

Charlaine Harris

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 4 PM – What Do You Fear?

Panelists: Charlaine Harris, Rhonda Eudaly (M), Bret McCormick, Seth Skorkowsky

There are so many ways to scare a person. Let us count the ways. Let the fear flow through you. Show us the way to true horror, and we will show you mastery of the genre. Our fear mongers compare notes and talk about the things that scare us.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part One – Initial Findings

Panelists: Mel White (M), Charlaine Harris, Patricia Burroughs, Rhonda Eudaly, T. M. Hunter, Wil McCarthy

The first of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin and our esteemed (and indeed, TRAINED) archeologists in turn tell us what the artifacts are. Light hearted fun, and bring ear plugs! This year we will take a post-apocalyptic slant and see what story they come up with!

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM – Opening Ceremonies!

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 11 AM – The Path Less Traveled: Alternate History Explained

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Charlaine Harris, Lillian Stewart Carl, Ava Morgan, S. Boyd Taylor

When history is analyzed, it is amazing to see how every event has a catalyst. Some small impetus, a push here, a nudge there, and suddenly a snowball becomes an avalanche. What alternate history examines is the “what ifs” that lurk in the background. A different path can change everything, and our panelists talk about how to use this to your advantage.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 12 PM – Bringing Books to Life in TV/Film

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlaine Harris, Renee Witterstaetter, Bret McCormick, Carole Nelson Douglas

More and more stories are being brought to life either via movie or TV. Our authors relate to us the trials and tribulations of doing so, and more importantly how they did it.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 2 PM – Charlaine Harris

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Q&A with our GOH, Charlaine Harris!

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlaine Harris

Our GOH Charlaine Harris talks with us about life, career, hopes and dreams.

Programming 4 (Parker), 5 PM - Vampires for Fun and Profit

Panelists: A. Lee Martinez (M), Charlaine Harris, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Seth Skorkowsky, Ava Morgan

What do vampire species in differing universes have in common? They drink blood, of varying types. From the Hopping Vampire to Nosferatu and the original Dracula to other versions we dare not speak of, there are still common elements to draw upon. They also are not restricted in genre – from humor to horror with urban fiction and even science fiction in between, vampires can be found in many places. Our panelists talk about blood suckers of all types, and how to create your own.

Sunday

Reading (Pickett), 11 AM – Charlaine Harris

Yoon Ha Lee

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM – Opening Ceremonies!

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 11 AM – Collaboration 101: Finding That Special Someone

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, Rhonda Eudaly, Trakena Prevost

If you want to work together to create something truly special, you need to find people who fill the roles you don't do. Or...just get a group together and see what happens! Either way, this is collaboration, and our panelists talk about dos and don'ts when finding people to work with.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 1 PM – Q&A with our GOH, Yoon Ha Lee!

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee

Our GOH Yoon Ha Lee talks with us about life, career, and the pursuit of happiness.

Reading (Pickett), 3 PM – Yoon Ha Lee

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 5 PM – Yoon Ha Lee

Sunday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 12 PM – Choose Your Own Adventure: Building Interactive Worlds

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Yoon Ha Lee

Once upon a time there was a famous style of book that told you to hop from a certain page to a different page. Now we have the technology to branch out even farther! Our GOH Yoon Ha Lee talks about his experiences in building worlds using interactive games.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 2 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part Two – The Debunking

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, KB Bogen, Linda Donahue, David Doub, Julia S. Mandala

The second of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin. This time, our experts tell us how wrong the previous esteemed panelists were! Last year, Sunday's panel thoroughly debunked Friday's experts. They also fully destroyed what Friday's experts partially demolished. Let's see who destroys what this year!

C. Dean Andersson

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 10 AM – Apocalypse Everywhere: Adding the End to your Story!

Panelists: Shanna Swendson (M), C. Dean Andersson, Terry Gene, Paul Black

It's the end of the world as we know it, and we must document everything! An apocalypse is always a dramatic setting to a story, but just how important is it? Does the plot require doom in the background, or can it be set with rainbows and unicorns? Just how does "The End" work? Do we need to know why it ended? Our writers talk about writing the apocalypse, and how to use it in your story.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 12 PM – C. Dean Andersson, KB Bogen, Chris Donahue

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – How Writers Help and Influence Each Other

Panelists: Kim Redford, C. Dean Andersson, Renee Witterstaetter

Any writer can improve his or her art by sharing and helping each other. It could be by Reading (Pickett) drafts and giving suggestions, or being part of a focus group to come up with ideas that will kick start a stuck scene. Our panelists have experience with this and will share their stories and methods to help each other so that you can do so as well.

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 11 AM – Flash Fiction: How to be Quick about it!

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Dantzel Cherry, C. Dean Andersson

Flash Fiction is defined as a fictional work of extreme brevity that still offers character and plot development. Many varieties exist of this: the six-word story, the 280-character story and others going to as many as 2,000 words. Our panelists talk about this genre, how to write it, where to write it and why.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 3 PM – Sword and Sorcery 101: How to Fight

Panelists: Teresa Patterson (M), C. Dean Andersson, Karl K. Gallagher, Michelle Muenzler

Imagine a typical Conan style scene, with the main hero saving the girl after fighting through countless enemies. We'll leave the lamentations out for now. Now how do you describe the scene? Where is it located? Does the hero need to use scenery to aid themselves at some point in the fight? Our aficionados of sword and sorcery talk about building a fight scene.

Larry Atchley Jr

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – New Tropes For Old

Panelists: Mel White (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Julia S. Mandala, Patricia Burroughs

We all know the Hero's Journey. The Hero must find the Magic MacGuffin™ that will save the world, but only after he/she finds his/her scrappy companions who compass every nationality in the area... It is easy to dismiss a trope. But these masters take the trope and make it look fresh again. Our panelists talk about authors and methods to take the trope and make it fresh and new again.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 5 PM – Larry Atchley Jr., Seth Skorkowsky

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Dystopian Utopia

Panelists: William C. Seigler (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Jimmy Misfit, Ethan Nahté, John DeLaughter

An interesting description of Dystopia versus Utopia is this: Utopia portrays the setting that agrees with the author's ethos, but Dystopia portrays the setting that complete disagrees with the author's ethos. Note that neither dystopia nor utopia have any basis in fact or moral code – an author can portray current society as a dystopia, but others who LIKE that society would portray it as utopia. Both can be correct. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Saturday

Reading (Pickett), 1 PM – Barbara Ann Wright, Larry Atchley Jr., Chris Donahue

Programming 3 (Courtright), 3 PM – Ia, Ia! Cthulhu Mythos Retrospective

Panelists: Larry Atchley Jr.(M), David Doub, Michelle Muenzler, S. Boyd Taylor

There are some creatures Man was not meant to know about. But H.P. Lovecraft came up with a lot of them, and created an entire subculture around Elder Gods with his stories of the weird. Our Lovecraftian experts go into the madness of Cthulhu and try to guide you to sanity. Fthagn!

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – Fairy Tales Coming to Life!

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Ethan Nahté, Larry Atchley Jr., Bret McCormick

One of the recent Hollywood trends of the past couple of years is to take animated movies of yore and redo them with live action versions. Beauty & the Beast, Cinderella and now Aladdin have been or are being made into live action, with more to come. Our movie enthusiasts explore this trend and the reasons for it.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Apocalypse Soon: Practical World Building

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Paul Black, Jimmy Misfit, William C. Seigler

Yes, yes, we've all heard it. The end of the world is nigh! Again. But what dies first? Who will turn the lights off when the world goes dark? Are utilities the first thing to go, or the last? We look at practical considerations for bringing destruction to a society as the world goes mad.

Programming 4 (Parker), 8 PM – Fun Ways to Present Your Poetry

Panelists: Stephen Sanders (M), Michelle Muenzler, Larry Atchley Jr., Patricia Ferguson

Bring instruments! Bring an open mind! Bring whatever you think might be fun and strange, because this is an experimental idea with people committing poetry in whatever fashion that might be eye-catching or funny.

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Creating Heroes From Reality

Panelists: Ethan Nahté (M), Trakena Prevost, Ava Morgan, Larry Atchley Jr.

We don't need superpowers to be a hero, and history has plenty of examples of every day heroes that we can use. From Martin Luther King Jr. to Mahatma Gandhi, stories can be written if only we know where to look. Our panelists give examples of heroes to use in your stories that don't need to be fictionalized to be amazing.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Blending Steampunk

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Gloria Oliver

Using two or more genres together can make something really pop in the imagination. Whether it's combining with Japanese culture in Jay Kristoff's Lotus War series or combining with WWI era noir with Larry Correia's Grimnoir series, blending steampunk with another genre can be very effective. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Michael Baldwin

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – It Was A Dark and Stormy Night

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson, Gloria Oliver, T. M. Hunter

Whether a classic noir or modern day mystery, the weather must usually need to be accounted for. If it rained, footsteps could be lost or found. If it snowed, evidence could be missed. Our panelists debate the weather and how it affects shots ringing out.

Programming 4 (Parker), 6 PM – Where is the Limit in Young Adult?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Dantzel Cherry, Michael Baldwin, Stephen Sanders

When writing YA stories, where is the limit for age? What topics should never be discussed, and why? It increasingly seems like there are no limits in this day and age. Should there be? Our YA authors talk about these and other topics.

Saturday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 11 AM – Your Poetic Brain [2 hours]

Panelists: Michael Baldwin (M)

In this seminar, Dr. Baldwin examines the findings of neuroscience about how poetry affects your mind and vice versa.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 3 PM – Michael Baldwin, Dantzel Cherry

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 12 PM – The Fourth Annual ConDFW Adventure Poetry Slam

Judges: Stephen Sanders (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson

No Entry Fee. First Prize: \$50, Second Prize: Convention T-shirt, Third Prize: Blackbeard Books Merchandise

All you must do is write an original adventure poem, any form, which you can recite in three minutes or less. Then, perform it in front of our audience and judges. Our three judges will score each poem and the three highest scoring poets will win our prizes! What more do you need to know?

Reading (Pickett), 2 PM – Michael Baldwin

Julie Barrett

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – It Was A Dark and Stormy Night

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson, Gloria Oliver, T. M. Hunter

Whether a classic noir or modern day mystery, the weather must usually need to be accounted for. If it rained, footsteps could be lost or found. If it snowed, evidence could be missed. Our panelists debate the weather and how it affects shots ringing out.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 6 PM – The Best Books Nobody Ever Heard Of

Panelists: Patricia Burroughs (M), Amber Royer, Teresa Patterson, Julie Barrett, Barbara Ann Wright

We bring back a useful panel from last year! The primary rule of this panel is this: NO SELF PROMOTION. Bring examples, and audience participation is welcome as well! Be prepared to be grilled ruthlessly on why you like the book, of course! Bring paper and pen so you can take notes, and hopefully you'll find some great reads.

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 11 AM – The Path Less Traveled: Alternate History Explained

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Charlaine Harris, Lillian Stewart Carl, Ava Morgan, S. Boyd Taylor

When history is analyzed, it is amazing to see how every event has a catalyst. Some small impetus, a push here, a nudge there, and suddenly a snowball becomes an avalanche. What alternate history examines is the "what ifs" that lurk in the background. A different path can change everything, and our panelists talk about how to use this to your advantage.

Paul Black

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Up, Up and Away! Developments in Rocketry

Panelists: Karl K. Gallagher (M), Adrian Simmons, Paul Black, Ken Ruffin

Due to the advent of commercial spacecraft and competing companies, we now are seeing reusable rockets and more modern technology. Our space panelists talk about where rocketry is going, and who is doing it.

Programming 4 (Parker), 5 PM – Feel the Love: Paranormal Romance

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Paul Black

Admit it, the line has really blurred between Urban Fantasy and Paranormal Romance. There are definite signs of friction between the two sides, however...but why is this? Where is the love? Our panelists talk about the differences which are plain to see.

Reading (Pickett), 6 PM – Paul Black, Michelle Muenzler

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 10 AM – Apocalypse Everywhere: Adding the End to your Story!

Panelists: Shanna Swendson (M), C. Dean Andersson, Terry Gene, Paul Black

It's the end of the world as we know it, and we must document everything! An apocalypse is always a dramatic setting to a story, but just how important is it? Does the plot require doom in the background, or can it be set with rainbows and unicorns? Just how does "The End" work? Do we need to know why it ended? Our writers talk about writing the apocalypse, and how to use it in your story.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM – How to Write, Levels 4-7

Panelists: Adrian Simmons (M), Paul Black, Kim Redford, Mel White

Rather than getting sidetracked by bad fonts, misspelled names or "didn't read the guidelines", let us get past this and look at higher level mistakes that writers make to their detriment. Our editors guide us through the shoals to a better side.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Apocalypse Soon: Practical World Building

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Paul Black, Jimmy Misfit, William C. Seigler

Yes, yes, we've all heard it. The end of the world is nigh! Again. But what dies first? Who will turn the lights off when the world goes dark? Are utilities the first thing to go, or the last? We look at practical considerations for bringing destruction to a society as the world goes mad.

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – Getting Recognized: Magazines and Contests

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Paul Black, Ava Morgan, Trakena Prevost

Sometimes you have to go out of your comfort zone to get recognized. Our publishers talk about the dog eat dog world of getting published in magazines and winning contests. Note: nothing is guaranteed!

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 1 PM – Paul Black, Bret McCormick

KB Bogen

Friday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM – Self-editing errors

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Steve Sanders, Julia S. Mandala, KB Bogen

A popular panel for the past several years, our panelists discuss ways of catching those pesky errors. Remember, the more eyes on your work, the better – each different perspective helps catch things you miss! And watch out for Autocorrect...

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 5 PM – Finding Humor in Odd Places

Panelists: Dusty Rainbolt (M), KB Bogen, John DeLaughter, Jimmy Misfit, Amber Royer

Sometimes a joke will sneak up behind you and hit you with a Nerf bat. For instance, “Circuses struggling to find clowns as top prospects keep going into politics.” Enough said. Our panelists talk about where they have found their muse and why.

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – The Long Con: Humor that Requires Time

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Ethan Nahté, Dusty Rainbolt, Linda Donahue, KB Bogen

Not all jokes happen instantly. Famous comedy routines such as “Who’s On First” or “Dead Parrot” rely on a buildup to the end. But how do you make humor work over time, especially in today’s instant gratification society? Our panelists debate this topic and others.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 12 PM – C. Dean Andersson, KB Bogen, Chris Donahue

Reading (Pickett), 6 PM – KB Bogen, Karl K. Gallagher

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 2 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part Two – The Debunking

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, KB Bogen, Linda Donahue, David Doub, Julia S. Mandala

The second of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin. This time, our experts tell us how wrong the previous esteemed panelists were! Last year, Sunday’s panel thoroughly debunked Friday’s experts. They also fully destroyed what Friday’s experts partially demolished. Let’s see who destroys what this year!

Patricia Burroughs

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – New Tropes For Old

Panelists: Mel White (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Julia S. Mandala, Patricia Burroughs

We all know the Hero's Journey. The Hero must find the Magic MacGuffin™ that will save the world, but only after he/she finds his/her scrappy companions who compass every nationality in the area... It is easy to dismiss a trope. But these masters take the trope and make it look fresh again. Our panelists talk about authors and methods to take the trope and make it fresh and new again.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part One – Initial Findings

Panelists: Mel White (M), Charlaine Harris, Patricia Burroughs, Rhonda Eudaly, T. M. Hunter, Wil McCarthy

The first of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin and our esteemed (and indeed, TRAINED) archeologists in turn tell us what the artifacts are. Light hearted fun, and bring ear plugs! This year we will take a post-apocalyptic slant and see what story they come up with!

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 6 PM – The Best Books Nobody Ever Heard Of

Panelists: Patricia Burroughs (M), Amber Royer, Teresa Patterson, Julie Barrett, Barbara Ann Wright

We bring back a useful panel from last year! The primary rule of this panel is this: NO SELF PROMOTION. Bring examples, and audience participation is welcome as well! Be prepared to be grilled ruthlessly on why you like the book, of course! Bring paper and pen so you can take notes, and hopefully you'll find some great reads.

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 10 AM – Pets and You: Untangling the Mystery

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Carole Nelson Douglas, Lillian Stewart Carl, Patricia Burroughs, Amber Royer

Some would say pets are a mystery by themselves. Each breed has its quirks, attention spans and whether they will claw you to bits for forgetting to bring them the right type of dinner. But how do you use them as part of a story? Our sleuths talk about pets and stories about pets amongst other topics.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Writing Outside Your Experience

Panelists: Jimmy Misfit (M), Patricia Burroughs, A. Lee Martinez, Trakena Prevost, Shanna Swendson

It's easy to write about your experiences. What you grew up with, what you have seen with your eyes, and what you believe in. How do you write about things that you aren't a member of? Writing about minorities you aren't a member of, or lifestyles that you never experienced? This is not trash talking about other experiences, mind you. This is about understanding experiences so you can write in them believably.

Reading (Pickett), 4 PM – William Ledbetter, Wil McCarthy, Patricia Burroughs

Sunday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 12 PM – Patricia Burroughs, Linda Donahue

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 1 PM – Procrastination and You: Getting Past Blocks

Panelists: Stephen Patrick (M), Patricia Burroughs, Renee Witterstaetter, T.M. Hunter

In the world of instant gratification, it is easy to be distracted away from your purpose. The idea is in your head, but...it can wait for a bit until you've finished playing that stupid level of Candy Crush that you've been stuck on for WEEKS now and... Yes, I do believe we've all been there. Our panelists talk about how to get past the procrastination bug and get back to writing.

Lillian Stewart Carl

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 10 AM – Pets and You: Untangling the Mystery

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Carole Nelson Douglas, Lillian Stewart Carl, Patricia Burroughs, Amber Royer

Some would say pets are a mystery by themselves. Each breed has its quirks, attention spans and whether they will claw you to bits for forgetting to bring them the right type of dinner. But how do you use them as part of a story? Our sleuths talk about pets and stories about pets amongst other topics.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 11 AM – The Path Less Traveled: Alternate History Explained

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Charlaine Harris, Lillian Stewart Carl, Ava Morgan, S. Boyd Taylor

When history is analyzed, it is amazing to see how every event has a catalyst. Some small impetus, a push here, a nudge there, and suddenly a snowball becomes an avalanche. What alternate history examines is the “what ifs” that lurk in the background. A different path can change everything, and our panelists talk about how to use this to your advantage.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – How to Build Culture Clashes

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), S. Boyd Taylor, Lillian Stewart Carl, Carole Nelson Douglas, Wil McCarthy

History has many examples of cultures clashing against each other. Whether from nationalism or simple tribal differences, it’s important to realize that these differences exist and must be accounted for. Our panelists talk about the use of cultures in writing.

Dantzel Cherry

Friday

Reading (Pickett), 5 PM – Dantzel Cherry, William C. Seigler

Programming 4 (Parker), 6 PM – Where is the Limit in Young Adult?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Dantzel Cherry, Michael Baldwin, Stephen Sanders

When writing YA stories, where is the limit for age? What topics should never be discussed, and why? It increasingly seems like there are no limits in this day and age. Should there be? Our YA authors talk about these and other topics.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 9 PM – Talking During the Movies

Panelists: Dantzel Cherry, John DeLaughter, David Doub, Wil McCarthy

The world (or at least the Con) is ending. What better way to mark the occasion than with laughably terrible cinema about the apocalypse? We start off with *Warriors of the Wasteland* (1983), which is set in the nightmare future world of 2019, and conclude with *Fatal Future* (2018), a movie that is only occasionally fatal but definitely not from the future. Come revel in the ruins while con guests give live commentary and maybe even join in yourself. You've survived the end of the world but can you survive TALKING DURING THE MOVIES?

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 10 AM – Pilates for Desk and Couch Potatoes

Panelist: Dantzel Cherry (M)

Are you feeling time go by but are too lazy to get out of your chair? You need to exercise! Dantzel Cherry is a pilates expert that wants to show you ways to exercise that are good for you couch potatoes!

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Fantasy Before Tolkien

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Seth Skorkowsky, Dantzel Cherry, Rhonda Eudaly

Tolkien's *Silmarillion* has established itself as one of the primary definitions of High Fantasy. But there were writers before him who wrote various versions of fantastical worlds – giants such as Howard, Lovecraft, Burroughs and Verne amongst others. Our panelists discuss the echoes of these writers in the genre.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 3 PM – Michael Baldwin, Dantzel Cherry

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Tortoises and Dragons: Militaries in Fantasy

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Dantzel Cherry, Ethan Nahté, Teresa Patterson, Barbara Ann Wright

The *Silmarillion* uses massed armies, war machines and fantastic beasts. *Game of Thrones* uses undead armies, dragons and regular armies as well. *Harry Potter's* universe has zipping spells, teleporting wizards and a much more mobile form of warfare. As we can see, for each fantasy universe there are many different ways of warfare. From catapults to undead dragons, our panelists talk about waging war in fantasy.

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 11 AM – Flash Fiction: How to be Quick about it!

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Dantzel Cherry, C. Dean Andersson

Flash Fiction is defined as a fictional work of extreme brevity that still offers character and plot development. Many varieties exist of this: the six-word story, the 280-character story and others going to as many as 2,000 words. Our panelists talk about this genre, how to write it, where to write it and why.

Melia Dawn

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 1 PM – The mARTian Collaboration

Panelists: Melia Dawn, Brad Foster, Gloria Oliver, Mel White

They say if you ask a committee to design a horse, you'll get a camel. Come see what happens when we team up artists and ask them to design a Martian, alien, or whatever the audience demands!

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM – Fandom Pictionary

Panelists: Melia Dawn, Brad Foster, Gloria Oliver, Mel White

Play Pictionary or just watch as our artists compete. Come and see our artists face off against each other. Pictionary has never been this much fun!

John DeLaughter

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 5 PM – Finding Humor in Odd Places

Panelists: Dusty Rainbolt (M), KB Bogen, John DeLaughter, Jimmy Misfit, Amber Royer

Sometimes a joke will sneak up behind you and hit you with a Nerf bat. For instance, “Circuses struggling to find clowns as top prospects keep going into politics.” Enough said. Our panelists talk about where they have found their muse and why.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Dystopian Utopia

Panelists: William C. Seigler (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Jimmy Misfit, Ethan Nahté, John DeLaughter

An interesting description of Dystopia versus Utopia is this: Utopia portrays the setting that agrees with the author’s ethos, but Dystopia portrays the setting that complete disagrees with the author’s ethos. Note that neither dystopia nor utopia have any basis in fact or moral code – an author can portray current society as a dystopia, but others who LIKE that society would portray it as utopia. Both can be correct. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 9 PM – Talking During the Movies

Panelists: Dantzel Cherry, John DeLaughter, David Doub, Wil McCarthy

The world (or at least the Con) is ending. What better way to mark the occasion than with laughably terrible cinema about the apocalypse? We start off with Warriors of the Wasteland (1983), which is set in the nightmare future world of 2019, and conclude with Fatal Future (2018), a movie that is only occasionally fatal but definitely not from the future. Come revel in the ruins while con guests give live commentary and maybe even join in yourself. You’ve survived the end of the world but can you survive TALKING DURING THE MOVIES?

Saturday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 10 AM – Exploring New Worlds

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Bill Leaf, William Ledbetter, Wil McCarthy

As new pictures continue to come in of Ultima Thule, more questions arrive seemingly just as fast. Our space panelists talk about explorations of our solar system and beyond plus other topics.

Programming 4 (Parker), 11 AM – Collaboration 101: Finding That Special Someone

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, Rhonda Eudaly, Trakena Prevost

If you want to work together to create something truly special, you need to find people who fill the roles you don’t do. Or...just get a group together and see what happens! Either way, this is collaboration, and our panelists talk about dos and don’ts when finding people to work with.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 1 PM – Q&A with our GOH, Yoon Ha Lee!

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee

Our GOH Yoon Ha Lee talks with us about life, career, and the pursuit of happiness.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 8 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (8 pm)

Panelists: John DeLaughter, David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, William Ledbetter, Teresa Patterson, Amber Royer

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let’s see what happens!

Sunday

Reading (Pickett), 1 PM – Mel White, John DeLaughter

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 2 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part Two – The Debunking

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, KB Bogen, Linda Donahue, David Doub, Julia S. Mandala

The second of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin. This time, our experts tell us how wrong the previous esteemed panelists were! Last year, Sunday’s panel thoroughly debunked Friday’s experts. They also fully destroyed what Friday’s experts partially demolished. Let’s see who destroys what this year!

Charlayne Elizabeth Denney

Friday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM – Self-Promotion for Fun and Profit

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Barbara Ann Wright, Terry Gene, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney

It's time to get your book out to the world. But how do you get people interested in what you wrote? Our publishers talk about how to get your name and work out into the world in ways that won't get you arrested.

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM – Research 101: Finding Content

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Tex Thompson, Adrian Simmons,

Need to find out something specific? Trying to come up with names of fish that are not often seen? Need to know what fish can be found in what oceans? To do this, you need to know how to research, and where to research. Our panelists give tips and tricks on where to find those tidbits of information you desperately need.

Saturday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 10 AM – Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Julia S. Mandala

Reading (Pickett), 12 PM – Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Linda Donahue, Ava Morgan

Programming 4 (Parker), 5 PM - Vampires for Fun and Profit

Panelists: A. Lee Martinez (M), Charlaine Harris, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Seth Skorkowsky, Ava Morgan

What do vampire species in differing universes have in common? They drink blood, of varying types. From the Hopping Vampire to Nosferatu and the original Dracula to other versions we dare not speak of, there are still common elements to draw upon. They also are not restricted in genre – from humor to horror with urban fiction and even science fiction in between, vampires can be found in many places. Our panelists talk about blood suckers of all types, and how to create your own.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (7 pm)

Panelists: Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Julia S. Mandala, Michelle Muenzler, Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt, Mel White

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Christopher Donahue

Saturday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 12 PM – C. Dean Andersson, KB Bogen, Chris Donahue

Reading (Pickett), 1 PM – Barbara Ann Wright, Larry Atchley Jr., Chris Donahue

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Tortoises and Dragons: Militaries in Fantasy

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Dantzel Cherry, Ethan Nahté, Teresa Patterson, Barbara Ann Wright

The Silmarillion uses massed armies, war machines and fantastic beasts. Game of Thrones uses undead armies, dragons and regular armies as well. Harry Potter's universe has zipping spells, teleporting wizards and a much more mobile form of warfare. As we can see, for each fantasy universe there are many different ways of warfare. From catapults to undead dragons, our panelists talk about waging war in fantasy.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Apocalypse Soon: Practical World Building

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Paul Black, Jimmy Misfit, William C. Seigler

Yes, yes, we've all heard it. The end of the world is nigh! Again. But what dies first? Who will turn the lights off when the world goes dark? Are utilities the first thing to go, or the last? We look at practical considerations for bringing destruction to a society as the world goes mad.

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 1 PM – What is Taboo in History?

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Melanie Fletcher, Gloria Oliver

When we look back at history, there are always parts that are not for the squeamish. There are issues that are controversial, and then there are issues that just aren't talked about in polite society. Where are the lines? Are there any lines? Why are you crossing any lines? Our panelists discuss these ideas and others. *Warning: May get political and/or heated. Please keep all prejudices at the door.*

Linda Donahue

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – The Long Con: Humor that Requires Time

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Ethan Nahté, Dusty Rainbolt, Linda Donahue, KB Bogen

Not all jokes happen instantly. Famous comedy routines such as “Who’s On First” or “Dead Parrot” rely on a buildup to the end. But how do you make humor work over time, especially in today’s instant gratification society? Our panelists debate this topic and others.

Reading (Pickett), 12 PM – Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Linda Donahue, Ava Morgan

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM – Four Redheads of the Apocalypse!

Panelists: Rhonda Eudaly, Julia S. Mandala, Linda Donahue, Dusty Rainbolt

Our favorite red heads bring the gang back together to entertain and educate! Not to be missed!

Sunday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 12 PM – Patricia Burroughs, Linda Donahue

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 2 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part Two – The Debunking

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, KB Bogen, Linda Donahue, David Doub, Julia S. Mandala

The second of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin. This time, our experts tell us how wrong the previous esteemed panelists were! Last year, Sunday’s panel thoroughly debunked Friday’s experts. They also fully destroyed what Friday’s experts partially demolished. Let’s see who destroys what this year!

David Doub

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 9 PM – Talking During the Movies

Panelists: Dantzel Cherry, John DeLaughter, David Doub, Wil McCarthy

The world (or at least the Con) is ending. What better way to mark the occasion than with laughably terrible cinema about the apocalypse? We start off with *Warriors of the Wasteland* (1983), which is set in the nightmare future world of 2019, and conclude with *Fatal Future* (2018), a movie that is only occasionally fatal but definitely not from the future. Come revel in the ruins while con guests give live commentary and maybe even join in yourself. You've survived the end of the world but can you survive TALKING DURING THE MOVIES?

Saturday

Reading (Pickett), 2 PM – David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, Ethan Nahté

Programming 3 (Courtright), 3 PM – Ia, Ia! Cthulhu Mythos Retrospective

Panelists: Larry Atchley Jr.(M), David Doub, Michelle Muenzler, S. Boyd Taylor

There are some creatures Man was not meant to know about. But H.P. Lovecraft came up with a lot of them, and created an entire subculture around Elder Gods with his stories of the weird. Our Lovecraftian experts go into the madness of Cthulhu and try to guide you to sanity. Fthagn!

Programming 4 (Parker), 6 PM – The State of Modern Comics

Panelists: Renee Witterstaetter, David Doub

With the continued success of Marvel and DC's comeback with their recent films, comics have been back in a big way everywhere. What is the new hotness, or what needs to come back in the worst way? Our comic gurus debate this and other topics.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 8 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (8 pm)

Panelists: John DeLaughter, David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, William Ledbetter, Teresa Patterson, Amber Royer

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 2 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part Two – The Debunking

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, KB Bogen, Linda Donahue, David Doub, Julia S. Mandala

The second of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin. This time, our experts tell us how wrong the previous esteemed panelists were! Last year, Sunday's panel thoroughly debunked Friday's experts. They also fully destroyed what Friday's experts partially demolished. Let's see who destroys what this year!

Carole Nelson Douglas

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 10 AM – Pets and You: Untangling the Mystery

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Carole Nelson Douglas, Lillian Stewart Carl, Patricia Burroughs, Amber Royer

Some would say pets are a mystery by themselves. Each breed has its quirks, attention spans and whether they will claw you to bits for forgetting to bring them the right type of dinner. But how do you use them as part of a story? Our sleuths talk about pets and stories about pets amongst other topics.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 12 PM – Bringing Books to Life in TV/Film

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlaine Harris, Renee Witterstaetter, Bret McCormick, Carole Nelson Douglas

More and more stories are being brought to life either via movie or TV. Our authors relate to us the trials and tribulations of doing so, and more importantly how they did it.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 1 PM – Dusty Rainbolt, Carole Nelson Douglas, Michelle Muenzler

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – How to Build Culture Clashes

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), S. Boyd Taylor, Lillian Stewart Carl, Carole Nelson Douglas, Wil McCarthy

History has many examples of cultures clashing against each other. Whether from nationalism or simple tribal differences, it's important to realize that these differences exist and must be accounted for. Our panelists talk about the use of cultures in writing.

Rhonda Eudaly

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 4 PM – What Do You Fear?

Panelists: Charlaine Harris, Rhonda Eudaly (M), Bret McCormick, Seth Skorkowsky

There are so many ways to scare a person. Let us count the ways. Let the fear flow through you. Show us the way to true horror, and we will show you mastery of the genre. Our fear mongers compare notes and talk about the things that scare us.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part One – Initial Findings

Panelists: Mel White (M), Charlaine Harris, Patricia Burroughs, Rhonda Eudaly, T. M. Hunter, Wil McCarthy

The first of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin and our esteemed (and indeed, TRAINED) archeologists in turn tell us what the artifacts are. Light hearted fun, and bring ear plugs! This year we will take a post-apocalyptic slant and see what story they come up with!

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 11 AM – Collaboration 101: Finding That Special Someone

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, Rhonda Eudaly, Trakena Prevost

If you want to work together to create something truly special, you need to find people who fill the roles you don't do. Or...just get a group together and see what happens! Either way, this is collaboration, and our panelists talk about dos and don'ts when finding people to work with.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Fantasy Before Tolkien

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Seth Skorkowsky, Dantzel Cherry, Rhonda Eudaly

Tolkien's Silmarillion has established itself as one of the primary definitions of High Fantasy. But there were writers before him who wrote various versions of fantastical worlds – giants such as Howard, Lovecraft, Burroughs and Verne amongst others. Our panelists discuss the echoes of these writers in the genre.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM – Four Redheads of the Apocalypse!

Panelists: Rhonda Eudaly, Julia S. Mandala, Linda Donahue, Dusty Rainbolt

Our favorite red heads bring the gang back together to entertain and educate! Not to be missed!

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 6 PM – William Ledbetter, Ava Morgan, Rhonda Eudaly

Sunday

Reading (Pickett), 12 PM – T. M. Hunter, Rhonda Eudaly

Patricia Ferguson

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – It Was A Dark and Stormy Night

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson, Gloria Oliver, T. M. Hunter

Whether a classic noir or modern day mystery, the weather must usually need to be accounted for. If it rained, footsteps could be lost or found. If it snowed, evidence could be missed. Our panelists debate the weather and how it affects shots ringing out.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 8 PM – Polishing your Prose and Poetry [2 hours]

Panelists: Patricia Ferguson and Pat Huldren

Once you have your prose or poetry written, before you look for those elusive typos and errors, what do you do? You polish. This is a workshop in ways to make your prose or poetry shine. Subjects covered: alternate word choices, bringing all the senses, beginning with a hook and ending with a bang. Plus, what to do in between.

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 8 PM – Fun Ways to Present Your Poetry

Panelists: Stephen Sanders (M), Michelle Muenzler, Larry Atchley Jr., Patricia Ferguson

Bring instruments! Bring an open mind! Bring whatever you think might be fun and strange, because this is an experimental idea with people committing poetry in whatever fashion that might be eye-catching or funny.

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 12 PM – The Fourth Annual ConDFW Adventure Poetry Slam

Judges: Stephen Sanders (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson

No Entry Fee. First Prize: \$50, Second Prize: Convention T-shirt, Third Prize: Blackbeard Books Merchandise

All you must do is write an original adventure poem, any form, which you can recite in three minutes or less. Then, perform it in front of our audience and judges. Our three judges will score each poem and the three highest scoring poets will win our prizes! What more do you need to know?

Melanie Fletcher

Friday

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM – Research 101: Finding Content

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Tex Thompson, Adrian Simmons,

Need to find out something specific? Trying to come up with names of fish that are not often seen? Need to know what fish can be found in what oceans? To do this, you need to know how to research, and where to research. Our panelists give tips and tricks on where to find those tidbits of information you desperately need.

Programming 4 (Parker), 5 PM – Feel the Love: Paranormal Romance

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Paul Black

Admit it, the line has really blurred between Urban Fantasy and Paranormal Romance. There are definite signs of friction between the two sides, however...but why is this? Where is the love? Our panelists talk about the differences which are plain to see.

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 12 PM – Bringing Books to Life in TV/Film

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlaire Harris, Renee Witterstaetter, Bret McCormick, Carole Nelson Douglas

More and more stories are being brought to life either via movie or TV. Our authors relate to us the trials and tribulations of doing so, and more importantly how they did it.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Q&A with our GOH, Charlaire Harris!

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlaire Harris

Our GOH Charlaire Harris talks with us about life, career, hopes and dreams.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – Fairy Tales Coming to Life!

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Ethan Nahté, Larry Atchley Jr., Bret McCormick

One of the recent Hollywood trends of the past couple of years is to take animated movies of yore and redo them with live action versions. Beauty & the Beast, Cinderella and now Aladdin have been or are being made into live action, with more to come. Our movie enthusiasts explore this trend and the reasons for it.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 6 PM – The Art of the B-Movie

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Bret McCormick

For every A-List movie there are countless movies that try to strain for greatness. Or at least use local flavor to make something fun, or realize a dream that gets you out of reality for just a few moments. There are many reasons for making a B-movie, and our resident B-Movie expert Bret McCormick relates a few of them.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 9 PM - Pornography vs Erotica – It's the End of the World [Adult]

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Blaise Ramsay, Karl Gallagher

Our perennial late night adult panel. If the world is going to end, how do YOU plan on going out with a bang? Our panelists debate apocalyptic sex, but only if they were the last people on earth.

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 1 PM – What is Taboo in History?

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Melanie Fletcher, Gloria Oliver

When we look back at history, there are always parts that are not for the squeamish. There are issues that are controversial, and then there are issues that just aren't talked about in polite society. Where are the lines? Are there any lines? Why are you crossing any lines? Our panelists discuss these ideas and others. *Warning: May get political and/or heated. Please keep all prejudices at the door.*

Brad W Foster

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 12 PM – How to Get Creatively Started

Panelist: Brad Foster (M)

It doesn't matter whether you are an artist or a writer. Everyone has to get started somewhere. A concept, an idea, a simple sentence or a single scene: something is needed. Brad Foster gives a presentation on ways and means to get those creative juices flowing.

Programming 4 (Parker), 1 PM – The mARTian Collaboration

Panelists: Melia Dawn, Brad Foster, Gloria Oliver, Mel White

They say if you ask a committee to design a horse, you'll get a camel. Come see what happens when we team up artists and ask them to design a Martian, alien, or whatever the audience demands!

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM – Fandom Pictionary

Panelists: Melia Dawn, Brad Foster, Gloria Oliver, Mel White

Play Pictionary or just watch as our artists compete. Come and see our artists face off against each other. Pictionary has never been this much fun!

Karl K. Gallagher

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Up, Up and Away! Developments in Rocketry

Panelists: Karl K. Gallagher (M), Adrian Simmons, Paul Black, Ken Ruffin

Due to the advent of commercial spacecraft and competing companies, we now are seeing reusable rockets and more modern technology. Our space panelists talk about where rocketry is going, and who is doing it.

Saturday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 4 PM – Karl K. Gallagher, Terry Gene, T. M. Hunter

Reading (Pickett), 6 PM – KB Bogen, Karl K. Gallagher

Programming 3 (Courtright), 9 PM - Pornography vs Erotica – It's the End of the World [Adult]

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Blaise Ramsay, Karl Gallagher

Our perennial late night adult panel. If the world is going to end, how do YOU plan on going out with a bang? Our panelists debate apocalyptic sex, but only if they were the last people on earth.

Sunday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 11 AM – Science Fiction Spaceships and the Laws of Physics

Panelists: Bill Leaf (M), Karl K. Gallagher, Wil McCarthy, Ken Ruffin

Energy equals mass times the speed of light squared, correct? Then why do some laws of physics get ignored in science fiction? Our panelists debate the mathematics of science fiction and spaceships.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 2 PM – What's Ahead for Star Wars?

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Dusty Rainbolt, Stephen Patrick, Karl K. Gallagher

After stumbling out of the gate with Last Jedi and Solo, Disney seems to be licking its wounds. Where should the series go from here? Can it recover? Will the Star Wars fanbase let it recover? Can there be a topic the fanbase won't shred? Our panelist fans try to direct the rage.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 3 PM – Sword and Sorcery 101: How to Fight

Panelists: Teresa Patterson (M), C. Dean Andersson, Karl K. Gallagher, Michelle Muenzler

Imagine a typical Conan style scene, with the main hero saving the girl after fighting through countless enemies. We'll leave the lamentations out for now. Now how do you describe the scene? Where is it located? Does the hero need to use scenery to aid themselves at some point in the fight? Our aficionados of sword and sorcery talk about building a fight scene.

Terry Gene

Friday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM – Self-Promotion for Fun and Profit

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Barbara Ann Wright, Terry Gene, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney

It's time to get your book out to the world. But how do you get people interested in what you wrote? Our publishers talk about how to get your name and work out into the world in ways that won't get you arrested.

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 10 AM – Apocalypse Everywhere: Adding the End to your Story!

Panelists: Shanna Swendson (M), C. Dean Andersson, Terry Gene, Paul Black

It's the end of the world as we know it, and we must document everything! An apocalypse is always a dramatic setting to a story, but just how important is it? Does the plot require doom in the background, or can it be set with rainbows and unicorns? Just how does "The End" work? Do we need to know why it ended? Our writers talk about writing the apocalypse, and how to use it in your story.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 4 PM – Karl K. Gallagher, Terry Gene, T. M. Hunter

T. M. Hunter

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – It Was A Dark and Stormy Night

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson, Gloria Oliver, T. M. Hunter

Whether a classic noir or modern day mystery, the weather must usually need to be accounted for. If it rained, footsteps could be lost or found. If it snowed, evidence could be missed. Our panelists debate the weather and how it affects shots ringing out.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part One – Initial Findings

Panelists: Mel White (M), Charlaine Harris, Patricia Burroughs, Rhonda Eudaly, T. M. Hunter, Wil McCarthy

The first of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin and our esteemed (and indeed, TRAINED) archeologists in turn tell us what the artifacts are. Light hearted fun, and bring ear plugs! This year we will take a post-apocalyptic slant and see what story they come up with!

Saturday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 4 PM – Karl K. Gallagher, Terry Gene, T. M. Hunter

Sunday

Reading (Pickett), 12 PM – T. M. Hunter, Rhonda Eudaly

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 1 PM – Procrastination and You: Getting Past Blocks

Panelists: Stephen Patrick (M), Patricia Burroughs, Renee Witterstaetter, T.M. Hunter

In the world of instant gratification, it is easy to be distracted away from your purpose. The idea is in your head, but...it can wait for a bit until you've finished playing that stupid level of Candy Crush that you've been stuck on for WEEKS now and... Yes, I do believe we've all been there. Our panelists talk about how to get past the procrastination bug and get back to writing.

Bill Leaf

Saturday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 10 AM – Exploring New Worlds

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Bill Leaf, William Ledbetter, Wil McCarthy

As new pictures continue to come in of Ultima Thule, more questions arrive seemingly just as fast. Our space panelists talk about explorations of our solar system and beyond plus other topics.

Sunday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 11 AM – Science Fiction Spaceships and the Laws of Physics

Panelists: Bill Leaf (M), Karl K. Gallagher, Wil McCarthy, Ken Ruffin

Energy equals mass times the speed of light squared, correct? Then why do some laws of physics get ignored in science fiction? Our panelists debate the mathematics of science fiction and spaceships.

William Ledbetter

Saturday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 10 AM – Exploring New Worlds

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Bill Leaf, William Ledbetter, Wil McCarthy

As new pictures continue to come in of Ultima Thule, more questions arrive seemingly just as fast. Our space panelists talk about explorations of our solar system and beyond plus other topics.

Reading (Pickett), 4 PM – William Ledbetter, Wil McCarthy, Patricia Burroughs

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 6 PM – William Ledbetter, Ava Morgan, Rhonda Eudaly

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 8 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (8 pm)

Panelists: John DeLaughter, David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, William Ledbetter, Teresa Patterson, Amber Royer

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – Getting Recognized: Magazines and Contests

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Paul Black, Ava Morgan, Trakena Prevost

Sometimes you have to go out of your comfort zone to get recognized. Our publishers talk about the dog eat dog world of getting published in magazines and winning contests. Note: nothing is guaranteed!

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 2 PM – What's Ahead for Star Wars?

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Dusty Rainbolt, Stephen Patrick, Karl K. Gallagher

After stumbling out of the gate with Last Jedi and Solo, Disney seems to be licking its wounds. Where should the series go from here? Can it recover? Will the Star Wars fanbase let it recover? Can there be a topic the fanbase won't shred? Our panelist fans try to direct the rage.

Julia S. Mandala

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – New Tropes For Old

Panelists: Mel White (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Julia S. Mandala, Patricia Burroughs

We all know the Hero's Journey. The Hero must find the Magic MacGuffin™ that will save the world, but only after he/she finds his/her scrappy companions who compass every nationality in the area... It is easy to dismiss a trope. But these masters take the trope and make it look fresh again. Our panelists talk about authors and methods to take the trope and make it fresh and new again.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM – Self-editing err0rs

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Steve Sanders, Julia S. Mandala, KB Bogen

A popular panel for the past several years, our panelists discuss ways of catching those pesky errors. Remember, the more eyes on your work, the better – each different perspective helps catch things you miss! And watch out for Autocorrect...

Programming 4 (Parker), 6 PM – Where is the Limit in Young Adult?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Dantzel Cherry, Michael Baldwin, Stephen Sanders

When writing YA stories, where is the limit for age? What topics should never be discussed, and why? It increasingly seems like there are no limits in this day and age. Should there be? Our YA authors talk about these and other topics.

Saturday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 10 AM – Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Julia S. Mandala

Reading (Pickett), 11 AM – Amber Royer, Stephen Sanders, Julia S. Mandala

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Fantasy Before Tolkien

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Seth Skorkowsky, Dantzel Cherry, Rhonda Eudaly

Tolkien's Silmarillion has established itself as one of the primary definitions of High Fantasy. But there were writers before him who wrote various versions of fantastical worlds – giants such as Howard, Lovecraft, Burroughs and Verne amongst others. Our panelists discuss the echoes of these writers in the genre.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM – Four Redheads of the Apocalypse!

Panelists: Rhonda Eudaly, Julia S. Mandala, Linda Donahue, Dusty Rainbolt

Our favorite red heads bring the gang back together to entertain and educate! Not to be missed!

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (7 pm)

Panelists: Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Julia S. Mandala, Michelle Muenzler, Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt, Mel White

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 2 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part Two – The Debunking

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, KB Bogen, Linda Donahue, David Doub, Julia S. Mandala

The second of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin. This time, our experts tell us how wrong the previous esteemed panelists were! Last year, Sunday's panel thoroughly debunked Friday's experts. They also fully destroyed what Friday's experts partially demolished. Let's see who destroys what this year!

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – Constant Comedy: How Much is Too Much?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Kim Redford, Stephen Sanders, Ava Morgan, Wil McCarthy

Is it possible to write a story where there is too much humor? Even standup comedians have to calm things down to set up better jokes. So let us see where the line, if it exists, lies so we can build a better humorous story. Our panelists talk about humor's quantity versus quality and how to tell the difference.

A. Lee Martinez

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Writing Outside Your Experience

Panelists: Jimmy Misfit (M), Patricia Burroughs, A. Lee Martinez, Trakena Prevost, Shanna Swendson

It's easy to write about your experiences. What you grew up with, what you have seen with your eyes, and what you believe in. How do you write about things that you aren't a member of? Writing about minorities you aren't a member of, or lifestyles that you never experienced? This is not trash talking about other experiences, mind you. This is about understanding experiences so you can write in them believably.

Reading (Pickett), 2 PM – David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, Ethan Nahté

Programming 4 (Parker), 5 PM - Vampires for Fun and Profit

Panelists: A. Lee Martinez (M), Charlaine Harris, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Seth Skorkowsky, Ava Morgan,

What do vampire species in differing universes have in common? They drink blood, of varying types. From the Hopping Vampire to Nosferatu and the original Dracula to other versions we dare not speak of, there are still common elements to draw upon. They also are not restricted in genre – from humor to horror with urban fiction and even science fiction in between, vampires can be found in many places. Our panelists talk about blood suckers of all types, and how to create your own.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 8 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (8 pm)

Panelists: John DeLaughter, David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, William Ledbetter, Teresa Patterson, Amber Royer

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Wil McCarthy

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part One – Initial Findings

Panelists: Mel White (M), Charlaine Harris, Patricia Burroughs, Rhonda Eudaly, T. M. Hunter, Wil McCarthy
The first of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin and our esteemed (and indeed, TRAINED) archeologists in turn tell us what the artifacts are. Light hearted fun, and bring ear plugs! This year we will take a post-apocalyptic slant and see what story they come up with!

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 9 PM – Talking During the Movies

Panelists: Dantzel Cherry, John DeLaughter, David Doub, Wil McCarthy
The world (or at least the Con) is ending. What better way to mark the occasion than with laughably terrible cinema about the apocalypse? We start off with Warriors of the Wasteland (1983), which is set in the nightmare future world of 2019, and conclude with Fatal Future (2018), a movie that is only occasionally fatal but definitely not from the future. Come revel in the ruins while con guests give live commentary and maybe even join in yourself. You've survived the end of the world but can you survive TALKING DURING THE MOVIES?

Saturday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 10 AM – Exploring New Worlds

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Bill Leaf, William Ledbetter, Wil McCarthy
As new pictures continue to come in of Ultima Thule, more questions arrive seemingly just as fast. Our space panelists talk about explorations of our solar system and beyond plus other topics.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – How to Build Culture Clashes

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), S. Boyd Taylor, Lillian Stewart Carl, Carole Nelson Douglas, Wil McCarthy
History has many examples of cultures clashing against each other. Whether from nationalism or simple tribal differences, it's important to realize that these differences exist and must be accounted for. Our panelists talk about the use of cultures in writing.

Reading (Pickett), 4 PM – William Ledbetter, Wil McCarthy, Patricia Burroughs

Sunday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 11 AM – Science Fiction Spaceships and the Laws of Physics

Panelists: Bill Leaf (M), Karl K. Gallagher, Wil McCarthy, Ken Ruffin
Energy equals mass times the speed of light squared, correct? Then why do some laws of physics get ignored in science fiction? Our panelists debate the mathematics of science fiction and spaceships.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – Modern Westerns: Cowboys and Condos

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Kim Redford, Wil McCarthy, Ethan Nahté
Let us look at the modern-day cowboy. All of the elements of a Western story exist even today, but they are definitely harder to find! Our researchers look at how the West is currently, and how to use yesteryear in a more modern setting.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – Constant Comedy: How Much is Too Much?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Kim Redford, Stephen Sanders, Ava Morgan, Wil McCarthy
Is it possible to write a story where there is too much humor? Even standup comedians have to calm things down to set up better jokes. So let us see where the line, if it exists, lies so we can build a better humorous story. Our panelists talk about humor's quantity versus quality and how to tell the difference.

Bret McCormick

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 4 PM – What Do You Fear?

Panelists: Charlaïne Harris, Rhonda Eudaly (M), Bret McCormick, Seth Skorkowsky

There are so many ways to scare a person. Let us count the ways. Let the fear flow through you. Show us the way to true horror, and we will show you mastery of the genre. Our fear mongers compare notes and talk about the things that scare us.

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 12 PM – Bringing Books to Life in TV/Film

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlaïne Harris, Renee Witterstaetter, Bret McCormick, Carole Nelson Douglas

More and more stories are being brought to life either via movie or TV. Our authors relate to us the trials and tribulations of doing so, and more importantly how they did it.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – Fairy Tales Coming to Life!

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Ethan Nahté, Larry Atchley Jr., Bret McCormick

One of the recent Hollywood trends of the past couple of years is to take animated movies of yore and redo them with live action versions. Beauty & the Beast, Cinderella and now Aladdin have been or are being made into live action, with more to come. Our movie enthusiasts explore this trend and the reasons for it.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 6 PM – The Art of the B-Movie

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Bret McCormick

For every A-List movie there are countless movies that try to strain for greatness. Or at least use local flavor to make something fun, or realize a dream that gets you out of reality for just a few moments. There are many reasons for making a B-movie, and our resident B-Movie expert Bret McCormick relates a few of them.

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Escape from the Slush Pile

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Mel White, Teresa Patterson, Bret McCormick

The perennial panel returns as we tantalize people with mistakes and errors you should try to avoid. Beware: someday you may end up here if you do not learn from your mistakes. Come and learn from our editors on what to avoid so you don't end up on – the slush pile.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 1 PM – Paul Black, Bret McCormick

Reading (Pickett), 3 PM – Bret McCormick

Jimmy Misfit

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 5 PM – Finding Humor in Odd Places

Panelists: Dusty Rainbolt (M), KB Bogen, John DeLaughter, Jimmy Misfit, Amber Royer

Sometimes a joke will sneak up behind you and hit you with a Nerf bat. For instance, “Circuses struggling to find clowns as top prospects keep going into politics.” Enough said. Our panelists talk about where they have found their muse and why.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Dystopian Utopia

Panelists: William C. Seigler (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Jimmy Misfit, Ethan Nahté, John DeLaughter

An interesting description of Dystopia versus Utopia is this: Utopia portrays the setting that agrees with the author’s ethos, but Dystopia portrays the setting that complete disagrees with the author’s ethos. Note that neither dystopia nor utopia have any basis in fact or moral code – an author can portray current society as a dystopia, but others who LIKE that society would portray it as utopia. Both can be correct. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Saturday

Reading (Pickett), 10 AM – Adrian Simmons, Jimmy Misfit

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Writing Outside Your Experience

Panelists: Jimmy Misfit (M), Patricia Burroughs, A. Lee Martinez, Trakena Prevost, Shanna Swendson

It’s easy to write about your experiences. What you grew up with, what you have seen with your eyes, and what you believe in. How do you write about things that you aren’t a member of? Writing about minorities you aren’t a member of, or lifestyles that you never experienced? This is not trash talking about other experiences, mind you. This is about understanding experiences so you can write in them believably.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Apocalypse Soon: Practical World Building

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Paul Black, Jimmy Misfit, William C. Seigler

Yes, yes, we’ve all heard it. The end of the world is nigh! Again. But what dies first? Who will turn the lights off when the world goes dark? Are utilities the first thing to go, or the last? We look at practical considerations for bringing destruction to a society as the world goes mad.

Sunday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 11 AM – Kim Redford, Jimmy Misfit

Ava Morgan

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 11 AM – The Path Less Traveled: Alternate History Explained

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Charlaire Harris, Lillian Stewart Carl, Ava Morgan, S. Boyd Taylor

When history is analyzed, it is amazing to see how every event has a catalyst. Some small impetus, a push here, a nudge there, and suddenly a snowball becomes an avalanche. What alternate history examines is the “what ifs” that lurk in the background. A different path can change everything, and our panelists talk about how to use this to your advantage.

Reading (Pickett), 12 PM – Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Linda Donahue, Ava Morgan

Programming 4 (Parker), 2 PM – The Virtual Life: Learning YouTube

Panelists: Seth Skorkowsky (M), Blaise Ramsay, Steve Sanders, Ava Morgan

YouTube is an amazing tool for practically everybody. Need to know how to install something in your car? There is a YouTube of it, and probably one of your exact model or close to it. Want to see funny videos or educational videos? YouTube has all of it. But how does one create in YouTube? How do you find others who want to watch what you create? Our Internet gurus talk about their experiences and how you can harness it.

Programming 4 (Parker), 5 PM - Vampires for Fun and Profit

Panelists: A. Lee Martinez (M), Charlaire Harris, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Seth Skorkowsky, Ava Morgan

What do vampire species in differing universes have in common? They drink blood, of varying types. From the Hopping Vampire to Nosferatu and the original Dracula to other versions we dare not speak of, there are still common elements to draw upon. They also are not restricted in genre – from humor to horror with urban fiction and even science fiction in between, vampires can be found in many places. Our panelists talk about blood suckers of all types, and how to create your own.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 6 PM – William Ledbetter, Ava Morgan, Rhonda Eudaly

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – Getting Recognized: Magazines and Contests

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Paul Black, Ava Morgan, Trakena Prevost

Sometimes you have to go out of your comfort zone to get recognized. Our publishers talk about the dog eat dog world of getting published in magazines and winning contests. Note: nothing is guaranteed!

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Creating Heroes From Reality

Panelists: Ethan Nahté (M), Trakena Prevost, Ava Morgan, Larry Atchley Jr.

We don't need superpowers to be a hero, and history has plenty of examples of every day heroes that we can use. From Martin Luther King Jr. to Mahatma Gandhi, stories can be written if only we know where to look. Our panelists give examples of heroes to use in your stories that don't need to be fictionalized to be amazing.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – Constant Comedy: How Much is Too Much?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Kim Redford, Stephen Sanders, Ava Morgan, Wil McCarthy

Is it possible to write a story where there is too much humor? Even standup comedians have to calm things down to set up better jokes. So let us see where the line, if it exists, lies so we can build a better humorous story. Our panelists talk about humor's quantity versus quality and how to tell the difference.

Michelle Muenzler

Friday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM – Self-editing errors

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Steve Sanders, Julia S. Mandala, KB Bogen

A popular panel for the past several years, our panelists discuss ways of catching those pesky errors. Remember, the more eyes on your work, the better – each different perspective helps catch things you miss! And watch out for Autocorrect...

Reading (Pickett), 6 PM – Paul Black, Michelle Muenzler

Saturday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 1 PM – Dusty Rainbolt, Carole Nelson Douglas, Michelle Muenzler

Programming 3 (Courtright), 3 PM – Ia, Ia! Cthulhu Mythos Retrospective

Panelists: Larry Atchley Jr.(M), David Doub, Michelle Muenzler, S. Boyd Taylor

There are some creatures Man was not meant to know about. But H.P. Lovecraft came up with a lot of them, and created an entire subculture around Elder Gods with his stories of the weird. Our Lovecraftian experts go into the madness of Cthulhu and try to guide you to sanity. Fthagn!

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (7 pm)

Panelists: Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Julia S. Mandala, Michelle Muenzler, Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt, Mel White

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Programming 4 (Parker), 8 PM – Fun Ways to Present Your Poetry

Panelists: Stephen Sanders (M), Michelle Muenzler, Larry Atchley Jr., Patricia Ferguson

Bring instruments! Bring an open mind! Bring whatever you think might be fun and strange, because this is an experimental idea with people committing poetry in whatever fashion that might be eye-catching or funny.

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 11 AM – Flash Fiction: How to be Quick about it!

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Dantzel Cherry, C. Dean Andersson

Flash Fiction is defined as a fictional work of extreme brevity that still offers character and plot development. Many varieties exist of this: the six-word story, the 280-character story and others going to as many as 2,000 words. Our panelists talk about this genre, how to write it, where to write it and why.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 12 PM – Choose Your Own Adventure: Building Interactive Worlds

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Yoon Ha Lee

Once upon a time there was a famous style of book that told you to hop from a certain page to a different page. Now we have the technology to branch out even farther! Our GOH Yoon Ha Lee talks about his experiences in building worlds using interactive games.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 3 PM – Sword and Sorcery 101: How to Fight

Panelists: Teresa Patterson (M), C. Dean Andersson, Karl K. Gallagher, Michelle Muenzler

Imagine a typical Conan style scene, with the main hero saving the girl after fighting through countless enemies. We'll leave the lamentations out for now. Now how do you describe the scene? Where is it located? Does the hero need to use scenery to aid themselves at some point in the fight? Our aficionados of sword and sorcery talk about building a fight scene.

Ethan Nahté

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Dystopian Utopia

Panelists: William C. Seigler (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Jimmy Misfit, Ethan Nahté, John DeLaughter

An interesting description of Dystopia versus Utopia is this: Utopia portrays the setting that agrees with the author's ethos, but Dystopia portrays the setting that completely disagrees with the author's ethos. Note that neither dystopia nor utopia have any basis in fact or moral code – an author can portray current society as a dystopia, but others who LIKE that society would portray it as utopia. Both can be correct. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – The Long Con: Humor that Requires Time

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Ethan Nahté, Dusty Rainbolt, Linda Donahue, KB Bogen

Not all jokes happen instantly. Famous comedy routines such as "Who's On First" or "Dead Parrot" rely on a buildup to the end. But how do you make humor work over time, especially in today's instant gratification society? Our panelists debate this topic and others.

Reading (Pickett), 2 PM – David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, Ethan Nahté

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – Fairy Tales Coming to Life!

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Ethan Nahté, Larry Atchley Jr., Bret McCormick

One of the recent Hollywood trends of the past couple of years is to take animated movies of yore and redo them with live action versions. Beauty & the Beast, Cinderella and now Aladdin have been or are being made into live action, with more to come. Our movie enthusiasts explore this trend and the reasons for it.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Tortoises and Dragons: Militaries in Fantasy

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Dantzel Cherry, Ethan Nahté, Teresa Patterson, Barbara Ann Wright

The Silmarillion uses massed armies, war machines and fantastic beasts. Game of Thrones uses undead armies, dragons and regular armies as well. Harry Potter's universe has zipping spells, teleporting wizards and a much more mobile form of warfare. As we can see, for each fantasy universe there are many different ways of warfare. From catapults to undead dragons, our panelists talk about waging war in fantasy.

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Creating Heroes From Reality

Panelists: Ethan Nahté (M), Trakena Prevost, Ava Morgan, Larry Atchley Jr.

We don't need superpowers to be a hero, and history has plenty of examples of every day heroes that we can use. From Martin Luther King Jr. to Mahatma Gandhi, stories can be written if only we know where to look. Our panelists give examples of heroes to use in your stories that don't need to be fictionalized to be amazing.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – Modern Westerns: Cowboys and Condos

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Kim Redford, Wil McCarthy, Ethan Nahté

Let us look at the modern-day cowboy. All of the elements of a Western story exist even today, but they are definitely harder to find! Our researchers look at how the West is currently, and how to use yesteryear in a more modern setting.

Gloria Oliver

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 4 PM – It Was A Dark and Stormy Night

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson, Gloria Oliver, T. M. Hunter

Whether a classic noir or modern day mystery, the weather must usually need to be accounted for. If it rained, footsteps could be lost or found. If it snowed, evidence could be missed. Our panelists debate the weather and how it affects shots ringing out.

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 1 PM – The mARTian Collaboration

Panelists: Melia Dawn, Brad Foster, Gloria Oliver, Mel White

They say if you ask a committee to design a horse, you'll get a camel. Come see what happens when we team up artists and ask them to design a Martian, alien, or whatever the audience demands!

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM – Fandom Pictionary

Panelists: Melia Dawn, Brad Foster, Gloria Oliver, Mel White

Play Pictionary or just watch as our artists compete. Come and see our artists face off against each other. Pictionary has never been this much fun!

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 1 PM – What is Taboo in History?

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Melanie Fletcher, Gloria Oliver

When we look back at history, there are always parts that are not for the squeamish. There are issues that are controversial, and then there are issues that just aren't talked about in polite society. Where are the lines? Are there any lines? Why are you crossing any lines? Our panelists discuss these ideas and others. *Warning: May get political and/or heated. Please keep all prejudices at the door.*

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Blending Steampunk

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Gloria Oliver

Using two or more genres together can make something really pop in the imagination. Whether it's combining with Japanese culture in Jay Kristoff's Lotus War series or combining with WWI era noir with Larry Correia's Grimnoir series, blending steampunk with another genre can be very effective. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Stephen Patrick

Friday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 6 PM – Still Not Ginger: Dr. Who

Panelists: Mel White (M), Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt

So is the new Dr. Who a game changer or simply a passing fancy? Our Whovians discuss this and more!

Saturday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (7 pm)

Panelists: Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Julia S. Mandala, Michelle Muenzler, Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt, Mel White

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Sunday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 1 PM – Procrastination and You: Getting Past Blocks

Panelists: Stephen Patrick (M), Patricia Burroughs, Renee Witterstaetter, T.M. Hunter

In the world of instant gratification, it is easy to be distracted away from your purpose. The idea is in your head, but...it can wait for a bit until you've finished playing that stupid level of Candy Crush that you've been stuck on for WEEKS now and... Yes, I do believe we've all been there. Our panelists talk about how to get past the procrastination bug and get back to writing.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 2 PM – What's Ahead for Star Wars?

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Dusty Rainbolt, Stephen Patrick, Karl K. Gallagher

After stumbling out of the gate with Last Jedi and Solo, Disney seems to be licking its wounds. Where should the series go from here? Can it recover? Will the Star Wars fanbase let it recover? Can there be a topic the fanbase won't shred? Our panelist fans try to direct the rage.

Teresa Patterson

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 6 PM – The Best Books Nobody Ever Heard Of

Panelists: Patricia Burroughs (M), Amber Royer, Teresa Patterson, Julie Barrett, Barbara Ann Wright

We bring back a useful panel from last year! The primary rule of this panel is this: NO SELF PROMOTION. Bring examples, and audience participation is welcome as well! Be prepared to be grilled ruthlessly on why you like the book, of course! Bring paper and pen so you can take notes, and hopefully you'll find some great reads.

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Tortoises and Dragons: Militaries in Fantasy

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Dantzel Cherry, Ethan Nahté, Teresa Patterson, Barbara Ann Wright

The Silmarillion uses massed armies, war machines and fantastic beasts. Game of Thrones uses undead armies, dragons and regular armies as well. Harry Potter's universe has zipping spells, teleporting wizards and a much more mobile form of warfare. As we can see, for each fantasy universe there are many different ways of warfare. From catapults to undead dragons, our panelists talk about waging war in fantasy.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 8 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (8 pm)

Panelists: John DeLaughter, David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, William Ledbetter, Teresa Patterson, Amber Royer

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Escape from the Slush Pile

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Mel White, Teresa Patterson, Bret McCormick

The perennial panel returns as we tantalize people with mistakes and errors you should try to avoid. Beware: someday you may end up here if you do not learn from your mistakes. Come and learn from our editors on what to avoid so you don't end up on – the slush pile.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 3 PM – Sword and Sorcery 101: How to Fight

Panelists: Teresa Patterson (M), C. Dean Andersson, Karl K. Gallagher, Michelle Muenzler

Imagine a typical Conan style scene, with the main hero saving the girl after fighting through countless enemies. We'll leave the lamentations out for now. Now how do you describe the scene? Where is it located? Does the hero need to use scenery to aid themselves at some point in the fight? Our aficionados of sword and sorcery talk about building a fight scene.

Trakena Prevost

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 11 AM – Collaboration 101: Finding That Special Someone

Panelists: John DeLaughter (M), Yoon Ha Lee, Rhonda Eudaly, Trakena Prevost

If you want to work together to create something truly special, you need to find people who fill the roles you don't do. Or...just get a group together and see what happens! Either way, this is collaboration, and our panelists talk about dos and don'ts when finding people to work with.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Writing Outside Your Experience

Panelists: Jimmy Misfit (M), Patricia Burroughs, A. Lee Martinez, Trakena Prevost, Shanna Swendson

It's easy to write about your experiences. What you grew up with, what you have seen with your eyes, and what you believe in. How do you write about things that you aren't a member of? Writing about minorities you aren't a member of, or lifestyles that you never experienced? This is not trash talking about other experiences, mind you. This is about understanding experiences so you can write in them believably.

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – Getting Recognized: Magazines and Contests

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Paul Black, Ava Morgan, Trakena Prevost

Sometimes you have to go out of your comfort zone to get recognized. Our publishers talk about the dog eat dog world of getting published in magazines and winning contests. Note: nothing is guaranteed!

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Creating Heroes From Reality

Panelists: Ethan Nahté (M), Trakena Prevost, Ava Morgan, Larry Atchley Jr.

We don't need superpowers to be a hero, and history has plenty of examples of every day heroes that we can use. From Martin Luther King Jr. to Mahatma Gandhi, stories can be written if only we know where to look. Our panelists give examples of heroes to use in your stories that don't need to be fictionalized to be amazing.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 2 PM – Trakena Prevost

Dusty Rainbolt

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 5 PM – Finding Humor in Odd Places

Panelists: Dusty Rainbolt (M), KB Bogen, John DeLaughter, Jimmy Misfit, Amber Royer

Sometimes a joke will sneak up behind you and hit you with a Nerf bat. For instance, “Circuses struggling to find clowns as top prospects keep going into politics.” Enough said. Our panelists talk about where they have found their muse and why.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 6 PM – Still Not Ginger: Dr. Who

Panelists: Mel White (M), Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt

So is the new Dr. Who a game changer or simply a passing fancy? Our Whovians discuss this and more!

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – The Long Con: Humor that Requires Time

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Ethan Nahté, Dusty Rainbolt, Linda Donahue, KB Bogen

Not all jokes happen instantly. Famous comedy routines such as “Who’s On First” or “Dead Parrot” rely on a buildup to the end. But how do you make humor work over time, especially in today’s instant gratification society? Our panelists debate this topic and others.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 1 PM – Dusty Rainbolt, Carole Nelson Douglas, Michelle Muenzler

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM – Four Redheads of the Apocalypse!

Panelists: Rhonda Eudaly, Julia S. Mandala, Linda Donahue, Dusty Rainbolt

Our favorite red heads bring the gang back together to entertain and educate! Not to be missed!

Reading (Pickett), 5 PM – Shanna Swendson, Dusty Rainbolt, Blaise Ramsay

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (7 pm)

Panelists: Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Julia S. Mandala, Michelle Muenzler, Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt, Mel White

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let’s see what happens!

Sunday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 2 PM – What’s Ahead for Star Wars?

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Dusty Rainbolt, Stephen Patrick, Karl K. Gallagher

After stumbling out of the gate with Last Jedi and Solo, Disney seems to be licking its wounds. Where should the series go from here? Can it recover? Will the Star Wars fanbase let it recover? Can there be a topic the fanbase won’t shred? Our panelist fans try to direct the rage.

Blaise Ramsay

Friday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 6 PM – Blaise Ramsay

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 2 PM – The Virtual Life: Learning YouTube

Panelists: Seth Skorkowsky (M), Blaise Ramsay, Steve Sanders, Ava Morgan

YouTube is an amazing tool for practically everybody. Need to know how to install something in your car? There is a YouTube of it, and probably one of your exact model or close to it. Want to see funny videos or educational videos? YouTube has all of it. But how does one create in YouTube? How do you find others who want to watch what you create? Our Internet gurus talk about their experiences and how you can harness it.

Programming 4 (Parker), 3 PM – Rock Your Book Revisions

Panelist: Blaise Ramsay (M)

Revising a book can be one of the most difficult things an author has to do. What steps should you take? What questions should you ask when revising? How many revisions should you go through? What's the process? Don't worry. Revising your book doesn't have to be terrifying. FyreSyde has you covered.

Reading (Pickett), 5 PM – Shanna Swendson, Dusty Rainbolt, Blaise Ramsay

Programming 3 (Courtright), 9 PM - Pornography vs Erotica – It's the End of the World [Adult]

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Blaise Ramsay, Karl Gallagher

Our perennial late night adult panel. If the world is going to end, how do YOU plan on going out with a bang? Our panelists debate apocalyptic sex, but only if they were the last people on earth.

Kim Redford

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 10 AM – Pets and You: Untangling the Mystery

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Carole Nelson Douglas, Lillian Stewart Carl, Patricia Burroughs, Amber Royer

Some would say pets are a mystery by themselves. Each breed has its quirks, attention spans and whether they will claw you to bits for forgetting to bring them the right type of dinner. But how do you use them as part of a story? Our sleuths talk about pets and stories about pets amongst other topics.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 11 AM – The Long Con: Humor that Requires Time

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Ethan Nahté, Dusty Rainbolt, Linda Donahue, KB Bogen

Not all jokes happen instantly. Famous comedy routines such as “Who’s On First” or “Dead Parrot” rely on a buildup to the end. But how do you make humor work over time, especially in today’s instant gratification society? Our panelists debate this topic and others.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – How to Build Culture Clashes

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), S. Boyd Taylor, Lillian Stewart Carl, Carole Nelson Douglas, Wil McCarthy

History has many examples of cultures clashing against each other. Whether from nationalism or simple tribal differences, it’s important to realize that these differences exist and must be accounted for. Our panelists talk about the use of cultures in writing.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – How Writers Help and Influence Each Other

Panelists: Kim Redford, C. Dean Andersson, Renee Witterstaetter

Any writer can improve his or her art by sharing and helping each other. It could be by Reading (Pickett) drafts and giving suggestions, or being part of a focus group to come up with ideas that will kick start a stuck scene. Our panelists have experience with this and will share their stories and methods to help each other so that you can do so as well.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM – How to Write, Levels 4-7

Panelists: Adrian Simmons (M), Paul Black, Kim Redford, Mel White

Rather than getting sidetracked by bad fonts, misspelled names or “didn’t read the guidelines”, let us get past this and look at higher level mistakes that writers make to their detriment. Our editors guide us through the shoals to a better side.

Sunday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 11 AM – Kim Redford, Jimmy Misfit

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – Modern Westerns: Cowboys and Condos

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Kim Redford, Wil McCarthy, Ethan Nahté

Let us look at the modern-day cowboy. All of the elements of a Western story exist even today, but they are definitely harder to find! Our researchers look at how the West is currently, and how to use yesteryear in a more modern setting.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – Constant Comedy: How Much is Too Much?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Kim Redford, Stephen Sanders, Ava Morgan, Wil McCarthy

Is it possible to write a story where there is too much humor? Even standup comedians have to calm things down to set up better jokes. So let us see where the line, if it exists, lies so we can build a better humorous story. Our panelists talk about humor’s quantity versus quality and how to tell the difference.

Amber Royer

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 5 PM – Finding Humor in Odd Places

Panelists: Dusty Rainbolt (M), KB Bogen, John DeLaughter, Jimmy Misfit, Amber Royer

Sometimes a joke will sneak up behind you and hit you with a Nerf bat. For instance, “Circuses struggling to find clowns as top prospects keep going into politics.” Enough said. Our panelists talk about where they have found their muse and why.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 6 PM – The Best Books Nobody Ever Heard Of

Panelists: Patricia Burroughs (M), Amber Royer, Teresa Patterson, Julie Barrett, Barbara Ann Wright

We bring back a useful panel from last year! The primary rule of this panel is this: NO SELF PROMOTION. Bring examples, and audience participation is welcome as well! Be prepared to be grilled ruthlessly on why you like the book, of course! Bring paper and pen so you can take notes, and hopefully you’ll find some great reads.

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 10 AM – Pets and You: Untangling the Mystery

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), Carole Nelson Douglas, Lillian Stewart Carl, Patricia Burroughs, Amber Royer

Some would say pets are a mystery by themselves. Each breed has its quirks, attention spans and whether they will claw you to bits for forgetting to bring them the right type of dinner. But how do you use them as part of a story? Our sleuths talk about pets and stories about pets amongst other topics.

Reading (Pickett), 11 AM – Amber Royer, Stephen Sanders, Julia S. Mandala

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 8 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (8 pm)

Panelists: John DeLaughter, David Doub, A. Lee Martinez, William Ledbetter, Teresa Patterson, Amber Royer

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let’s see what happens!

Ken Ruffin

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Up, Up and Away! Developments in Rocketry

Panelists: Karl K. Gallagher (M), Adrian Simmons, Paul Black, Ken Ruffin

Due to the advent of commercial spacecraft and competing companies, we now are seeing reusable rockets and more modern technology. Our space panelists talk about where rocketry is going, and who is doing it.

Sunday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 11 AM – Science Fiction Spaceships and the Laws of Physics

Panelists: Bill Leaf (M), Karl K. Gallagher, Wil McCarthy, Ken Ruffin

Energy equals mass times the speed of light squared, correct? Then why do some laws of physics get ignored in science fiction? Our panelists debate the mathematics of science fiction and spaceships.

Stephen Sanders

Friday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 4 PM – Self-editing errors

Panelists: Michelle Muenzler (M), Steve Sanders, Julia S. Mandala, KB Bogen

A popular panel for the past several years, our panelists discuss ways of catching those pesky errors. Remember, the more eyes on your work, the better – each different perspective helps catch things you miss! And watch out for Autocorrect...

Programming 4 (Parker), 6 PM – Where is the Limit in Young Adult?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Dantzel Cherry, Michael Baldwin, Stephen Sanders

When writing YA stories, where is the limit for age? What topics should never be discussed, and why? It increasingly seems like there are no limits in this day and age. Should there be? Our YA authors talk about these and other topics.

Saturday

Reading (Pickett), 11 AM – Amber Royer, Stephen Sanders, Julia S. Mandala

Programming 4 (Parker), 2 PM – The Virtual Life: Learning YouTube

Panelists: Seth Skorkowsky (M), Blaise Ramsay, Steve Sanders, Ava Morgan

YouTube is an amazing tool for practically everybody. Need to know how to install something in your car? There is a YouTube of it, and probably one of your exact model or close to it. Want to see funny videos or educational videos? YouTube has all of it. But how does one create in YouTube? How do you find others who want to watch what you create? Our Internet gurus talk about their experiences and how you can harness it.

Programming 4 (Parker), 8 PM – Fun Ways to Present Your Poetry

Panelists: Stephen Sanders (M), Michelle Muenzler, Larry Atchley Jr., Patricia Ferguson

Bring instruments! Bring an open mind! Bring whatever you think might be fun and strange, because this is an experimental idea with people committing poetry in whatever fashion that might be eye-catching or funny.

Sunday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 12 PM – The Fourth Annual ConDFW Adventure Poetry Slam

Judges: Stephen Sanders (M), Michael Baldwin, Patricia Ferguson

No Entry Fee. First Prize: \$50, Second Prize: Convention T-shirt, Third Prize: Blackbeard Books Merchandise

All you must do is write an original adventure poem, any form, which you can recite in three minutes or less. Then, perform it in front of our audience and judges. Our three judges will score each poem and the three highest scoring poets will win our prizes! What more do you need to know?

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – Constant Comedy: How Much is Too Much?

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Kim Redford, Stephen Sanders, Ava Morgan, Wil McCarthy

Is it possible to write a story where there is too much humor? Even standup comedians have to calm things down to set up better jokes. So let us see where the line, if it exists, lies so we can build a better humorous story. Our panelists talk about humor's quantity versus quality and how to tell the difference.

William C. Seigler

Friday

Reading (Pickett), 5 PM – Dantzel Cherry, William C. Seigler

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Dystopian Utopia

Panelists: William C. Seigler (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Jimmy Misfit, Ethan Nahté, John DeLaughter

An interesting description of Dystopia versus Utopia is this: Utopia portrays the setting that agrees with the author's ethos, but Dystopia portrays the setting that complete disagrees with the author's ethos. Note that neither dystopia nor utopia have any basis in fact or moral code – an author can portray current society as a dystopia, but others who LIKE that society would portray it as utopia. Both can be correct. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Saturday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 11 AM – Barbara Ann Wright, William C. Seigler

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 6 PM – Apocalypse Soon: Practical World Building

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Paul Black, Jimmy Misfit, William C. Seigler

Yes, yes, we've all heard it. The end of the world is nigh! Again. But what dies first? Who will turn the lights off when the world goes dark? Are utilities the first thing to go, or the last? We look at practical considerations for bringing destruction to a society as the world goes mad.

Adrian Simmons

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Up, Up and Away! Developments in Rocketry

Panelists: Karl K. Gallagher (M), Adrian Simmons, Paul Black, Ken Ruffin

Due to the advent of commercial spacecraft and competing companies, we now are seeing reusable rockets and more modern technology. Our space panelists talk about where rocketry is going, and who is doing it.

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM – Research 101: Finding Content

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Tex Thompson, Adrian Simmons,

Need to find out something specific? Trying to come up with names of fish that are not often seen? Need to know what fish can be found in what oceans? To do this, you need to know how to research, and where to research. Our panelists give tips and tricks on where to find those tidbits of information you desperately need.

Saturday

Reading (Pickett), 10 AM – Adrian Simmons, Jimmy Misfit

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM – How to Write, Levels 4-7

Panelists: Adrian Simmons (M), Paul Black, Kim Redford, Mel White

Rather than getting sidetracked by bad fonts, misspelled names or “didn’t read the guidelines”, let us get past this and look at higher level mistakes that writers make to their detriment. Our editors guide us through the shoals to a better side.

Seth Skorkowsky

Friday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 4 PM – What Do You Fear?

Panelists: Charlaïne Harris, Rhonda Eudaly (M), Bret McCormick, Seth Skorkowsky

There are so many ways to scare a person. Let us count the ways. Let the fear flow through you. Show us the way to true horror, and we will show you mastery of the genre. Our fear mongers compare notes and talk about the things that scare us.

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 5 PM – Larry Atchley Jr., Seth Skorkowsky

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Fantasy Before Tolkien

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Seth Skorkowsky, Dantzel Cherry, Rhonda Eudaly

Tolkien's Silmarillion has established itself as one of the primary definitions of High Fantasy. But there were writers before him who wrote various versions of fantastical worlds – giants such as Howard, Lovecraft, Burroughs and Verne amongst others. Our panelists discuss the echoes of these writers in the genre.

Programming 4 (Parker), 2 PM – The Virtual Life: Learning YouTube

Panelists: Seth Skorkowsky (M), Blaise Ramsay, Steve Sanders, Ava Morgan

YouTube is an amazing tool for practically everybody. Need to know how to install something in your car? There is a YouTube of it, and probably one of your exact model or close to it. Want to see funny videos or educational videos? YouTube has all of it. But how does one create in YouTube? How do you find others who want to watch what you create? Our Internet gurus talk about their experiences and how you can harness it.

Programming 4 (Parker), 5 PM - Vampires for Fun and Profit

Panelists: A. Lee Martinez (M), Charlaïne Harris, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Seth Skorkowsky, Ava Morgan

What do vampire species in differing universes have in common? They drink blood, of varying types. From the Hopping Vampire to Nosferatu and the original Dracula to other versions we dare not speak of, there are still common elements to draw upon. They also are not restricted in genre – from humor to horror with urban fiction and even science fiction in between, vampires can be found in many places. Our panelists talk about blood suckers of all types, and how to create your own.

Shanna Swendson

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 10 AM – Apocalypse Everywhere: Adding the End to your Story!

Panelists: Shanna Swendson (M), C. Dean Andersson, Terry Gene, Paul Black

It's the end of the world as we know it, and we must document everything! An apocalypse is always a dramatic setting to a story, but just how important is it? Does the plot require doom in the background, or can it be set with rainbows and unicorns? Just how does "The End" work? Do we need to know why it ended? Our writers talk about writing the apocalypse, and how to use it in your story.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Writing Outside Your Experience

Panelists: Jimmy Misfit (M), Patricia Burroughs, A. Lee Martinez, Trakena Prevost, Shanna Swendson

It's easy to write about your experiences. What you grew up with, what you have seen with your eyes, and what you believe in. How do you write about things that you aren't a member of? Writing about minorities you aren't a member of, or lifestyles that you never experienced? This is not trash talking about other experiences, mind you. This is about understanding experiences so you can write in them believably.

Reading (Pickett), 5 PM – Shanna Swendson, Dusty Rainbolt, Blaise Ramsay

S. Boyd Taylor

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 11 AM – The Path Less Traveled: Alternate History Explained

Panelists: Julie Barrett (M), Charlaïne Harris, Lillian Stewart Carl, Ava Morgan, S. Boyd Taylor

When history is analyzed, it is amazing to see how every event has a catalyst. Some small impetus, a push here, a nudge there, and suddenly a snowball becomes an avalanche. What alternate history examines is the “what ifs” that lurk in the background. A different path can change everything, and our panelists talk about how to use this to your advantage.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – How to Build Culture Clashes

Panelists: Kim Redford (M), S. Boyd Taylor, Lillian Stewart Carl, Carole Nelson Douglas, Wil McCarthy

History has many examples of cultures clashing against each other. Whether from nationalism or simple tribal differences, it’s important to realize that these differences exist and must be accounted for. Our panelists talk about the use of cultures in writing.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 3 PM – Ia, Ia! Cthulhu Mythos Retrospective

Panelists: Larry Atchley Jr.(M), David Doub, Michelle Muenzler, S. Boyd Taylor

There are some creatures Man was not meant to know about. But H.P. Lovecraft came up with a lot of them, and created an entire subculture around Elder Gods with his stories of the weird. Our Lovecraftian experts go into the madness of Cthulhu and try to guide you to sanity. Fthagn!

Tex Thompson

Friday

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM – Research 101: Finding Content

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Tex Thompson, Adrian Simmons,

Need to find out something specific? Trying to come up with names of fish that are not often seen? Need to know what fish can be found in what oceans? To do this, you need to know how to research, and where to research. Our panelists give tips and tricks on where to find those tidbits of information you desperately need.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM – Self-Promotion for Fun and Profit

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Barbara Ann Wright, Terry Gene, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney

It's time to get your book out to the world. But how do you get people interested in what you wrote? Our publishers talk about how to get your name and work out into the world in ways that won't get you arrested.

Saturday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 1 PM – Fantasy Before Tolkien

Panelists: Julia S. Mandala (M), Seth Skorkowsky, Dantzel Cherry, Rhonda Eudaly, Tex Thompson

Tolkien's Silmarillion has established itself as one of the primary definitions of High Fantasy. But there were writers before him who wrote various versions of fantastical worlds – giants such as Howard, Lovecraft, Burroughs and Verne amongst others. Our panelists discuss the echoes of these writers in the genre.

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Escape from the Slush Pile

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Mel White, Teresa Patterson, Bret McCormick

The perennial panel returns as we tantalize people with mistakes and errors you should try to avoid. Beware: someday you may end up here if you do not learn from your mistakes. Come and learn from our editors on what to avoid so you don't end up on – the slush pile.

Programming 3 (Courtright), 2 PM – Modern Westerns: Cowboys and Condos

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Kim Redford, Wil McCarthy, Ethan Nahté

Let us look at the modern-day cowboy. All of the elements of a Western story exist even today, but they are definitely harder to find! Our researchers look at how the West is currently, and how to use yesteryear in a more modern setting.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 3 PM – Blending Steampunk

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Gloria Oliver

Using two or more genres together can make something really pop in the imagination. Whether it's combining with Japanese culture in Jay Kristoff's Lotus War series or combining with WWI era noir with Larry Correia's Grimnoir series, blending steampunk with another genre can be very effective. Our panelists debate this and other topics.

Mel. White

Friday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – New Tropes For Old

Panelists: Mel White (M), Larry Atchley Jr., Julia S. Mandala, Patricia Burroughs

We all know the Hero's Journey. The Hero must find the Magic MacGuffin™ that will save the world, but only after he/she finds his/her scrappy companions who compass every nationality in the area... It is easy to dismiss a trope. But these masters take the trope and make it look fresh again. Our panelists talk about authors and methods to take the trope and make it fresh and new again.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Interstellar Archaeology: Part One – Initial Findings

Panelists: Mel White (M), Charlene Harris, Patricia Burroughs, Rhonda Eudaly, T. M. Hunter, Wil McCarthy

The first of two panels where we inflict (discover) startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin and our esteemed (and indeed, TRAINED) archeologists in turn tell us what the artifacts are. Light hearted fun, and bring ear plugs! This year we will take a post-apocalyptic slant and see what story they come up with!

Programming 3 (Courtright), 6 PM – Still Not Ginger: Dr. Who

Panelists: Mel White (M), Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt

So is the new Dr. Who a game changer or simply a passing fancy? Our Whovians discuss this and more!

Saturday

Programming 4 (Parker), 1 PM – The mARTian Collaboration

Panelists: Melia Dawn, Brad Foster, Gloria Oliver, Mel White

They say if you ask a committee to design a horse, you'll get a camel. Come see what happens when we team up artists and ask them to design a Martian, alien, or whatever the audience demands!

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 2 PM – Fantastic Creatures of Mythology

Panelist: Mel White (M)

Explore the world (and some of the tales) of the strange and unusual creatures of myth and fantasy. From the Alijebres to the Selkies and beyond!

Programming 4 (Parker), 4 PM – Fandom Pictionary

Panelists: Melia Dawn, Brad Foster, Gloria Oliver, Mel White

Play Pictionary or just watch as our artists compete. Come and see our artists face off against each other. Pictionary has never been this much fun!

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM – How to Write, Levels 4-7

Panelists: Adrian Simmons (M), Paul Black, Kim Redford, Mel White

Rather than getting sidetracked by bad fonts, misspelled names or "didn't read the guidelines", let us get past this and look at higher level mistakes that writers make to their detriment. Our editors guide us through the shoals to a better side.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 7 PM – Celebrity Artemis! (7 pm)

Panelists: Charlayne Elizabeth Denney, Julia S. Mandala, Michelle Muenzler, Stephen Patrick, Dusty Rainbolt, Mel White

The popular co-operative bridge simulator returns again to ConDFW! Six panelists at a time take the Starship Artemis through the void, insulting every race possible. Let's see what happens!

Sunday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 12 PM – Escape from the Slush Pile

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Mel White, Teresa Patterson, Bret McCormick

The perennial panel returns as we tantalize people with mistakes and errors you should try to avoid. Beware: someday you may end up here if you do not learn from your mistakes. Come and learn from our editors on what to avoid so you don't end up on – the slush pile.

Reading (Pickett), 1 PM – Mel White, John DeLaughter

Renee Witterstaetter

Saturday

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 12 PM – Bringing Books to Life in TV/Film

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Charlene Harris, Renee Witterstaetter, Bret McCormick, Carole Nelson Douglas
More and more stories are being brought to life either via movie or TV. Our authors relate to us the trials and tribulations of doing so, and more importantly how they did it.

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 3 PM – How Writers Help and Influence Each Other

Panelists: Kim Redford, C. Dean Andersson, Renee Witterstaetter

Any writer can improve his or her art by sharing and helping each other. It could be by Reading (Pickett) drafts and giving suggestions, or being part of a focus group to come up with ideas that will kick start a stuck scene. Our panelists have experience with this and will share their stories and methods to help each other so that you can do so as well.

Programming 4 (Parker), 6 PM – The State of Modern Comics

Panelists: Renee Witterstaetter, David Doub

With the continued success of Marvel and DC's comeback with their recent films, comics have been back in a big way everywhere. What is the new hotness, or what needs to come back in the worst way? Our comic gurus debate this and other topics.

Sunday

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 1 PM – Procrastination and You: Getting Past Blocks

Panelists: Stephen Patrick (M), Patricia Burroughs, Renee Witterstaetter, T.M. Hunter

In the world of instant gratification, it is easy to be distracted away from your purpose. The idea is in your head, but...it can wait for a bit until you've finished playing that stupid level of Candy Crush that you've been stuck on for WEEKS now and... Yes, I do believe we've all been there. Our panelists talk about how to get past the procrastination bug and get back to writing.

Barbara Ann Wright

Friday

Programming 3 (Courtright), 5 PM – Self-Promotion for Fun and Profit

Panelists: Tex Thompson (M), Barbara Ann Wright, Terry Gene, Charlayne Elizabeth Denney

It's time to get your book out to the world. But how do you get people interested in what you wrote? Our publishers talk about how to get your name and work out into the world in ways that won't get you arrested.

Main Programming (Westbrook A&B), 6 PM – The Best Books Nobody Ever Heard Of

Panelists: Patricia Burroughs (M), Amber Royer, Teresa Patterson, Julie Barrett, Barbara Ann Wright

We bring back a useful panel from last year! The primary rule of this panel is this: NO SELF PROMOTION. Bring examples, and audience participation is welcome as well! Be prepared to be grilled ruthlessly on why you like the book, of course! Bring paper and pen so you can take notes, and hopefully you'll find some great reads.

Saturday

Autographs (Upper Terrace), 11 AM – Barbara Ann Wright, William C. Seigler

Reading (Pickett), 1 PM – Barbara Ann Wright, Larry Atchley Jr., Chris Donahue

Programming 2 (Westbrook C), 5 PM – Tortoises and Dragons: Militaries in Fantasy

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Dantzel Cherry, Ethan Nahté, Teresa Patterson, Barbara Ann Wright

The Silmarillion uses massed armies, war machines and fantastic beasts. Game of Thrones uses undead armies, dragons and regular armies as well. Harry Potter's universe has zipping spells, teleporting wizards and a much more mobile form of warfare. As we can see, for each fantasy universe there are many different ways of warfare. From catapults to undead dragons, our panelists talk about waging war in fantasy.