gain, January-13
Tiffany Hadley, January-13
Nicole Kanney, January-13
Sabina Keough, January-13
Nina Long, January-13

Wilkes University celebrates

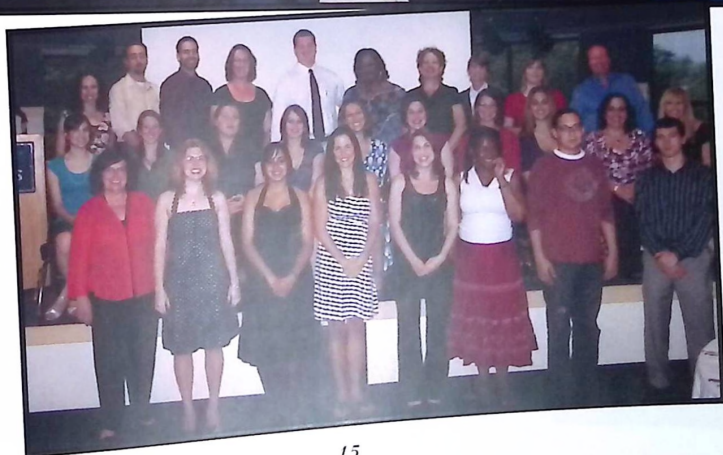
Matthew Mimnaugh, January-13
Rachel Nicholson, January-13
Jonathan Pierce, January-13
Michael Richey, January-13
Joseph Stager, January-13
Nathan Summerlin, January-13
Leah Vernon, January-13
Ezzel Thomas, June-13
Megan Haikes, June-13
Cholia Johnson, June-13
Kimberly Kenna, June-13
Shivawn Mitchell, June-13
Aaron Craig Newman, June-13
Nathalie O'Brien, June-13
Sabrina Rongstad, June-13
Thomas Simko, June-13
Patti Taylor, June-13
Ahrend Torrey, June-13
Francisco Tutella, June-13
Debra Zucco, June-13
Molly Barrari, January-14
Joanne Biles, January-14
Gabrielle D'Amico, January-14
Tomas Evans, January-14
Richard (Tony) Giamusso, January-14
Jennifer Judge, January-14
Matthew Mark, January-14
Michael Nixon, January-14
Corinne Nulton, January-14
Suzanne Ohlmann, January-14

David Orehotsky, January-14
Robert Holly, January-14
Vanessa Taylor, January-14
Cameron Thrall, January-14
Hillary Transue, January-14
Ann von Mehren, January-14
John Winston, January-14
Bertrand Boyd, June-14
Michelle Byrnes, June-14
Patrick Charsky, June-14
Brianna Eller, June-14
Lorie Flatley, June-14
Sandra Ludwig, June-14
Dale Louise Mervine, June-14
Martha Rallison, June-14
Caleb Sizemore, June-14
William Thomas, June-14
Joseph Bryan, January-15
Wendy Decker, January-15
Kayleigh Demace, January-15
Wendy Hewitt, January-15
Jennifer Jenkins, January-15
M. Anthony Kapolka, January-15
Selcen Fatma Phelps, January-15
Kristin Vath, January-15
Emily Wolfel, January-15



10 years of Creative Writing

COHORT PHOTOS



Wilkes University celebrates



10 years of Creative Writing





10 years of Creative Writing



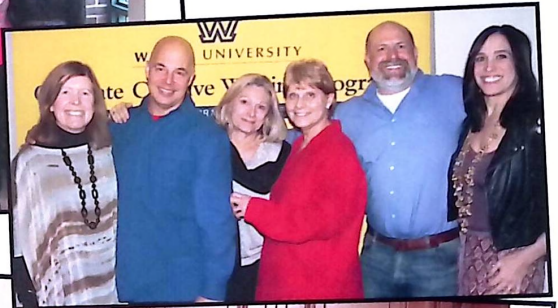
Wilkes University celebrates



10 years of *Creative Writing*



Wilkes University celebrates



LITERARY PARTNERS



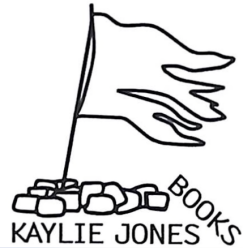
etruscan press



The
Norman Mailer
Society



THE JAMES JONES
FIRST NOVEL
FELLOWSHIP
AND LITERARY SOCIETY



MMF
MICHAEL MAILER FILMS



SenArt Films



STOREFRONT
FILM GROUP

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM Creating the Wilkes MA/MFA Program: The Story Arc

by J. Michael Lennon

One fine day about eleven years ago, Bonnie Culver had an idea. She and I were colleagues in the Wilkes English department, and were happy to be back in the classroom after long stints in administration, she as a dean and me as a vice president. We had weathered more than a few academic scrums together, and also talked about books and writers in idle moments. I don't recall what the weather was or what we were wearing or the quality of light coming through the windows. We were probably sitting in her small cozy office, part of the former servants quarters on the second floor of Kirby Hall—so much for the setting. I do remember the dialogue, and the energetic ebullition and certainty on the protagonist's face.

"Let's create a graduate creative writing program," Bonnie said with a daring gleam in her eye. I nearly choked. "And let's do it online." I'm something of a Luddite, and at the time was just barely managing to use email. I cranked up my Gatling gun of objections and concerns. First problem: the need for face-to-face contact in teaching. She replied, "We'll have two week-long residencies a year," she replied, adding that we should schedule them in June and January when there were few other classes scheduled. This would allow the graduate students to stay in the Wilkes dorms in June, thus holding down costs. The remainder of the program would be delivered on-line, faculty mentors exchanging ideas with students, and sending back their manuscripts with comments, queries and encouragement.

My next worry was the availability of reliable technology—this was in the early years of online education, and some of the available technology platforms were unreliable or unsuitable. Ever-ready, she responded: "We'll make inquiries, go to conferences, and consult with the Wilkes computer faculty and staff."

We did all these things, and learned that it was not impossible to deliver a graduate creative writing program via the Internet—but it would not (and has not) been simple. At that time, 2004, there were very few creative writing programs in operation that resembled the one we wanted to create; we would be pioneers.

Recruiting students was the next hurdle. Bonnie had an answer at the ready: "We'll do a kick-off writing conference, and you can get Norman Mailer to speak. He will draw an audience of aspiring writers." I was Mailer's archivist and editor, and knew how crowded his schedule was. He turned down invitations to many more speaking events than he accepted. But Wilkes had given him an honorary degree a few years earlier, and there was a Norman Mailer Room in the Farley Library with signed copies of all of his books and lot of memorabilia, including his Pulitzer Prize citation and his medal from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He had a warm spot for Wilkes, and immediately agreed to be the keynote speaker at the conference. He came, and so did hundreds of others; the conference proved to be the perfect launching pad for the new program. Later Mailer

served as the first chair of the Program Advisory Committee.

Convincing the university's administration, and the Wilkes (faculty) curriculum committee, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Middle States Commission of Higher Education to approve the program was another demanding task. We knew that we would face a long series of complicated questions of the sort raised about proposed programs: academic soundness, academic need and financial viability, among others. "If we can't do it, no one can," Bonnie replied. For the previous five years we had both been deeply engaged in establishing and reviewing programs, and foresaw the many meetings we would attend, the documents we would write, and the testimonials we would give. It would be a long slog, but we felt confident that the program would pass muster. It did.

Perhaps the most critical challenge that we faced was the need for gifted faculty members who had published and/or produced writers in five areas—fiction, nonfiction, plays, poetry and screenplays. On this, I was optimistic, and Bonnie said, "It'll be a day at the beach; we both know loads of accomplished writers." I sighed, and soon after, folded my tents, and agreed to follow her lead. We went to work. I think Nancy McKinley, our former English department colleague, was the first writer we contacted. Then Bonnie called her writing friends and I called mine, and soon we were in discussions with a score of writers from around the country. Most of the original faculty members are still teaching.

Everyone knows the rest of the story arc—a successful writer's conference with Mailer as keynote speaker; program approval by the Wilkes faculty and administration, and the State of Pennsylvania and the Middle States Commission; courses written; technology platform designed and made operational; a cadre of talented faculty hired; program launched in 2005. The Wilkes MA/MFA Creating Writing Program came from the fertile mind of Bonnie Culver just as Athena, goddess of wisdom, emerged fully armed from the forehead of Zeus. Salud!



In Memoriam

Norman Mailer

Norris Church Mailer

Jack Scovil

Jennifer Diskin

Peter Kaszyk

Amy Mitchell

James Merryman

Diane Kovalski

Dennis (George) Kraynak

Michael Workstel

Marc Boone



SPECIAL THANKS

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Commemorative Book Design: L. Elizabeth Powers



July 9, 2015

Dear Academic Partners,

On behalf of the entire Wilkes University Graduate Creative Writing community, thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to make our program the success it has become during the last decade.

The June Creative Writing residency was a week filled with celebration of alumni, faculty, staff, and students. Special programs included a gala event on June 20 that featured a silent auction to raise funds for a new Creative Writing faculty scholarship program, and the dedication of 245 S. River Street, official named Dr. Harold Cox Hall.

Attached is a copy of the Commemorative Book, which was distributed at the June 20 gala event. Thank you for your continuing commitment to our program.

Dr. Bonnie Culver, Co-Founder
Program Director

Bill Schneider
Interim Associate Director

Joyce Anzalone
Office Assistant

