



Issue 7

July 22, 2008

# The Quill

## From the Editor

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3. Contest Opportunity
4. Membership Update
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### Winning High School Poetry

As announced in the June *Quill*, we're taking a peek at the winners in the poetry category of the SCWW high school writing contests.

Here's the first-place winning poem, by

## Conference Updates

### Conference Alerts!

**Registration:** Registration is still at nearly double last year's pace! As of July 15, we have more than 160 registered attendees from 22 states and Canada. If one of the things you look forward to at the conference is reconnecting with old friends, never fear: 55 percent of current registrations are existing members. We're thrilled to welcome old friends and new ones alike.

**Critiques:** Two of our literary agents have one spot left each on their critique schedules as of this morning. Several others, as well as several editors and authors are filling up fast. We still have extended critiques available, as well as standard length, but remember, we don't have an unlimited supply.

**Saturday Evening:** As most of you know, the Carrie McCray Literary Awards winners will be announced on Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m.

Taylor Davidson.

*The Reason*

Your skin is the riverbank  
that muddies the swimming  
hole where you taught me to  
float, fingers pressing the small  
of my back as I relaxed my  
trust to you and the water.

Your winter freckles are the grains  
of homemade corn muffins, and  
your hands, monkey-like, callused  
like tree bark, scrambling to the highest  
branches as I follow. Your eyes  
were the only part that didn't belong-

the glassy blue of late summer  
afternoons. All the rest of you  
was mud, trees, corn, but not  
your eyes: the reason you are gone.

And the second-place winning poem, by  
Wei-Huan Chen.

*Rough Draft*

A pool between my ears holds playful  
babies.

The babies splash in rapid circles, fresh  
ones drowning while others wrinkle with  
maturity and sink into time. Dark ones  
bathe and spread their dirt in the pool.

To calm the waters, I rest a net between  
my ears and plunge deep into the pool.

Some babies are too deep, but I gather  
what I can and fling the flopping yield  
down onto my canvas, a litter of flesh  
that makes me feel the pain of final cries.

Oh it's so messy, dark baby smeared with  
baby, but its silence redeems its ugliness.

Before organizing the blots of baby  
on canvas, I savor the stillness between  
my ears. My brain's emptiness and nirvana  
are soon gone with the ripple of a newborn.

The pool between my ears holds playful  
babies.

Because this is during a meal session, and we want to make sure everyone who enters the contest is in the room, we will open the session to attendees who purchased the Basic Package at 8:20 p.m. Seating will be available, and volunteers at the doors will let those coming in know where to go so that everyone can get settled before the awards begin.

**Membership Meeting:** The annual membership meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., in the East Ballroom. This is after the close of the conference, and all SCWW members are encouraged to attend. You don't have to attend the conference to attend the annual meeting! If you are coming to the conference, please have some lunch and stick around.

**Book Signing:** If you'd like a spot to autograph your own books at the conference, please remember to e-mail [booksigning2008@myscww.org](mailto:booksigning2008@myscww.org). Lateia Sandifer, a conference volunteer, will confirm receipt of your request. If you have sent a request, but not received a confirmation from Lateia, please resend your request. Please note that there is no "s" between "booksigning" and "2008" in the e-mail address.

**Credit Cards at the Conference: Correction to what we published in the brochure:** We will be able to accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover at the conference for auction items and other conference purchases.

**Meet More of the Faculty!**

Spotlight on Authors: Please join us in October to meet...



Darnell Arnoult  
Photograph by Lou Carter  
Sufficient Grace, Free Press

**Darnell Arnoult** is the author of the novel *Sufficient Grace*, a SIBA Novel of the Year nominee and Weatherford Award nominee, published both in hardcover (2006) and trade paperback (2007) by Free Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, and now an unabridged audio book from Recorded Books. *What Travels With Us: Poems*, published by LSU Press (2005), is the winner the 2005 Weatherford Award in Fiction and Poetry and 2006 SIBA Poetry Book of the Year.

Her work has appeared in journals including *Southern Cultures*, *Southwest Review*, and *Asheville Poetry Review*. She holds a BA in

And now, a peek at the judges:

**Idella Bodie** recently completed her twenty-fifth book for young readers and intermediates. *Rachel's Story* is historical fiction which covers a time when Rachel's family, along with others, traveled in covered wagons from Pennsylvania down the Great Wagon Road to "stake a claim" and settle in the Carolinas. Other books written by Idella include *The Secret of Telfair Inn*, *The Ghost in the Capitol*, *Mystery of the Pirate's Treasure*, *Trouble at Star Fort*, *Stranded!*, *The Mystery of Edisto Island*, *Whopper*, *South Carolina Women*, *Carolina Girl*, *Sacred Vision* and biographies of the American Revolution. The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution honored her for this series.

South Aiken High School has a writing award in her honor. Her Alma Mater, Columbia College, presented her with the Wil Lou Gray Outstanding Educator Award, and Toastmasters, the International Communication Award. South Carolina Library gave her a lifetime membership for the preservation of South Carolina's literary heritage. Her works appear in *Highlights*, *Cricket* and *Guideposts*.

**Gene Fehler's** latest young adult free verse novel is *Beanball*. It was published by Clarion Books, a division of Houghton Mifflin, in February 2008. It has been nominated for the KRSA Young Adult Book Award. A second book, *Change-Up: Baseball Poems* (illustrated by Donald Wu) is scheduled for Spring 2009 release, also by Clarion. Gene's poems have appeared in more than 500 magazines and anthologies. His books of poems include *Center Field Grasses*, *I Hit the Ball!* and *Dancing on the Basepaths* (McFarland & Company); *Let the Poems Begin! A Poet's Guide to Writing Poetry* (Good Apple) and *Goblin Giggles* (Little Simon). His nonfiction books *Tales from Baseball's Golden Age* and *More Tales from Baseball's Golden Age* were published by Sports Publishing. For further information see his Web site: [www.genefehler.com](http://www.genefehler.com).

American Studies with a concentration in Southern Folklore from UNC-Chapel Hill and an MA in English and Creative Writing from NC State University. She is a regular faculty member of the Duke Writers Workshop, Learning Events, and John C. Campbell Folk School.

Arnoult lives with her husband, William Brock, in Brush Creek, Tenn., where she is at work on her second novel.



**Anne C. Barnhill's** work has appeared in a number of literary magazines and anthologies including, most recently, *The Antietam Review*, and *RACING HOME: New Stories from Award-Winning North Carolina*

*Writers*. Other publications include the story, *Washing Helen's Hair*, from the Grammy-nominated anthology *Grow Old Along With Me*, and *The Swing*, from *Generation to Generation*. She has received an Emerging Artist Grant, a Regional Artist Grant and a writer's residency at the Syvenna Foundation in Texas. She has been selected as a Blumenthal Reader twice and her stories have won several awards, including the Porter Fleming Fiction Award from the Augusta, Georgia Arts Council.

Barnhill publishes nonfiction with a variety of newspapers and magazines including *Our State Magazine: Down Home In North Carolina*. Her book reviews have appeared in *The Notre Dame Review* and *Main Street Rag* as well as the *Winston Salem Journal* and the *Greensboro News and Record*.

Her memoir, *At Home in the Land of Oz: Autism, My Sister and Me*, from Jessica Kingsley Publishers in London, tells the story about what it was like growing up with her autistic sister, Rebecca. Ms. Barnhill has been the keynote speaker at meetings of Episcopal Church Women in North Carolina and South Carolina. She has also presented programs about memoir writing in Converse College, the Kernersville Moravian Church, the Kernersville Library Book Club and other book clubs; she has taught memoir writing and fiction writing in a variety of places including Guilford College, Greensboro, NC; University of North Carolina at Greensboro; Guilford Technical Community College, the Phoenix Festival at High Point University and the Greensboro YMCA for Seniors.

She has also taught courses in creativity for the

faculty and staff at Guilford College and the Center for Creative Leadership, both in Greensboro. She holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from UNC-Wilmington and is currently at work on a novel set in Tudor England.

**James O. Born** is the author of five police thrillers from Putnam. Born's first three novels featured Florida Department of Law Enforcement agent Bill Tasker.

*Escape Clause*, the third novel in that series, was the winner of the inaugural Florida Book award for best novel in popular fiction. His new series features ATF agent Alex Duarte. Michael Connelly says of Born's latest Alex Duarte novel, *Burn Zone*: "Alex Duarte is my kind of cop. I hope he sticks around for a long, long time."



Elmore Leonard says: "Jim Born is the real thing: a South Florida lawman with an authentic sound that puts you at the scene. *Walking Money* is a winner."

James O. Born is a former U.S. Drug Agent and currently is assigned as a port security and anti-terrorist agent for the State of Florida. *Burn Zone* is drawn directly from his training and experience.

### **Roommate Clearinghouse**

*Here are a few words from Jim McFarlane:*

Want to save a few bucks at Myrtle Beach by sharing a room? So do I.

Therefore, as Membership Chairman, I'll host a clearing house for people interested in finding a roommate. That means I'll keep a list of people who have expressed interest and share that list with others. But I'm not offering to find you a room or a roommate.

So e-mail me your name, gender, smoking or non-smoking, and Thursday, Friday, and/or Saturday nights. If you see a candidate on the list, e-mail him or her and work out the arrangements.

For example, Jim McFarlane, male, non-smoking, Fri and Sat.

*Jim McFarlane*  
[jimmcfarlane@juno.com](mailto:jimmcfarlane@juno.com)  
SCWW Membership Chairman

## SCWW Chapter Challenge

As many of you know, each year we have a silent auction at the conference to help defer costs. Last year, the auction raised more than \$5,500, in large part due to contributions from our membership. Several chapters put together awesome baskets that were favorites with conference attendees. Other individuals generously contributed items for baskets that the board assembled. We need your help again this year!

To make things fun, the board agreed to offer a prize to the chapter whose basket brings the highest bid at auction. The prize? One Complete Conference Package for the 2009 conference, to be awarded as the chapter sees fit (includes Friday intensive workshops, but not hotel or transportation). The winning chapter can hold a drawing, use the package as a scholarship--or give it away any way they choose.

Here are the guidelines:

Baskets should be filled with books and any other item of interest to authors -- journals, mugs, chocolate, tea, coffee, pens -- you get the idea.

Each chapter can enter as many baskets as they like.

Each chapter is responsible for getting their baskets to the conference and delivering them to the auction coordinator by Friday evening, October 24.

Please provide a list of what's in the basket so that we can make an appropriate bid sheet. Winner will be announced in the first *Quill* after the conference.

The SCWW member designated by the chapter (as communicated by the chapter leader to the board) will be awarded free admission to next year's conference.

In past years, many baskets have had themes - mystery writer's basket, poet's basket, sci-fi basket, etc., but this isn't a requirement. Have some fun with this!

Please e-mail [br8nan@aol.com](mailto:br8nan@aol.com) and let us know that you plan to participate, and how many baskets you plan to put together, so that we have enough table space allocated. Please indicate a contact person for the chapter in your

e-mail.

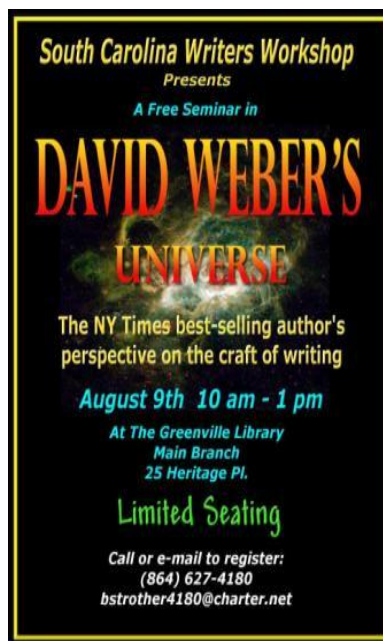
Members at large, and others who have something unique they'd like to contribute, we'd appreciate any contribution of autographed books, crafts, artwork -- whatever other mediums you may explore in addition to the written arts -- or any other item of interest to a writer. These can be items that will become a part of a basket, or a stand-alone auction item. Please ship to:

Silent Auction  
c/o Nancy Brock  
1329 Fairview Drive  
Columbia, SC 29205

## Workshops, coming to a chapter near you!

*From Bob Strother, coordinator of summer workshops:*

Mark your calendars and make your reservations! The Greenville SCWW Chapter is hosting a free workshop featuring New York Times' best selling author **David Weber**. David's science fiction / fantasy work has been compared to C. S. Forester, and he is



noted as having received praise worthy of Heinlein or Asimov. His most popular and enduring character is Honor Harrington. Her story, together with the "Honorverse" she inhabits, has been developed through 13 novels and four "shared-universe anthologies."

"Enter David Weber's Universe" will examine the craft of writing from the science fiction / fantasy writer's perspective, but will provide invaluable insights for writers of all genres. The workshop will be held at the Hughes Main Library in downtown Greenville (25 Heritage

Green Place, 29601) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, August 9. Parking is available on site. No food and drinks are allowed, except bottled water. Seating is limited. To ensure your reservation, please e-mail Bob Strother at [bstrother4180@charter.net](mailto:bstrother4180@charter.net) or call (864) 627-4180 during normal working hours.

But hey, while you're at it, why not make your trip a Friday or Saturday night stay-over? If you haven't seen Greenville's downtown, you're truly missing something. There are eclectic coffee shops, great restaurants, and a variety of nightlife venues and cultural attractions to accommodate any tastes. For example, on Friday, August 8, there's Main Street Jazz, Greenville Drive baseball (at the new downtown stadium), and "Tomfoolery" a political satire, at the Center Stage Theatre. There's the unique Liberty Bridge, overlooking the newly-uncovered Reedy River Falls and Falls Park, the Greenville County Art Museum, Greenville History Museum, and the Bob Jones Sacred Art Museum, all within easy walking distance of downtown hotels and the library.

See you on August 9!

## **Contest Opportunity**

### **7th Annual FundsforWriters Essay Contest, sponsored by IdeaWeaver**

FundsforWriters and its annual sponsor IdeaWeaver, creator of writing and creativity software, announce the 7th Annual FundsforWriters Essay Contest. THEME: "The Best Advice I Ever Had." As is the FundsforWriters trademark, applicants enter with or without an entry fee, their choice. Prize monies range from \$10 to \$200. Limit 750 words. Deadline October 31, 2008.

[www.fundsforwriters.com/annualcontest.htm](http://www.fundsforwriters.com/annualcontest.htm)

Direct any questions to Hope Clark at [hope@fundsforwriters.com](mailto:hope@fundsforwriters.com).

## **Membership Report**

*Jim McFarlane offers this update on how our membership is growing:*

The SCWW membership is now **592** members strong. Of course, most reside in South Carolina, but that majority (380) is slightly less than two-thirds of the total. The next most active

states are North Carolina (60), Georgia (52), Virginia (18), and Florida (12). But we have members in two dozen other states.

The three most populous chapters are Greenville, Charleston, and Myrtle Beach with more than 50 members each. The 100 members in the Midlands area are spread among 5 chapters (Columbia I, Columbia II, Camden, Irmo/Chapin, and Lexington) with one to two dozen members each. Rock Hill and Aiken have about 20 members each, while Beaufort and Anderson are smaller.

Unfortunately, many members don't regularly participate in local critique groups. The conference is a great place to meet other members and to generate interest in starting more chapters. Just because our name says South Carolina doesn't mean we can't invade Georgia and North Carolina, or start on-line critique groups.

## Member chatter

### Charleston

Welcome to new member, **Lynne Hinkey** who has a creative nonfiction essay in the July issue of *The Battered Suitcase*, an online literary magazine. <http://www.vagabondagepress.com>

**Jason Deierlein** was on "Lowcountry Live" on July 11, and held four book signings through the week of July 14. [www.jasondeierlein.com/](http://www.jasondeierlein.com/).

Congratulations to **Lilla Folsom**, who was named Managing Editor of the Charleston-based fitness magazine *Oblique*. [www.obliquemagazine.com](http://www.obliquemagazine.com)

**Cree Forman** was presented with the key to the town by the mayor of Selma, N.C., on July 10. This took place at the Selma library during her book signing in promotion of her second book *The French – Captured Completely* which is a travel memoir and an extension of her first book, *Phil and The French Country Inn*. Selma is the town where she and her husband, Phil, established the restaurant, The French Country Inn, in 1975, and she still promotes the town with her writing. <http://www.thefrenchcountryinn.com>

### Columbia II

As most chapters probably already know, locating a place to meet is a challenge. The Columbia II chapter is looking for options and not finding many. The library where they now meet is ideal, centrally located and available to the public. However, the library's scheduling rules are making it difficult to reserve the one conference room large enough to accommodate them. What they've discovered so far is that many nice venues operated by the city of Columbia, as well as Richland County, are too expensive, at least for regularly scheduled events. The conference room at Panera Bread is more reasonable. They still have several places to consider and are keeping their fingers crossed.

**Mike Long** and **Meredith Kaiser** are the July writers published on <http://columbiawritersworkshop.blogspot.com>. Mike recounts his experience writing a Civil War novel, currently under consideration by a Charleston publisher. Meredith writes that she benefits from reading words of wisdom from other writers, especially as they appear in the book *Parting the Curtains: Voices of Great Southern Writers*.

**Bonnie Stanard's** manuscript was selected as a finalist in Marsh Hawk Press's annual poetry book competition (<http://www.marshhawkpress.org>).

## Greenville

Greenville Chapter member **Wilma Reitz** is one of four winners in the 2008 Piccolo Fiction Open contest, which is a literary component of the Piccolo Spoleto Arts Festival. The contest is sponsored by the City of Charleston, Office of Cultural Affairs. Blue Bicycle Books on King Street hosted a reading during the second weekend of the festival. The four winners met in the courtyard next to the bookstore and read their stories to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience.

Wilma's story, "Duets," won first place in the 2008 Florida Freelance Writers Association Short Story Competition.

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**Elysabeth Eldering's** 50-book children's 50 states mystery trivia series has taken off with the publication of her first book, *State of Wilderness*.

You can check out a plethora of Elysabeth's Web sites:

<http://jgdsseries.blogspot.com> for information about the Junior Geography Detective Squad. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/jgdsseries/> to sign up for her newsletter. <http://junior-geography-detective-squad.weebly.com/index.html> where you can follow the squad while playing a new geography game. <http://elysabethsstories.blogspot.com/> for Elysabeth's personal blogs. <http://elysabetheldering.weebly.com/index.html> for her author Web site.

**Bob Strother's** short story "Kokopeli Dreams" has been accepted for inclusion in the fall edition of the *Magnolia Quarterly*, a literary journal published by the Gulf Coast Writers' Association. His short story, "Swee' Daddy's Big Sanyo" was published in the July issue of *moonShine review*, a literary journal published by Thrift Poetic Arts in Charlotte, N.C. Bob's brother, Alan Jordan, was selected as the featured photographer for the issue.

### **Member-at-large**

SCWW member **Johnny Beavers** has been named one of the winners of this year's South Carolina Fiction Project. While Johnny does not have a SCWW chapter near his Greeleyville home, he would be interested in starting one for the Kingstree-Greeleyville-Manning area. Anyone interested should contact him at [jrbeavers@excite.com](mailto:jrbeavers@excite.com).