

cherry tree

Young Writers' Conference @ Washington College



Washington College has made a name for itself as a school for writers. Home to the Sophie Kerr Prize—the largest undergraduate writing award in the country—the College is a place where aspiring writers can study with prize-winning authors to hone their craft.

At the **Cherry Tree Young Writers' Conference**, high school students take intensive creative writing workshops in their choice of genre (poetry, fiction, or journalism), discuss literature at the college level with English department faculty, attend professional readings, craft talks, and writing panels hosted by the Rose O'Neill Literary House, and take a workshop on how to write an effective college admissions essay.

In addition to building their skills and identity as writers, conference participants will experience the thriving literary community at Washington College, and discover the many opportunities available to undergraduates here: internships and grants in publishing, writing, and editing; a host of student-run publications; and the chance to serve as editorial screeners on *Cherry Tree*, Washington College's national literary journal.

Built-in writing time between events ensures that students leave the conference feeling inspired and accomplished.

Program Fee: \$795

includes:

4-Day Creative Writing workshop

**College Admissions Essay
workshop**

Room & Board

...and much more!

Washington
WASHINGTON COLLEGE

July 16 – 19, 2024



FEES AND DEADLINES

Program Fee: \$795

Includes 4-Day Creative Writing workshop, College Admissions Essay workshop, Room & Board, a copy of *Cherry Tree* 2024, a hand-printed letterpress broadside, and much more!

Full scholarships available!

Registration Deadline: June 25

For registration forms and further information, please visit our conference website

www.washcoll.edu/ywc

or contact our Conference Coordinator, Amber Taliancich: aallen5@washcoll.edu, (410) 778-7899

SAMPLE DAY SCHEDULE

- 8:00-8:40 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:50-9 a.m. Announcements
- 9-9:50 a.m. Individual Writing Time
- 10-10:50 a.m. Literature Discussion
- 11-11:50 a.m. Letterpress Printing Demo
- Noon-1:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30-3:15 p.m. Creative Writing Workshops
- 3:30-4:20 p.m. Intern & Staff Open Mic
- 4:30-5:00 p.m. Craft Talk
- 5-6:45 p.m. Dinner
- 7-8:15 p.m. Faculty Reading and Q&A
- 8:30-10 p.m. Literary Trivia Contest!

WORKSHOP FACULTY

JASON FAGONE (he/him) will lead the Journalism Workshop. Prof. Fagone is currently the narrative writer at the *San Francisco Chronicle*. His stories have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Wired*, *GQ*, and *Grantland*. His most recent book, *The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies*, was named one of NPR's best books of 2017 and became a PBS documentary. His article "Jerry and Marge Go Large" was turned into a movie of the same name, starring Bryan Cranston and Annette Bening. In 2014-15, he was a Knight-Wallace Fellow in journalism at the University of Michigan.

JANINE JOSEPH (she/her) will lead the Poetry Workshop. Prof. Joseph is a formerly undocumented poet and librettist from the Philippines. She is the author of *Decade of the Brain* (Alice James Books, 2023) and *Driving without a License* (2016), winner of the Kundiman Poetry Prize. She is also co-editor of *Undocupoetics: An Introduction*, an anthology of poetry and poetics forthcoming from HarperCollins/Harper Perennial. She is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Virginia Tech.

SUSAN MUADDI DARRAJ (she/her) will lead a Fiction Workshop. Prof. Muaddi Darraj is an award-winning writer of books for adults and children. Darraj's short story collection, *A Curious Land: Stories from Home*, was awarded the AWP Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction as well as a 2016 American Book Award. For children, she has written numerous YA biographies, as well as the *Farah Rocks* chapter book series, the first to feature an Arab American protagonist. She was also head writer of the Spotify Original podcast, *Arabian Nights*, for young listeners. Her new novel, *Behind You is the Sea*, was published in January 2024 by HarperVia. In 2018, she was named a USA Artists Ford Fellow. Susan lives in Baltimore, Maryland, and teaches English and creative writing at Harford Community College and the Johns Hopkins University.

RAUL PALMA (he/him) will lead a Fiction Workshop. Prof. Palma is the author of *A Haunting in Hialeah Gardens* (Dutton, 2024), and *In This World of Ultraviolet Light* (Indiana University Press). He is a member of the fiction faculty at Ithaca College, and the Associate Dean of Faculty and New Initiatives in Ithaca College's School of Humanities and Sciences. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska, with a specialization in ethnic studies. His stories and essays have appeared in prestigious literary magazines, and were included in *Best Small Fictions 2018*. Palma is Cuban American. He lived in Miami for 25 years and has also lived in Key West, Chicago, and Lincoln, NE. Currently, he resides in Ithaca, NY with his wife and daughter.

CONFERENCE STAFF

Director

ROY KESEY (he/him) is the author of two novels, two short story collections, and a historical guidebook. He is also the translator of two books by Pola Oloixarac. He has won an NEA grant for fiction and a PEN/Heim grant for translation. His work has appeared in over a hundred magazines and anthologies, including *Best American Short Stories*. Kelsey is the Associate Director of the Rose O'Neill Literary House at Washington College, where he serves as associate editor for *Cherry Tree*.

Assistant Director

JAMES ALLEN HALL (he/they) is the author of two books of poetry. *Now You're the Enemy* won awards from several organizations including the Lambda Literary Foundation. *Romantic Comedy* won the 2020 Levis Prize, and was published in March 2023 by Four Way Books. They are also the author of a book of lyric personal essays called *I Liked You Better Before I Knew You So Well*. They are an Associate Professor of English at Washington College and Director of the Rose O'Neill Literary House.

Conference Coordinator

AMBER TALIANCICH (she/her) is from the Mississippi Gulf Coast and earned her MFA from the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts in Cleveland, Ohio. She's the winner of the Leonard Trawick Prize for fiction, as well as a two-time recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Teaching Excellence. Her essays and short stories have appeared in *Ninth Letter*, *Entropy*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and elsewhere. Currently, Amber is the managing editor of *Cherry Tree* and Assistant Director of the Rose O'Neill Literary House.

Center Coordinator

LINDA HAMRICK (any pronouns) holds an MA in English from Virginia Commonwealth University. As an academic, she specializes in contemporary Sci-Fi and is interested in the posthumanities and the medical humanities. She has been published in *Synopsis: A Health Humanities Journal* and *AI & Society*, and was a Graduate Fellow for the VCU Humanities Research Center's Health Humanities Lab. She hopes to continue exploring the dehumanized labor of care work in artificial intelligence.

