The New York State Summer Young Writers Institute (SYWI) will be held July 2 – July 12, 2014 at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Co-sponsored by the New York State Writers Institute and Skidmore College, this well-established creative writing workshop for high school students provides opportunities to work one-on-one with professional writers and editors. Participants will receive instruction in poetry, fiction, and imaginative non-fiction from nationally-recognized writers who are also skilled teachers. The SYWI provides young authors with not only opportunities to develop professionally, but also with recognition, respect, and invaluable peer support. The SYWI is open to any high school student entering the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the fall of 2014. Based on creative writing samples submitted by applicants, 40 students will be chosen to participate from across the country. Full and partial financial aid awards are available for participants based on need.

SYWI students are expected to write extensively and complete one piece of work in each of the three genres. There will be three workshops every day, except Sunday, July 6th, when the students will travel to Lake George for a chaperoned field day, except Sunday, July 6th, when the students will travel to Lake George for a chaperoned field trip to The Great Escape and Splashwater Kingdom amusement park. Students will present readings of their writings at the end of the second week, and selected poems, essays and stories will be published in an anthology. Computergs and printers will be available, though participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops and flash drives.

The SYWI runs concurrently with the New York State Summer Writers Institute, a workshop for college and post-college writers. In 2013, SYWI students attended afternoon sessions and evening readings by such prestigious writers as Frank Bidart, Elizabeth Benedict, Ann Beattie, Robert Pinsky, Richard Hoffman, and others. An extensive Q and A sessions with celebrated authors are held. During past programs, William Kennedy, Gregory Maguire, Ann Battista, Russell Banks, Alice Ohlin, Philip Lopate, Elizabeth Benedict, Darren Straus and other well-known writers have conducted seminars specifically for the SYWI students.

The vibrant Skidmore campus is alive with creativity during the summer season: a Precollege Program in the Liberal and Studio Arts as well as a jazz institute, dance institute, and summer theater company are all in residence here during the summer. Skidmore is located in Saratoga Springs – perennially shortlisted as one of the most interesting and vibrant small towns in the U.S.

FACULTY

Kathleen Aguero’s latest book is After That (Tiger Bark Books). Her other poetry collections include Investigations: The Mystery of the Girl Skull (Cervena Barva Press), Daughter Of (Cedar Hill Books), The Real Weather (Hanging Loose), and Thimble City (Alice James Books). She has also co-edited three volumes of multi-cultural literature for the University of Georgia Press (A Gift of Tongues, An Ear to the Ground, and Daily Rain) and is a consulting poetry editor of Sidestepping literary magazine. She teaches in the low-residency M.F.A. program at Pine Manor College and in Changing Lives through Literature, an alternative sentencing program.

Liza Frenette is an assistant editor at the monthly magazine, NYSUT United where she writes features, human interest stories, articles about workers’ rights, environmental education, and breaking news. She has won the Mary Heath Vance award three times, the highest writing award from the Metro Labor Communications Council of New York City, for feature writing. Vance was an activist and writer, often covering workers’ rights. In 2012, she won the highest national writing award from the American Federation of Teachers for a feature story. Frenette is the author of three middle-grade children’s novels, Soft Shoulders, Danger–Roads, and Loose Riders, and is finishing her fourth novel. She teaches at Fairfield University’s MFA Program in Creative Writing, and he is also acquisitions editor for Hudon Whitman Excelsior College Press.

Elaine Handley is a professor of Writing and Literature at SUNY Empire State College. She is an award winning poet and is completing a novel. Her most recent book of poetry, written in collaboration, is Fear of the Clouds, published in 2011 by KA Press. In 2011 she was the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Richard Hoffman is a co-founder of the Hakai House: a Memoir, and the poetry collections, Without Paradox, Gold Star Road, winner of the 2006 Barlow Street Press Poetry Prize and his 2008 Sheila Morton Award from the New England Poetry Club, and Emblem. A fiction writer as well, his Interference & Other Stories was published in 2009. His work has appeared in Agni, Alcott, Harvard Review, Hudson Review, the Literary Review, Poetry, Witness and other magazines. His most recent book is the memoir, Love & Faye. He is Senior Writing-in-Residence at Emerson College.

Bob Miner worked for Newsweek and has written for the New York Times, Washington Post, Village Voice, and Esquire. He has published two novels—Exes and Mothers’ Day—and is finishing up the third novel in this series, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, as well as writing nonfiction about Istanbul, Turkey. Since 1980 he has taught writing for the University at Albany and Empire State College, as well as for Skidmore College, Siena College, and the College of St. Rose.

William B. Patrick is the founder and director of the New York State Summer Young Writers Institute. His most recent book is The Call of Nursing Voices from the Front Lines of Health Care. He is also the author of Saving Payo: A Year with Firefighters and Paramedics in a Batttered City. Also, an award-winning novel, and We Didn’t Come Here For This, a memoir in poetry, among several other books. Mr. Patrick is currently on the faculty of Fairfield University’s MFA Program in Creative Writing, and he is also acquisitions editor for Hudon Whitman Excelsior College Press.

Harvard Review, Hudson Review, the Literary Review, Poetry, Witness and other magazines. His most recent book is the memoir, Love & Faye. He is Senior Writing-in-Residence at Emerson College.

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NEW YORK STATE SUMMER WRITERS INSTITUTE

The New York State Summer Young Writers Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors, without whom the program would not be possible. Thank you!

The Seyer Companies Saratoga Foundation James LaVigne & Mary Gavin

The New York State Writers Institute is one of America’s premier sites for celebrating achievement in the art of writing and for nurturing aspiring writers. Founded in 1984 by New York’s governor and legislature to provide “a milieu for established and aspiring writers to work together...to increase the freedom of the artistic imagination,” the Institute sponsors a diverse program of author visits, film screenings, symposia, and writing workshops. Founded by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist William Kennedy and located at the State University of New York at Albany, the Institute collaborates with a variety of public and private organizations to enhance educational and cultural opportunities for students and the general public.

Tuition: $600 includes instructional workshops and readings, campus activities, and field trip.
Room & Board: $590
Application Fee: $40

FACULTY

Kathleen Aguero
Richard Hoffman
Elaine Handley
William B. Patrick
Bob Miner
Jaki thinner

HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at the New York State Summer Young Writers Institute Web site at skidmore.edu/summer.

Follow the link to the NYS Summer Young Writers Institute. A complete application consists of the following: a completed online application form; $40 application fee; best writing sample – any genre(s) (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, play, screenplay) up to a maximum of 15 pages (typed, double-spaced); and applying for financial aid, a completed Financial Aid Application must also be included.

FINANCIAL AID

Full and partial financial aid awards are available to qualified students based on need. For more information on financial aid visit the program website at skidmore.edu/summer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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