

2013 HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS' WORKSHOP * UW STEVENS POINT

INSTRUCTIONS

Examine the **FIVE** writing categories described in the following pages and prepare your entries. Fill out the entry form on the last page of this flyer or provide the requested information on a separate sheet of paper. Ask your instructor to submit your entries with those of others in your class and send them to: UWSP Writers' Workshop, English Department, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (Or you may send them individually)

ENTRIES NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT BY Friday, OCTOBER 11, 2013! Entries must be typed, double-spaced on numbered pages, and include the author's name and school in the upper right-hand corner of each page. You may single space poetry submissions. Students are advised to keep a copy of each entry in case of loss. NOTE: Specify whether you are a junior or senior AND indicate the genre category for each entry you submit.

Entries in each category will be judged by the faculty member who leads the workshop at UWSP. Approximately twelve to twenty writers of the best submissions in each genre will be invited to attend one or more workshops, and certificates and scholarships will be awarded at the end of the event.

➔ If your students are invited to this year's Writers' Workshop, **you will hear from us by Friday, November 15, 2012.**

THE DAY OF THE WORKSHOP

Sessions will be held in both the morning and afternoon. Students honored in more than one genre will have the opportunity to work with two experts. Lunch for invited students is provided at the Dreyfus University Center. The day will end with an awards ceremony for the presentation of certificates and a \$1,000 scholarship to UWSP in each genre.

After lunch, nature writer and high school teacher Jill Sisson Quinn will be reading from her work. Her essays have appeared in *Fourth Genre*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Bellingham Review*, *Quarter After Eight*, *Ecotone*, *The Good Men Project*, and *American Nature Writing 2003*. Quinn won the Annie Dillard Award in Creative Nonfiction in 2003 and her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

WORKSHOP FOUNDER AND ADVISOR

ISABELLE STELMAHOSKE, Professor Emeritus of English, specializes in modern drama, dramatic literature, and leading summer abroad theatre programs in London.

WORKSHOP DIRECTOR

Patricia Gott is a native of Superior, WI, and she teaches writing, gender studies, and modern British literature at UWSP. She also writes and publishes a bit of poetry and the occasional familiar essay. She is excited to once again be leading the charge for the up-and-coming young writers of Wisconsin. One of her most recent poems, "What the real poem about Superior would say," was published in *Aqueous Magazine* in June 2012.



1. THE FAMILIAR ESSAY

The familiar essay has a long history, including such famous names as Montaigne, Charles Lamb, Virginia Woolf, and, in our own time, E. B. White, James Thurber, and Anna Quindlen. The subject of the familiar essay is anything under the sun that interests and amuses the essayist, but it must also interest the reader.

Writing personally, the familiar essayist must write about what other people think, feel, and experience: the difficulties of growing up, the pain and joy of first love, the sorrow of loss, and the delight of discovery.

Never definitive, always personal, this type of writing should be light, informal and conversational. Submissions may range from 500 to 1200 words.

After receiving both her bachelor's and master's degrees from UWSP, **Rebecca Lorenz-Schumacher** has been teaching freshman English at the university for ten years. She enjoys helping students discover their potential to become good writers and great thinkers.

Ingrid Nordstrom is an alumna of UWSP's English Department and has been a graduate student and instructor in English for the past two years at UW-Milwaukee. She was a writing tutor at UWSP and in the summer has taught fiction writing to high school students.

2. THE FORMAL ESSAY: Environmental Issues

Write to persuade your readers to take better care of the environment, to alert the public to the dangers of pollution, atmospheric problems with ozone, acid rain, global warming, and tropical deforestation, or to analyze another important environmental subject. Give your essay a global focus and take it seriously, realizing, as former UWSP Professor of Resource Management Lowell Klessig puts it, "This community we live in is in fact the whole planet."

Submit essays of any length beyond a minimum of five hundred words. Select your one or two best essays. They may be research essays, carefully documented, or essays that rely primarily on your analysis and reasoning. For examples, you might examine the work of such writers as Aldo Leopold, Lewis Thomas, Sissela Bok, or Annie Dillard. Be sure to support all of your assertions.

Larry Morgan is an associate professor of English at UWSP. He received his doctorate, emphasizing Professional Writing, from the University of New Mexico. For more than twenty years before beginning work on his Ph.D., he was a professional journalist. The majority of his journalism career was in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he was a sports writer and outdoor columnist.



ACTIVITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY

At lunch

Barbara Dixson, Professor of English and head of the Teacher Education program in English at UWSP, will lead a discussion about best practices and writing assignments for high school teachers. Other UWSP English faculty will be on hand as well for casual conversation and to answer questions about the department.

➤ We will provide a lunch for teachers. To reserve a lunch and/or to take part in the discussion, please notify Kelly Thompson (whose address, phone number, and email are on the entry blank) so that we can provide enough seating and lunches for everyone who wishes to come! If you are invited to the workshop and wish to have a lunch, please let Kelly know by **Thursday, November 14.**

In the afternoon

David Roloff will lead a discussion/workshop for faculty.

David is an Instructor of English at UW-Stevens Point and teaches Methods of Teaching Composition for future 9-12 English educators and Methods of Teaching Reading and Composition for future 6-8 English teachers; he taught high school English for nine years in Two Rivers, WI before returning to UWSP.

David will solicit suggestions from those teachers who will have students attending and that they should look for that e-mail after student submissions have been made.



Shakespeare

Open Mic Opportunity

UWSP student writers will read from their fiction, poetry, and non-fiction pieces. These students will also be available for discussion and to answer questions about writing and what it's like to be a UWSP student and writer. An open reading will follow, during which you are encouraged to read from your work. Please bring your own fiction, poetry, and familiar essays!

ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

While not involved in other activities, we invite you to...

*Sit in on a workshop on rhythm and sound run by retired high school teacher and WI poet Joan Wiese Johannes.

*Talk to Michael Williams, English Department Chair, who will be available much of the day in 486 Collins Classroom Center for informal discussion. Parents are welcome too.

*Read your own work alongside that of UWSP English majors at the Open Mic.

*Take a campus tour.

3. THE SHORT STORY

Students who wish to participate in the Short Story Workshop may submit one story of up to twenty-five pages on any subject but should avoid contrived plots, false happy endings, sentimentality, and formula writing. Instead, try to write stories that attempt to deal honestly

and clearly with the problems and pleasures of being human. It would be better to look for your stories in your own experiences or the experiences of people you know than to look to television, movies, or books.

Jeff Snowbarger was featured in *Tin House* as their New Voice in Fiction, and *Best American Short Stories 2010* declared his story “Bitter Fruit” one of the year’s notable publications. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop where he received the Truman Capote Fellowship and served as a distinguished Post-Grad Teaching Fellow. He currently teaches creative writing at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

4. SPECULATIVE FICTION

Speculative Fiction is a burgeoning field that includes such sub-genres as science fiction, fantasy, horror, supernatural fiction, superhero fiction, utopian and dystopian fiction, apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction and alternate histories. Students who wish to participate in the Speculative Fiction Workshop may submit one story of up to twenty-five pages on any subject but should avoid contrived plots, false happy endings, sentimentality, and formula writing.

In this session of the workshop, students will identify some of the elements that make a successful speculative fiction story.

Elizabeth Caulfield Felt teaches Children’s Literature at UWSP. In 2010, she published the children’s novel, *The Stolen Goldin Violin*, a mystery that takes place on the campus of UWSP. Her adult historical novel, *Syncopation: a Memoir of Adele Hugo*, was published in April 2012.

5. POETRY

Each writer should submit at least four and no more than seven **original** poems. Submit clean, legible copies of manuscripts. In selecting participants, we look for poems that are well-crafted and exciting—poems that show a strong use of imagery and concrete detail, precise diction, a sense of the rhythms of language, and the ability to create striking metaphors. Form and theme should interact.

Patricia R., aka “Pat,” Dyjak is a poet and Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She earned her Ph.D. in English and an M.A. in Women’s Studies from the University at Albany. She has an M.F.A. in Creative Writing – Poetry from Western Michigan University. Her poetry is driven both by the music of language and by ideas. Pat’s work has appeared in national poetry journals, including *Verse Wisconsin* and *Diner*. Pat’s chapbook *Symphony for the Cutters* was released in 2012.

We reserve the right to cancel a session if we do not receive enough student entries to run it.

THANK YOU!

The following university offices and agencies provide financial support, which makes the Writers' Workshop possible.

The College of Letters and Sciences....Charles Cirno, Dean
The English Department.....Michael Williams, Chair
The UWSP Foundation



Alcott

2013 UWSP Writers' Workshop ENTRY FORM

Name (please print)

Year in School

Name of School

Address of School

Category of Entry

Name AND EMAIL of Sponsoring Teacher

Fill out this entry blank (or a copy of it) or write down the information that the entry blank requests on a separate sheet of paper; attach this information to your submission.

Please submit all writing through the U.S. mail. Do not email submissions.

Submissions must be received by the English Department no later than Friday, October 12, 2013.

*Kelly Thompson
UWSP Writers' Workshop
English Department
UW-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481*

- We do not send submissions back, so please keep copies of what you send us.
- **Any questions? Feel free to e-mail or phone Pat Gott at pgott@uwsp.edu (715-346-4347) or Kelly Thompson kthomps@uwsp.edu (715-346-4758).**