



The Writer's Loft:

MTSU's Low-Residency
Certificate in Creative Writing

**Spring 2005
Kickoff/Orientation**
January 14, 15, and 16

Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service
www.mtsu.edu/~theloft

The Writer's Loft

The Writer's Loft is an intensive, 18-month program that is the focal point of a certificate in creative writing offered through MTSU's Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service. It is a unique program consisting of an exciting mix of workshops, one-on-one mentoring, public readings, and panel discussions. The Loft's focus is on developing the student's maximum skills, style, and voice as a writer in a supportive, open environment in which the student can become the best writer possible at this point in his or her development. Additional certificate goals include the following:

- developing a student's skills in the art and craft of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction writing;
- providing a foundation in the analysis of nonfiction, fiction, and/or poetry;
- expanding a student's grasp of grammar and syntax;
- preparing the student to face the business aspects of the publishing industry; and
- coaching the student in effective marketing techniques.

Low-Residency

The program's low-residency feature allows a huge range of students spanning many different generations, lifestyles, and schedules to pursue their craft on a customized, individual basis. Students meet once or twice a semester and participate in gatherings throughout middle Tennessee, but the Writer's Loft is essentially a one-on-one experience between the student and mentor.

Throughout a weekend of orientation, students meet with their mentors to plan the semester and decide what type of writing the student will work on. Afterward, the aspiring authors return home to exchange three packets of writing with the mentors by U.S. mail. The mentors reply in detail, and communication continues by e-mail as the semester unfolds. In addition, the program's Internet site keeps students informed of the latest happenings.

For additional information, please contact us at (615) 898-2462 or theloft@mtsu.edu

The Writer's Loft

www.mtsu.edu/~theloft

Orientation Weekend Agenda

The Orientation Weekend is the Writer's Loft cornerstone event, allowing students, mentors, and members of the public to network for the coming months of writing and literary gatherings.

Friday, January 14

Program Opening Reception: 6:00-9:00 p.m.

- Formal Welcome to the Spring 2005 Semester
- Getting to Know Our Mentors (Public Readings and Round Robin Sessions)
- Reception and Mixer

Saturday, January 15

Packet Pickup/Registration:	8:30-9:00 a.m.
Program Orientation:	9:00-10:30 a.m.
Senior Student Panel Discussion:	11:00 a.m.-Noon
Lunch:	Noon-1:00 p.m.
Student Semester Planning:	1:00-3:00 p.m.
Panel Discussion:	3:30-5:00 p.m., "To Agent or Not to Agent"
Student Public Readings:	5:30-6:30 p.m.
On Your Own Dinner:	Open
No Late Evening Agenda:	Open

Sunday, January 16

Fall 2004 Graduation Ceremony

Administrative Welcome:	2:00 p.m.
Graduating Students Welcome:	2:15 p.m., J. Terry Price
Mentors Welcome:	3:00 p.m., Charlotte Rains Dixon
Presentation of Certificates:	3:30 p.m.
Administrative Closing:	4:00 p.m.
Reception and Mixer:	5:00 p.m.

Note: All events are held at Nashville locations. The public is invited to attend Saturday's panel discussion, "To Agent or Not to Agent," but all other activities are for Loft mentors and students only.

Inside the Packets

As agreed upon by the mentor and the student during orientation, each packet will contain 10-25 pages of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, or any combination thereof. In addition, each student will read one novel, collection of short stories, or book of poetry for each packet. For that one book, the student will write a short essay on what he or she learned "as a writer" from the work. Semester packet deadlines are as follows:

- February 21
- March 28
- May 2

Public Readings, Workshops, and Panel Discussions

The Writer's Loft offers a blend of workshops, public reading opportunities, and panel discussions. Each student is encouraged to give a five-minute reading of something created while in the program, and everyone is encouraged to attend as many readings and workshops as possible.

The public readings and the panel discussion will take place at Davis-Kidd Booksellers in Nashville. Founded in 1980, Davis-Kidd has grown to include three bookstores in Tennessee, and it has long been an artistic center of the middle Tennessee literary landscape.

Spring 2005 Workshops and Public Readings

- January 15: Public Reading, Davis-Kidd
- February 12: Workshop (Finding Fiction in a Photograph), MTSU
- March 5: Workshop (Rock the Mic! Performance Poetry and Public Readings), Davis-Kidd
- March 5: Public Reading, Davis-Kidd

Semester Panel Discussion: January 15

"To Agent or Not to Agent"
Authors discuss their experiences with literary agents and publishing houses.

- Linda Busby Parker (*Seven Laurels*)
- River Jordan (*The Gin Girl*)
- David Pierce (*John Jones Was Here*)

The Application Process

Applicants interested in the Writer's Loft are asked to submit the following material:

- standard cover letter;
- five (5) pages of sample writing, double-spaced (any combination of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and/or personal narrative);
- a current resume (if available);
- one (1) typed, single-spaced page on why the applicant feels that this is the right program for him or her; and
- a certificate application fee of \$200 (required with application; applied toward tuition; make check or money order payable to MTSU.)

Publication Opportunities

Semester Literary Contests

The Writer's Loft sponsors a contest each semester for its students. Each student may submit one collection of poetry and/or a piece of other creative writing (fiction, nonfiction, memoir, etc.). There is NO charge for the contest. (This contest is not open to the general public.)

The Trunk: A Creative Companion

The Trunk is the official magazine of the Writer's Loft. In addition to some brief information on the current semester's program, the literary contest winners are published in *The Trunk*, and the magazine contains material from current students, a variety of literary columns, how-to articles, and more.

Spring 2005 Visiting Writer

Tennessee Poet Laureate,
Margaret Britton Vaughn

Summer Writing Sabbatical

Starting in 2005, this new program will allow a single student or graduate of the program to spend a week (seven days/six nights) writing and reading on MTSU's 466-acre campus. Those interested will submit an application and a committee will make the final choice. The chosen applicant will have a dorm room for a week, use of the campus recreation facilities, and access to the James E. Walker Library. The student will receive a daily meal ticket valid at MTSU's many dining halls and will be given a one-time visit to the campus bookstore for writing supplies (maximum value \$50).

MTSU, a Tennessee Board of Regents university, is an equal opportunity, non-racially identifiable, educational institution that does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. CS054-1104

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Application Deadline:
January 10, 2005

Continuing Studies Registration Form

Name _____

Address (street) _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Home Phone _____

Date of Birth _____

Social Security Number _____

Female Male U.S. Citizen

Ethnic Background

Caucasian American Indian Asian
 Hispanic Black Other

Interested Genres

Fiction Nonfiction Children's Literature
 Songwriting Poetry

Payment Method

Check MasterCard Visa

Card No. _____

Exp. _____

\$200 application fee. I choose to pay the application fee at this time. Please invoice me for the balance. (I understand that my account will be credited with my application fee.)

Tuition and Payment. The total cost for all three semesters of the Writer's Loft is \$3,750. Students are encouraged to pay in installments (\$1,250 each semester). Payment is due upon acceptance to the program. All accounts must be settled BEFORE a student will be authorized to attend the semester orientation.

Make check payable to MTSU. Mail to:

Continuing Studies and Public Service

Attn: The Writer's Loft
1301 E. Main St., Box X109
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Space Below for University Use

Receipt No. _____ Date _____

Amount Rec. _____

Check Cash Other

For A & R Use C N C