



PROFESSIONAL TOPICS

A Series for MFA Students

the second wednesday of every month

2:00-3:15 in Kenan 1111

September 9

THE JOB MARKET LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

Faculty panelists Wendy Brenner, Philip Gerard, and Sarah Messer and alumni panelists Kimi Faxon Hemingway, Lesley Parker Richardson, and Heather Wilson will discuss the current job market and how to break into your field of choice. They will cover teaching, editing, and freelancing, among other jobs, as well as answer questions. Panelists will offer you a chance to review their own resumes and cover letters and will offer advice on job hunting and interviews.

January 13

RESIDENCIES & FELLOWSHIPS FINDING SPACE TO WRITE

Faculty panelists Sarah Messer, Emily Smith, and Mike White will offer insights on finding and applying for residency and fellowship programs. They will cover the different types of programs—ranging from a week to an entire year—as well as how to prepare applications, manuscripts, and statements of intent. Additionally, they will offer tips on how to make the most of your time in residence.

March 17

HOOKING AN AGENT THE QUERY LETTER AND PROPOSAL

A panel of faculty and alumni including Phil Furia, Rebecca Lee, and Brad Land will discuss and answer your questions about choosing and landing a literary agent. Panelists will share their own experiences and help you through the nuts and bolts of writing proposals and solicitation letters. You can find an agent; these panelists will help.

October 14

THE EDITORIAL PROCESS FROM COVER LETTER TO EDITOR

Resident editor Ben George, along with faculty panelists Nina de Gramont, Clyde Edgerton, and Malena Mörling, will show you how to write a cover letter that makes a splash, how to rise to the top of the submission pool, and what to expect from the editorial process.

February 10

MAGAZINE FEATURES PITCHING AND WRITING

Regular magazine contributors Wendy Brenner (*Oxford American*), Clyde Edgerton (*Garden & Gun*, *Oxford American*), David Gessner (*Orion*, *Onearth*) and Virginia Holman (*Glamour*, *O*, *Self*) discuss their experiences writing for national magazines, from pitching an idea that a magazine will accept to writing the feature itself, as well as what to expect from an editor. Panelists will reveal how to avoid “My Trip”-style writing and instead combine solid research and reporting with your unique voice.

April 14

JUST FOR POETS HOW AND WHERE TO PUBLISH

Lavonne Adams, Mark Cox, and Mike White will explain how publishing poetry differs from publishing prose, specifically where to send writing, writing a cover letter, how many poems to send, and how to handle simultaneous submissions. Panelists will introduce respected publications, from the highly competitive to those seeking emerging writers.