**Fairfield MFA Winter 2013 Schedule**

**The following schedule is tentative, and may be changed without notice based on the needs of the program.**

**Unless otherwise noted, all meals are served promptly at the following times.**

**Breakfast: 7:30-8:15**

**Lunch: 12:00-1:00**

**Dinner: 5:30-6:30**

**To assist the staff in serving you the correct meal, if you have special dietary requirements, please place your dietary preference card in front of you each mealtime. Cards with your name and dietary preference will be kept in the main dining room.**

**NOTE CHANGE IN STUDENT PARTICIPATION FOR SEMINARS!**

**Students must attend at least 5 seminars and complete an evaluation form for each: at least 4 must be faculty seminars; 1 may be a graduating student seminars. You are, of course, encouraged to attend as many as you’d like. (NOTE: Attending graduate seminars is purely optional, though as a courtesy to your colleagues you are encouraged to attend as many as you can.)**

**\*\*\* Also, beginning with the Winter 2012/13 cohort, all students in their first or second residency are required to take ONE workshop out of their primary genre. Notify the director what that second workshop will be. Students already enrolled are strongly encouraged to take a workshop in a second genre.**

**Check separate schedule for graduating student presentation descriptions.**

**\*\*\*Please bring all schedules, required readings, emailed reading attachments and all workshop samples with you to Enders Island\*\*\***

**FIRST HALF OF THE RESIDENCY**

**Friday, December 27, 2013**

**Afternoon**

**1-3:00: Arrival and check-in for all student students at Enders**

**2:00: Faculty arrive**

**3:00: Mandatory First Half Faculty Meeting: Joanies – Enders House**

**4:30-5:30: Welcome reception at Enders House**

**5:30-6:30: Dinner**

**7:00: Director Announcements: Introduction of returning faculty**

**Readings:**

**Kim Kupperman**

**Karen Osborn**

**Saturday, December 28, 2013**

**Morning**

**7:30-8:15: Breakfast**

**9:30-12:00: Workshops**

**First-half faculty:**

**Fiction**

**Karen Osborn – Master Class in Novel**

**Da Chen**

**Rachel Basch**

**Al Davis**

**Baron Wormser**

**Non-Fiction**

**Kim Kupperman**

**Spiritual Writing**

**Carol Ann Davis and Eugenia Kim**

**Screenwriting**

**Bill Patrick**

**Afternoon**

**12-1:00: Lunch**

**1-2:00: 3rd semester project discussion with Michael– St. Michael’s B**

**SEMINAR - 2:00-3:30**

1. **The Ninth Letter: Developing a Persona in First-Person Narration**

**Kim Dana Kupperman – St. Michael’s A**

In this seminar, we will examine the elements of craft involved in fashioning the persona, that sometimes shapeshifting and often hard-to-identify quality in distinguished first-person narratives, from essays and memoirs to short stories and novels to persona poems and dramatic literature. Through close readings and in-class exercises, participants will explore the permutations of the *I*—including confessor, memorialist,  conversationalist, witness, and many others—that distinguish the first-person singular as a complex persona with authorial voice.

**Required reading:** *Housekeeping,* Marilynne Robinson; *By Grand Central Station, I Sat Down and Wept,*by Elizabeth Smart; individual readings as provided by the instructor (I will email these)

**2. Memorable Characters**

**Karen Osborn** – **St. Michael’s B**

What makes a character have the power to resonate long after a book is finished? Memorable characters often emerge slowly, over the course of a novel, short story, or piece of narrative nonfiction. They gain power as the narrative gains momentum. We’ll identify the different methods used to create memorable characters and examine the use of deepening characterization in Willa Cather’s novella, *My Mortal Enemy* and Paul Metcalf’s essay about Christopher Columbus, titled “…and nobody objected.”  Bring a character of your own with you to develop.

**Required reading:**

*My Mortal Enemy*, by Willa Cather (Vintage Classics, paperback $13.00).

Paul Metcalf’s essay, “…and nobody objected.” Sent to all as a pdf.

Bring a copy of the Cather novella with you to the workshop. Print a copy of Metcalf’s essay (provided as a pdf) to bring as well. Be prepared to discuss characterization methods in both works.

**5:30-6:30: Dinner**

**7:00: Readings:**

**Carol Ann Davis**

**Al Davis**

**Sunday, December 29, 2013**

**ALUMNI DAY**

**Morning**

**7:30-8:15: Breakfast**

**9:30-12:00: Workshops**

**Afternoon**

**12-1:00: Lunch**

**1:00: 4TH Semester thesis discussion and nomination of a student and faculty representative to read addresses - Summer ’14 graduation – Michael and Elizabeth – St. Michael’s B**

**SEMINARS - 2:00-3:30**

1. **Rifling the Editor’s Desk: Developing an Editor’s Objectivity**

**Carol Ann Davis - St. Michael’ A**

One of the primary skills a professional writer develops is that of being able to see his or her work with an objective eye; Flannery O’Connor tells us the writer must see with “a stranger’s eye and a stranger’s severity.” There can be no severer eye than that of an editor. This seminar aims to assist students in the development of an editor’s discernment and objectivity. We will also tease out insights about how the process of submitting work can improve the work we do and when to use (or not use!) your editor’s eye.

Too often this type conversation is distilled down to “what editors want” or “how to get published.” I will use my decade-long experience editing *Crazyhorse* as well as my experience as judge for a national book contest to lead us in a discussion that will assist us in seeing the ways in which editors arrive at the criteria by which they choose work. Bring several pieces of your own writing that you feel are nearly ready or ready for submission to literary magazines (we will not *read* these but will discuss them), and your questions about the submission process. And come ready to delve into a slush pile to see what it’s like on the other side of the desk.

**2. Sentences Must Speak To Each Other**

**Baron Wormser- St. Michael’s B**

As Robert Frost put it, "Sentences must speak to each other." This seminar will look at some poems by Frost and passages from essays by Ralph Waldo Emerson and consider some of the different ways that sentences speak to each other. We will be looking at, among other things, different sorts of sentences, gaps/connections between sentences, drama, logic/intuition, and momentum. Also under consideration will be the lineage of American sentences and the relations of two classic American writers, Emerson and Frost.

**Required reading:**

Ralph Waldo Emerson: “The Transcendentalist,” “The Method of Nature,” “Self-Reliance”

Robert Frost: “After Apple-Picking,” “The Thatch,” “Birches”

**Recommended reading:**

*First We Read, Then We Write: Emerson on the Creative Process* by Robert D. Richardson

**Suggested reading:**

*The Notebooks of Robert Frost*, edited by Robert Faggen

**4-5:00: Alumni Panel - St. Michael’s B**

**Oh! Those Rejections. Submit. Submit. Submit**

**5:30-6:30 Dinner**

**7:00: Readings:**

**Jennifer Militello – guest poet**

**Rachel Basch**

**Michael White**

**Monday, December 30, 2013**

**Morning**

**7:30-8:15 Breakfast**

**8:15-9:15: Graduating Student Presentations:**

**1. St. Michael’s A: Joseph Reynolds: Faculty Evaluator: Al Davis**

**2. St. Michael’s B: Lynne Heinzmann: Faculty Evaluator: Karen Osborn**

**3. St. Michael’s C: Katie Eber: Faculty Evaluator: Baron Wormser**

**9:30-12:00: Workshops**

**Afternoon**

**12-1:00: Lunch**

**1-2:00: Blackboard as Resourse - MFA archives – Colin Hosten – St Michael’s B**

**Mandatory for new, 2nd and 3rd semester students**

**SEMINARS – 2– 3:30**

**1. Writing Book Reviews**

**Alan Davis – St. Michael’s A**

This seminar is a practicum for writers in all genres who want to publish book reviews. Al Davis has written and published more than 500 book reviews in the past 25 years as a way to keep abreast of contemporary literature, to put his wife through college, to promote books that deserve attention, and to build up his personal library. We will consider the dos and don’ts of book reviewing, the diverse audiences for book reviews, the short versus the longer review, and the publications—local, regional, and national—that assign book reviews. Bring a one-page book review of *Olive Kittredge* (our common text this residency) to the seminar to share, and be prepared to write the introductory paragraph of a review about one or two of your favorite books. Feel free to bring any book review that you’ve written or published to share.

**Required reading:**

*Olive Kittredge* (Elizabeth Strout), the *New York Times Book* Review of that novel (<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/20/books/review/Thomas-t.html> ), the *Publishers’ Weekly* review of Alan Davis’s *Rumors from the Lost World* (<http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-89823-142-7>), Dorothy Allison’s review in *The New York Times Book Review* of that same book (<http://web.mnstate.edu/davis/elvisis.htm> ) and my review of *The Turkey War* by Douglas Unger in *The New York Times Books Review* (<http://www.nytimes.com/1988/11/20/books/all-part-of-the-war-effort.html> ).

**2. Don’t Hate Me Because I’m Your Third Semester Project**

Eugenia Kim **- St. Michael’s B**

Groans, whines, excuses, fears—few embrace the prospect of this MFA requirement, and many beg to cut it short, put it off, or find a way out of writing 30 pages. We will discuss the intent of the third semester project in your development as a writer, the broad possibilities in how it can be executed, research requirements, and the surprising outcomes that graduates have attested to because of this work, including publication. In small groups and with fun exercises, we will examine the common text, *Olive Kitteridge*, to identify subjects you are passionate about. We will explore how this passion can be translated into a viable and exciting third semester project, and discuss how it may become the lifelong foundation for your own work and your conviction about why it matters.

**Required reading and assignment:**

*Olive Kitteridge,* Elizabeth Strout—find and mark at least one passage (a page or so, a

few paragraphs or several sentences) that felt significant to you. You may mark any

number of such passages in the book.

**Required list:**

Bring a list of what you’ve read thus far in the program, which books you wrote craft

essays on, and what books remain to be read.

**4-5:00: Graduating Student Readings**

**Katie Eber, Lynne Heinzmann, Joseph Reynolds – St. Michael’s B**

**5:30–6:30: Dinner**

**7:00: Keynote Address: Kim Dana Kupperman**

**8:30: Student Readings: St. Michael’s B**

**Tuesday, December 31, 2013**

**Morning**

**7:30-8:15: Breakfast**

**9:30-12:00: Workshops**

**Afternoon**

**12:-1:00: Lunch**

**1-2:00: St. Michael’s B**

**2-4:00: First Half Mentor Interviews**

**Baron Wormser – Poetry, Fiction and Non-Fiction**

**Carol Ann Davis – Poetry, Journal Internship**

**Rachel Basch - Fiction**

**Karen Osborn - Fiction**

**Al Davis – Fiction, Publishing Internship**

**Kim Kupperman – Non-Fiction, Publishing Internship**

**SEMINAR 4:00-5:15**

**From Idea to Published Book**

**Michael White – St. Michael’s B**

We regularly like to offer a seminar about one faculty member taking an idea for a book all the way to publication. For this seminar I’m going to discuss how my novel *Soul Catcher* went from an “idea on a mountain top in Colorado” to a published book. I will discuss the research and the methods I used to write and revise the book, including major changes in the first and last chapters.

Required reading:

*Soul Catcher*, Michael White

**5:30-6:30: Dinner**

**7:00: Student Readings\*\*\*\* St. Michael’s B**

**\*\*\*\*Student readings are a required part of the residency for all**

**9:00: NEW YEARS EVE PARTY – Enders House – The Chicago Robbery (same band as last year)**

**12:00: Midnight Mass for those who would like to attend**

**SECOND HALF OF THE RESIDENCY**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2014**

**!!SLEEP IN MORNING!!**

**Buffet Breakfast : 9 am**

**Faculty Switchover - Second Half Faculty**

**Fiction**

**Hollis Seamon (YA)**

**Eugenia Kim**

**Da Chen**

**Peter Nichols**

**Howard Norman**

**Poetry**

**Baron Wormser**

**Non-Fiction**

**Bill Patrick**

**Generative Poetry**

**Carol Ann Davis**

**Publishing and Editing**

**Sonya Huber**

**Noon: Buffet Lunch – Second Half faculty orientation meeting**

**2:00-4:30: Second half workshops**

**5:30: Dinner**

**7:00: Introduction of new and returning faculty – Michael White**

**Readings:**

**Hollis Seamon**

**Howard Norman**

**Thursday, January 2, 2014**

**Morning**

**7:30-8:15: Breakfast**

**8:15-9:15: Graduate Student Presentations:**

**1. St. Michael’s A: David Legere: Faculty Evaluator: Eugenia Kim**

**2. St. Michael’s B: Abbey Cleland: Faculty Evaluator: Michael White**

**3. St. Michael’s C: Nicholas Miele: Faculty Evaluator: Carol Ann Davis**

**9:30-12:00: Workshops**

**Afternoon**

**12-1:00: Lunch**

**1-2:00: Chapel – Graduating Students walk-through**

**SEMINARS - 2:00-3:30**

**1. Agent Panel – Folio Literary Management - St. Michael’s B**

**3:30 – Agent Interview appointments (selected students) – Enders House**

**4-5:00: Graduate Student Readings**

**Abbey Cleland, David Legere, Nicholas Miele: St. Michael’s B**

**5:30-6:30: Dinner**

**7:00: Readings:**

**Peter Nichols**

**Baron Wormser**

**8:30: Student Talent Nite! – St. Michael’s B**

**Friday, January 3, 2014**

**GRADUATION DAY**

**Morning**

**7:30-8:15: Breakfast**

**8:15-9:15: Graduate Student Presentations:**

**1. St. Michael’s A: Devon Bohm: Faculty Evaluator: Carol Ann Davis**

**2. St. Michael’s B: Hayley Battaglia: Faculty Evaluator: Da Chen**

**3. St. Michael’s C: Kent Madden: Faculty Evaluator: Bill Patrick**

**4. Father Joe’s Place: Allison Kirk: Faculty Evaluator: Hollis Seamon**

**9:30-12:00: Workshops**

**Afternoon**

**12-1:00: Lunch**

**1-3:00: Second half mentor interviews**

**Hollis Seamon – Fiction**

**Howard Norman – Fiction, Non-fiction**

**Peter Nichols – Fiction, Non-fiction**

**Da Chen – Fiction and Non-Fiction**

**Bill Patrick—Poetry, Non-Fiction, Screenwriting, Publishing Internship**

**Eugenia Kim, Fiction, Non-Fiction**

**3:30-4:30: Graduate Student Readings**

1. **St. Michael’s A: Hayley Battaglia and Kent Madden**
2. **St. Michael’s B: Allison Kirk and Devon Bohm**

**5:00: Mentor Preference Form Due to Elizabeth before dinner**

**5:30-6:30: Dinner**

**7:00: Graduation Ceremony: Ender’s Chapel**

**Introduction: Michael White**

**Student Address: Abbey Cleland**

**Faculty Address: Carol Ann Davis**

**Processional: Baron Wormser**

**8:00: Graduation Reception: Enders House**

**Saturday, January 4, 2014**

**Morning**

# **7:30-8:15: Breakfast**

**9:30-12:00: Workshops**

**Afternoon**

**12-1:00: Lunch: Student lunch together for election of Student Rep – 1 in each genre**

**1:00: Mentor Selection Posted – St. Michael’s C**

**1-2:00: Meet With Mentors**

**2:00-3:30: Community Book Read - St. Michael’s B**

**Required Reading for everyone: *Olive Kitteridge* - Elizabeth Strout**

Break-Out discussions

**3:30-4:30: Meet with mentors**

**4:30: Farewell Reception – Enders House**

**5:30-6:30: Dinner**

**DRAFT OF SEMESTER PLAN AND ALL EVALUATION FORMS—SEMINARS, FACULTY, WORKSHOPS AND RESIDENCY—MUST BE RETURNED IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED – MAIL BOX IN LOBBY OF ENDERS HOUSE – BY END OF DAY SATURDAY**

**Sunday, January 5, 2014**

**Morning**

**7:45-8:30: Breakfast, meet with mentors if you haven’t yet done so.**

**EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE LEFT ENDERS BY 11 AM**

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