



## The Quill

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*High School Junior and Senior  
Writing Competition  
2009 Winners  
Fiction - Judge: Idella Bodie  
1st Place - **Mary Beth Hanner**,  
Dissonance, South Carolina  
Governor's School for Arts and*

### Conference Update!

It's hard to believe it's almost time to register for the 2009 conference. A few folks have asked if they can go ahead and reserve their room. The answer is now YES! You can now reserve your rooms at the Hilton via the following link:

[http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/myrbhhh\\_scw/index.jhtml](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/myrbhhh_scw/index.jhtml).

If you'd rather make your reservations via the phone, instructions will be available at [www.myscww.org](http://www.myscww.org) very soon. We're also busy providing updates on faculty, costs, critiques, the silent auction and other wonderful parts of the conference. Please be sure to check the Web site often. As we move toward a "greener" conference this year, we're working to mail out less hard copy information about the conference. If there is a need for hard copy information, please contact Carrie McCullough, vice president, conference chair, or Lateia Sandifer, conference co-chair. Carrie may be reached at [conference@myscww.org](mailto:conference@myscww.org) or via phone at 706-564-7998. Lateia may be reached at [lateia.sandifer@gmail.com](mailto:lateia.sandifer@gmail.com) or via phone at 803-671-1664.

As we grow closer to registration time, please take a moment to learn about some of the faculty. Here's a little bit about some of the attending agents. In the current publishing economy, agents have the challenging role of turning manuscripts into contracts with publishers. Please remember to check the Web site, [www.myscww.org](http://www.myscww.org), often for updates on faculty. New faces will be added soon! In the meantime, let's get to know a little bit more about nine of the agents attending this year:

## Humanities

2nd Place - **Amy Quist**, *Fragility*,  
*Pickens High School*

Honorable Mention - **Victoria  
Cockrell**, *More Than a Season*,  
*Wardlaw Academy*

Honorable Mention - **Courtney  
Diles**, *The Objective*, *Fort Mill High  
School*

Honorable Mention - **Caitlin  
Williams**, *A Modern Holocaust*,  
*Woodruff High School*

Poetry - Judge: *Gene Fehler*  
1st Place - **Wynne Hungerford**,  
*Thanksgiving*,  
*South Carolina Governor's School  
for Arts and Humanities*

2nd Place - **Sammi Bryan**, *I am  
Thinking of Fire*,  
*South Carolina Governor's School  
of Arts and Humanities*

Honorable Mention - **Uchechi Kalu**,  
*Automotive*, *South Carolina  
Governor's School of Arts and  
Humanities*

Honorable Mention - **Courtney  
Diles**, *Darfur Documentary*, *Fort Mill  
High School*

Honorable Mention - **Jonathan W.  
Atkinson**, *Road to War*, *South  
Pointe Christian School*

Nonfiction - Judge: *Deborah  
Cureton*  
1st Place - **Jake Ross**, *The Way it  
Lights You Up*, *South Carolina  
Governor's School of Arts and*



Born in Cincinnati and raised on Long Island, **Pamela Ahearn** holds an M.A. from the University of Chicago in Comparative Literature, and an A.B. from Brown University in Comp. Lit/German.

She worked at Bantam Books, Dell Books and Richard Curtis Agency before moving to New Orleans, where she was with Southern Writers Agency for eight years.

In 1992 she founded The Ahearn Agency, Inc., which represents between 30-35 authors with a specialization in romance and suspense. Among her clients are several New York Times, USA-Today and Walden's Bestselling authors as well as RITA, Anthony and Agatha Award winners/nominees, including Steve Berry, Grant Blackwood, S.W. Hubbard, Wendy Lindstrom, Sabrina Jeffries, Meagan McKinney, Laura Joh Rowland, and Carlene Thompson.

She is the author of a historical romance, and lives with her husband, Barry, and son, Thomas, in New Orleans.

In a career spanning 15 years, **Jenny Bent** ([www.thebentagency.com](http://www.thebentagency.com)) has made a practice of making bestsellers — either by spotting new talent or developing careers for multi-published authors. Her list is varied and includes commercial fiction and nonfiction, literary fiction and memoir.



All the books she represents speak to the heart in some way: they are linked by genuine emotion, inspiration and great writing and story-telling. This includes books like *NYT* bestselling author John Kasich's upcoming *Every Other Monday*, about his twenty years in a bible study group; the upcoming *Whom Not to Marry* by Pat Connor, an 80-year-old Catholic priest featured in a recent Maureen O'Dowd column; the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Red Hat Society*; the *NYT* bestseller *Lost and Found*, a book about loss and grief and how our pets can help us to heal; and humor writing including the *New York Times* bestseller *Idiot Girls Action Adventure Club* by Laurie Notaro and the many *New York Times* bestsellers by Jill Conner Browne of Sweet Potato Queen fame. She has made a specialty of representing Southern voices of all types. In the realm of commercial fiction she represents many *New York Times* bestselling novelists including Lynsay Sands, Julia London, Sandra Hill and *USA Today* bestsellers Kathy Caskie and Janelle Denison.

## Humanities

**2nd Place - Naomi Amado**, Things About My Parents I Forgot to Tell the Woman Who Will Decide Who Gets Custody of My Younger Brother, Younger Sister and Me, *South Carolina Governor's School of Arts and Humanities*

**Honorable Mention - Shelby Switzer**, The Wandering Moose Ranch, *South Carolina Governor's School of Arts and Humanities*

**Honorable Mention - Sammi Bryan**, Fykill is Thy Thought, *South Carolina Governor's School of Arts and Humanities*

**Honorable Mention - Melissa Corbett**, Music and Me, *Dreher High School*

*Winning pieces will be printed in upcoming editions of The Quill.*

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## Quill Contest Update

The Quill Writing Contest is still open until **April 30, 2009**.

Here's all you need to know to enter:

Ahh Spring! Does it evoke visions of bright yellow daffodils, cuddly bunnies and soft, wafting breezes? Or is it more the dark side with hay fever and allergies, the stench and gore of road kill and the unstable weather of thunderstorms, freak snowstorms and tornadoes?

### "Spring it on Us"

Send us your poems and stories about spring, that take place in spring, or have an element of spring in them.

Here are the rules:

She was born in New York City, but grew up in Harrisonburg, Va., in a house full of books where she spent many lazy afternoons reading in a sunny window seat. She went on to England to get a BA/MA with first class honors from Cambridge University. After graduation she worked in magazines, bookselling and agenting, most recently at Trident Media Group. She now lives in Brooklyn in an apartment full of books and while there are not quite so many lazy reading afternoons, she manages to fit one in now and then.

**Scott Eagan** created Greyhaus Literary Agency with a single goal in mind – to represent exclusively single-title romance writers. To many, this seems a bit narrow, however, to Scott, it's just right. By focusing exclusively on this market, Scott has found that he can provide stronger one-on-one service to his writers. Scott holds three degrees: A BA in Literature, a MA in Literacy and a MA in Creative Writing. That education, combined with 17 years of teaching English, and writing provides a great foundation for the work he does with each of his writers.



Scott keeps his agency small but with writers with a strong publishing record. Greyhaus writers can be found at numerous houses including: Pocket, Dorchester, Source Books, Harlequin, Kensington, Avalon, Five Star Expressions and Mills and Boon. Many of his writers also have an extensive electronic writing portfolio as well.

Scott lives in the Pacific Northwest in the small town of Puyallup. Outside of his work at Greyhaus Literary Agency, Scott is a stay-at-home dad of three, a writer (in his spare time) and a member of RWA-Pro and RWA Online. More information about Scott or the agency can be found at [www.greyhausagency.com](http://www.greyhausagency.com).



**Jeff Kleinman** is a literary agent, intellectual property attorney, and founding partner of Folio Literary Management, LLC, a literary agency in New York and Washington DC which works with all of the major U.S. publishers (and, through subagents, with most international publishers). He's a graduate of Case Western Reserve University (J.D.), the University of Chicago (M.A., Italian), and the University of Virginia (B.A. with High Distinction in English). As an agent, Jeff feels privileged to have the chance to learn an

incredibly variety of new subjects, meet an extraordinary range of people, and feel, at the end of the day, that he's helped to build something – a wonderful book, perhaps, or an author's career. His authors include Garth Stein, Robert Hicks, Charles Shields, Jon Clinch, Bruce Watson, and Philip Gerard.

Jeff is looking for:

**Nonfiction:** especially narrative nonfiction with a historical bent, but also memoir, health, parenting, aging, nature, pets, how-to, nature, science, politics, military, espionage, equestrian, biography.

Poetry - 40 lines maximum  
Prose - 1,500 word maximum

Entries must be original and unpublished. Please send them via e-mail to Kim Blum-Hyclak at [rhyclak@comporium.net](mailto:rhyclak@comporium.net). Please send your entry as an attachment with your contact info (name, phone, address) in the body of the e-mail. This will insure blind judging.

Or, send two copies with a cover sheet to:  
Kim Blum-Hyclak  
1315 Treetop Dr.  
Lancaster, SC 29720

Entries must be received by **April 30, 2009**.

### *The Petigru Review Entries*

*The Petigru Review* deadline is fast on our heels.

Please mail the cover sheet and four paper copies of each manuscript flat, in a manila or other large-sized envelope, to: **Kevin Coyle, South Carolina Writers Workshop, 2131 Woodruff Road, Suite 2100, Box 188, Greenville, SC 29607**. In addition, please send a copy of each manuscript as a Microsoft Word attachment (with a ".doc" suffix, not ".docx") in a separate e-mail to [kevin@kevincoyle.net](mailto:kevin@kevincoyle.net). All envelopes must be postmarked and all e-mails with attachments must be sent no later than **April 30, 2009**.

**Fiction:** very well-written, character-driven novels; some suspense, thrillers; otherwise mainstream commercial and literary fiction.

Jeff is **not** accepting: children's, romance, mysteries, westerns, poetry, or screenplays, novels about serial killers, suicide, or children in peril (kidnapped, killed, raped, etc.).

**Jim McCarthy** interned for DGLM while studying urban design at New York University. Upon graduating, Jim realized he would much rather continue working with books than make the jump (as he had originally intended) to the field of city planning.



As an avid fiction reader, his interests encompass both literary and commercial works. He is particularly interested in literary women's fiction, underrepresented voices, mysteries, romance, paranormal fiction, and anything unusual or unexpected. In addition to fiction he is also interested in narrative nonfiction, humor, memoir, paranormal nonfiction, and anything related to architecture, planning, or real estate.



Originally from the West Coast, **Barbara Poelle** worked for a Bay Area Publisher before accepting the offer to join Irene Goodman's team. A voracious reader and award winning debater, Barbara is not only able to devour manuscripts, but fight for them as well... and her very brief stint as a stand-up comic comes in handy for those particularly raucous debates -- both in the office and at home.

With her strong background in editing and copywriting, Barbara has no qualms about helping writers turn a "maybe" into a "yes," and values client communication above all else. Barbara is passionate about thrillers, mysteries, historical romance, and humorous non-fiction, but will be a proud promoter of any writer with a strong, unique voice.

**Holly Root** began her publishing career as an editor in Christian publishing in Nashville, Tenn., before coming to New York and joining the William Morris Agency's agent trainee program.



She then moved to Trident Media Group, where she sold audio rights for the agency's clients, including a number of *New York Times* bestselling authors, before joining The Waxman Literary Agency in 2007 to represent her own list of authors. Recently published titles include Leo Babauta's *The Power of Less* (Hyperion); Carrie Borzillo-Vrenna's *Cherry Bomb* (Simon Spotlight Entertainment); Kate Perry's *Marked by Passion* (Grand Central); Misa Ramirez's *Living the Vida Lola* (St. Martin's Press); Serena Robar's *Giving Up the V* (Simon Pulse); and Lisa Patton's *Whistlin Dixie in a Nor'easter* (Thomas Dunne).

Holly is actively seeking upmarket and commercial fiction, including women's fiction, mystery, urban fantasy, romance, and YA, and voice-driven nonfiction projects, with particular areas of interest in narrative nonfiction, lifestyle, psychology, self-help/relationships, science, practical

spirituality, and religion.

**Joanna Stampfel-Volpe** is an agent with Nancy Coffey Literary & Media Representation. She represents everything from children's books (chapter books to YA, both non-fiction and fiction), to adult fiction (speculative, romance, historical, paranormal, unique fantasy, literary, dark comedy, dark drama, horror) and she will occasionally take on a strong narrative non-fiction with environmental or food (or both!) elements.

What she is **NOT** looking for right now: picture books, cookbooks, mysteries, screenplays, poetry, short story collections, epic fantasy, hi-science fiction, academic non-fiction, westerns.



**Amy Tipton** joined FinePrint Literary Management (formerly the Peter Rubie Literary Agency) in the Summer of 2006. She graduated from Naropa University with a B.A. in Writing and Literature and received her MFA from New College of California in Writing. She comes to the agency after working as a literary assistant and office manager at several literary agencies including JCA Literary Agency, Diana Finch Literary Agency, Gina Maccoby Literary Agency, and Liza Dawson Associates. Amy has also worked as a book scout for Aram Fox, Inc. dealing with foreign rights. In addition to her agenting experience, Amy also worked as a freelance editor to Lauren Weisberger, author of *The Devil Wears Prada*. Her work is published in the anthology, *Controlled Burn*, and pieces of her first and second novel can be found in a variety of literary journals.



Amy is looking for both fiction and nonfiction — edgy or quirky, commercial or literary — in particular, she is interested in YA, middle grade, and women's fiction. In nonfiction she is looking for women's studies/academic, fashion/beauty, and pop culture/celebrity.

## Publicize Your Books, Web Sites, Blogs on New SCWW Site

*This column comes to us from Board Member and Petigru Review Co-editor Phil Arnold.*

Big changes are coming for the SCWW Web site. Under the capable hands of talented webmaster **Marshall Turner**, the site will have a new look and some changes in content.

There will be a section titled Members' Web Pages and Blogs. If your Web site is one of the thirty-four listed on the old link called "Author Pages," it will included in the new section. However, if you have a Web site not currently listed, please contact Marshall at [scwwwwebmaster@myscww.org](mailto:scwwwwebmaster@myscww.org). Tell him how you want your name shown and provide your URL. Blogs will be a new addition, so anybody with a blog should also contact Marshall. Again, be sure to provide your name, blog name and URL.

The old "Author Pages" has a link that a lot of members have never

noticed. It says, "Click here for a quick list of books published by our members." Certainly, a writing organization should feature its member books in a more prominent location, and that is another change coming to our Web site.

Currently, there are only ten books listed, and that can't be right, as our membership has a growing list of published works. For example, we have seen two or three times that number on our display racks we take to the S.C. Book Festival and Petigru Review signings. So, if you have a published book, make sure you contact Marshall with the pertinent information. Please include your name, book title, and how people can check it out and buy it (i.e. your web site, publisher's Web site, Amazon, etc.). If you also have a thumbnail photo of your book's cover, send it along, too. At this point, it's not certain whether cover art will show up on the Web site, but someday it will.

You will be very pleased with the new and improved SCWW Web site. If you have a published book, web site or blog, make sure your information gets to us by sending in your information now.

## **S.C. Academy of Authors Induction**

The South Carolina Academy of Authors, in partnership with The University Libraries and the Institute for African American Research of The University of South Carolina (along with Winthrop University) will be inducting new members Saturday, April 25. The three authors being honored are Kwame Dawes, Susan Ludvigson and Carrie McCray Nickens. For more information, please contact Nicholas Meriwether at [meriwetn@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:meriwetn@mailbox.sc.edu).

## **Chapter Chatter/Member Chatter**

### **At-large members**

**Jim Peters** of Columbia recently published his novel, *Dawn of Deliverance*, through iUniverse. Jim drew for his own time as a District Commissioner in Zimbabwe when creating this book.

**Robert Hays** of Illinois has an update on his publishing career. *Circles in the Water*, set principally in South Carolina, was published in October 2008. and *The Life and Death of Lizzie Morris* was published in February 2009, both by Vanilla Heart Publishing. Robert reports that Vanilla Heart Publishing is a relatively new, but dynamic West Coast independent publisher, specializing in contemporary mainstream fiction and romance. Vanilla Heart Publishing does accept unagented queries. Robert also noted that the editors there were very prompt with their replies.

**Tara Erickson**, an SCWW member in Asheville, N.C., was a quarter finalist in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards in the general fiction category.

Meanwhile, **Sam Smith** of Georgia is a semifinalist in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards in the general fiction category.

### **Lexington**

**Brenda Gable's** working hard has paid off. Brenda, a native of Wilmington, N.C., who now lives in Pelion, just had her article "Pirate of Buzzard Bay" publishing this month in *Snow Cut Monthly*. Another piece,

"Testimony of Crystal L. Flowers," will be in the May 2009 edition of the *Sweet Tea and Afternoon Tales Anthology* published by the Gulf Coast Writers Association.

**Nalley T. Osland** has published her first memoir, *My God Makes House Calls*, through iUniverse.com. Nalley and her book will be at the Book Makers Festival in Beaufort on Saturday.

### Greenville

**Bob Strother's** short story "Gypsies in the Twilight Zone" has been accepted for publication in the August, 2009 issue of *Down in the Dirt*, "The mother of all publishing ventures for new writers", an e-zine and print magazine specializing in "revealing all your dirty little secrets." The Web version of Bob's story is available at scars.tv — go to "Writings," scroll down, and click on Bob's name.

The Junior Geography Detective Squad hits another state in the newest release, *State of Quarries* by **Elysabeth Eldering**. For more info on Elysabeth and the JGDS series, you can check out her Web site and blog: <http://junior-geography-detective-squad.weebly.com/> <http://jgdsseries.blogspot.com>.

Absentee Greenville member **Charmi Schroeder** has had her story "He Meant The World To Me" included in HCI Books, Inc.'s newest "Ultimate title," *The Ultimate Teacher*. The book is scheduled to hit bookstores by May 1 - just in time for the 2009 National Teacher Appreciation Day on May 5.

### Quill Contest Winners

Each month, we're printing a first-place winning piece in *The Quill*. Last month we shared the poetry piece by Carol Furtwangler. This month, take a read of the winning fiction story by Cynthia Boiter.

### Releasing Raylene

By Cynthia Boiter

The idea that anything Lula said could be something other than a hoot had never crossed Raylene's mind. She loved going to the little mill village beauty shop for the banter and the foolishness as much as she did for the attention Lula gave to the top of her head. She had tried to convince herself that the conceit of an occasional shampoo and set was something she did more for her husband than for herself. But when Dewey got the call from the Lord to become the associate pastor of the Church of the Beloved Body of Christ the same week that a Saturday morning slot opened miraculously at Lula's shop, Raylene was convinced it was the Lord's will her hair be pretty. So she booked herself in perpetuity. In some ways she did it for Dewey; in others, she did it for the Lord.

Lula had a knack for working people up. She would read a story about a half baby – half alien in *The National Enquirer*, or see a segment on 60 Minutes about a campground full of bigamists, then relay a portion of the information she had learned to the women in her shop, embellishing the parts she could not recall. Raylene would hear snippets of Lula's latest broadcast in line at the A & P, or catch a familiar phrase before the chatter died down in Sunday school, and know what was on everyone's mind. Always on her best behavior, Raylene rarely took part in any discourse that teetered near the theatric. Even as a grown woman, there was

enough little lady in her to know when to best look at her feet and smile. But on the rare morning when business at the shop was slow, or if Lula wasn't feeling hoarse from a hard week's work, she would occasionally engage Raylene as her private audience. No stranger to the shortfalls of humanity, Lula could be counted on to apply pristine judgment to the workings of the world. It was with this prudence that she introduced Raylene to the concept of the women's libber.

"Right there in the road with both Bert Parks and God looking on," Lula rasped, her voice hardly a whisper but the certainty of scandal in her eyes. "Hairspray, curlers, make-up, what have you, right into a fifty-five gallon drum. Some even threw in their bras and girdles, if you can believe that! Stripped 'em right off their bodies, tossed 'em in, and – whoosh! Up in flames!"

It wasn't that Raylene was insensitive to Lula's distress at the destruction of articles of beauty. In fact, the very idea of throwing away a perfectly good lipstick made her gasp. But the thought of summarily dispensing with a bra struck a tender nerve somewhere near her breastbone and she felt herself squirm beneath the elastic, lace and wire. The kind of woman who wore her brassier like a second layer of skin, the concept of not wearing it was as foreign to Raylene as going barefoot in the rain or dancing in the street. She wore her bra like she wore her own smell. The only thing she took off her body less than her bra was her wedding band – because it needn't be laundered or changed. Raylene wore her bra to shop in, to clean in, and to sleep in. It was the last thing she took off before bathing and the first thing she put back on. It wasn't that she wanted to wear it, or that she even liked wearing it. She had made no conscious decision in the matter. She wore her bra because that was what women did, which was all she thought she needed to know.

Raylene left Lula's shop that Saturday morning with an uneasy feeling swimming about her head. Try as she might she couldn't shake Lula's story and, throughout her walk home, she revisited the idea with a guilty sense of confusion. Never one to notice her own body, much less that of another woman, Raylene began to let her eyes slide down the faces of the women she encountered to the area below their chins and, finally, to their breasts. Aware that God could read her every thought she quickly reassured both Him, and herself, that she had no untoward interests in the women; their brassieres were where her interests lie. But once the day's duties were done and she found herself alone in the little tile bathroom where she freshened and changed her clothes, her own image in the mirror caught her eye. Raylene couldn't remember the last time she had looked at her body; it was as much a stranger to her as it was to Dewey, who sought only specific parts and then in the quiet ambiguity of the dark. The woman in the mirror wore white cotton panties below a sturdy brassiere that crossed her heart neatly, leaving a narrow ribbon of flesh in between. Eyes closed, Raylene slid the fingers of one hand down her neck, across her shoulder and under the strap. The cool touch of her hand gave way to a deep and glowing warmth. She took a breath and let her palm move further down, across skin that felt sumptuous – like peach fuzz. There was a roundness below she could sense as much as feel – a whole, satisfying, centering roundness that took Raylene's thoughts out of the bathroom and into her summer garden where she cupped her palm around the imperfect sphere of a ripe tomato, full and warmed by morning sun. It took her into the sweet smells of her morning kitchen, where a raised mound of dough was firm, living, ready to reinvent itself as hot buttered biscuits. It took her to the furry belly of a childhood pup – round and wonderful and sated with absolute trust.

The grind of gravel in the driveway told her that Dewey was home from the church. Out the window she could see the splat of fresh spring rain dot the windshield of his car. His keys jingled in the back door then, slam, and all the air in the house pushed through the doorways and walls.

"I'm home," he called as he sifted the mail in his hands. He could hear the pat of Raylene's feet down the hallway and through the kitchen, then away toward the back porch and door. He looked up into the emptiness of the kitchen and realized she was gone.

The rain, no longer a drizzle, ran in sleek rivulets down the window panes that looked out Raylene's kitchen onto the street and the houses and shops and churches beyond.

"Raylene?" Dewey called, wiping the fog from the window.

"Good God, Raylene, where are you?"

And in the middle of the tar and gravel road that took the woman everywhere she went in the world in which she lived, Raylene stood, feet bare, face raised to heaven, arms extended like a wind mill in the steady rain that streamed and puddled in a tender valley between her breasts, separated from the world by nothing more than a thin layer of cotton and the unmistakable veil of joy.

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