



225 E. 2nd St. Suite 303
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Midwest Writing Center

Fostering appreciation of the written word, supporting and educating its creators.



The Writer's Block E-Newsletter

*** August 2011 ***



Looking for a critique group?

The Writers' Studio, next meetings
August 6th & 20th at 11 a.m. at
MWC.

Beat Poetry at Mojo's

August 29th

Out Loud Open Mic Night

August 25th



**Join us for the last Brown Bag
Lunch!**

August 4th @ Noon

Bruce Carter of WVIK, Augustana's
radio station, is a regular host
of a show featuring guest artists
and writers from the QC
area.



**August 10th @ 7 p.m. — Atlas
Launch**

Join the Young Emerging Writer Interns at
the launch party for their magazine, *The
Atlas*. After six weeks and over 40 hours of
work, they look forward to showing you
their collection of work, representative of
the interns' best writing.



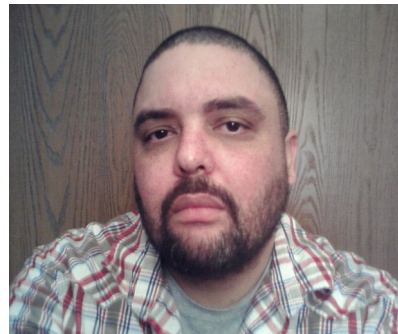
Young Emerging Writer Interns
2011

↓ ↓ Applications due August 24th! ↓ ↓

Fall Poetry Writing Workshop Series

Shane McCrae will teach a six-session workshop emphasizing the process of
bringing together individual poems into chapbook-length and full-length
collections. Students will discuss topics including voice, form, subject-matter, self-
editing and self-listening.

Meet The Instructor:

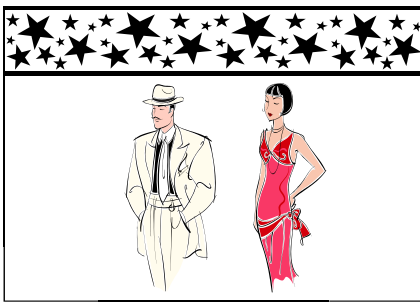


Shane McCrae is the author of
"Mule" (Cleveland State University Poetry
Center, 2011) and two chapbooks "One
Neither One" (Octopus Books, 2009) and "In
Canaan" (Rescue Press, 2010). His work has
appeared, or is forthcoming in "The Best
American Poetry 2010," American Poetry
Review, Fence, Agni, Denver Quarterly, and
others. He holds degrees from the University
of Iowa Writers' Workshop and Harvard Law
School.

All sessions meet from 6-9 p.m. at MWC

September 1, September 15, October 6, October 20, November 3,
November 17,

**Interested? Complete the online application form and submit two poems as a
writing sample by August 24. The writing sample may be emailed to
mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org with "Poetry Writing Workshop Series" in
the subject line or mailed to MWC, 225 E. 2nd St, Suite 303, Davenport, IA
52801 Applicants will be notified of their acceptance no later than August 27th**



Save the Date!

The Bohemian Ball
The Blackhawk Hotel
October 21st @ 7pm

Tickets \$25 per person
in advance; \$30 at the
door

Call or go on-line to buy
your tickets.

Don't miss this 1920's
party — it'll be the cat's
meow!

Final Friday Celebrations — August 26th @ 7 p.m. Featuring readings from the Afghan Women's Writing Project

This project seeks to give a voice to the women of Afghanistan

If you would like to read, choose an essay from the
awwproject.org or call 563-324-1410 for assistance!

2012 Collins Poetry Residency Applications Due August 31st!

Who: This is an opportunity for regional poets who reside in the Scott, Muscatine, or Clinton counties in Iowa or Rock Island, Henry or Mercer counties in Illinois

What: The resident chosen will facilitate at least one public reading, workshop and online poetry forum; launch a limited edition broadside poem and work to bring forward disparate voices from the poetry community.

When: The resident will serve during April 2012

Application: Due by Aug. 31, 2011 Requirements can be found at www.midwestwritingcenter.org

Ellen Tsagaris will serve as the 2012 mentor for the resident
The Residency was established in honor of Richard, Susan, and Ryan Collins for their contributions to and encouragement of area poets.



Ellen Tsagaris

Borders: What the Chain's Closing Means for Quad Cities Writers, Book Lovers and You

Roundtable Discussion 3:30-5pm Thursday, August 18th

This event will take place at the Midwest Writing Center and will be facilitated by member Joe Taylor and will deal with the projected impact of the closings of Borders in Davenport and WaldenBooks in Moline.

Fall Writing Workshops

Sept. 11th—Oct. 9th Creative Writing Basics On-line Course: Get an introduction to writing without leaving your house! Enroll in this on-line course through the Black Hawk College [website](#). Part of the proceeds benefit the MWC.

Sept. 17th—Common Errors in Writing : Join Jane VanVooren Rogers from 1-3pm to explore some of the most common writing errors and ways you can avoid them. Whether you're writing an article or memoir, a novel or a dissertation, the same errors can trip you up.

For \$10 you can have up to 5 pages of writing reviewed (manuscripts due by Sept 10th). Visit www.midwestwritingcenter.org or call us at 563-324-1410 to register.

Sept 17th Book Launch 4-6pm "How to Avoid Being and Other Paths to Triumph" By Jane VanVooren Rogers

This chapbook of poetry was written mostly about women's issues and female empowerment. It contains award-winning poems from Rogers' time at Augustana College and Western Illinois University.

2011 Pen-In-Hand Workshop Series October 8th

Visit www.midwestwritingcenter.org for full workshop descriptions

Register before October 1st to receive the early bird tuition rates:

\$20 per workshop or \$60 for all adult workshops

After October 1st: \$25 per workshop; or \$75 for all adult workshops

For more information, visit www.midwestwritingcenter.org or call 563-324-1410

Class Offerings:

- 8:30-10:15 Writing and Taxes with **Ann Capion**

Are you numerically challenged? Do you think taxes are one of the worlds greatest mysteries? This workshop will be sure to crack that great enigma for the all who attend.

-10:30-12:15 Intellectual Property with **Ellen Tsagaris**

Sans "legalese," we will explore the Fair Use Doctrine and the world of intellectual property including patents, trademarks, and copyrights as they apply to writers and artists

- 1:15-3:00 (Tentative) College Essays and Applications with **Kent Barnds**

Augustana Vice President and former Vice President of Enrollment Kent Barnds has an insider's look at college admissions. Learn how you can ensure a bright future in academia. This class is offered at a reduced price of \$10 for high school students.

- 1:15-3:00 Sonnet Play with **Ryan Collins**

*Looking at both classic and contemporary examples of the sonnet, we will try our hands at our own responses and interpretations of possibly the most well-known of Western poetic forms. This class is ***FREE*** for students.*

- 1:15-3:00 Creating Buzz for You and Your Book with **Twila Belk**

No matter how powerful or entertaining your message is, who will read it unless they've heard about your or your book first? We'll discuss silly, simple and strategic ways to create buzz.

- 3:15-5:00 Creative Writing Basics with **Jodie Toohey**

This class aims to help you begin the creative writing process. You will learn what creative writing is, how to establish a writing routine, and how to improve with creative writing techniques and exercises.

Do you need a writing mentor?

Does your business need writing advertising copy?

Do you need help writing your family's story?

Do you have a manuscript and need help formatting it for a printer?

Looking for someone to design your cover?

Visit our blog for tips and suggestions for freelancers AND consumers!

Go to
www.midwestwritingcenter.org
and click on an icon like the
one below!



Directory of
Eastern Iowa
& Western Illinois
Freelance
Literary Services

Lost and Found

By Max Molleston

It's been a decade since I learned of David Collins' death. The late Rich Johnson, an early collaborator in the Black Hawk College writing group, told us of Dave's death. On the cusp of six decades of life in pursuit of encouragement, he was now gone from all the scenes he had created. A teacher and an accomplished author, he wanted young and older to tiptoe into words and phrases they would enjoy creating and in the end compose for the enjoyment of others. The Midwest Writing Center was his creation. His death was a shock to the community where he circulated and for the most part, led.

Following his death, The Midwest Writing Center searched for a Quad-Cities home and found it initially in downtown Rock Island, then across the Mississippi River in downtown Davenport, where it operates today. I use the word operates, because that means action. All of us who work to follow David Collins' vision are acting on his concepts, staying with progress we could make and have made.

Our headquarters, most active from Wednesday through Saturday, is never closed to seekers. Walk to the Midwest Writing Center Wednesday through Saturday 11am through 6pm and your curiosity about us and how we operate will get prompt attention. We are now publishers; The Midwest Writing Center Press is a substantial leap for a writing organization enlarged and reborn late in the last century. We set the stages for all types of literary involvement. Most people involved with the Arts, and we claim that tag, are not the most courageous. While we develop a vision of who we want to be, getting there needs severe concentration and diligence. The Directors of the Midwest Writing Center convert visions to projects and set them before those who desire to participate, and, importantly, to those who wish to support the efforts as volunteers, whether they are businesses, private individuals or families. Our mission, through David Collins, is: "fostering appreciation of the written word, supporting and educating its creators." The Midwest Writing Center began at his home with eighteen individuals of his choice, and now consists of dozens of members and volunteers working through programs and publications to serve our public. We implement Dave's original mission with enthusiasm and dedication in memory of the man who started it all.



Our programs are partially supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; and the Riverboat Development Authority



Should you wish not to receive e-mail information about upcoming events at the Midwest Writing Center, please send a reply with REMOVE in the subject line to: mwc@midwestwritingcenter.org

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