

SMU CAPE Creative Writing

At SMU, writers write.



SMU™

CONTINUING AND
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Agenda

- Introduce ourselves
- Brag on our students & program
- Invite you to join
- Highlight dates
- Answer your questions
- Help you plan

Who we are

- a noncredit creative writing program built and guided by published authors
- the only program in the country that takes students to NY to speak with editors/agents who have read their work
- a community of writers who share the ups and downs of writing and publishing

What we offer

- distinct pathways to publishing in narrative nonfiction, children's books and novels
- intensive classes for improving writing skills
- a spectrum of writing styles and venues for all writing levels, from the novice through the professional

How are we different?

- Many places, especially MFA programs, can teach you the craft of writing.
- SMU CAPE CWP is the only program in the country that teaches you the tools, guides and supports you as you write, and offers you the opportunity to go to NY and hear what agents and editors say about your specific work.
- We put you inside the publishing world.

Teaching Philosophy

- It's all about STORY

From the most engrossing novel to a best-selling song; from feature film to the most memorable TV ad; from riveting nonfiction to the best joke: it's all about story.

- It's all about STORYTELLING

Professional, published storytellers share their methods, their passion, their ideology, to create another generation of professional, published storytellers.

Who teaches

- *Cindy Dees* Author of 20+ books; double-nominee 2008 RITA Awards
- *Suzanne Frank* author of the Chloe and Cheftu chronicles; author of the Dallas O'Connor fashion mystery series
- *Carmen Goldthwaite* Contributor: Wild West, The New York Times, Texas Magazine
- *Dan Hale* SMU CWP alum; New York Seminar alum; Agatha winner and nominee; past EVP of Mystery Writers of America

Who teaches

- *Rex McGee* Screenwriter, protégé of Billy Wilder; Adapting PURE COUNTRY, The Musical, on Broadway, 2010
- *Andrew Mortazavi* M.A.; M.F.A.; Pushcart Prize nominee
- *Misa Ramirez* Author, *Living the Vida Lola*
- *Kay Winzenried* Contributor: Zagat, Fodor's, American Way; New York Seminar alum; New York Seminar Coordinator

Who Teaches

- *Anastasia Suen* – author of 100+ books; Children’s publishing consultant; Children’s literature blogger and teacher
- *Paula LaRoque* – journalist, lecturer, writing coach and author of *The Book on Writing*
- *Ona Seaney* – SMU Faculty lecturer and author

New York Seminar

- Since 1996, SMU CAPE CWP has taken small groups to NYC to meet with editors and agents.
- In 15 years, ten SMU CAPE CWP students have been published – these are some of them.
 - Dan Hale
 - Suzanne Frank
 - Kathleen Rodgers
 - Harry Hunsicker
 - Shilpi Gowda
 - Carolyn Rose Hunt
 - Don Goldman

Tracks to New York

- *new* Children's Track
- Narrative Nonfiction Track
- Novel Track

Track Programs for New York

Narrative Non Fiction

Fiction

Children's (F/NF)

CWI

CWI

CWI

I

I

I

II

II

II



CHAPTERS, REVISION,
POLISH



Fiction Track

- Creative Writing Introduction
- Novel: The Story
- Novel: The Plot
- All Tracks: Chapters
- All Tracks: Revision
- All Tracks: Polish

Narrative Nonfiction Track

- Creative Writing Introduction
- Narrative Nonfiction I: Idea and Elements
- Narrative Nonfiction II: Organize and Implement
- All Tracks: Chapters
- All Tracks: Revision
- All Tracks: Polish

THE
CHILDREN'S
TRACK!

CREATIVE WRITING

INTRODUCTION

CHILDREN'S I -- FORMATS

CHILDREN'S II -- GENRES

CHAPTERS

REVISION

POLISH

*Manuscript Tracks
to New York*

Manuscript Evaluation

Private Tutorial

Seminar Alum

Manuscript Evaluation Track

- An SMU CAPE Creative Writing Program instructor will review *completed or nearly completed manuscripts*, write notes of strengths and weaknesses, make suggestions for improvements, and advise on publication potential. The instructor will share these notes during a private two-hour conference.
- All Tracks: Polish

Private Tutorial Track

- For the writer who has a **manuscript near completion**, but is unable to attend class.
- An experienced author and instructor provides revision guidance and suggestions.
- Six intense, hands-on sessions to convey the content of the SMU CAPE CWP coursework.

New York Seminar AlumTrack

- for alums of the SMU CAPE CWP New York Seminar
- requires a completed and approved entirely **NEW** manuscript
- requires completion of the submission and selection processes
- *Past acceptance is no guarantee of future acceptance!*

Selection Process

- Completion of one Track
- Completed manuscript
- Application submitted by deadline
- Selection committee

2007 Seminar Highlights

- At the 2007 seminar, one SMU writer was offered representation on the spot.
- Two others entertained three offers shortly thereafter.
- 3 (students) + 4 offers = '07
- First student to be published from 2007 seminar: Shilpi Somaya Gowda, Spring 2010.

2007 Seminar Highlights

- 2007 saw the largest pool of applicants (25) and participants (13) to date
- From this richness came immense praise from the editors and agents involved: “thoughtful,” “prepared,” “mature,” “a pleasure.”
- Comments from participants were similarly positive: “life-changing, “superbly organized,” “worthwhile.”

Next Steps

- Creative Writing Introduction begins October 26 or 27, 2009
- Foundation courses offered again in Winter and Spring
- Writer's Salon with NY '09 panel, January 2010
- *Coming July 2010* – Taos, N.M. July 14-18
- New York 2011, November 16 -19

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