



WRITING CENTER

ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY



SUMMER WRITING SUMMIT

June 17-18, 2024



The Writing Center
ATHENS STATE
UNIVERSITY



ARE YOU A WRITER?

Why not get
paid to help
other writers!

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assistant, email kem.roper@athens.edu



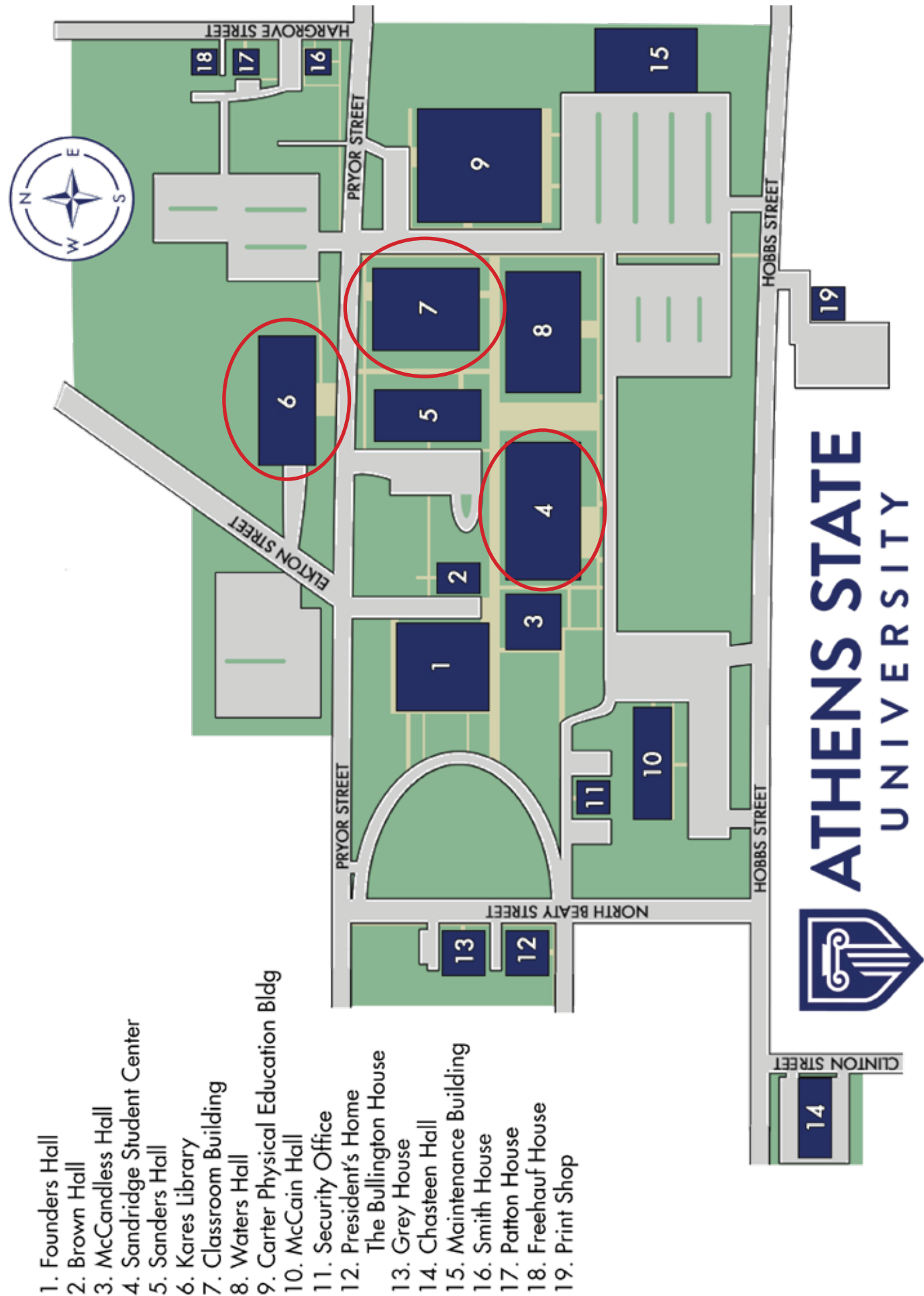
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ABOUT ATHENS

The city's proximity to transportation, recreational facilities, and educational centers make it a vibrant spot today.

The rich soil still offers farming opportunities but also recreational ones. The Swan Creek Greenway, for example, offers hiking, a covered bridge, and access to an archery course.

The railroads combined with Interstate 65, major highways, and nearby Tennessee River provide quick access for business and industrial transportation needs. Citizens are within short distances to universities and educational



training facilities.

Historic Downtown offers unique shopping and dining opportunities while chain restaurants, stores, and trendy shops are located along U.S. 72, U.S. 31, and at the Interstate 65 exit.

athensalabama.us



Café 1822 is open and ready to serve Athens State students, faculty, staff, and public patrons at their location in Sandridge

WHERE TO DINE

Hall. Lunch is served from 10am–1pm Monday–Friday. However, if you want to venture out, these restaurants are all 5–10 minutes' drive from campus:

- Lucia's Cocina Mexicana | 208 Market St W
- The Southern Table | 105 N. Jefferson St
- Village Pizza | 222 Market St. W
- Lil Massara's | 102 Washington St. E
- Mozza Pizza Restaurant & Bar
202 S. Jefferson St
- Sweetest Things Tea Room
216 Market St. W
- Whitt's Barbecue | 525 S. Marion St.
- Ro's Grille | 126 Jefferson St
- Roosters Restaurant | 125 US-31
- Samurai Steakhouse | 702 US Hwy 72 W
- The Salty Cod | 309 Market St W

WELCOME! FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2nd Annual Athens State University's Summer Writing Summit! I am thrilled to have you join us for a time of creativity, learning, and inspiration. Prepare to immerse yourself in this important work while you engage with fellow writers and draw inspiration from one of Alabama's finest talents, Ms. Ashley Jones. Throughout this Institute you will find ways to enrich your writing journey and discover new ways to think about the importance of self-expression, innovation, and imagination. Thank you for being a part of this vibrant gathering! Let's make this summer unforgettable through the power and passion of words and ideas. Welcome!

Dr. Catherine Whelburg

WELCOME! FROM THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Great universities elevate discourse, enlighten minds, and fine-tune thinking. From the dawn of the alphabet, writing has become the metacognitive medium great teachers use to help students explore, expand, and enhance their thinking. Quality writing takes hard work and a craftsman-like commitment to “getting it right.” The result is clearer thinking and communication that has impact. Looking at the list of presenters for our 2nd annual Writing Summit, I can’t wait to learn from this diverse group of experts including Alabama’s Poet Laureate, Ms. Ashley Jones. Opportunities for reflection, collaboration, and inspiration abound in this two day program—a treat for the mind and spirit. Enjoy yourself and please say “hi”!

Dr. Lee Vartanian

WELCOME!

*Why bother with learning to
write better if tools like
Chat GPT can do it for me?*

As I welcome you to the 2nd Annual Athens State University Summer Writing Summit, I can't help but marvel at this very different landscape on which we meet this year. Although we gather in familiar rooms and greet familiar people, we gather to share and discuss writing in a new context, that some say makes our work in vain.

After all, why bother with learning to write better if there are tools like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Grammarly or any number of others that can do it for us? Yet, I can think of no other skill that is more connected to who we are as humans than writing! Writing is literally an extension of ourselves and our thinking. Through writing we not only communicate our thoughts, but also understand our own minds. So, what happens when we relinquish our thinking to the tools? What happens when we second-guess our intelligence because we think the technology is smarter than us? What happens if we esteem technology above humanity?

What does it mean to be human?

This is really the question underlying debates over the power of artificial intelligence. Conspiracy theorists surmise that sentient computers will soon supplant human labor and intelligence, but I'm not ready to let go of my belief in the humans who created the machines. Computers will NOT defeat, destroy or displace us...*unless we allow it.*

The real question is: *will we allow it?*



"To say that AI will start doing what it wants for its own purposes is like saying a calculator will start making its own calculations." –Oren Etzioni

Will we become so enamored with our toys that we forget that we made them? Will we become so lazy in our thinking that we let the algorithms decide? Will we dare relinquish our emotions, quirks and nuances for that which is standardized, formulaic, lifeless, heartless ... *artificial*?

I hope not. My vote is for the humans. My vote is for the Ashley Jones' of the world who pour out blood, sweat and tears in pages of poetry that reflect reality, real—not pretend—pain.

A computer can describe pain or define pain, but it cannot know pain. Although we don't enjoy pain, it is a very human emotion that connects us with other humans, that teaches us valuable lessons. It makes us wise, not just knowledgeable, about life. Computers don't live. They merely imitate life.

Yes, the technology is here to stay, and, yes, it may challenge us to think differently, maybe even deeply, about what is true, but questions remain:

- what are the appropriate uses of this technology?
- what are the ethical and legal concerns?
- to what extent might technology become a threat to humanity?

And who will be responsible for regulating this monster we've created? What does it mean to be human? It's complicated, but when we try to distill human complexities, we cheapen our value and outsource control over our outcomes.

My hope is that we don't let go!

Dr. Kem Raper

Writing Center Director
Athens State University

THESE BEAUTIFUL HUMANS ARE DOING AMAZING WORK!



Thanks to my "crew" at the Writing Center: Laura Brink, Katie Vinson, Benjamin Fouche and Catarshi Hart. These guys put their heart into their work and dedicate long hours to serving our student body. They are my right and left hands, I couldn't make it without them.

THE RISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

There are a lot more questions than answers, but we're starting the conversation with our **AI Roundtable**. **Monday at 3:30pm** in the Kares library. Every one is welcome to join in!

For those who teach, stay with us for a hands-on workshop that will help you re-design your course assignments to maximize learning whether you or your students use AI tools--or not! **Monday, 4:30p in the Classroom Building, room 201.**



WRITING

in every font

This year we have a wonderful mix of beauty and brains! Check out the author pics and bios and be sure to peruse the array of conference offerings.



Do you have a big **research paper** to write? Maybe a **capstone project** that you don't know how to complete? Check out Dr. Mountain's "Help! I have to Write a Capstone," or trying your hand at **short fiction**? Take a look at Laura Hunter's "How to Write Effective Dialogue," Patricia Elmore's "Plotting Crime," or Bradley Sides' "How to Publish Your Short Story."

Need to polish your **resume** to find a new job? See "Polishing Your Resume," or trying to figure out how to sell your skills in the **interview**? See "Practice Your Elevator Pitch."

Maybe you could use a **quiet hour** to get some work done. See times for Focused Writing sessions or maybe you've done the work, now you need someone to give you feedback? Check out the times for **Works-in-Progress sessions**.



THANK YOU!

A BIG thanks to poet laureate **Ashley Jones** for sharing her talents with us.

Special thanks to all of my Athens State colleagues who are facilitating workshops or volunteering to help things run smoothly.



WRITERS OF THE ROUNDTABLE PODCAST



Find a seat at the table
with the Writing Center
at Athens State
University as we explore
all things writing!



Listen on Spotify



WRITING CENTER
ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY



MEET ASHLEY



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ASHLEY M. JONES is the Poet Laureate of Alabama (2022–2026). She is the first person of color and the youngest person to hold this position in its 93 year existence. She holds an MFA in Poetry from Florida International

University, and she is the author of *Magic City Gospel* (Hub City Press, 2017), *dark // thing* (Pleiades Press, 2019), and *Reparations Now!* (Hub City Press, 2021). She is also the co-editor of *What Things Cost: An Anthology for the People* (University Press of Kentucky, 2023).

Her poetry has earned several awards, including the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award, the Silver Medal in the Independent Publishers Book Awards, the Lena-Miles Wever Todd Prize for Poetry, a Literature Fellowship from the Alabama State Council on the Arts, the Lucille Clifton Poetry Prize, and the Lucille Clifton Legacy Award. She was a finalist for the Ruth Lily Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship in 2020, and her collection, *Reparations Now!* was on the longlist for the 2022 PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry.

Jones has been featured on news outlets including Good Morning America, ABC News, and the BBC. Her poems and essays appear in or are forthcoming at *CNN*, *Poetry*, *The Oxford American*, *Origins Journal*, *The Quarry by Split This Rock*, *Obsidian*, and many others. She co-directs PEN Birmingham. She recently served as a guest editor for *Poetry Magazine* and is the founding director of the Magic City Poetry Festival.

In 2022, Ashley received a Poet Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets and is currently the Associate Director of the University Honors Program at UAB and part of the Core Faculty of the Converse University Low Residency MFA Program.

AT A GLANCE *(See pages 14-17 for full session titles & descriptions.)*

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 • CONCURRENT SESSION I • 9:00AM–9:50AM

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
Follow Your Intuition	Classroom Building Room 202	Holly Gorman
How to Make Writing Fun	Kares Library – Writing Center	Writing Center staff
Writing & Creative Play	Classroom Building 210	Heather Montgomery
Polishing Your Resume	Classroom Building 203	Elizabeth Bowden

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 • CONCURRENT SESSION II • 10:00AM–10:50AM

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
The Escape Artist's Guide to Breaking Out of Writer's Block	Classroom Building 202	Allen Berry
Student Lightning Rounds	Kares Library – Room 114	Shannon Pitman
Why Should I Self-Publish	Classroom Building 203	Troy Adair
Works-in-Progress for Creative Writers	Classroom Building 204	
Creating in Community – Student Panel	Kares Library – Main	Bradley Sides
Choosing Words Wisely	Classroom Building 214	Patricia Elmore
Little People, Big Possibilities: How to Write for Children	Classroom Building 210	Heather Montgomery
Help! I have to Write a Capstone!	Classroom Building 205	Chandra Mountain
Writing Consultations	Kares Library – Registration	Writing Center staff

OPENING SESSION

- 11:00-11:50AM – KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ASHLEY JONES, POET LAUREATE | MCCANDLESS AUD.
- 12:00-1:00PM – BOOK SIGNING | MCCANDLESS; LUNCH | SANDRIDGE BALLROOM
- 1:00-2:15PM – VENDOR FAIR/POSTER PRESENTATIONS | SANDRIDGE ANNEX
- 2:30-3:20PM – POETRY WORKSHOP WITH ASHLEY JONES | KARES LIBRARY

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 • CONCURRENT SESSION III • 3:30PM–4:20PM

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
How to Write Effective Dialogue	Classroom Building 203	Laura Hunter
AI Roundtable	Kares Library – Main	Jennifer Wolfe & Katie Vinson
How to Publish Your Short Story	Classroom Building 214	Bradley Sides
Poster Presentations	Sandridge Annex	

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 • CONCURRENT SESSION IV • 4:30PM–5:20PM

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
Poster Presentations	Sandridge Annex	
Plotting a Crime	Classroom Building 214	Patricia Elmore

MONDAY • CONCURRENT SESSION IV • 4:30PM–5:20PM (CONTINUED)

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
Designing Courses in the Age of AI	Classroom Building 201	Kem Roper & Morgan Stanford
How to Market Your Book	Classroom Building 203	Caylah Coffeen
Developing Your Voice	Classroom Building 210	Whitney Washington

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 • CONCURRENT SESSION V • 5:30PM–6:20PM

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
Zine Scene: Crafting Your Creative Voice	Classroom Building 205	Danielle Chouinard
Documentation Game Show!	Kares Library – Writing Center	Writing Center staff
Practice Your Elevator Pitch!	Kares Library – Room 114	Kem Roper

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 • CONCURRENT SESSION VI • 9:00AM–9:50AM

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
Writing with Your Eyes Wide Open	Classroom Building 205	Mathias Freese
Dear Diary: Embracing Reflection and Growth Through Journaling	Classroom Building 210	Laura Brink
Focused Writing Session for Creative Writing	Classroom Building 214	
Focused Writing Session for Academic & Professional Writing	Classroom Building 202	
Works in Progress for Creative Writing	Classroom Building 203	
Works in Progress For Academic & Professional Writing	Classroom Building 204	
Writing Consultations	Kares Library – Registration	Writing Center Staff

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 • CONCURRENT SESSION VII • 10:00AM–10:50AM

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
Writing Through Creative Theatre	Kares Library – 2nd Floor	Susan Guthrie
Research Skills: Just as Important as Writing	Kares Library – Room 114	Toni Carter and Mary Aquila
Writing in the Workplace: When “LOL” is Not Funny	Classroom Building 202	Kem Roper
Intro to Fan Fiction	Classroom Building 205	Katie Vinson

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 • CLOSING SESSIONS • 11:00AM–2:30PM

SESSION TITLES	LOCATION	PRESENTER (or Facilitator)
Authors’ Panel	Kares Library – Main	Sides, Hunter, Freese, Mountain, Coffeen
Open Mic	Kares Library – Main	

SESSION TITLES & DESCRIPTIONS

CB – CLASSROOM BUILDING

LB – KARES LIBRARY

Follow Your Intuition

Holly Gorman

Monday, 9am, CB 202

In this session, author Holly Gorman will help you to identify your unique perspective and develop trust in your work so that you will have the confidence to finally put your vision into the world.

How to Make Writing Fun

Writing Center Staff

**Monday, 9am, Writing Center
(Kares Library)**

Maybe writing isn't your thing, that's okay! We'll show you how to approach any writing task with confidence. We'll also give you tips and tricks that will help you say more.

Polishing Your Resume

Elizabeth Bowden

Monday, 9am, CB 203

Unlock the potential of your resume with our comprehensive workshop designed to help you stand out in a competitive job market. Whether you're just starting out or looking to advance your career, this session will provide the tools you need to create a polished and professional resume that gets noticed. Join us to transform your resume into a powerful personal marketing tool!

Writing and Creative Play

Heather Montgomery

Monday, 9am, CB 210

This hands-on session uses natural artifacts for inspiration. Stretch your mind, shake up

your voice, and deepen your insight into your characters. We will think by analogy, work with language, and stretch our senses. Most importantly, we will PLAY!!!

The Escape Artist's Guide to Breaking Out of Writer's Block

Allen Berry

Monday, 10am, CB 202

In this session you will learn specific techniques you can use to silence the ugly inner voices and get on with the business of writing!

Student Lightning Rounds

Shannon Pittman

Monday, 10am, LB 114

Can you summarize your research project in 5 minutes or less? This fast-paced session will help you refine and articulate your research and Writing Center staff, Athens State faculty and fellow-researchers will help you identify what is--or should be--the central focus of your project.

Why Should I Self-Publish?

Troy Adair

Monday, 10am, CB 203

This workshop will cover the pros and cons for self-publishing vs traditional publishing, especially for faculty who are on the tenure track. Dr. Adair will also provide tips and tricks for successfully navigating the labyrinth of self-publishing for anyone who is curious about using KDP or Ingram Spark.

Works-in-Progress for Creative Writers

Monday, 10am, CB 204

Tuesday, 9am, CB 203

Whether you're working on a novel, a poem, these sessions are designed to support you wherever you are in the process. Works don't have to be complete! Just share what you've done so far and get feedback that can help you figure out what your next step should be.

Creating in Community

(student panel), Bradley Sides

Monday, 10am, LB Main

In this session student writers will share how writing in community helps them to develop their skills and inspires them to keep going! Teachers and administrators will hear students' perspectives on literary communities and students will share their creative works.

Choosing Words Wisely

Patricia Elmore

Monday, 10am, CB 214

Words matter, especially when spoken out loud! Learn techniques that will help you craft effective speeches that keep your audiences engaged and attentive.

Little People, Big Possibilities: How to Write for Children

Heather Montgomery

Monday, 10 am, CB 210

Writing for children requires an understanding of this unique industry and honed skills, but once these are mastered this market can be a personally rewarding route to publication. Learn how to make your mark on the next generation and in the world!

Help! I have to Write a Capstone!

Chandra Mountain

Monday, 10am, CB 205

In this session student writers will be given easy-to-follow steps on how to tackle big writing projects. If you've ever been assigned a research paper and didn't know where to start, this workshop is for you!

Writing Consultations

Monday, 10:00am and Tuesday at 9:00am

Location: Kares Library

A limited number of one-on-one sessions are available if you would like to meet with an Athens State Writing Center consultant to get feedback on your writing. Sign up at registration table.

Writing Effective Dialogue

Laura Hunter

Monday, 3:30pm, CB 203

In this session you will learn how to hone the craft of writing dialogue that will make your fictional characters come alive!

AI Roundtable

Jennifer Wolfe & Katie Vinson

Monday, 3:30pm, LB Main

Artificial Intelligence is everywhere! So, what does it mean for us as writers? As students? As faculty? As citizens? As...humans? In this roundtable discussion we'll put everything on the table sharing what we know—and don't know—about this emerging disruption.

How to Publish Your Short Story

Bradley Sides

Monday, 3:30pm, CB 214

In this session you will learn how to tackle cover letters and queries, plus how to find the right publication home for your work.

Poster Presentations

Monday, 3:30pm-5:30pm

Sandridge Annex

Researchers share their projects through visually engaging poster presentations

Plotting a Crime

Patricia Elmore

Monday, 4:30pm, CB 214

In this interactive session, participants will learn how to write compelling plots for one of the oldest types of storytelling—crime fiction!

Designing Courses in the Age of AI

Kem Roper & Morgan Stanford

Monday, 4:30pm, CB 201

How should educators handle Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) which has been described as “a positive disruption in the learning process”? In this workshop we explore AI and its implications for teaching and learning—especially those relating to academic

integrity. We will also evaluate examples (good and bad) of course elements redesigned for AI and provide you with tools to navigate this new educational landscape!

How to Market Your Book

Caylah Coffeen

Monday, 4:30pm, CB 203

So, you've written a book, maybe even published it. Or, maybe you're working on a book and plan to publish. Then what? How do you turn your masterpiece into a profit? In this session Caylah Coffeen, founder of Creative Cornerstones, a publishing services company in Huntsville, AL shares insights on how to market your book so that it will sell.

Developing Your Voice

Whitney Washington

Monday at 4:30pm, CB 210

In memoir and other forms of creative nonfiction, identifying and developing your writerly voice is critical to reaching your reader. In this session we will look at examples of writers who succeed in doing so, then you will get to practice!

Crafting Your Creative Voice

Danielle Chouinard

Monday at 5:30pm, CB 205

A Zine is a small hand crafted and self-published magazine. In this workshop we will talk briefly about the history of Zines, look at examples of Zines and then get busy making a Zine of our own. No experience is necessary for this workshop. Images, materials and lots of writing inspiration will be ready at hand. However if you have any sort of writing, poetry, art or preferred art supplies you enjoy using you are welcome to bring those with you.

Documentation Game Show!

Writing Center staff

Monday 5:30pm, Writing Center

APA and MLA can be such a drag ... we decided to make a game of it. Come see!

Practice Your Elevator Pitch!

Kem Roper

Monday, 5:30pm, LB 114

Think fast! What would you say to that person who could make your dreams come true if you met them on an elevator? Whether you're pitching a story, a research project, or yourself, this session will help you refine your message and persuade your audience in under 5 minutes!

Writing with Your Eyes Wide Open

Mathias Freese

Tuesday at 9am, CB 205

Do you know the power that you have at your fingertips? In this session psychotherapist and author Mathias Freese will awaken you to the powerful connection between writing and thinking. Learn how to tap into the creative self you didn't even know existed!

Focused Writing Groups

Tuesday, 9:00am

For Creative writing go to CB 214

For Academic or Professional writing go to CB 202

We'll use the Pomodoro Method's proven time-management principles to eliminate distractions and maximize your output in these 50 minute Focused Writing Group sessions. Discover the benefits of structured breaks where you can recharge, reflect, and come back refreshed for your next writing sprint.

Dear Diary: Embracing Reflection and Growth Through Journaling

Laura Brink

Tuesday, 9:00am, CB 210

This workshop offers a safe and supportive space to explore the power of writing as a means of understanding yourself and the world around you. Discover the therapeutic benefits of journaling, cultivate a regular writing habit, and unleash your authentic voice on the page in this interactive session. Through guided prompts and exercises, attendees will learn

various techniques for capturing their unique narratives, as they embark on a journey of self-discovery, reflection, and creative expression through the art of journaling.

Works-in-Progress Sessions

Tuesday, 9am

Creative Writing – CB 203

Academic & Professional Writing – CB 204

Works don't have to be complete! Just share what you've done so far and get feedback that can help you figure out what your next step should be.

Writing Consultations

Tuesday at 9:00am

Location: Kares Library

A limited number of one-on-one sessions are available if you would like to meet with an Athens State Writing Center consultant to get feedback on your writing. Sign up at registration table.

Writing Through Creative Theatre

Susan Guthrie

Tuesday, 10am, LB, 2nd floor

Whether floundering or disciplined, we all need a creative re-awakening. The best way to enliven your specific writing genre is by doing something completely different. Come and see!

Research Skills:

Just as Important as Writing

Toni Carter and Mary Aquila

Tuesday, 10am, LB 114

Information literacy is the ability to find, evaluate, and use information effectively. Come and learn how to sharpen your

researching skills! This session will help you to improve or build upon your approach to the research process. No matter the type of research you're conducting (e.g., scholarly, journalistic, literary).

Intro to Fan Fiction

Katie Vinson

Tuesday, 10am, CB 205

Have you ever wanted to write an alternative ending to your favorite movie or television series episode? Learn how to delve into the virtual world of fan fiction where you become the author and the lives of fictional characters are in your hands!

Writing in the Workplace: When “lol” Is Not Funny

Kem Roper

Tuesday, 10am, CB 202

If you want to be a “boss” you'll need to learn how to write like one! This workshop will cover the basic principles of professional communication—such as how to build good will even if you're giving bad news and how to effectively craft messages that ultimately get results.

Authors Panel

**Bradley Sides, Laura Hunter,
Mathias Freese, Chandra Mountain,
Caylah Coffeen**

Tuesday, 11am, LB Main

The Summer Writing Summit ends with a panel discussion among professionals in the writing world—whether published author or publisher—we'll get to hear their stories of successes, failures and lessons learned!

Open Mic

Tuesday, 1:30, Room: LB Main

Step into the spotlight and let your words take center stage! This is your chance to share your voice with a supportive community of fellow wordsmiths. Sign up at registration to showcase your poetry, prose, or spoken word.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
3RD ANNUAL SUMMER
WRITING SUMMIT
JUNE 2025**

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2024 SUMMER SUMMIT FACILITATORS



Troy Adair

Troy A. Adair, Jr., is Dean of the College of Business at Athens State University, and has previously served as a Full Professor in the Decision and Technology Analytics Department of the College

of Business at Lehigh University, where he co-directed the Computer Science and Business (CSB) degree program, the FinTech minor, and the Certificate in Business Analytics. Dr. Adair is an author for both McGraw-Hill and Cengage, and has self-published books through both Amazon's KDP and IngramSpark.



Mary Aquila

Mary Aquila is an Associate Librarian at Athens State University. She graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelor of Arts in Russian and East European Studies from the

University of Illinois at Chicago with a Master of Arts in Linguistics, and from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Master of Science in Library and Information Science. She has worked as an academic librarian for the past 16 years and has presented on topics related to distance education, information literacy, embedded librarianship, and safe zone practices.

Dr. Allen Berry

Allen Berry was born and raised in Alabama and is a 2013 Ph.D. graduate of the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi. He is the author of four collections of poetry:



Travel for Agoraphobics, Distractions and Illusions, Sitting up with the Dead, and most recently Separation Tango. In 2001, he founded the Limestone Dust Poetry Festival in Huntsville, Alabama, and served as its director from 2001 to 2006.

His work has appeared in Steel Toe Review, The Birmingham Arts Journal, What Remembers Us: An Anthology of Alabama Poetry, The American Muse Magazine and many other publications. Dr. Berry teaches Composition and Literature at Calhoun Community College in Huntsville, AL.



Elizabeth Bowden

A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Bowden is currently the Director of Teacher Education Services and Certification at Athens State University. Prior to this role, she was a Career

Consultant for the University and the Interim Director of Launchbox Initiatives, which are grant-funded programs to support small business. She holds a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership, a master's degree in Adult Education and Distance Learning, and a Bachelor of Arts in History. Dr. Bowden has worked in higher education in various capacities and has been training students, faculty, and other members of the community in career and leadership education in North Alabama for over 24 years.

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you." -Maya Angelou, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings



Caylah Coffeen

Caylah is the founder of Creative Cornerstones, a publishing services company in Huntsville, AL. She specializes in editing and marketing SFF fiction for both indie and traditionally

published authors, and offers custom services to authors with disabilities through her nonprofit branch, the Wingwoman Program. Caylah also trained with and works for Monster Ivy Publishing and Eschler Editing as an editor and marketer.



Danielle Choinard

Danielle Choinard is the Fine Arts and STEM Librarian at our ASU Kares Library. She has facilitated workshops on a variety of topics related to the book arts and creative writing for young adults and

children. Her personal interest in Zines started as an undergraduate at the University of Georgia where she worked with friends to craft Zines and flyers for the local music scene.



Patricia Elmore

Dr. Patricia G. Elmore is an Assistant Professor of English Education at Athens State University.



Mathias B. Freese

Mathias Freese is a retired English teacher who has practiced psychoanalytic psychotherapy for 20 years and has been writing for over 50 years. Freese has published 10 books. The

most recent, science fiction fantasy *In The Throes*, was released in March. Freese has also



Laura Brink

Laura holds a BA in English from Athens State University and works part-time as the lead writing consultant at the ASU Writing Center. When she's not tutoring, she's

managing a gaggle of children and animals. From student to tutor to wife and mother, on any given day Laura wears a number of different hats with a number of different titles, but her favorite is "writer." In her spare time—between kids and consultations—Laura enjoys a hot cup of coffee, Amazon shopping, and (quiet) late night drives.



Toni Carter

Toni Carter has spent the majority of her career in academic librarianship, currently serving as the Director of Kares University Library at Athens State University. For over a decade

of her career, she taught students about information literacy and the research process. She is the author of the book *Introducing Scholarly Research: Ready-to-Use Lesson Plans and Activities for Undergraduates* published by the American Library Association.

published over 50 short stories and has written two well received books on the Holocaust and has garnered many awards.



Holly Gorman

Holly is a wife, a mother and grandmother. She holds a B.S. from Purdue University. Married to a handicapped retired Army veteran, she has traveled to and lived many places all over the

world exposing her to a variety of cultures and peoples. She has also had many different jobs and suffered a variety of medical issues of her own. This equipped her to be creative in problem-solving. Writing this is another step in her life's journey.



Susan Hazen Guthrie

S. Hazen Guthrie is a theater artist, specializing in voice and Shakespeare production and training. Guthrie is a lecturer and presenter for the National Endowment

for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. She is listed as an Individual Artist with many state arts councils, and has directed and acted for resident theaters across the country, including Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Guthrie is a member of Alabama's Coweeta Poets; the resident poet of HLA's Creative Nonfiction Workshop; and, as a Sundial Writer, can be heard on WLRH – Alabama's Public Radio. Ms. Guthrie is published in No'Ala, The Rose in the World, the 2023 Year in Review - Out Loud Huntsville, and 52 Weeks of Sun, Madison Press 2021. Guthrie's book, We held our breath, the birds and I, will be released in September 2024.

Laura Hunter

Laura Hunter was raised in Alabama hill country and now lives near Tuscaloosa. She has published sixteen award-winning fiction pieces

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and nine poems, in addition to numerous articles published through different media outlets. Beloved Mother, her award-winning novel, was released April 1, 2019. It received eleven awards during its first year of publication.

She has written a collection of fictional short stories, Southern Voices, focused on Copeland's Crossing, Alabama. It appeared in print August 2020. Her last novel, Summer of No Rain, was released February 2022. Hunter was awarded the Druid Arts Council Literary Arts Award for 2022 and 2023.



Heather Montgomery

Heather L. Montgomery writes books for kids who are wild about animals. An award-winning author and educator, Heather uses yuck appeal to engage young

minds. She has published 18 nonfiction books, including: Something Rotten: A Fresh Look at Roadkill; a picturebook entitled What's in Your Pocket? Collecting Nature's Treasures; and Sick! The Twists and Turns Behind Animal Germs. When she's not writing or researching, she's likely to be leading kids up a mountain trail or interviewing a scientist while standing knee-deep in a creek. (Learn more at www.HeatherLMontgomery.com)



Chandra Mountain

Dr. Chandra Tyler Mountain is Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English at Oakwood University. Her scholarly expertise lies in literary theory and women's, Africana, and

British literatures. She is a photographer, writer and author of three collections, Musings from My Younger Self (2023), Into the Garden (2023), and Sacred Water (2024). She also maintains

Pics and Posts (<https://iamchandrallynn.com>), a weblog about snail mail, photography, and the beautiful facts of life. (Learn more at <https://iamchandrallynn.com>)



Shannon Pitman

Shannon Pitman is Associate Professor of Biology and Co-Director of the Undergraduate Honors Program at Athens State University.



Kem Roper

Kem Roper is the Director of the Athens State University Writing Center in Athens, AL. She has a BA in Communications and worked in television promotions for five years before returning

to school to complete an MA in English and a PhD in English Rhetoric and Composition. She began her writing center work as a graduate student and now has over 20 years of combined experience in teaching and tutoring. Aside from freshman comp, Kem has taught creative drama, creative writing and professional writing courses. In addition to her academic work, Kem is also actively engaged in the creative community as an author, blogger and podcaster.



Bradley Sides

Bradley Sides is the author of two short story collections, Those Fantastic Lives and Crocodile Tears Didn't Cause the Flood. His writing appears in Chicago Review of Books, Electric Literature,

Los Angeles Review of Books, The Millions, The Rumpus, and elsewhere. His fiction has also been featured on LeVar Burton Reads. He holds an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte, where he served as Fiction Editor of Qu. Currently, he lives in Huntsville, Alabama, with his wife. On most days, he can be found



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2020. She currently works as a communications associate for a statewide advocacy nonprofit and writes personal essays about identity, pop culture, and politics. Her essays have been published in Reckon South, Electric Literature, and Roxane Gay's newsletter, The Audacity. Whitney attended the Kenyon Writers Review Workshop in 2022 and the Tin House Summer Workshop in 2023. She's a 2023 Periplus Fellow and in the 2024 cohort of Black Embodiments Studio's Arts Writing Incubator.

teaching writing at Calhoun Community College. (Learn more at bradley-sides.com).



Morgan Stanford

Morgan Stanford is a faculty development specialist and instructional designer for Athens Teaching and Learning Innovation Services (ATLIS).



Jennifer Wolfe

Jennifer Wolfe has a BS in Education and MA in English and a Master's in Library and Information Studies. She is the senior librarian at the Kares Library and chair of the Faculty Senate Learning

Resources Committee. Jennifer has taken the lead in coordinating AI training for Athens State faculty, staff and administrators.



Katie Vinson

Katie Vinson is a published poet, writing center consultant, and Secondary Ed student at Athens State University. Katie plans to teach English and specialize in English as a Second Language

(ESL). When she is not tutoring students at the Writing Center, Katie loves reading books, writing poetry and fan fiction, and listening to Taylor Swift on repeat.



Whitney Washington

Whitney is a creative nonfiction writer based in Huntsville, Alabama. She graduated from the University of Montevallo and, determined to stay in

the South, returned to the Huntsville area in



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