

Write With Us

Faculty, Current & Recent

Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Louella Bryant
Carolyn Crimi
Louise Hawes
Joyce McDonald
Candice Ransom
Luke Wallin

Recent Visiting Writers

Sneed B. Collard III
Lisa Rowe Fraustino
Jack Gantos
Daniel Handler (Lemony Snicket)
Heather Henson
Paul Brett Johnson
Alexandria LaFaye
George Ella Lyon
Donna Jo Napoli
Naomi Shihab Nye
Scott Russell Sanders
Lola M. Schaefer
Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen
Nancy Willard

MFA Staff

Sena Jeter Naslund, Program Director
author of *Ahab's Wife*, *Four Spirits*, and
Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette
Karen J. Mann, Administrative Director
Kathleen Driskell, Assoc. Program Director
Katy Yocom, Program Associate
Gayle Hanratty, Administrative Assistant

Scholarships and Assistantships Available

WHAT OUR GRADUATES SAY

Most low-residency MFA programs separate Writing for Children from the other genres, and I really appreciate the fact that at Spalding, Writing for Children is a respected peer alongside fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, playwriting, and screenwriting.

—Stephanie Stuve Bodeen, Wisconsin,
author of *The Compound* (Feiwel and Friend),
nominated 2009 Best Books for Young Adults

I feel so lucky to have found the Spalding MFA Program. The leadership, faculty, residencies, and schedule make it so conducive to living as a writer and student.

—Lydia Griffin, Colorado,
Prunes and Rupe (Filter Press)

From my first contact with the MFA office, the Spalding faculty and students have encouraged, guided, and nurtured my writer's soul.

—Joan Donaldson, Michigan,
The Secret of the Red Shoes (Ideals)

The Spalding program offers genuine enthusiasm and generosity of faculty, continuing opportunities for alumni and life-long friendships with fellow students who share the literary heart.

—Edith M. Hemingway, Maryland,
Drums of War (Scholastic),
Road to Tater Hill (Forthcoming, Delacorte)

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For faculty biographies in all genres,
residency dates, and enrollment information
see www.spalding.edu/mfa

brief-residency

IDEALLY SUITED TO THE WRITING LIFE

- ▶ study with a great community of writers
- ▶ write in your own home

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

*Where Every
Individual Talent
Is Nurtured*



Spalding University
Louisville, Kentucky

www.spalding.edu/mfa

MFA PROGRAM

The Spalding University brief-residency Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Children and Young Adults is a unique post-baccalaureate graduate degree program for students wishing to write for an audience of a particular age. The curriculum also offers students the opportunity to focus on the specific craft of writing in any one (or two) of the areas of writing plays, fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and screenplays.

To insure that students in the Spalding MFA learn to engage their young audiences with work of literary merit, our students choose those focal areas from a variety of possibilities during the second or third semesters.

OVERVIEW

Semester 1 focuses on the intended audience in terms of basic creative writing considerations: subject, structure, and style.

Semesters 2 and 3 involve workshops and mentoring focusing on technique in the genre(s) of the student's choice: playwriting, fiction, poetry, screenwriting, or creative nonfiction.

Semester 4 and the fifth residency culminate in combining audience awareness and technical expertise.

Students in Writing for Children and Young Adults may also choose to enroll in the optional ENG650: Enrichment Semester and/or ENG660: Teaching Practicum in Creative Writing.

At Spalding, in the Writing for Children and Young Adults area, students individualize their studies. For example, students who wish to write . . .

- children's plays or adapt original work or work by others for children's theater may opt for a semester in Playwriting
- middle-grade, young adult, or crossover novels may opt for a semester in Fiction
- picture books or novels-in-verse may opt for a semester in Poetry
- historical nonfiction or science books may opt for a semester in Creative Nonfiction
- screenplays for children and young adults or adapt original work or work by others for film may opt for a semester in Screenwriting

Each semester features both group instruction at the residency and extensive personalized mentoring during the at-home portion of the semester by a faculty of prize-winning, publishing writers who are also experienced teachers.

At the beginning of each semester, students and faculty work together for ten days in an intensive invigorating residency in Louisville or at a location abroad, after which they return home to correspond, one-on-one, with a faculty mentor in individualized study for the rest of the term.

The Spalding MFA semesters also include cross-genre workshops, interrelatedness of the arts through attendance at cultural events, low student-faculty ratios, and editing/publishing components.

Application deadlines are February 1 for spring and summer semesters and July 1 for fall semester.

CHOOSING AMONG FALL, SPRING, AND SUMMER SEMESTERS

Students may enter the program in any of our three semesters: fall, spring, or summer. Fall and spring semesters begin with a residency at Spalding in Louisville; summer semesters commence in a variety of locations abroad. Students may choose from any of the semesters for a total of four, plus a fifth residency for graduation, to complete the MFA degree.

The same amount of writing is expected every semester; the tuition is the same for every semester. What varies is the pace at which the writing at home occurs and the location of the residency.

Students should choose a combination of spring/fall study if they wish to complete the program in two years; prefer residency in Louisville, a culturally rich, easily accessible American city; and choose to spend 25 hours a week on their studies.

Students should choose summer study if they wish to add an international element to their creative writing studies, can participate in a residency more easily in summer than in spring or fall, prefer a longer semester with a less intensive writing schedule at home (15 hours a week), would like to spread tuition costs over a longer period of time, and want to complete the program in about four years.

Students who mix the summer and spring/fall semesters can finish the program in about three years.

Intended summer residency destinations include

Barcelona, 2009

Buenos Aires, 2010 • Northern Italy, 2011

Paris, 2012 • Dublin, 2013