



The State University of New York at Fredonia
Writers@Work: Alumni Writers-in-Residence Series

Founded: November 2015

Mission:

Writers @ Work is an alumni writers-in-residence series featuring both well-established and emerging alumni writers, editors, and publishers who represent a range of careers and professional sectors. The series connects Fredonia's alumni with current and prospective students, faculty, and community members to emphasize the significance of writing to professional success and to highlight the diverse ways writing--and the humanities--makes a difference in the world.

About:

Writers @ Work brings Fredonia alumni with a variety of educational backgrounds, careers, and accomplishments back to campus for a series of events centered on the power and importance of professional writing. Over a two- or three-day period, writers-in-residence give a public talk, lead workshops, critique students' writing, participate in Q&A forums, visit classes, and meet students for meals or "office hours" to provide more personalized advice. Whenever possible, residencies are timed to open houses so that prospective students can learn from alumni what it is possible to do with a degree from SUNY Fredonia.

Goals:

The series sets for itself the following goals:

- to broaden students' awareness of the transdisciplinary value of writing to professional success;
- to showcase the myriad ways writing and the humanities make a difference in the world;
- to engage alumni and to foster connections between alumni and current and prospective students;
- to support students' career readiness and career awareness, potentially creating pathways for applied-learning experiences; and
- to celebrate alumni's achievements and to empower them to tell our campus's story through their experiences.

Sponsors:

The series sponsors include the Convocation Committee, Faculty Student Association, Fredonia Alumni Association, Fredonia College Foundation's Carnahan Jackson Humanities Fund, Department of History, and the Mary Louise White Fund.

Partners:

This program is made possible by a partnership between the departments of Business, Communication, English, History, and Theater and Dance, as well as the offices of Admissions, Alumni Affairs, and Career Development.

Featured Writers to Date

Spring 2016

Randy Cronk (BA, English, '72)

Founder of Greatwriting.com (a technology- and innovation-marketing small business)

Sean Kirst (BA, English, '81)

public speaker, author, award-winning journalist with *The Post-Standard* in Syracuse, NY

Fall 2016

Phil Zimmer (BA, History, '69)

Former Director of Communications for Chautauqua Institution; (in retirement) volunteer, Robert H. Jackson Center and freelance history writer for national distributed specialty magazines

Gina Browning (BA, English, '88)

Director of Public Relations at SPCA Serving Erie County

Spring 2017

Mark Anthony Neal (BA, English, '87; MA, English, '93)

Professor of African + African-American Studies and Professor of English at Duke University;
Author, activist, and NPR commentator

Four Years Out (Young Alumni)

Keah Brown (BA, Journalism, '13)

Senior Entertainment Writer, Clichemag.com; freelance writer, *ESPNW*, *Teen Vogue*, *Lenny Letter*

Kelley Lord (BA, Broadcast Journalism, '13)

Video Producer, *Gen whY* (web series) and Writer, *Elite Daily*

Christina Stock (BA, English, '13)

Marketing Manager, Metro Roberts Realty; independent writer and social-media manager

Fall 2017

Jim Ranney (BA, Communication, '88)

Director of Communications for State Senator Patrick M. Gallivan (59th Senate District)

Wendy Corsi Staub (BA, English, '86) with Lucia Macro, HarperCollins Executive Editor

New York Times—bestselling author of more than ninety novels

Spring 2018

Sarah T. Schwab (BA, English, '07; MA, English, '09) with Brian Long, film and theater producer

Playwright, filmmaker, and member of the Playwrights/Directors Unit at Actors Studio in NYC

Four Years Out (Young Alumni)

Sylvana Dussan (BA, International Studies, '14)

Social media coordinator, National Governors Association (Washington, D.C.)

Courtney Gfroerer (BA, Journalism; BFA, Visual Arts and New Media, '14)

Communication Specialist for Elderwood nursing home group

Erin Dorozynski (BS, Business Administration, '14)

MDP Coordinator, GEICO

Patrick Kennedy (BA, Political Science, '14)

Communications Director for Monica Wallace, the assemblywoman for the 143rd district (Lancaster/Cheektowaga)

Significant Achievements

SUNY Career Development Organization (SUNYCDO) Award for Excellence in Employer/Faculty/Community Engagement, June 2017

“Transdisciplinary Collaborations: Innovative and Applied Career Development”

Presented by Dr. Cedric Howard (Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services), Tracy Collingwood (Director of Engagement and Career Development), and Dr. Natalie Gerber (Professor, Department of English), at the Annual NASPA Convention, March 2018

Annual Budget

The annual budget, which is less than \$10,000, consists of competitive on-campus grants from sponsors, as well as targeted funding and significant in-kind support from partners. Alumni writers donate their time and expertise.

Writers@Work
Overview of Events, Spring 2016-Spring 2018

| Dates | Alumni Writers | Professional-Writing Genres | Number and Type of Events | Attendance (by semester) |
|--------------------|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 2/3–2/5/16 | Randy Cronk | Technical and Business Writing | 1 group meal; 3 workshops; 2 public talks; 1 reception; 4 class visits | |
| 4/6– 4/7/16 | Sean Kirst | Journalism | 3 group meals; 1 workshop; 2 public talks; 5 class visits | |
| Spring 2016 | | | Total Attendance | 313 |
| 10/10/16 | Gina Browning | Public Relations | 2 group meals; 1 workshop; 1 public talk | |
| 11/3–11/5/16 | Phil Zimmer | History Writing; Museum Work | 2 group meals; 1 workshop; 2 public talks; 1 reception; 2 class visits | |
| Fall 2016 | | | Total Attendance | 183 |
| 2/19–2/20/17 | Dr. Mark Anthony Neal | Activism, Political Writing; Social Media | 4 group meals; 3 workshops; 1 public talk | |
| 4/7–4/8/17 | Keah Brown; Kelley Lord; Christina Stock | Video Production; Social Media; Entertainment Writing | 1 group meal; 1 workshop; 1 public talk; 4 class visits | |
| Spring 2017 | | | Total Attendance | 435 |
| 10/12–10/14/17 | Jim Ranney | Journalism; Political Writing | 2 group meals; 1 workshop; 1 public talk; 2 class visits | |
| 11/9–11/13/17 | Wendy Corsi Staub; Lucia Macro | Fiction Writing; Fiction Editing | 3 group meals; 1 workshop; 2 sets of open office hours; 1 public talk; 1 master class | |
| Fall 2017 | | | Total Attendance | 314 |
| 3/22–3/24/18 | Sarah T. Schwab; Brian Long | Film and Drama Writing, Directing, and Producing | 2 group meals; 2 public talks; 1 workshop; 4 class visits | - |
| 4/5–4/7/18 | Erin Dorozynski; Sylvana Dussan; Courtney Gfroefer; Patrick Kennedy | Social Media; Business Writing; Marketing; Political Writing | (in progress) | - |

Total Attendance as of 02/20/2018: 1,245