Creative Writing Program | Instructor Bios 2018

Mary L. Barnard participated in two programs: Transform Your Life: Write Your Way to the Top Leading Others in Writing for Health at Duke Integrative Medicine. Dr. John F. De Jong, Dean of Medicine, and Professor of Electronics and Computer Science at the University of Michigan. She has been a member of the faculty at the University of Wisconsin. Go Badgers! Her passions are poetry, knitting, Nia Dance and sports. She loves taking writing classes and has published many poems locally. Three poetry mixes call her house home.

Michele Tracy Berger is a professor, creative writer, creativity coach, and a pupilager. Her short fiction and creative non-fiction has been published, or is forthcoming, in Glim, Thing, Flying South, Oracle Fine Arts Review, Carolina Woman, Trivia: Voices of Feminism, Min., The Feminist Wire, Western North Carolina Woman, and others. Michele was a "My View" regular columnist for The Chapel Hill News from 2012-2014. Her award-winning blog, The Practice of Creativity, was featured in Southern Writers Magazine. In 2017, her science fiction novella will be published by Book Smugglers Publishing. She currently sits on the board of the North Carolina Writer’s Network. Michele is a writer who has been undone by the sight of pups and has to restrain herself from collecting any item they appear on. She lives in Pittsboro with her partner Tim.

Samantha Bryant is a middle-school Spanish teacher by day, and a reader and novelist by night. That makes her a superhuman all the time. Her secret superpower is finding lost things. She writes The Monosynaptic Suspension, a mystery, and another forthcoming speculative fiction novel. Her novels are available on Amazon or by subscription at your favorite bookstore.

Tom Dow, a native of Washington DC, returned to the USA in 2000 after 16 years in Japan teaching English and studying. He received his MFA in writing from Vermont College in 2005. A collection of his poems, ocean in the Gorge, was published in 1995 by Saru Press/Printed Matter Press, Tokyo. He was profiled in USA Today in 2004, Tar River Poetry, Southern Poetry Review, Pearl, sundae, Evergreen Review, G & G Review, G & G Review, Cape Fear Poetry Festival book chapter, At the Old Place (forthcoming; anthologies) et al. He won the North Carolina Poetry Society McDill Award for The Japanese Times, The Plaza, Printed Matter, Kritto no Me, Yokosuna, honorable mention ANA fiction contest, (France) Prisma. He is a translator of the poetry of several lauded poets, and of various contemporary French poets. Dow is currently working on a memoir of life in Japan and teaches Poetry at Central Carolina Community College.

Ralph Earle teaches poetry at Central Carolina Community College and does computer services consulting work. His collection, The Big Guy, He Makes Sure, won the 2013 Sable Books Chapbook Award. His poems have appeared in The Sun, The Cream City Review, Rust & Muscle, One, Carolina Quarterly, Tar River Poetry, Story South and elsewhere. He has two sons, born 2015. Ralph has earned a PhD in English degrees and has been a teacher for two years and has been teaching for 19 of the past 40 years.

Grace MacNair is a poet and teacher living in Pittsboro. She received the 2016 Christopher Bowlby Hill and an MFA from Hunter College, where she also taught creative writing for two years. She earned all her students to think about poetry as a site of play and discovery. She currently runs a poetry group at ArtCenter in Carrboro, supports teaching poetry at UNC Chapel Hill, and leads writing workshops for a membership program at Southern High School in Durham. In addition to teaching, she loves gardening and playing violin. Her poetry has been published most recently in The Threepenny Review.

Karen Pulley’s mystery novels, Cold Feet (2013) and Cold Heart (2017), is a Florida Five Star Cangero, and her story collection, Restless Dreams, was released by Bed vhilt’s last month. She has an MFA in Popular Fiction from Stonehill at the University of Southern Maine. She now lives in Pittsboro and teaches in the creative writing program at CCC.

Dolly R. Stiles worked for over fifteen years at the Raleigh News & Observer, graphic artist, photographer, PR and marketing guru, grantwriter, social advocate, and supervisor. She has a BFA with Magna-Hill, Nortel Networks, Theatre In The Park, WRAL.com, and the Alliance for Women in Media - Carolina. Her work as a freelance writer and photographer has appeared in Slate, and the News, The Raleigh D, and a handful of industry publications. She is an instructor at both Central Carolina Community College and N.C. State in their creative writing programs. She writes contemporary romance and romantic suspense as Beekee Moore, and children’s literature as Dolly, Dooey, and Dotty for USA Today’s Happy Ever After. Her family lives in Pittsboro.

Judith Phillips Stastin is an acclaimed scholar, writer and poet. Her 2004 book, The Collected Letters of Charlotte South, was foundational in restoring the reputation of eighteenth-century poet and novelist as the first romantic poet. This book not only estabished a flourishing of scholarship around Smith’s contributions, but also sparked interest in highlighting the work of nineteenth-century women writers. Stastin compiled and edited the project over twenty-six years while she was a professor of English and independent scholar. After earning her B.A. from Randolph- Mcm姗 College and her doctorate at Carolina, she taught composition and literature courses in the Department of English at the University of Wisconsin-Gale Clare and Clemson University. She was a leader in establishing programs in gender studies at both universities. Now a teacher of creative writing, she also has published several historical romances, a contemporary romance and her first novel and her first collection of poetry.

Ron D. Voigts, originally from the Midwest, now living in North Carolina since 1996, he is author of mystery novels with a dark flare. He has authored eight books, including four in a detective series for young adult readers. His latest mysteries, The Witch’s Daughter and The Fortune Teller’s Secret, lean toward the supernatural. Ideas for his stories come from the rural areas where he has lived, places he has visited, his love of the paranormal, and an overactive imagination. When not plunking out a note at the keyboard, he spends his time sharpening his culinary skills, watching gritty movies and eating cookies with chocolate chips.

When she’s not mulling at the antics of the cats on her ankles on her apt, true, she is either making raspberry jam or writing. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee and multiple finalist for the Doris Bets Fiction Prize sponsored by the N.C. Writer’s Network. Her short fiction, "Baggage," was named a finalist in the James Jones First Novel Fellowship Competition and was published by Ingrams Publishing Group in 2011.

Her poetry and prose have appeared in The Thomas Wolfe Review, Wildlife in North Carolina, The Southern Fugitive, Flash Fiction, and most recently in The Gyroscope Review, The Hardtack Times, and in The Collection: Flash Fiction for Flash Memory. She loves helping other writers find their voice and believes that writers can make the world a better place, one story at a time.

Joan Gremmeyer is native of Santa Barbara, CA. Joe earned his MFA in Creative Writing degree from UNCG, where he served as Associate Poetry Director. Joan’s second poetry collection, Joy was named a finalist in the 2017 James Applewhite Poetry Prize sponsored by the North Carolina Literary Review. He has eight books available on Amazon: two poetry collections, two short story collections, a travel guide called The Love Wave, and Myrrh, a writer’s guide. He writes grants for non-profits and universities, and edits business books on strategic planning, digital marketing, cloud computing and artificial intelligence. He lives in Durham, North Carolina.

When you’ve finished penning your work, you’ll have the opportunity to share your creative writing in several open mics during the week.

For more information, please visit www.cccc.edu/creative-writing.