

Friday

Panel Room 1 – Warwick

4pm - Jack McDevitt - a Reading by the Author

Join our Guest of Honor as he reads from an Alex Benedict mystery *Echo* due out in November and a new story “The Cassandra Project” in which we discover Apollo 11 was not the first landing on the moon.

5pm - Fantastic Realms: Trends in Fantasy

Panelists: Aaron Allston (M), Elizabeth Moon, Teresa Patterson, A. Lee Martinez

From things that fly and breathe fire to the denizens of the deep mines, fantasy has always been the place for high adventure. Our experts discuss where fantasy is today, and where it will be in the future.

6pm - The Aspiring Writers Panel

Panelists: Lee Martindale (M), Bill Fawcett, Elizabeth Moon, Jack McDevitt

So you want to be a writer? There are twists and turns in every path to a successful writing career, and our panelists can give you directions on how to get there.

8pm - Opening Ceremonies

Stop by as we introduce our Guests and welcome everyone to ConDFW 2010!

9pm - Talking During the Movies! – Friday Night Double Feature (Avatar Edition!)

Panelists: Michael Finn, Selina Rosen, and others!

Two schlock masterpieces receive a thorough MST3K'ing by con guests and staff. This year's selections are:

Piranha II -- The Spawning

James Cameron's first directorial effort. Here you can see hints of the brilliance that would later lead him to ... Oh, wait. No, you can't. It is however the finest flying killer fish movie ever made.

Night of the Lepus

See nature attack! But this time in a very low-budget z-grade sort of way. The good news is that DeForest Kelley (Star Trek) and Janet Leigh (Psycho) are there to help you realize that rabbits actually somehow scary.

Panel Room 2 – Manchester

4pm - The Novel vs. The Short Story

Panelists: Patrice Sarath (M), Kerry Tolan, T.M. Hunter, Linda Donahue, Paul Black

If you are a promising writer, you won't want to miss this: our panelists discuss the differences between novels and short stories – and what to choose for a particular story idea.

5pm - Interstellar Archaeology: Initial Findings

Panelists: Lee Martindale (M), Crystalwizard, Scott Cupp, Michael Finn, Julia Mandala

The first of two panels where we inflict...er discover startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin and our esteemed panelists in turn tell us what the artifacts are. Light hearted fun, and bring ear plugs!

6pm - The Aspiring Artists Panel

Panelists: David Lee Anderson (M), Vincent Villafranca, R. Cat Conrad, Joy Marie Ledet

So you want to be an artist? There are twists and turns in every path to a successful art career, and our panelists can give you directions on how to get there.

Panel Room 3 – Canterbury

4pm - The Modern Western and You: Desperados in the 21st Century

Panelists: Scott Cupp (M), Thomas Knowles, Mel White

Writing a Western in the modern world is a tricky proposition. In this panel our esteemed experts discuss the world of the Western and how to write it in a more modern setting...or how to write about old-style Westerns in this modern world!

5pm – Planets are for Sissies!

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Paul Abell, David Gray, Scott Padget

The solar system is a big place, why limit ourselves to living on planets? Our panelists consider other alternatives. Hosted by the National Space Society of North Texas.

6pm - How I Learned to Love the Internet: Media and Writing

Panelists: Michael Finn (M), Kerry Tolan, Adrian Simmons, Ciara Gold, Shanna Swendson

It seems nowadays that any book can be turned into a movie. In turn, many a hopeful writer just dream of having their 10 minutes of fame on the internet...and having that propel them into stardom. Our experts tell of how this is done, why it is done, and where it should be done...and just maybe IF it should be done.

9pm – Musical Performance by the Starcruisers

Musical entertainment on Friday evening, starring Steve Starcher, Gabriel Barham, Joe Gusman, and David Lee Anderson.

Reading Room – Surrey (2nd Floor)

5pm – Chris Donahue, Linda Donahue

6pm – Rachel Caine

Autographs (in front of the Dealers' Room)

4pm – Elizabeth Moon

5pm – Patrice Sarath, Melanie Fletcher

6pm – Aaron Allston, Paul Black

Saturday

Panel Room 1 – Warwick

10 am - Get Ready, Get Set...: How to Start a Story

Panelists: P.N. Elrod (M), Michelle Muenzler, T.M. Hunter, Rachel Caine, Sue Sinor, Jack McDevitt
The best stories usually have one thing in common – a catchy beginning. If you can't capture the attention of a reader who is skimming through the bookstore, you'll never sell books. Our experts relate their tales, and how you can get that story out...and grab attention in the process.

11am - The Art and Sculpture of Vincent Villafranca – Slideshow and Q&A (2 hours)

Panelists: Vincent Villafranca

A slideshow and video presentation of our Artist Guest of Honor's work and methods. And they'll be plenty of time for you to ask those questions you've always been curious about.

1pm - 3Dmax, Photoshop, and You! Hosted by David Cherry

Panelists: David Cherry

Thanks to computers and fantastic software, there are many ways of creating art. Using two of the more popular software utilities out there, David Cherry gives us a basic class in how to utilize 3DMax and Photoshop in simple steps.

2pm - The History of Women Warriors in Fantasy

Panelists: Frances May

Hosted by Frances May, this program was first given at the Sirens Conference in October, 2009. Should be an interesting event, as well as educational – and give all the inspiration for a lady hero a writer could want!

3pm - Q&A with Jack McDevitt

Panelists: Jack McDevitt

Ever wonder what Jack McDevitt's favorite planet is? Curious what he is writing about now? Wonder how Priscilla Hutchins got her name? Here's where you can go to the source himself.

4pm - World-Building 101: Weather Control

Panelists: Amy Sisson (M), Lillian Stewart Carl, Elizabeth Moon, Darlene Bolesny, Rachel Caine
It was a dark and stormy night...some of the best books (and worst!) use that line to open up the reader's mind into a new and fascinating world. Our panelists examine the use of weather in stories, and how to use them to help or hurt the characters.

5pm - Q&A with Elizabeth Moon

Panelists: Elizabeth Moon

Ever wonder what Elizabeth Moon's favorite animal is? Curious what she is writing about now? Wonder how the Serrano family got their name? Here's where you can go to the source herself.

6pm - Science versus Fantasy: Are Nano-fireballs in the future?

Panelists: Aaron Allston (M), Nina Romberg, Melanie Fletcher, Michael Finn

With the advent of nano-technology and miniaturization of computers, science "fiction" is rapidly becoming mundane truth. Where is the role of magic in all of this – or can magic simply be science that is unexplained? Our panelists examine the dividing line which may or may not exist any more.

8pm - Your Celestial Starburst 2010

Panelists: Rie Sheridan Rose, Gloria Oliver, Michelle Muenzler, and Teresa Patterson

Join us again as we crown our second Your Celestial Starburst. Come show off your wonderful Costumes and win the Crown. Dress up as your favorite character, or create your own masterpiece! This is a pageant in the out of this world style as only ConDFW can do it. The

winner will receive the crown, the title and the coveted spot in the center of next years program. Sign up with the forms at the registration desk. It's simple- read the rules and fill out the forms.

Panel Room 2 - Manchester

10am - Self-Help for Selling Yourself

Panelists: Bill Fawcett (M), Lillian Stewart Carl, Thomas Knowles

In this modern world, there are many mediums for selling your work, whether via the Internet or printed media. Our editors and publishers give you advice on where to go and what they look for when they read your work.

11am - Mystery Writing and You: Crime on the Road

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), A. Lee Martinez, Lillian Stewart Carl, Carole Nelson Douglas, Bill Crider

How does one create a crime? What is Noir? What era or genre is best for writing a mystery? Our experienced panelists give their advice on how to take a mystery on the road, and how to create a whodunit for the ages.

12pm - What's so Funny?: Trends in Humor

Panelists: Shanna Swendsen (M), A. Lee Martinez, Jaye Wells, Selina Rosen

In the past couple of years, several comedic greats have fallen – from Douglas Adams to Robert Asprin. Even Terry Pratchett is having to slow down. Who is stepping up to the plate? Our experts discuss authors and novels.

1pm - Heroic Destinies

Panelists: Darlene Bolesny (M), Rhonda Eudaly, C. Dean Andersson, Angeline Hawkes, Paul Black
A hero always has a destiny, or so it is written. But perhaps a destiny denied can be more interesting than a destiny fulfilled...our panelists talk about Destiny in literature, and how to make it not so obvious.

2pm - 5th Annual ConDFW Sci-fi Spelling Bee!

Mxyzptlk. Yggdrasil. These words have won the spelling bee in years past. At this point, the easy words have been taken, used up, spat out, and trodded upon. Are you brave enough to try the famous ConDFW Sci-fi Spelling Bee? Or do we need to hone our bat'leths?

4pm - The Urban Fantastic, Take 2

Panelists: Nina Romberg (M), Crystalwizard, P.N. Elrod, Thomas Knowles, Carole Nelson Douglas
Here's our second look at this popular genre. Take a slice of the 20th century, add magic, and stir gently. The resulting Urban Fantasy world is by far some of the most popular themes in novels and movies today. Our panelists talk about writing in this genre, and how you too can do magic. Well...perhaps not.

5pm - Anti-Heros and You: Darkness Personified

Panelists: Brad Sinor (M), T.M. Hunter, Gloria Oliver, K. Hutson Price, Chris Fulbright, Richard Weber

Yes, it's easy to have the hero with dashing looks, a glint of sunlight off his teeth and a gleaming car to drive in. But what about the flip side? The dark, gloomy and gritty hero? Our experts give advice in creating believable anti-heros...and why you should use them.

6pm - The Four Redheads: Apocalypse Now!

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

The Four Redheads get together IN CHARACTER to promote their latest and greatest. Just to tease: "They have a stunning realization: once the Apocalypse is finished, there'll be no need for horsemen and they'll be free of the jobs they loathe. Now highly motivated, and armed with the prophecies of Antoinette of Arc (Joan's smarter sister, who never told anyone she had visions of the Apocalypse), the Redheads carry out their secret plan to bring on the End Times. And, since no one takes them seriously, they just might succeed!"

9pm - Pornography vs. Erotica

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Lee Martindale, Brad Sinor

Nine different panels, and nothing has been solved. Last year, it actually did get discussed to some extent, so perhaps this year it will be solved forever? Only time will tell...Adults only!

Panel Room 3 – Canterbury

10 am – Exploring and Colonizing Mars

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Paul Abell, and members of the Dallas Mars Society (Kurt Chankaya, Derek Andreas, April Andreas)

It won't be this decade, or probably even the next, but it will happen. We will colonize Mars. What will it be like? What challenges will the new Martians face? Our panelists will discuss our next home in space. Hosted by the National Space Society of North Texas and the Dallas Mars Society.

11am - Reality Holes: Errors in Research

Panelists: Lee Martindale (M), Frances May, Elizabeth Moon, Jack McDevitt, Teresa Patterson

Our experts discuss research, and what is often forgotten in writing – that making things believable usually requires a basis in fact. Anyone can make up words, but only you could attach meanings to them.

12pm - Tropes and How to Avoid Them.

Panelists: Bill Fawcett (M), Patrice Sarath, T.M. Hunter, Linda Donahue, Lou Antonelli

Ever groan while reading a story? Does seeing a ghost telling the hero he has a quest make you retch? The ever-present cliché will pop up when you least expect it, and ruin all the dramatic potential your story has. Our experts go over some popular ones...and show you how to avoid them.

1pm - The Urban Fantastic

Panelists: Shanna Swendson (M), Brad Sinor, Jaye Wells, Rachel Caine

Take a slice of the 20th century, add magic, and stir gently. The resulting Urban Fantasy world is by far some of the most popular themes in novels and movies today. Our panelists talk about writing in this genre, and how you too can do magic. Well...perhaps not.

2pm - Steam Punk...History and Hoop Skirts

Panelists: Becky Demonja, Cynthia Talbot and Courtney Stewart

A look at the origins of the culture and the clothes. where they came from and how to play.

3pm - E.T. Phone Home: Aliens and You

Panelists: Aaron Allston (M), Chris Donahue, Bill Crider, Dusty Rainbolt, Kerry Tolan

A particular pitfall of the Science Fiction genre is the humanoid alien that thinks and talks like humans. How does one make an alien believable? What kind of society would a non-humanoid alien have, if any? Our panelists discuss these topics and more.

4pm - Buzz Blaster Play Reading

Panelists: David Gray, Mary Gearhart-Gray, assorted others.

A 1950's radio show with a twist. Audience participation is solicited. No prior acting experience is necessary to have a great time!

Panel Room 4 – Churchill

10am - Art and Urban Fantasy: How to Sell a Book

Panelists: David Lee Anderson (M), David Cherry, Robert Stikmanz

The nightmare of any publisher is to get a piece of art that sells books. What the poor artist doesn't know about the novel may just doom a project before it starts... This year our panelists talk about some of the typical traps artists face in doing art for Urban Fantasy projects.

11am - Fandom Pictionary

Panelists: Teddy Harvia, Brad Foster

Play Pictionary or just watch as two of our artists compete. Come and see Teddy Harvia face off against Brad Foster! Pictionary has never been this much fun!

12pm - Choose Your Own Way: Classes to Take In School If You Want To Be A Writer.

[Young Adult]

Panelists: Angeline Hawkes(M), Michelle Muenzler

For the younger members of our convention who are about to go into High School and College – this panel will help guide you to the classes you need if you want to learn how to write. Make sure to bring pen and paper, this should be a good one!

1pm - Young at Heart: Writing Young Adult Fiction

Panelists: Melanie Fletcher (M), Rachel Caine, T. M. Hunter

Young Adult stories are reaching larger audiences than ever before. Twilight and Harry Potter, and an Unfortunate Series of Events...but how does one write in this genre? Our esteemed panelists explore the possibilities.

2pm - The mARTian Collaboration

Panelists: Teddy Harvia, Brad Foster

They say if you ask a committee to design a horse, you'll get a camel. Come see what happens when we team up these two artists and ask them to design a Martian.

3pm - "How to Draw..."

[Young Adult]

Teddy Harvia gives quick lessons on how to draw basic objects – for youngsters!

4pm - Costuming 101 - Leather Mask Making with Peggy Dee

A popular panel from last year, Peggy Dee-Haslbauer is back to show it again! This demo covers an in-depth look at the techniques for producing professional quality masks that range from very simple to very elaborate; using a wet leather technique. This method involves cutting and soaking the leather until it reaches a very pliable consistency that can be sculpted into incredibly creative designs of every genre. This will be followed by drying, painting, and decorating techniques that will produce a beautiful, wearable object of art that can be both worn and displayed.

5pm - Effects and After Thoughts- Special Effect and Finishes for Costumes

Panelist: Becky Demonja

A panel of techniques for decorating before and after you make your costumes.

6pm - What the Filk? – Filk 101

Panelists: Fax Paladin (M), Teresa Patterson, Rie Sheridan Rose

Ever wonder what "Filk" is? Tired of the same old music? Yeah, we thought so. Our experts will instruct you in all the basics of filking, with none of the dirtiness. Or at least not much.

Reading Room – Surrey (2nd Floor)

10am – Julia Mandala, K. Hutson Price

11am – Aaron Allston, Kerry M. Tolan

12pm – Teresa Patterson, Stephen Patrick

1pm – P.N. Elrod, Sue Sinor

2pm – Rhonda Eudaly, Rie Sheridan Rose

3pm – Ciara Gold, Selina Rosen

4pm – Gloria Oliver, Melanie Fletcher

5pm – Chris Roberson, Patrice Sarath

6pm – William Ledbetter, Adrian Simmons

Autographs (in front of the Dealers' Room)

11am – T. M. Hunter, Stephen Patrick, Glenn Sixbury, Rie Sheridan Rose

12pm – Darlene Bolesny, C. Dean Andersson, Lillian Stewart Carl, Nina Romberg

1pm – Lee Martindale, Lou Antonelli , Carole Nelson Douglas

2pm – Jack McDevitt

3pm – Rachel Caine, Brad Sinor, Sue Sinor, Angeline Hawkes

4pm – Shanna Swendson, A. Lee Martinez

5pm – Julia Mandala, Linda L. Donahue, Rhonda Eudaly, Dusty Rainbolt

6pm – Elizabeth Moon

Sunday

Panel Room 1 – Warwick

10am - Lucifer's Hammer: Asteroid collisions in Literature

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Jack McDevitt, Paul Abell, David Gray

Several fantastic novels have been written about near-earth object collisions and the results that happen. From the original “Lucifer's Hammer” to our Guest of Honor's “Moonfall”, the Earth is surprisingly vulnerable to death from outer space. Our guests talk about the science behind these events, and how to write them.

11am - Lascannons of Doom: Creating Weapons in Sci-fi/Fantasy

Panelists: Aaron Allston (M), Glenn Sixbury, Melanie Fletcher, Frances May, Kerry Tolan

Movies create more and more unbelievable weapons due to comic books and bad science. These Weapons of Mass Destruction™ tend to raise eyebrows and ruin more novels than any other literary device. Our experts examine unbelievable weapons that make people's eyes glaze...and how to avoid this.

12pm - Writers to Keep An Eye On

Panelists: Lee Martindale (M), Elizabeth Moon, A. Lee Martinez, Aaron Allston

An annual discussion, our panelists have a lively discussion on who are the upwardly mobile in writing. Who has a good handle on writing? Who is a hack and won't stick around long? Expect opinions to fly hot and heavy – and no referees.

1pm - Alternate History and You: Trends in Alternate Universes

Panelists: Linda Donahue (M), Melanie Fletcher

Popularized by Harry Turtledove, Eric Flint and many others, the alternate history genre has risen to new heights. Our experts discuss ways and means for writing it...and who is on the cutting edge in 2010.

2pm - The Case of the Mixed-up Genre

Panelists: Lee Martindale (M), A. Lee Martinez, Crystalwizard, Paul Black

With so many genres of writing, it is easy to get locked into one and only one. But there are many cases where breaking into a new style can help break you out of that rut – and change that novel forever! Our panelists tell you how, why, and what works best.

3pm - Elizabeth Moon – a Reading by the Author

Join our Guest of Honor as she reads from her own works. What will she be reading? Well, that's a secret you'll have to show up to find out.

4pm - Rate Our Con: Criticism and Kudos

Come by and tell us what you thought of the convention!

Panel Room 2 – Manchester

11am - Anthologies and You: They're Coming!

Panelists: Teresa Patterson (M), Chris Donahue, Rhonda Eudaly, Kevin Hosey

Last year, this humble programming officer discovered that creating Anthologies and Collections was not as easy as he thought it was...and the reasons for doing so was nothing like he thought, either! Come discover the true reasons for banding together, as true experts illumine the trials and tribulations they faced.

12pm - Supernatural Romance and You (in the 21st Century!)

Panelists: Julia Mandala (M), Rachel Caine, Rie Sheridan Rose

This is one of the hottest genres around...sometimes literally! Come hear our experts regale you with juicy tales of Vampires, Werewolves and Witches, Oh My!

1pm - Anti-gravity and You: Trends in Science Fiction

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Stephen Patrick, John Steakley

Not all Science Fiction happens in space, you know. Our experts discuss Science Fiction trends on planetary surfaces, various approaches to technology advances, and pitfalls to avoid creating BFG9000-like weapons.

2pm - Interstellar Archeology: The Debunking

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Mel White, Rie Sheridan Rose, Teddy Harvia, David Gray

The second of two panels where we inflict...er discover startling artifacts of OBVIOUS alien origin. Our experts tell us how wrong the previous esteemed panelists were!

3pm - Publishing Art and the Scams to Avoid.

Panelists: Teddy Harvia (M), Robert Stikmanz, Joy Marie Ledet

Getting art published is tricky in this day and age. Some websites host for free...and then your artwork belongs to them if they host it. Our experts warn you of the scams that exist out there, and how to publish your art without losing the rights to it.

Panel Room 3 – Canterbury

11am - Fan Art 101

Panelists: David Lee Anderson (M), Vincent Villafranca, R. Cat Conrad, Brad Foster

Our panelists answer the ever-present question of “What is Fan Art?”. When does it crossover to a career? Possibly the answer to “Why is Fan Art?” as well, but that might take more time than they have.

12pm - The Internet and You - Dealing with the Internet

Panelists: William Ledbetter (M), Glenn Sixbury, Selina Rosen, Shanna Swendson

The ever-present Internet looms above us all. However, it also is the easiest way to get your story out into the public...but what is the best way? Web boards, chat groups, eZines, these will all be discussed by our experts in web technology.

1pm - Scream Queens – Trends in Modern Horror

Panelists: Chris Donahue (M), Rachel Caine, Crystalwizard

Horror writing in the modern world is always tricky – between the science fiction genre and the urban fantasy genre, it is easy to get lost with what is scary. Our experts discuss how to write and still straddle the line of true horror.

2pm - Self-editing Err0rs

Panelists: Lou Antonelli (M), Richard Weber, Julia Mandala

Last year our panelists discussed ways of catching those pesky errors. Now they tell you how to do it again, but with corrective ink.

3pm - Indie Publishing 101

Panelists: Ciara Gold (M), Crystalwizard, Thomas Knowles, Paul Black

Getting that novel out there is hard enough if you try to butt heads with the big boys. Are independent publishers the answer? Our panelists try to answer this...and who to talk to if you want to explore options.

Panel Room 4 – Churchill

11am - Escape from the Slush Pile

Panelists: Lou Antonelli (M), Ciara Gold, Michael Finn, Selina Rosen

As the number of hopeful writers increase, the number of submissions increase. Piles upon piles of stories overwhelm every publisher and editor, and they have to make decisions on what makes it...and what is tossed in the slush pile. Our esteemed panelists discuss how to avoid being buried in the pile, and the mistakes to look out for.

12pm - Publishing 101: Publishing Short Stories

Panelists: Thomas Knowles (M), Crystalwizard, Ciara Gold, Sue Sinor

Putting together a gem is always a pleasure, but getting it out into the cold, cruel world is the next big step. Our experts talk about how to get your story read, who to go to, and what to say.

1pm - Publishing 201: Publishing Novels

Panelists: Lou Antonelli (M), Ciara Gold, Richard Weber, Selina Rosen, Jack McDevitt

Putting together a novel is an exhausting business, but getting it out into the cold, cruel world is the next big step. Our experts talk about how to get your novel read, who to go to, and what to say. And watch out for rogue contracts!

2pm - Mythology and You: Researching Asgard

Panelists: Teresa Patterson (M), Frances May, Linda Donahue

Even the tried and true mythological traditions have their uses in creating stories. However, it can be tricky finding the truth behind the myth at times. Our experts discuss where to look when researching mythology, and how to avoid that pesky Loki.

Reading Room Surrey (2nd Floor)

10am – A. Lee Martinez, Shanna Swendson

11am – Crystalwizard, Jaye Wells

12pm – Robert Stikmanz, Paul Black

1pm – Lee Martindale, Michelle Muenzler

2pm – T.M. Hunter, Glenn Sixbury

Autographs (in front of the Dealers' Room)

11am – Jack McDevitt

12pm – Jaye Wells, Kerry M. Tolan, Kevin Hosey

1pm – Elizabeth Moon