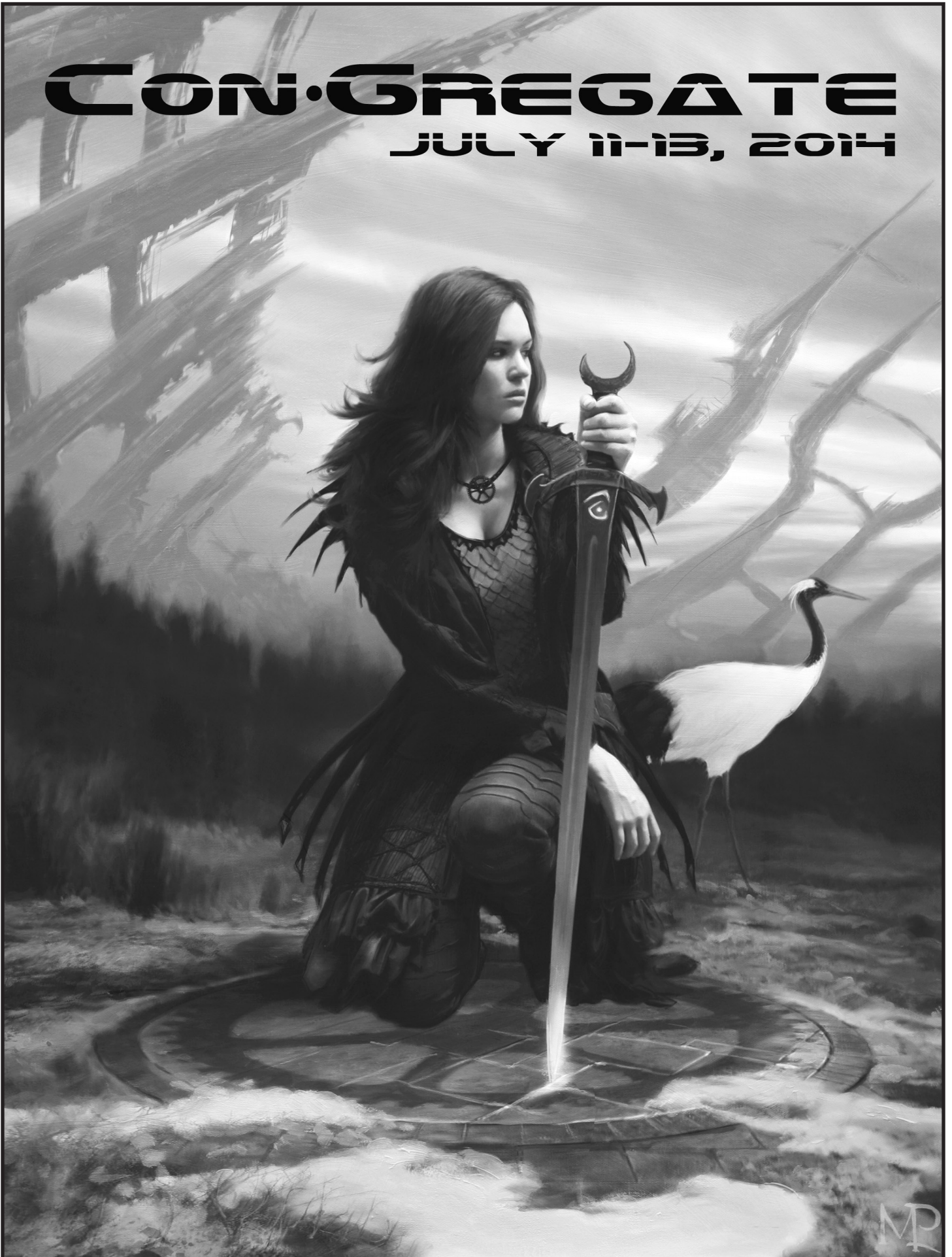


# CON·GREGATE

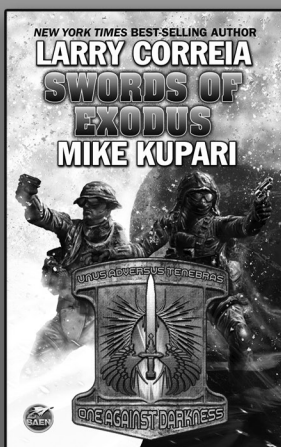
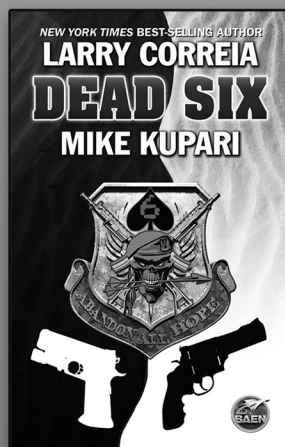
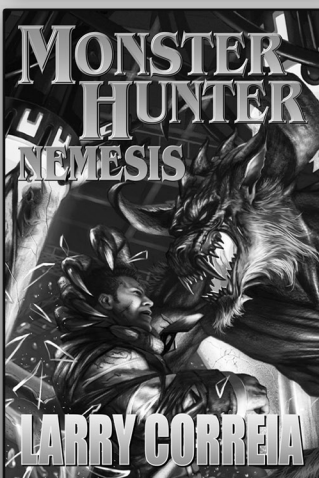
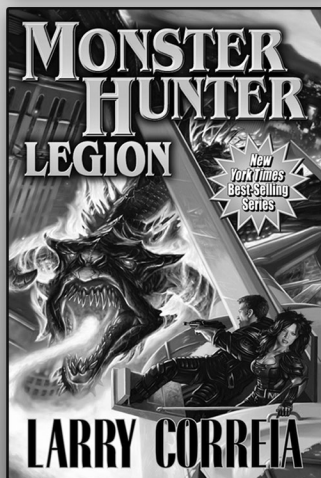
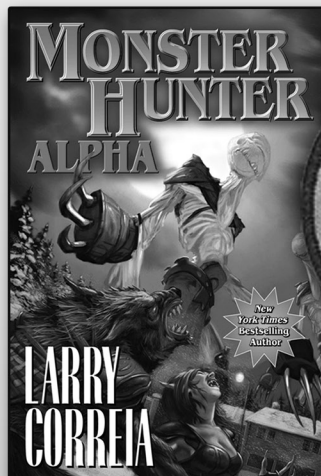
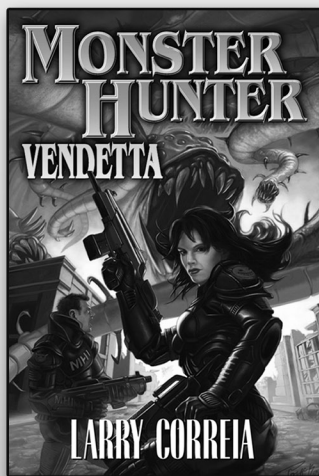
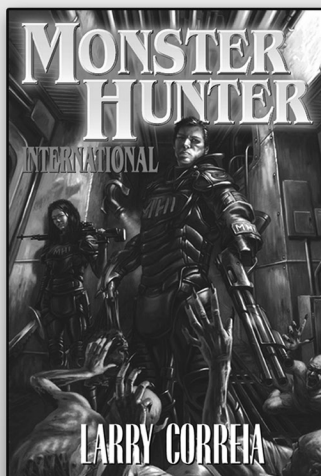
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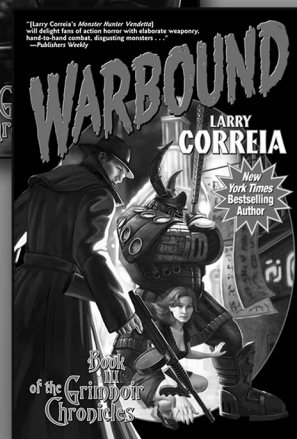
MP

# LARRY CORREIA

*New York Times* Best-Selling Author  
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### From the Con Chair

Wow! What a wild ride the last 28 months have been. We stand here at the culmination of the efforts of a lot of people... a whole lot of people. It all started with an exploratory gathering a friends in March of 2012, to see if we thought we could pull off running a relaxacon, and ended with the launching of a brand new, full blown SF convention. Along the way, our journey included the discovery that no hotel in the area would offer a small relaxacon terms that we could meet and also the discovery that the fans, dealers, pros and even other con runners had the utmost confidence that we would be successful running a new con. We greatly appreciate that last part, even if we weren't as sure of our abilities as you folks were. Thanks for that, it really kept us moving forward!

We hope that ConGregarate lives up to your expectations, because, really, that's the ultimate purpose of the con.

So, please... enjoy!

-James Fulbright  
President/Con Chair

**GameOnGirl.com**  
The podcast about Gender and Gaming  
Facebook: gameongirlpodcast  
Twitter: @game\_on\_girl  
What's your gamer type?  
Take the quiz! →



# CONVENTION STAFF AND HARASSMENT POLICY

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## Convention Staff

<b>Convention Chairman</b>	<b>James Fulbright</b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Wendell McCollom</b>
<b>Head of Programming</b>	<b>Tera Fulbright</b>
Programming Assistants	Charles Rizzo Ann Tucker
Guest Services Coordinator	Stephanie McClung
Auction Coordinator	Everette Beach
Gaming Coordinator	Ron McClung (Justus Prod.)
<b>Head of Fan Relations</b>	<b>Scott Gibson</b>
ConSuite Coordinator	John Desmarais
<b>Registration Director</b>	<b>Amy Masters</b>
<b>Head of Exhibit Space</b>	<b>Bill Mann</b>
Asst. Dealer Room Coordinator	Janine Martinez
<b>Head of Operations</b>	<b>John Endicott</b>
Technical Services Coordinator	Dana Windsor
<b>Head of Marketing</b>	<b>Rich Sigfrit</b>

## Volunteers

Liam Allen, Glen Beattie, David Crites, Emily Crowder, Jen Davis, Rachel Desmarais, Conall Desmarais, Marcy Desmarais, Trey Krieger, Stephanie Perry, Mark Polanis, Stephanie Roane, Richard Sarner, Chuck Turnitsa, Anita Turnitsa, Heidi Turnitsa, Carol Wood

## ConGregarate Productions

### Board of Directors

Everette Beach (Chairman of the Board)  
Laura Haywood-Cory  
Paul Cory  
James Fulbright  
Tera Fulbright

### Corporate Officers

James Fulbright -- President  
Laura Haywood-Cory -- Vice President  
Tera Fulbright -- Secretary/Treasurer

## Harassment Policy

We are endeavoring to make ConGregarate a safe place for fans to gather. Even so, certain types of inappropriate, offensive or harassing behavior can be found at public places across the world. To the best of our ability, we want to prevent inappropriate conduct during the convention.

It is very important that if you are being harassed, or in any way feel endangered, that you report it immediately. For the convention to be able to address issues, it is important that we be made aware of, with as many details as can be provided (names, badge numbers, descriptive information, etc.), any situation that might occur.

If you feel you have been harassed, please find the nearest convention volunteer and ask to be directed to the Convention Chairman or Vice Chair. During convention hours, you should be able to locate a staff member in the Hanes Boardroom (Con Ops).

Additionally, if you see someone being harassed, we encourage you to speak up and say something. As a community, fandom needs to work together to make sure everyone is treated with respect.

Once a complaint of discriminatory harassment has been filed, an investigation will be conducted. The nature and extent of the investigation will depend upon the complaint. The convention will respect the wishes of the person reporting the harassment when deciding on further steps. A convention participant who the con organizers believe has committed harassment, or who fails to cooperate with an investigation, may be sanctioned or asked to leave the convention without a refund at the discretion of the con organizers. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

Actions taken by the con staff are separate and distinct from any legal action and do not, in fact, preclude legal consequences from happening.

\* \* \*

**Definition of Harassment** - to create an unpleasant or hostile situation, especially by uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct.

Types of harassment include but are not limited to: physical assault, battery, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate or unwelcome physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, negative comments regarding gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, or religion.



## Convention Rules

1. When you are in the convention areas, you must wear your badge. Lost badges will only be replaced once. The basic gist here is: *yes, you have to wear your stinking badges.*
2. The staff of ConGregarate reserves the right to toss anyone out of the convention, without a refund, if they are behaving like a jerk.
3. Please be aware that harassment falls under rule number two (2) above. Keep in mind that the determination of what is harassing behavior is typically defined by the VICTIM. We will only consider intent when determining the fate of anyone we feel is guilty of harassing their fellow con-goers. **Please see our full harassment policy on page 2.**
4. Mother always said, "Don't run in the house!" The same applies to the con site.
5. Do not tear up the hotel! We like it here and want to come back at some point. If you have a lapse in judgment and we catch you wrecking the hotel... well,... go back and read rule number 2.
6. Bladed weapons must be sheathed and peace-bonded at all times. All other actual weapons are prohibited in the con space (Ballrooms, Pre-function Space and Con Suite). Blasters and fake weapons are permitted if you swing by the reg desk first and allow us to "peace-bond" it (which usually consists of tying orange ribbon around the barrel).
7. The staff of ConGregarate cannot permit unauthorized vendors to sell anything at the convention. The dealers have paid good money to be here and it's simply not fair to them otherwise.
8. Please switch your cell phones, and other electronic devices, to silent ring while you are in the programming rooms. If you do receive a call, we ask that you leave the room before you answer your phone.
9. As with most hotels, the Marriott makes a good chunk of its money from catering. It is one way they can help keep your convention costs low. You may not eat food in the con space unless it was purchased from the hotel (it's in our contract). In other words, your options this weekend are: you can eat what you buy from the hotel, go out to eat, or eat in your personal room.
10. The hotel has requested that no "outside" alcohol be brought into the con areas. We encourage you to patronize the hotel bar or drink in your private hotel rooms & suites.

11. ConGregarate is not responsible for items lost during the convention. As each of us has lost stuff from time to time, we can sympathize with you. We'll even try to help you find said items. We cannot, however, afford to replace them. Sorry.

12. While the convention organizers encourage members to bring their children to ConGregarate, we ask that parents take an active role in monitoring the events in which their children participate. Some events (and most parties) may not be suitable for all ages. Also, please be aware that ConGregarate is not a daycare service. Children left unattended may be remanded to the care of Child Protective Services of Forsyth County.

13. ConGregarate is offering a "kids area" on Saturday that has crafts and coloring books. Feel free to take your children there if they need a break from the con. Please be aware, however, that this area is not designed as daycare.

14. No smoking inside the hotel. Smoking areas are available outside of the hotel lobby.

15. We believe in the "no costume is no costume" rule. Naked people are not quite appropriate for ConGregarate's common areas.

16. There are specific rules regarding photography. You can find them below.

17. Since discussions of a political nature have a tendency to become incendiary, we ask that you limit those to your private hotel rooms or outside of the hotel.

18. And, finally, our most important rule during the convention is: HAVE FUN!

## Photography Policy

1. While photography and videography are generally allowed in all convention spaces and the hotel lobby, photography, flash photography, or videography may be prohibited at certain events or in specific areas. These will be identified by signs, announcements, or notations in the panel descriptions in the program book, as appropriate. Violating the photography & videography rules can result in your removal from the area or event.
2. Photographers and videographers may not block walkways or emergency exits with their equipment. Backdrops may not be put up in any convention space without the permission of the convention.
3. Please ask for permission before you take a person's picture or record them, and take any no's you receive with good grace.

## FEATURED GUESTS

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### Larry Correia

*Writer Guest of Honor*



Larry Correia is the New York Times bestselling novelist who originally self-published in 2008. His novel, *Monster Hunter International*, reached the *Entertainment Weekly* bestseller list and he received a publishing contract with Baen Books. *Monster Hunter International* was re-released in 2009 and made the Locus bestseller list. The sequel, *Monster Hunter Vendetta*, was also a New York Times bestseller, as was the third book in the series, *Monster Hunter Alpha*. Correia was a finalist for the John W. Campbell award in 2011, and is a 2014 Hugo finalist for his novel *Warbound*.

Correia's works tend to include monsters such as vampires, werewolves, etc., as well as containing strong magical themes. They are also notable for the amount, and accuracy in detail, of their firearms usage.

Located in Utah, Correia now spends his time as a writer and a part-time firearms instructor.

### Mark Poole

*Artist Guest of Honor*

Mark Poole is one of the original twenty-five *Magic: The Gathering* artists. Mark's work is often hard to pick out due to a variance in style, but he typically features balanced palettes and often incorporates Japanese themes and elements. His works; however, grace numerous iconic cards such as Ancestral Recall, Balance, Counterspell, and several of the original dual lands.



Mark was one of several retro-artists brought back during Time Spiral to recapture the early feel of the game. He updated many of his iconic works and continued to provide original art through the Morningtide release.

His Dungeons & Dragons credits include the *Magic Item Compendium* and *Magic of Incarnum*.

He has also done work for other gaming companies including White Wolf Studios, Warcraft, Sony Online Entertainment, Dragon Storm, Valley Games, Upper Deck and Ziggurat Games.

He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of South Carolina in 1987. He currently resides in Lexington, South Carolina and is an avid bass player with the band Albion.

### Toni Weisskopf

*Special Literary Guest*

Toni Weisskopf Reinhardt is the publisher of Baen Books. Under the name T.K.F. Weisskopf she is the co-editor, with Greg Cox, of two SF anthologies for Baen: *Tomorrow Sucks* and *Tomorrow Bites*, about vampires and werewolves respectively, recently reprinted in an omnibus volume. With Josepha Sherman, she compiled and annotated the definitive volume of subversive children's folklore, *Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts*, published by August House.

This year, she is nominated for a Hugo Award for Best Editor-Long Form.

A graduate of Oberlin College with a degree in anthropology, she is the mother of a delightful daughter.



### Jennifer McCollom

*Special Media Arts Guest*

Professional make-up artist, Jennifer McCollom got her start in Theatre through both high school and college. She graduated from UNCG with a BA in Theatre and a minor in Physics. Her first professional film was *Taking Liberty* filmed in Winston-Salem, NC. Then it was on to local favorites *Dead Inn* and *Last Lives*.

Jennifer followed up her local work with a trip to LA to study at the Westmore Make-up Academy. Her work on the smaller NC projects allowed Jennifer to move on to bigger projects after her LA experience. She has been a make-up artist on *Army Wives*, *The Hunger Games*, *Leatherheads*, *Talladega Nights*, *The Box*, *The Conjuring*, the Oscar nominated *June Bug*, the Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries *John Adams*, *Homeland* for Showtime, Spike TV's *Bar Rescue*, Cinemax's *Banshee*, and CBS's new summer drama, *Reckless*.



When film work was quiet in NC, she attended RCC Cosmetology School and attained her cosmetology licence to add to her skills.

Jennifer was born in Wilmington, NC and lived Pennsylvania and Florida before settling down in Randleman, NC with her husband and cats. She believes you should never stop learning!

### Maggie Allen

Maggie Allen recently started writing short fiction, but for her day job at NASA, she has years of experience writing and podcasting about various non-fiction topics in astronomy and astrophysics. Maggie is a guitarist and singer in the rock band Naked Singularity, which released its first album of original music in 2013. They are currently working on the second album. Maggie has had short stories published in *A Hero By Any Other Name*, the *Time Traveled Tales* anthologies, and *Athena's Daughters*.

Her band's website may be found here: [naked-singularity.com](http://naked-singularity.com) and her writer website here: [writermaggie.blogspot.com](http://writermaggie.blogspot.com)

### Theresa Bane

Vampirologist Theresa Bane has been featured on Discovery Channel's *Twisted History: Vampires* as well as E!'s *10 Sexiest Vampires*, and *William Shatner's Weird or What* for her knowledge and expertise on the undead.

Bane is the author of *Encyclopedia of Demons in World Religions and Cultures*, *The Encyclopedia of Vampire Mythology*, *Encyclopedia of Fairies in World Folklore and Mythology*, *Actual Factual: Dracula*, *Haunted Historic Greensboro*, *Folktales and Ghost Stories of North Carolina's Piedmont*, *Folklore and Food*, and numerous RPG (role-playing game) supplements, including co-authoring the *Bare Bones Multiverse* core rulebook. She has also written a dark humor book entitled *The Bloodthirsty Weasels: On the Loose and Buck Wild* as well as regularly writing content and satirical articles for on-line magazines and gaming supplements. Recently she has delved in audio books and has been the Associate Producer on Patricia Brigg's *Dragon Bones* and *Dragon Blood*, as well as *Vampire Empire: The Greyfriar* and *Riftwalker* by Clay and Susan Griffith, all of which are produced by Buzzy Multimedia.

When not writing, Bane travels, educating audiences about the differences between traditional mythology and horror fiction. A diehard gamer originally from the NY/NJ area, she currently resides in North Carolina with her husband, T. Glenn Bane. Please feel free to visit her website: [www.theresabane.net](http://www.theresabane.net)

### T. Glenn Bane

T. Glenn Bane, President of Scaldcrow Games RPG, is also a freelance artist, graphic designer; and is the illustrator behind *Little Buck's Fantastic Visions*, the finest and most creative stock art available for the best price.

### Tricia Barr

Tricia Barr is a writer and professional fan of science fiction and fantasy. Her novel *Wynde* won the Gold Medal for Best Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror ebook in the 2014 Independent Publisher Awards. *Wynde* is an epic tale of a young woman's personal struggle to stay true to her family and fulfill her destiny amid the political conflicts and visceral dangers of an interplanetary war. A tie-in short story titled "Mission

Accomplished" will be published in the science fiction and fantasy anthology *Athena's Daughters* by Silence in the Library.

Her FANGirl Blog is a prominent genre-focused website with an emphasis on analyzing strong female characters and the heroine's journey. Tricia contributes to numerous geek websites, including Lucasfilm's Star Wars Blog and Random House's science fiction and fantasy blog Suvudu, and co-hosts the podcast Fangirls Going Rogue for RebelForce Radio. She also has conducted interviews and written articles for the print magazine *Star Wars Insider*, including two cover features on Padmé Amidala (Issue #142) and Princess Leia (Issue #144), and she provided editorial services on Del Rey's *Star Wars: The Essential Reader's Companion*.

A Duke University graduate and a licensed professional engineer, she has worked as a transportation engineer for over twenty years. Tricia is active both Twitter (@fangirlcantina) and Facebook (FANGirl Zone/Fireheart Series).

### Natania Barron

Natania Barron is in a word tinkerer with a lifelong love of the fantastic. She has a penchant for the unusual, and has written tales of invisible soul-eating birds, giant cephalopod goddesses, gunslinger girls, and killer kudzu. Her work has appeared in *Weird Tales*, *EscapePod*, *Steampunk Tales*, *Crossed Genres*, *Bull Spec*, and various anthologies. Natania's first novel, *Pilgrim of the Sky*, released in December 2011. She is also the co-editor of *Bull Spec*. When not venturing in imagined worlds, she can be found in North Carolina, where she lives with her family. Her website is [www.nataniabarron.com](http://www.nataniabarron.com), and you can follow her @nataniabarron.

### Diana Bastine

Diana Bastine is an author and editor living in North Carolina. She has written novels, short stories, poetry and blog articles – some of which have even been published.

Diana is also a Reiki Master and a Crystal Energy Therapist, as well as an ordained minister. She sells t-shirts and tote bags with her "Fairy CatMother" logo (as well as "Fairy DogFather" t-shirts).

*Selkie* is her third novel, following *The Source* and *Shapeshifter*. She is working on the fourth book in the series, tentatively titled *Gabriel's Secret*, as well as a steampunk manuscript featuring 19th century labor organizer 'Mother' Jones and a non-fiction manuscript about a relatively new energy healing modality.

### Davey Beauchamp

Davey Beauchamp ([daveybeauchamp.com](http://daveybeauchamp.com)) is the creator of the *Writers for Relief* anthology series, the *Agency 32* series, the award nominated Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show; podcast ([pulpadventures.net](http://pulpadventures.net)) along with Podcasting's Rich Sigfrid, and Gallifrey Pirate Radio a podcast dedicated to Doctor Who ([gallifreypirateradio.com](http://gallifreypirateradio.com)) along with his co-hosts Angela



Pritchett and Drew Meyer.

He is currently working on the *Davey Beauchamp's Amazing Pulp Adventures RPG* presented by Scaldcrow Games (scaldcrow.com). He licensed the world of *Amazing Pulp Adventures* to Foxhammer Press for the *Paradigm: Sapphire City*; it is a fusion of card and board games. Davey also writes monthly for the YA Blog - YAtopia (yatopia.blogspot.com).

There will be a new volume of *Writers for Relief* raising money for the tornado relief effort in Oklahoma. Davey is working on this project with co-editor Stuart Jaffe.

Davey Beauchamp has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from UNCG and works at the Lexington Public Library in Davidson County as their Teen Specialist and Technology Guru.

### **The Blibbering Humdingers**

These mischievous masters of musical hi-jinx will wizard-rock the tea towel right off of your house elf. Hailing from Cary, NC, Scott & Kirsten have been singing together for nearly 20 years. They formed the Blibbering Humdingers in 2007 upon the release of the final Harry Potter book. True to their name (an obscure Luna Lovegood reference), they mostly perform original, comedic pop-songs about the wizarding world of Harry Potter - in a wide range of musical styles from old-timey, to 50s do-wop, to 80s new-wave, to straight rock. In addition to HP they dabble in all kinds of other nerdy things like RPGs, Timelords, medieval history, steampunk, Jedi, Browncoats, Ren Faires, SCA, and such.

They've appeared at various conventions including ConCarolinas, LeakyCon, RavenCon, StellarCon, Ohio Valley Filk Festival, Wrockstock, the 2011 Quidditch World Cup, and host a "top secret wizard rock show" each year at the SCA's Pennsic War. Their songs have been featured on a variety of charity compilations and podcasts and are often joined by various friends to fill out their sound with drums, bass, electric violin or whatever kind of band they can piece together.

With songs like "Voldemort Made Me Crap My Pants" and "Dobby, Bang Your Head." it's hard not to have a good time at a Humdingers show. More at BlibberingHumdingers.com

### **Danny Birt**

Award-winning author Danny Birt was born about three decades ago in Washington State to Irish and Californian parents, and has since lived in Idaho, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Hawaii, Virginia, and North Carolina. He attended high school at New Mexico Military Institute, studied music therapy and psychology at Loyola University New Orleans, and most recently graduated from Shenandoah University with his Master's Degree in Music Therapy.

Danny has been a contributing author to several sci-fi, fantasy,

and professional magazines, anthologies, and journals. Formerly, he was an editor for *Flashing Swords Magazine* and small-press publisher Ancient Tomes Press. His fantasy series The Laurian Pentology is being published through Dark Quest Books, starting with *Ending an Ending*. His first children's/YA novel *Between a Roc and a Hard Place* won recognition with The National Parenting Center's 2010 Seal of Approval, Creative Child Magazine's 2010 Seal of Excellence, and was named one of Dr. Toy's Best Picks of 2010.

In addition to literary publication, Danny composes classical and filk music, such as his nonstop hour-long piano solo "Piano Petrissage," and the ever-peculiar album "Warped Children's Songs." Danny's humorous music has been featured on radio and internet programs such as The Dr. Demento Show and The Funny Music Project.

Danny has now settled in eastern North Carolina where he is a faculty member at a local college. In his spare time, Danny's hobby is finding new hobbies.

### **The Carolina Ghostbusters**

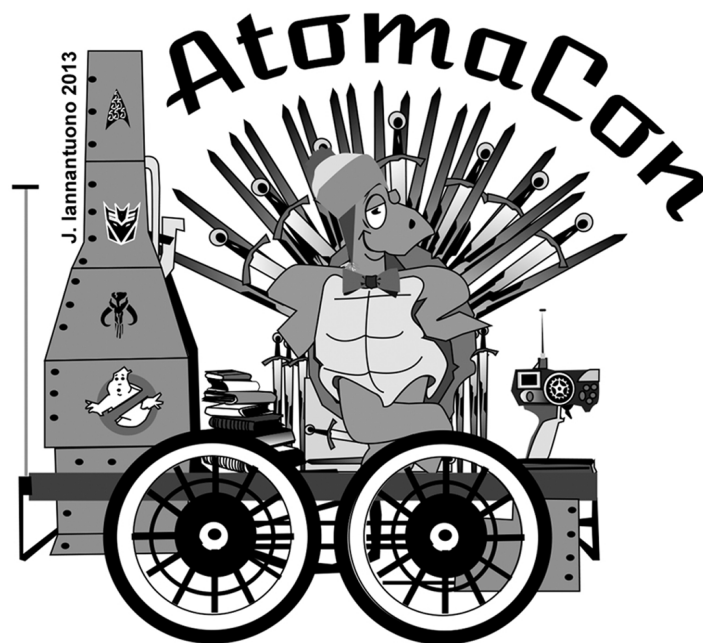
The Carolina Ghostbusters is a group of paranormal investigators who keep the Carolinas safe from spooks, specters, ghosts, spirits, ghouls, and the occasional demon. Experts in paranormal phenomena, the Carolina Ghostbusters travel around in their Ecto-1, a custom vehicle equipped with a wide array of Ghostbusting equipment, including radar, sensor mics, infrared, a satellite microwave up-link, a vast array of warning lights, and an unmistakable siren. When they're not busting some heads, in a spiritual sense, they enjoy meeting with their fans at charity events, parades, parties, weddings, and other social functions. The Carolina Ghostbusters are available for charity events, public appearances, and private events.

The Carolina Ghostbusters are M.Doc Geressy, Chuck Carte, Mikki Stith, Joey Masarick and Cheralyn Lambeth. More information is available at their website: CarolinaGhostbusters.com.

### **Alexandra Christian**

Alexandra Christian is an author of mostly paranormal erotic romance and horror. In case you don't know what that means, she writes about not-so-nice girls getting it on with out-of-this-world heroes. Vampires, werewolves, selkies, angels and demons-- and that's just recently!

A self-proclaimed "Southern Belle from Hell," Lexxx is a native South Carolinian who lives with an epileptic wiener dog and a pet ghost hunter. She has published several novels, novellas and short stories with Ellora's Cave, Purple Sword Publications and Mocha Memoirs Press. She looks forward to sharing her twisted view of reality with the masses through erotic paranormal romance and horror. Lexxx's long-term aspirations



**November 14-16, 2014**

**Charleston Plaza Hotel  
North Charleston, SC**

**The Lowcountry's first 3 day, family-friendly, multi-genre convention  
featuring Costuming, Literature, Art, Science and Technology**



**LITERARY GUEST OF HONOR:**

**John Jackson Miller**

**Author of Star Wars: Kenobi**



**Artist Special Guests: Scott Ronie and  
Sean "That Godzilla Guy" McGuinness**

**Filk Special Guest: Moss Bliss**

**Gaming Room provided by SCARAB,  
Carolina Ghostbusters Ecto 1, SC Ghostbusters Vigo  
Myst3ry Machine, 501st Legion, R2 Builders.  
Pod Casters, Film Festival, and much more.....**

**[www.AtomaCon.org](http://www.AtomaCon.org)**

are to one day be a bestselling authoress and part-time pinup girl. Questions, comments and complaints are most welcome at her website: [lexxxchristian.wordpress.com](http://lexxxchristian.wordpress.com).

### David B. Coe

David B. Coe, who also writes as D.B. Jackson, is the award-winning author of fifteen novels and the occasional short story. His newest book, *A Plunder of Souls* (Tor Books), written as D.B. Jackson, is the third volume of the Thieftaker Chronicles, a historical urban fantasy set in pre-Revolutionary Boston. His next project, a contemporary urban fantasy called the Case Files of Justis Fearsson, will be published by Baen Books and debuts in January 2015 with *Spell Bind*. David's books have been translated into a dozen languages.

David is also part of the Magical Words group blog ([magicalwords.net](http://magicalwords.net)), and co-author of *How to Write Magical Words: A Writer's Companion*.

### Marcia Colette

Bestselling author Marcia Colette didn't discover her love for reading until her late teens when she started reading John Saul and progressed to works by Bentley Little, Stephen King and Laurell K. Hamilton. Her reading tastes convinced her to write paranormals where curses cause people to shift into spiders, psychotic and telekinetic mothers are locked away in attics, and murderous doppelgangers are on a rampage. Let's not forget about the hunky werecheetah coalitions who live throughout North Carolina. As long as she can make it believable, that's all that matters.

Born and raised in upstate New York, Marcia now lives in North Carolina with her mom and beautiful daughter. They're not raising zombies in the backyard. There aren't any hellhounds living in the den, only a rabbit and a cockatiel. So where she gets her ideas is as much a mystery to her as anyone else.

The best place to find her--when she's not stirring up trouble--is on her blog where she loves connecting with readers and other writers. You can also find her at [www.marciacoelette.com](http://www.marciacoelette.com).

### Glenda C. Finkelstein

Glenda C. Finkelstein is an award winning science fiction writer, with six novels, short stories, and poetry currently in print. Her most popular titles are "The Edge of the Universe," and "Nemesis Rising." She is also an accomplished screenplay writer. Her most recent film, "Perfect Copy," was nominated for Best Dramatic Short at the Melbourne Independent Filmmakers Festival in 2007 in which she also stars. Her talents also include voice acting in her audio book release of "Nemesis Rising," a brief stint on an internet TV show called Sci-Fi Times TV as the ditsy alien Nikto. You can check it out at [www.scifitimestv.com](http://www.scifitimestv.com). Glenda is currently half the on-air talent in The Andromeda Library, a Sci-Fi/Fantasy Literature Talk Show which she co-hosts with her husband, Tony via a free pod cast on her website at [www.glendas-books.com](http://www.glendas-books.com).

### Tony E. Finkelstein

Tony E. Finkelstein is the powerhouse behind The Andromeda Library. He is responsible for guests, recording, editing, producing and does a phenomenal job. When he's not wrangling guests for the show or fulfilling the role of booking agent for his wife, Glenda, he's out and about coordinating the funding for their next film project as Executive Producer of Final Destiny Productions. Tony has been in every aspect of entertainment both behind and in front of the camera for thirty years. He was the make-up artist, location scout, prop master, continuity, and an actor, for "Perfect Copy." Basically, if it needed to be done, he made sure it got done.

### Ron Garner

Ron Garner is the CEO of Silence in the Library Publishing, a small press specializing science fiction and fantasy and dedicated to changing the relationship between publishers, authors, and readers. He grew up in Vicksburg, Mississippi, but spent thirteen years of his life moving around the country in various billets as an officer in the United States Marine Corps before becoming a publisher. He holds an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and a Juris Doctorate from UNC-Chapel Hill. He spends way too much of his time running foot races around the country and building things that are of questionable use. Ron currently resides in Washington, D.C. with his wife and his frighteningly confident teenage daughter.

### M. Doc Geressy

M. Doc Geressy is a professionally-trained broadcaster, costumer, movie car motorhead, actor, designer, and paranormal investigator.

Working in radio for over 20 years with nationally syndicated morning shows like Johnboy & Billy and Bob & Tom, Doc is the creator and host of the The Sci-Fried Eggs radio show and 5 Minute Delay Radio Network and is an instructor at the Connecticut School of Broadcasting Charlotte Campus.

In convention circles, Doc is best known for his Ecto-1 and Men in Black LTD. But he also has a wealth of knowledge and experience. As a movie car expert, prop builder, costume designer, and experienced tailor, there's not much Doc can't or hasn't designed or created, including costumes and props for Ghostbusters, Indiana Jones, Lord of the Rings, Star Trek, Star Wars, Ren Fests, Men in Black, superheroes, villains, and even Civil War uniforms. Doc is also the founder of the Carolina Ghostbusters and the FBMiB.

Doc has also been involved in the paranormal field for over a decade and is a strict scientist when it comes to investigations. He prefers to focus on the classification of phenomena in an effort to have paranormal occurrences and research recognized as an empirical science.



### A.J. Hartley

A.J. Hartley is the international bestselling author of a dozen novels including the mystery/thrillers *The Mask of Atreus*, *On the Fifth Day*, *What Time Devours* and *Tears of the Jaguar* and the young adult fantasy adventures *Act of Will* and *Will Power*. The first of his Darwen Arkwright children's fantasy trilogy (*Darwen Arkwright and the Peregrine Pact*) came out from Penguin/Razorbill in 2011 and won SIBA's best YA novel of 2012. It was followed by *Darwen Arkwright and the Insidious Bleck*, and *Darwen Arkwright and the School of Shadows*. With David Hewson he has written two adaptations of Shakespeare plays as Game of Thrones-esque epic thrillers: *Macbeth, a Novel* (audio edition voiced by Alan Cumming) and *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, a Novel* (the audio book of which is performed by Richard Armitage [Thorin Oakenshield], both of which were international bestsellers).

He is UNC Charlotte's Robinson Professor of Shakespeare, specializing in performance theory and practice, and has published several scholarly books on dramaturgy, political theatre, the stage history of Julius Caesar and campus production with Palgrave, Manchester University Press and Cambridge University Press.

### John G. Hartness

John G. Hartness is a teller of tales, righter of wrongs and some call him the Pompeius of Love. Okay, maybe he's an urban fantasy and horror author from Charlotte, NC with a background in theatre and a love for fried pickles and loud music. John is the author of *The Black Knight Chronicles* from Bell Bridge Books, available in the fall of 2012 wherever books or ebooks are sold. He's also the creator of the comedic horror icon *Bubba the Monster Hunter*, and the short stories that bear his name.

John is also a member of the Magical Words group writing blog ([www.magicalwords.net](http://www.magicalwords.net)) and the host of the YouTube series *Literate Liquors*, where he pairs fantasy and science fiction novels with the appropriate alcohol. Hilarity often ensues. He can be found online at [www.johnhartness.com](http://www.johnhartness.com) and spends too much time on Twitter (@johnhartness), especially after a few drinks.

### Laura Haywood-Cory

Laura Haywood-Cory has been some flavor of editor or proofreader since her first job after college, which was proofreading yellow page listings for a phone book company.

She's been involved in science fiction fandom since the mid-1980s. She has managed two sf conventions, co-founded a local sf club, and participated in an APA (amateur press association) -- the Southern Fandom Press Alliance -- for four years.

In 2008, her career path finally melded with her hobbies when she joined the team at Baen Books, where she's an Associate Editor and is as happy a cat in a pile of catnip.

### Faith Hunter

NY Times best-selling author, Faith Hunter, was born in Louisiana and raised all over the south. She writes the Skinwalker series, featuring Jane Yellowrock: *Skinwalker*, *Blood Cross*, *Mercy Blade*, *Raven Cursed*, *Death's Rival*, *Blood Trade*, and *Black Arts*. Her Rogue Mage novels, a dark, urban fantasy series—*Bloodring*, *Seraphs*, and *Host*—feature Thorn St. Croix, a stone mage in a post-apocalyptic, alternate reality, urban fantasy world. These novels are the basis for the role playing game, *Rogue Mage*.

For more, including a book list see [www.faithhunter.net](http://www.faithhunter.net), [www.gwenhunter.com](http://www.gwenhunter.com), or [www.magicalwords.net](http://www.magicalwords.net)

### Tom Hutchens

Tom Hutchens is a *Star Wars* costume designer, and founder of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club. Born in Winston-Salem, Tom spent a great deal of his childhood dressing himself up as *Star Wars* and *GI Joe* characters. At the age of 18, Tom decided to become a real-life *GI Joe* character and join the US Navy. After being honorably discharged in 2000, Tom joined up with the local SCA chapter in North Carolina and spent part of the next two years learning about armor production old-world style.

In 2002, college and work would take its toll and cause Tom to leave the SCA, but in 2006, at the request of his then girlfriend (who would surprisingly become his wife), he attended DragonCon in Atlanta, GA. At DragonCon he noticed several people in customized sets of *Star Wars* Mandalorian costumes. Being a very big "Star Wars Galaxies" player at the time, Tom was convinced that he needed to build a set of his own Mandalorian armor. In 2007, while attending AdventureCon in Knoxville TN, Tom would convince a small group of Mandalorian costumers to help him create a home for Mandalorian costumes. This idea would become the foundation for the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club, a globe-spanning organization of over 800 members in 53 chapters recognized by Lucasfilm Ltd. as the Elite Mandalorian Costume Organization.

When not working his day job, Tom spends his time maintaining the armor for his character Mandalore the Uter, as well as working on armor commissions. He and his wife own and maintain a small farm near Mocksville NC.

### Stuart Jaffe

Stuart Jaffe is the author of *The Max Porter Paranormal-Mysteries*, *The Malja Chronicles*, the Gillian Boone novels, *The Bluesman* pulp adventures, *Real Magic*, and *After The Crash*, as well as the short story collection, *10 Bits of My Brain*. Numerous other short stories have appeared in magazines and anthologies. He is the co-host of *The Eclectic Review* -- a podcast about science, art, and well, everything.

Stuart lives on a small farm in North Carolina, and for those who keep count; the latest animal listing is as follows: one dog,

four cats, one albino corn snake, one Brazilian black tarantula, three aquatic turtles, assorted fish, one rabbit, four chickens, and a horse. Thankfully, the chickens and the horse do not live inside the house.

### Les Johnson

Les Johnson is a scientist, an author, and the Senior Technical Advisor for NASA's Advanced Concepts Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He is a author of science fiction (*Going Interstellar* anthology, *Back to the Moon* novel, and with co-author Ben Bova, *Rescue Mode*, released by Baen Books in June) and four popular science books. At NASA, he is a co-investigator for The University of Surrey's Deploytech (Solar Sail) Project, served as the NASA co-investigator on the Japanese T-Rex Space Tether Experiment, and was PI of NASA's ProSEDS tether propulsion experiment. He thrice received NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal and has 3 patents.

He was the featured interstellar explorer in the January 2013 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, served as a technical consultant on the movie *Europa Report*, spoke at TEDx Huntsville 2013, and appeared in NatGeo's "Evacuate Earth" and "How to Survive the End of the World" series. Les is a member of the British Interplanetary Society, the US National Space Society, The World Future Society and MENSA.

For more information, please visit his website: [www.lesjohnsonauthor.com](http://www.lesjohnsonauthor.com)

### Tally Johnson

Born and raised in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, Tally is a graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College and Wofford College with degrees in history. He attended graduate school in history at Winthrop, but did not complete his thesis. He has written several articles on both local history and hauntings for the Chester News and Reporter and Yorkville Enquirer newspapers. He is currently the Special Services Manager at the Chester County Library focusing on IT and local history/genealogy. He is a member of the OSCAR artists' roster through the SC Arts Commission, PALMCOP, SC Library Association, the American Library Association, and the Chester Civitan Club. He is a long-time guest and moderator at ConCarolinas, Fandom Fest, and MystiCon on both the paranormal and writing tracks.

He is the author of three books and e-books on South Carolina ghosts, the following published by the History Press of Charleston; *Ghosts of the South Carolina Upcountry* (2005), *Ghosts of the South Carolina Midlands* (2007), *Ghosts of the Pee Dee* (2009), and *Civil War Ghosts of South Carolina* (2013) from Post Mortem Press. He is working on other topics at present, both fiction and non-fiction.

He currently lives in Chester South Carolina with his wife, who is a much better author than he is, Alexandra Christian.

### Paula S. Jordan

Paula S. Jordan is the author of "The Gift of Unbinding" (May, 2001) and "Two Look At Two" (April, 2011), both in *Analog*. "Voorh," her novella-length sequel to "Two Look At Two," will also appear in *Analog* in the near future.

After degrees in history and speech, and several years as a free-lance writer, she earned a BS degree in physics. Then came thirteen years as an orbit analyst for NASA and NOAA, supporting 30+ unmanned science and weather missions including the Clementine mission that first discovered water on the moon.

Now a freelance writer and community volunteer, she is at work on more short stories and her first real novel. She blogs regularly at [Darkcargocom](http://Darkcargocom)

### Phil Keeling

Phil Keeling is a comedian based out of Savannah, Georgia. His combination of manic intellectualism and vulgarity has caused comedian/producer Lee Keeler to call him "a combination of Oscar Wilde and Larry Flynt".

Keeling began smashing heads with the laughter hammer in 2009, and was an original piece of an unnamed collective of comedians that forged what is now the Savannah comedy scene.

Since then he has been seen at the Hollywood Improv, the North Carolina Comedy Arts Festival, and the Kovalchick Convention center--not to mention constant shows throughout the South. He has shared stages with the likes of Neil Hamburger, Myq Kaplan, Neal Brennan, and Tom Rhodes.

"Conquistadork", Phil's first comedy album, was released in April of 2012.

Phil's blog, Notes From The Conquistadork ([www.conquistadork.net](http://www.conquistadork.net)), explores the beautiful culture of geekiness in the 21st century, with essays on gaming, books, films, and television. Phil is also an editorialist for Bell of Lost Souls ([www.belloflostsouls.org](http://www.belloflostsouls.org)), one of the biggest wargaming news sites on the internet.

### Debra Killeen

Debra Killeen is the author of the award-winning fantasy series, "The Myrridian Cycle."

All of the books in the series, *An Unlikely Duke*, *A Prince in Need*, *Legacy of the Archbishop*, *Priestess Awakening* and *Kingdom* have won awards at ReaderViews, and *Legacy of the Archbishop* also won a Written Art Award. Debra is hard at work on her next projects – *Unholy War* and the Naomi/Sebastian paranormal mystery series—as well as some shorter works.

Debra resides in the Triangle area of North Carolina, where she shares a home with her sister, author Diana Bastine, and three exceptional cats – Finn, Isis and Osiris.

More information is available at Debra's website, [www.myrridia.net](http://www.myrridia.net), and Debra can be contacted at [debra.killeen@myrridia.net](mailto:debra.killeen@myrridia.net)

### **Pamela K. Kinney**

Pamela K. Kinney is a published author of horror, science fiction, fantasy, poetry, and nonfiction ghost books published by Schiffer Publishing. Her latest fiction includes short horror stories, "Donating" in *Inhuman Magazine*, Issue 5 December 2011 and "Bottled Spirits" (a Predator and Editor 2012 winner and a 2013 WSFA Small Press Award runner up), "Azathoth is Here" reprinted by Innsmouth Press in *Innsmouth Magazine: Collected Issues 1-4* in Kindle and ePub formats, short dark fantasy, "Devil in the Details," included in *Harboring Secrets* anthology and short horror story, "Let Demon Dogs Lie" released in *Southern Haunt: Devils in the Darkness* anthology in March 2014, and coming soon, a fantasy short story, "Weregoat" in *Strangely Funny II* anthology. And of course, she has her horror and dark fantasy tales collection in print and download, *Spectre Nightmares and Visitations*, published by Under the Moon.

Under the pseudonym, Sapphire Phelan, she has published erotic and sweet paranormal/fantasy/science fiction romance along with a couple of erotic horror stories. Her erotic urban fantasy, *Being Familiar With a Witch*, is a Prism 2010 Awards winner and a Epic Awards 2010 finalist. The sequel to *Being Familiar With a Witch*, *A Familiar Tangle With Hell*, was released June 2011 from Phaze Books. Both eBooks were combined into one print book, *The Witch and the Familiar*, released 2012.

She also has done acting on stage and in films, is a Master Costumer, costuming since 1972, and she even does paranormal investigating, including for DVDs for Paranormal World Seekers, filmed by AVA Productions. She is also casting director for High Mountain Films' *The 19th* (as well as an extra in the film), and wrote a horror screenplay, "Crawlspace Creep" now with a production company and hopefully to be filmed soon.

She admits she can always be found at her desk and on her computer, writing. And yes, the house, husband, and even the cats sometimes suffer for it!

Find out more about Pamela K. Kinney at [www.PamelaKKinney.com](http://www.PamelaKKinney.com) and about Sapphire Phelan at [www.SapphirePhelan.com](http://www.SapphirePhelan.com).

### **Regina Kirby**

Regina Kirby is the winner of the 2013 Rebel Award, a lifetime achievement award for 'contributions to Southern Fandom'. She also is the recipient of the 2005 Georgia Fandom Award.

Regina serves as the Senior Director of Programming for Dragon Con. She is known for running Hospitality Suites all over the South, worked in guest services at multiple conventions and is a past Chair of Chattacon.

She lives outside of Atlanta with her husband, Bill.

### **Nicole Givens Kurtz**

Nicole Givens Kurtz is the author of several published novels and scores of other titles under various pen names. Her science fiction works have been named as Finalist in the 2006 Fresh Voices in Science Fiction (Zephyr Unfolding), Eppie Finalist in Science Fiction (Browne Candidate) and Dream Realm Finalist in Science Fiction (Browne Candidate).

Nicole's science fiction and horror short stories have appeared in such noted publications as *Anotherealm*, *Tales of the Talisman*, and Wild Child Press. In addition to fiction, her nonfiction articles have appeared in *Afrique* newsmagazine as well as *Moondance*, and *ePregnancy*.

Nicole is often a guest at science fiction and fantasy conventions, where she frequently serves as a panelist on dystopian literature, anime, and electronic publishing.

She is also the publisher of Mocha Memoirs Press, LLC, a small press specializing in speculative fiction. Visit [www.mochamemoirspress.com](http://www.mochamemoirspress.com) for more information.

For a complete list of Nicole's works, email her at [cyberpunklvr@gmail.com](mailto:cyberpunklvr@gmail.com).

### **Todd Lacey**

Todd's history in theatre and film go back to the early 70's when he first appeared as 'Pinocchio' in the summer stock theatre with the Edison Players. His credits in film include *The Three Amigos*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *Gettysburg* and *The Abyss* just to name a few. Todd has worked alongside well-known actors such as Dustin Hoffman, Daniel Day Lewis, Chevy Chase, Jeffery Daniels and Steve Buscemi.

This year Todd wants to share with you the secrets of creating that costume you've always wanted to do and how to stand out amongst the others. He will show you how to save money and where to find those bargains for your costume creation.

Todd is also the founder and CEO of West Highland Films, a production company that produces independent films. Todd is also working on his first fantasy novel that will debut in 2014.

### **Cheralyn Lambeth**

Cheralyn Lambeth is a professional costume, prop, and puppet builder whose work includes feature films (*The Muppet Christmas Carol*, *Evan Almighty*, *Leatherheads*, *The Hunger Games*), television (*Dinosaurs!*, *Homeland*), interactive properties (Paramount's *Star Trek: The Experience* at the Las Vegas Hilton, *Titanic: The Movie on Tour*) and books (*Haunted Theaters of the Carolinas*, *The Well-Dressed Puppet*). On the fan side of things, Cher is a long-time member of and Historian for the 501st Legion, and can also be seen as the Romulan Commander in the *Starship Farrugut* episode "The Price of Anything," as well as the Computer Voice of the *Starship Montana* in the web audio series *Star Trek: The Continuing Missions*. Currently Cher lives in Charlotte, free-



lancing on film/TV projects and working on her latest book *Creating the Character Costume: Tools, Tips, and Talks with Top Costumers and Cosplayers*. She also joins her fellow Carolina Ghostbusters as co-host of the weekly podcast The Sci-Fried Eggs, occasionally featuring her own segment, "Cher's World of Weirdness."

### Emily Lavin Leverett

Emily Lavin Leverett is an author and editor of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, but she got her professional start in publishing editing erotica. She is also an English professor and a medievalist. She's edited the *Big Bad: an Anthology of Evil* and the forthcoming *Big Bad II* with John Hartness. Her short stories have appeared in Flash Fiction Online and *Drafthorse: A Journal of Work and No Work*. She is currently working on multiple projects including an epic urban fantasy with fellow medievalist Sarah Adams and a dark urban fantasy YA project on her own.

She's a transplanted Californian who lives in North Carolina with her husband and their two cats.

### Allegra Liana

Allegra Liana (sometimes known as "The Chainmail Chick") is a geek-of-all-trades who got her start in the con scene working with award winning fantasy artist Alan Welch. From these humble, chainmail bikini'd beginnings, she has become a costumer, artist, and model (with an ever expanding closet of costumes, far too many of which involve body paint). She creates her own fantasy artwork through digital photo manipulation, helps run professional costuming company Ribbons and Rivets, and assists with marketing and sales for other costuming businesses. She is also happy to be a representative member of the League of Hot Geeks and part of the Charisma+2 talent agency.

Allegra currently attends events all over the East Coast and Midwest as a promotional model, guest, vendor, costume contest judge, and has won several costume contests herself. She has appeared in video skits, event trailers, ads, and numerous pieces of artwork in a variety of media. In her free time, Allegra is an avid collector of books and cats, and remains firmly in denial about her future as a crazy cat lady.

### Steven S. Long

Steven S. Long is a writer and game designer who's been working primarily in the tabletop roleplaying game field for the past twenty years. During that time he's written or co-written nearly 200 books. He's best known for his work with Champions and the HERO System, but has worked for many other RPG companies including Last Unicorn Games, Pinnacle Entertainment Group, Decipher, and White Wolf. In recent years he's branched out into writing fiction as well, and recently completed a non-fiction book on the Norse god Odin

for Osprey Publishing. His Master Plan for World Domination has reached Stage 65-Omicron.

You can find out more about Steve and what he's up to at [www.stevenslong.com](http://www.stevenslong.com).

### Gail Z. Martin

Gail Z. Martin is the author of *Ice Forged* in the The Ascendant Kingdoms Saga and the upcoming *Reign of Ash* (Orbit Books, April 2014), plus the upcoming *Deadly Curiosities* urban fantasy (Solaris Books, July 2014). Other books include The Chronicles of The Necromancer series (*The Summoner*, *The Blood King*, *Dark Haven* & *Dark Lady's Chosen*) and The Fallen Kings Cycle (*The Sworn* and *The Dread*). She is also the author of two series on ebook short stories: The Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures and the Deadly Curiosities Series. Her work has also been featured in a variety of US and UK anthologies.

Find her online at [www.AscendantKingdoms.com](http://www.AscendantKingdoms.com), on Twitter @GailZMartin, blogging at [DisquietingVisions.com](http://DisquietingVisions.com) and at [GhostInTheMachinePodcast.com](http://GhostInTheMachinePodcast.com)

### Misty Massey

Misty Massey is the author of *Mad Kestrel* (Tor Books), a rollicking fantasy adventure of magic on the high seas, and the upcoming ebook *Kestrel's Voyages*. Misty is one of the featured writers on Magical Words ([www.magicalwords.net](http://www.magicalwords.net)).

When she's not writing, she studies Middle Eastern dance and has danced as a member of the Carolina Renaissance Faire's troupe, the Jewels of the Caravan. Misty's short fiction has appeared in *Rum and Runestones* (Dragon Moon Press) and *Dragon's Lure* (Dark Quest Books). You can see more of what Misty's up to at her website, [www.mistymassey.com](http://www.mistymassey.com) or find her on Facebook and Twitter.

### James Maxey

James Maxey is the author seven fantasy novels (*Bitterwood*, *Dragonforge*, *Dragonseed*, *Dawn of Dragons*, *Greatshadow*, *Hush*, and *Witchbreaker*) and two superhero novels (*Nobody Gets the Girl* and *Burn Baby Burn*). His short fiction has appeared in *Asimov's*, *Intergalactic Medicine Show*, and numerous anthologies. The best of his short stories appear in the collection *There is No Wheel*.

James lives in Hillsborough, NC with his wife Cheryl and more cats than he's proud to admit. More information about his fiction can be found at: [dragonprophet.blogspot.com](http://dragonprophet.blogspot.com).

### Drew Meyer

Drew Meyer is a Librarian and Science Educator who moonlights as a Podcaster and Game Designer. He's currently the product consultant for Scaldcrow Games and has contributed to several of their recent releases. He's been the co-host of Gallifrey Pirate Radio, a Doctor Who vid-cast, since 2012. He may or may not have a beard...

# MYSTICON 2015

Roanoke, VA

HOLIDAY INN TANGLEWOOD  
FEB 27-MAR 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2015

*Author Guest of Honor*  
**Alan Dean Foster**



**JAMES ALLEN**  
FAN COH



**BELLA MORTE**  
MUNC COH



**RICH SIGFRID**  
TOASTMASTER

**MEDIA COH:**  
TBD

**ART COH:**  
TBD



<http://mysticon-va.com>



### Rhonda Oglesby

Game on Girl is a weekly podcast hosted by Rhonda Oglesby and Regina McMenomy, Ph.D. They interview gamers and discuss games, gaming, and game culture and their representations in mainstream media. They are also interested in how this fairly new online culture is defining our identities. Rhonda is co-host, co-producer, marketing manager, and herder of ideas.

After exhausting all math classes in high school, Rhonda and her classmates convinced a teacher to develop a curricula for a higher level math class. She received dual degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science and promptly went to work for a defense contractor. She did geeky stuff there, but she'd have to kill you to tell you. She still loves programming, software testing, and technical writing but now in less stressful circumstances. Her right brain is busy too. She taught herself web and graphic design before there were classes on HTML or JAVA and would love to spend more time on her Wacom tablet and getting graphite all over her hands. In recent years, Rhonda's geek flag flies through things like computer and console gaming, boardgames, geocaching, and comic books.

### Michael D. Pederson

Way back in 2004, Mike (along with Tee Morris and Tony Ruggiero) came up with the crazy idea of hosting a convention in Richmond, VA. He's been chairing RavenCon ever since.

In addition to running RavenCon, Mike Pederson is also the publisher/editor/graphic designer responsible for the fanzine *Nth Degree*. Mike began his career as a writer/publisher in 1988 when his SF short story, "Dust Storm," won first place in a local writing contest. In the 1990s, he wrote and published the *Raven* comic book series (with artist Robert Quill) and edited and published *Scene*, a Virginia-based entertainment magazine.

In 2001, Mike was part of the "Best in Class – Master Division" winning presentation (Pre-Emptive Strike) at the Millennium Philcon Masquerade. Two months later he started *Nth Degree*. In 2007, he wrote a chapter on "Writing for Magazines" for Dragon Moon Press' *Writing Fantasy: The Author's Grimoire*.

Between *Nth Degree* and his many convention appearances, Mike has become the East Coast's go-to guy for interviews. He's interviewed guests for MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, and StellarCon. In the last few years Mike has interviewed a wide range of writers, gamers, artists, and actors, including Aaron Allston, Kevin J. Anderson, Jennie Breeden, Terry Brooks, Jim Butcher, Orson Scott Card, Nicki Clyne, David B. Coe, Glen Cook, Peter Davison, Richard Hatch, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Rebecca Moesta, Tamora Pierce, John Ringo, Michael Stackpole, Bruce Sterling, S.M. Stirling, Lani Tupu, Janny Wurts, and Timothy Zahn.

Yes, Mike is an insanely busy person; if you see him around the con please feed him lots of caffeine and/or beer.

When not engaged in geekish pursuits, Mike is an under-employed graphic designer and lives in Richmond, VA.

### Matthew Penick

Matthew Penick is a professional costumer, fitness enthusiast, and the owner of Ribbons and Rivets. Matthew first got started in costuming as a broke college student who taught himself leather working and made his first suit of armor out of scraps and remnants from the local Tandy. He began selling his work 2007, and in 2009 he started his own company. Although the company was created primarily as a leather working business, Ribbons and Rivets has developed into a costuming company that incorporates a variety of materials to bring designs and characters to life. Happily, that very first suit of armor is still in action (having received numerous upgrades) and is now the award-winning Nightwalker armor set, which can be seen in several short films and a feature length movie, *The Gamers 3: Hands of Fate*.

### Angela Pritchett

Angela Pritchett is a costumer, actress, makeup artist and writer originally from Charlottesville, VA but currently residing in Asheboro, NC.

She has won countless costuming awards and has judged at numerous conventions along the east coast. She has appeared in and has done makeup FX on films such as *Plan 9*, *Porkchop 2*, *Porkchop 3D* and *Fear Fighter*.

Angela is an author of horror and steampunk fiction. Her short stories are available to purchase in different anthologies (which she normally has with her on hand at conventions).

She is a host of the Youtube show "The Girls Who Waited"; the geek girl show about *Doctor Who* and more! She gets to talk about her love of *Doctor Who* and other sci-fi, fantasy genre shows and books. She is a regular on the podcast Gallifrey Pirate Radio.

In her everyday life, Angela keeps busy by teaching the newer generation of children how to play musical instruments! She also loves to play with her cats, Ebbie and Boushie and her Pug, Max!

You can find her online at [angelapritchett.blogspot.com](http://angelapritchett.blogspot.com) and [www.facebook.com/StarAngelCosplay](http://www.facebook.com/StarAngelCosplay)

### Stephen Mark Rainey

Stephen Mark Rainey is author of the novels *Balak*, *The Lebo Coven*, *Dark Shadows: Dreams Of The Dark* (with Elizabeth Massie), *Blue Devil Island*, *The Nightmare Frontier*, and *The Monarchs*; five short story collections; over 100 published works of short fiction; and several *Dark Shadows* audio productions, which feature members of the original ABC-TV

series cast. For ten years, Mark edited the award-winning *Deathrealm* magazine and has edited several anthologies, including *Deathrealms*, *Song Of Cthulhu*, and *Evermore*. He is an avid geocacher, which frequently takes him to fascinating places — many of them quite creepy. Mark lives in Greensboro, NC.

### Randy Richards

Randy Richards was born in New Orleans, within walking distance of “The Battle of New Orleans”. He has been playing Dungeons & Dragons since the late 70s. “In the early 80s,” Randy says, “We had the Basic D&D boxed game in school, and I played a Cajun halfling.” Later, he became friends with Gary Gygax.

Richards was elected to the Board of Directors of the Science & Engineering Education Foundation in 2006. He also published *Dreadmire*, a swamp source book for D20/D&D games. In 2008, he became an officer of Star One Delta, a local sci-fi/science organization.

In 2013, Richards was commissioned to write a new Alternate-History-Fantasy series called, *The League of Founding Fathers*. His first book in the series, *Paul Revere: The Zombies Are Coming*, is due out this year.

### Gray Rinehart

Gray Rinehart is the “Slushmaster General” for Baen Books. His fiction has appeared in *Analog Science Fiction & Fact*, *Asimov’s Science Fiction*, *Redstone Science Fiction*, and elsewhere.

Gray retired from the US Air Force after a rather odd career in which he fought rocket propellant fires, refurbished space launch facilities, “flew” satellites, and did other interesting things. His alter ego is the Gray Man, one of several famed ghosts of South Carolina’s Grand Strand, and his web site is [www.graymanwrites.com](http://www.graymanwrites.com).

### Scott Rorie

Scott Rorie is a free-lance artist from Cary, NC. Learning to draw at an early age, Scott won his first art show at 11 years old, when he won a school-wide art show. After studying art all through high school, he attended Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, majoring in Advertising Design. Although Scott works in many different media, his mainstay is the airbrush, which he taught himself to use. Like many airbrush artists, Scott started out painting T-shirts, but eventually moved on to canvas and illustration board.

In April 2006, Scott was invited to participate (and had five pieces accepted) in an art exhibit in-titled “NASCAR: Inspired” at the Hickory, NC Museum of Art. As a result of the Hickory show, Scott was interviewed by *Stock Car Pit Pass* online magazine. Scott’s pin-up work is starting to gather a following. Collectors come back to art shows each year to see what new pieces he has on display.

In 2009 Scott began working on art/sketch cards. He has worked with 5FINITY Productions on art/sketch card series such as *Zombies vs. Cheerleaders*, *Moonstone Maximum*, *Voltron*, *P’Ups*, *The Pro*, *Honey West*, *Hack/Slash*, *Lady Death* and *Sheena*. He has worked for Sadlittles on 4 card sets, *Rantz Angels*, *Damsels and Dinosaurs*, *Dreamers of Darkness* and *Femforce*.

Scott is a Marvel approved artist working for Rittenhouse Archives creating cards for *Marvel’s 70th Anniversary*, *Marvel’s Heroes and Villains*, *Marvel’s Dangerous Divas*, *Marvel Universe 2011*, *Marvel’s 2012 Greatest Heroes*, *Marvel’s Bronze Age* and *2013’s Marvel’s Greatest Battles* card sets. He is also a Lucasfilm approved artist working for Topps on the *Star Wars Galaxy 5*, *Empire Strikes Back 30th Anniversary Widevision*, *Star Wars Galaxy 6*, *Star Wars Galaxy 7* and *Galactic Files* card sets. Scott has also created sketch cards for Breygent Marketing’s *Woodstock Generation*, Classic and Vintage Sci-Fi and Horror Movie Posters, *Vampirella*, *Warlord of Mars* and Joseph Michael Linsner’s *Dawn: New Horizons*, Versacolor Production’s *Bettie Page Series 1 & 2* cards and BadAxe Studios’ *Dungeon Dolls and Bombshells*; as well as *The Walking Dead* and *Tarzan 100th Anniversary* cards for Cryptozoic Entertainment. This year he added Marty and Boo Productions, Leaf Entertainment, Cult Stuff and Asylum Studios to the card companies he’s working for.

His awards include a 1st and 2nd Place Award at the Chiller Theatre Show in NJ, Best Black and White at Nexus in Orlando, FL, and Best Mono-Chrome and Best Horror at DragonCon in Atlanta, GA. He has been published in *Cavewoman* from Basement Comics, *Didymous* from Iron Horse Comics, *Night* from Jester Press, *Con-Tour Magazine*, *Architectural Digest* and a *Lady Death* pin-up book.

Scott lives in Cary, NC with his wife Ann and their cat, Ares. He can usually be found in his studio working on a fantasy or sci-fi pin-up painting or Sketch/art cards. Look for his fan Page on Facebook, Scott Rorie Art and Illustration.

### Tony Ruggiero

Tony Ruggiero is best known for his dark fantasy thrillers about vampires being used by the US military. The novels are a characteristic mixture of classic vampire lore and the clandestine secrets of the military. The concept led to a series of books: *Operation Immortal Servitude*, *Operation Save the Innocent*, *Operation Face the Fear*, and *Operation Endgame*.

*Alien Deception* and *Alien Revelation* is a series that deals with an alien organization that has infiltrated the American political system. The series runs the gauntlet from humorous and light hearted to deadly serious as a young man and woman search for answers.

*Coven* is a thriller about little towns and their secrets where



witches have secretly been in control of the town council for years and the town has prospered... until now. *The Evil From Above* delves into the deep recesses of our mind and the age old battle of good versus evil which reside in the hands of a stone gargoyle.

Tony retired from the United States Navy in 2001 after twenty-three years of service and now teaches at Old Dominion University and Saint Leo University. Visit his website at [www.tonyruggiero.com](http://www.tonyruggiero.com) for more information. Books are available in print-electronic and some are also in audio format.

### Edmund Schubert

Edmund Schubert is the author of about 40 short stories, about half of which can be found in the collection, *The Trouble with Eating Clouds* and one novel, *Dreaming Creek*. He's held a variety of editorial positions, currently serving as editor of *Orson Scott Card's InterGalactic Medicine Show*. An anthology of IGMSstories, co-edited with Card, was published by Tor in 2008, followed by a second one in 2012 from Spotlight Publishing. His non-fiction book, *How To Write Magical Words: A Writer's Companion*, is a collection of essays about the craft and business of writing, written by the members of the writing blog [MagicalWords.net](http://MagicalWords.net). Schubert still insists, however, that his greatest accomplishment came during college, when his self-published underground newspaper made him the subject of a professor's lecture in abnormal psychology.

### Podcasting's Rich Sigfrit

To say that I enjoy podcasting and new media would be a gross understatement. My credits include mentions in high school and collegiate papers, newspapers, *Podcasting for Dummies*, and *Advanced Podcasting Tricks*. I have been called an innovator, having created the first fandom podcast (RotO), the first podcast for an Independent Wrestling Federation (Halo: Hardwired), and distributed the first comic book made available via podcast feed (Podcast 9). I was the force behind the official Troma Podcast and a former host/editor of the 501stCast, the official podcast of the 501st Stormtrooper Legion. I co-wrote, with Davey Beauchamp, the *Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show* starring *Mister Adventure Script Book*, with its second volume debuting soon. Along with his writing talents, Davey and I have been doing Mister Adventure via podcast and live on stage for the past 5 years.

I have also done commercial voice work as the voice of CRASH and SWE Wrestling, Volaris phone systems, Howards RV and Fit Family NC (also providing puppeteering). I have MC'd numerous events at various cons and am a host for Wise Entertainment, a traveling Trivia company. Between the podcasts, requested voices from other shows, and father of 3, various audio sketches and dramas have been heard on ChronoRadio, Star Wars and Beyond, SwitchedOn Show, the Geeklabel Podcast and Dragon Pages' Wingin' It syndicated show, (plus countless guest appearances on other shows) of which I am very proud.

### Stephen J. Simmons

Stephen retired from the Navy following twenty-one years as a nuclear-trained submariner, just in time for his children to outgrow the funny stories he always made up for them at bedtime, when he was in port. So, he started writing those stories down and inflicting them upon strangers instead. His stock-in-trade is comedic fantasy, with occasional outliers in both science fiction and dark fantasy. Stephen has sold flash fiction pieces to several online venues; every one of which ceased operation shortly afterward. He also has some fantasy stories published through Naked Reader Press, which has somehow managed to survive despite carrying his work.

### Cathe Smith

Cathe Smith has always been interested in insects. As an entomology undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she worked as a crop scout in an integrated pest management lab that worked with potatoes, cabbage, and mint. That experience led her to pick up a second Bachelor of Science in agronomy. She also had a paid internship with a butterfly lab where she was trained as a lab tech in molecular genetic work, preparing her for her later job in an insect molecular genetics lab for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

She worked for six years for the USDA in a quarantine lab assisting in efforts to find non-chemical based population controls for wide-spread pests of plant crops. These attempts at genetic manipulation gave her a real appreciation for amount of work that goes into biotechnology.

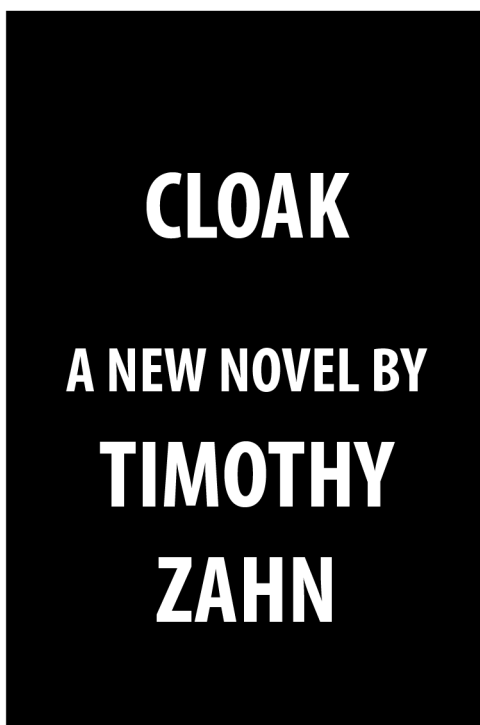
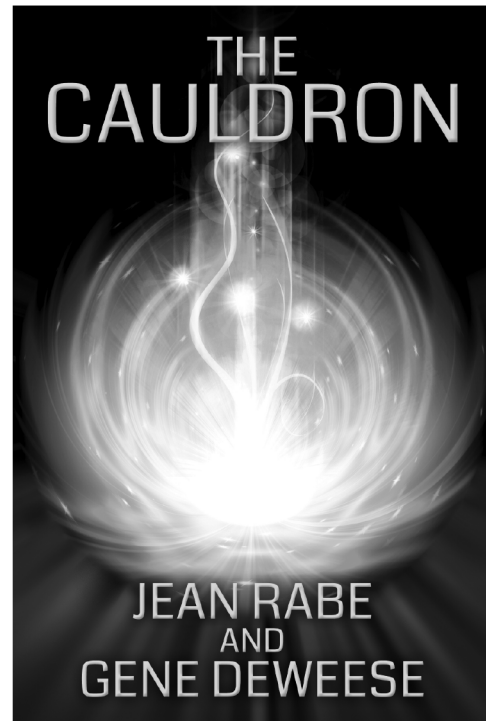
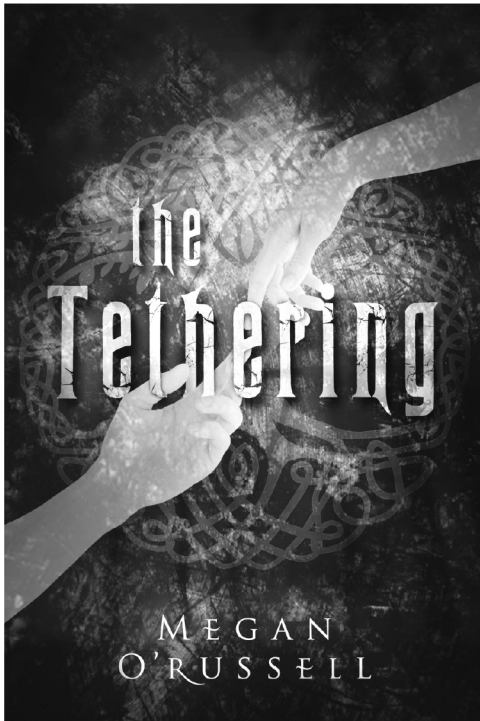
After six years toiling "in quarantine," she entered the Entomology and Plant Pathology master's program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she specializes in Insect Genetics. Her thesis looks at the genetic diversity within genus *Orchesella* of Springtails in North America; her work has already doubled the number of genetically described species within that genus.

Cathe has been active in fandom for over a decade and has been a repeat contributor to Stephan Euin Cobb's podcast, "The Future and You." She is a First Dan black belt and former assistant instructor in the Korean martial art of Han Mu Do. She currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she crochets and really does need all that yarn.

### Janine K. Spendlove

Janine K. Spendlove is a KC-130 pilot in the United States Marine Corps. Her bestselling first novel, *War of the Seasons, Book One: The Human*, was published in June 2011 and her next novel, *War of the Seasons, Book Two: The Half-blood*, was released in June 2012. She's also had several short stories published in various anthologies. A graduate from Brigham Young University in 1999 with a BA in History Teaching, she

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is an avid runner, enjoys knitting, playing Beatles tunes on her guitar, and spending time with her family. She resides with her husband and daughter in Washington, DC. She is currently at work on her next novel. Find out more at [www.janinespendlove.com](http://www.janinespendlove.com).

### Sharon Stogner

I am a blogger and co-creator of the review site, I Smell Sheep. We love anything and everything Paranormal/Sci-Fi/UF/Horror/mystery/fantasy. You name it, we are either reading it or watching it. Books, movies, comics, manga, and much more. We also interview authors, directors and actors. Moon pies and Kool-Aid are always served fresh on the blog and our Facebook group. My favorite genre is Urban Fantasy, the darker the better.

I received an undergraduate degree in biology from UNC Chapel Hill and a master's degree in Microbiology from NCSU. I have been married for 21 years and chose to be a stay at home mom for our two girls (12 & 17). When I am not reading and reviewing, I am doing beta work for a multitude of genres, working towards my 3rd degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, and not cooking, which my family is grateful for.

[www.ismellsheep.com](http://www.ismellsheep.com)

### Travis Surber

Travis Surber is a self-taught artist/writer who got his start in the independent comic *Midnight Ink* in 2004. After several years of "exposure" (work without pay), he started the webcomic *Hainted Holler* in 2009. Since then, he has managed to self-publish 2 collections of his strips, to begin work on a collectible card game, appear on several podcasts, and is currently finishing up a graphic novel that was inspired by his daughter. Travis lives in Bassett, VA with his wife, daughter, and a surly cat.

### Charles White

Charles White has been involved with gaming ever since a high school friend brought a copy of the expert set of *Dungeons and Dragons* to school one day. Thirty years later, Charles still games on a regular basis and runs a game on occasion. Definitely not the typical gamer, Charles is a seminary graduate and holds two masters degrees, one with a focus in American Church History and the other is an advanced masters in the area of American Religion and Culture.

Currently, Charles is the current column owner of "Divine Interventions" for *Savage Insider* and has previously written multiple articles on religion in gaming for *World Forge Magazine*. In addition, Charles consults on pantheon creation and other religion issues for RPGs. He has been a gaming guest/industry professional at several conventions such as ConCarolinas, and AEthercon.

Charles and his wife Krista are also co-founders of Fabled Environments, a cartography company that creates drop and play modern floor plans for RPG environments. Fabled Environments was nominated for an Ennie Award for Best Miniatures Product in 2007 for their work on the map entitled, "All Saints Church" and again in 2009 for their work on the map entitled, "Casablanca: A Victorian-Inspired Mansion."

Fabled Environments has been privileged to partner with other great game companies, such as Silver Gryphon Games and Gun Metal Games, and has launched two successful Kickstarters.

### White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)

Keith Brinegar was born in North Carolina, and has since lived in Texas, Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia, and Germany, with most of those moves due to two tours of duty in the US Air Force. He began performing at an early age, receiving his first guitar at the age of 10. During his junior high and high school years, he formed several bands, at one point reaching third place in a state Battle of the Bands. He received his BA from Winston-Salem State University between tours in the Air Force. He also recorded a demo tape in Nashville, performing a cover of Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler".

White Plectrum was formed from the remnants of Raymond and Bullfunkel almost 25 years ago by Keith Brinegar and Bill Mullis. White Plectrum's first public performance was at a benefit for Stellarcon at the Loggerhead Brew Pub and Restaurant in Greensboro, NC. That performance was recorded and shortly after became White Plectrum's first CD *Insert Appropriate Title Here*. When Keith moved from North Carolina to Virginia in 1996, he began a solo career as White Plectrum. Since that time there have been several more CDs, recorded both live and in studio. With performances at conventions such as StellarCon, Technicon, Rising Star, MarsCon, Sci-Con, SheVaCon, and others, Keith as White Plectrum has always given the listening audience the best show possible. Many people have supported Keith over the years, both assisting with filk-writing as well as handling and manning equipment. The current lineup has Keith on stage, singing and playing guitar; Gene Moody manning the sound system as the current "Chairman of the Board"; Isaac Moody as the "Wire Monkey" equipment handler; and Linda Turner selling CDs as "the Bodacious CD Babe". Songs such as "The Ballad of Jones the Cat", "Call of Cthulu", and "the Loveable Lament of the Dragon and the Lady" have become fan favorites at shows, and many more such songs are always a staple of a White Plectrum performance.

In his mundane, "normal" life, Keith works for the federal government, but don't hold that against him.

### Allen Wold

Allen Wold was born in southwestern Michigan, where he began writing teeny little stories when he discovered an old portable typewriter in his back closet. He finished high school in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from Pomona College, in Claremont, California, where he later met his wife, Diane. They married in 1972, and moved to North Carolina, where he began his career as a full time writer. In 1986, he became a full time father, writing when he could make the time. In 2003, he became a full time writer again, when his daughter, Darcy, went off to college, also at Pomona.

He has published nine novels (he has written several more, most of which will never see print, thank God), several short stories (mostly for the *Elf Quest* anthologies), five non-fiction books on computers (he's completely self-taught, and it probably shows), and a number of articles, columns, reviews, and so forth, also concerning computers (written in language even he can understand).

Currently, Allen has an epic heroic fantasy (3000 pages, 800,000 words) with an editor; a vampire story (no twinklies) in submission; a bizarre haunted house story that is far too long; a haunted village story, also too long; and other projects in hand.

His first novel, *The Planet Masters*, has recently been re-issued in Kindle, Nook, and POD by ReAnimus Press (they're on the web).

Allen has been running his version of a writer's workshop at various conventions for more than twenty-five years, and has had some success, since several people have not only finished but sold stories started in the workshop. Allen also runs a plotting workshop, an interactive lecture, which is a lot of fun, and which people have found helpful.

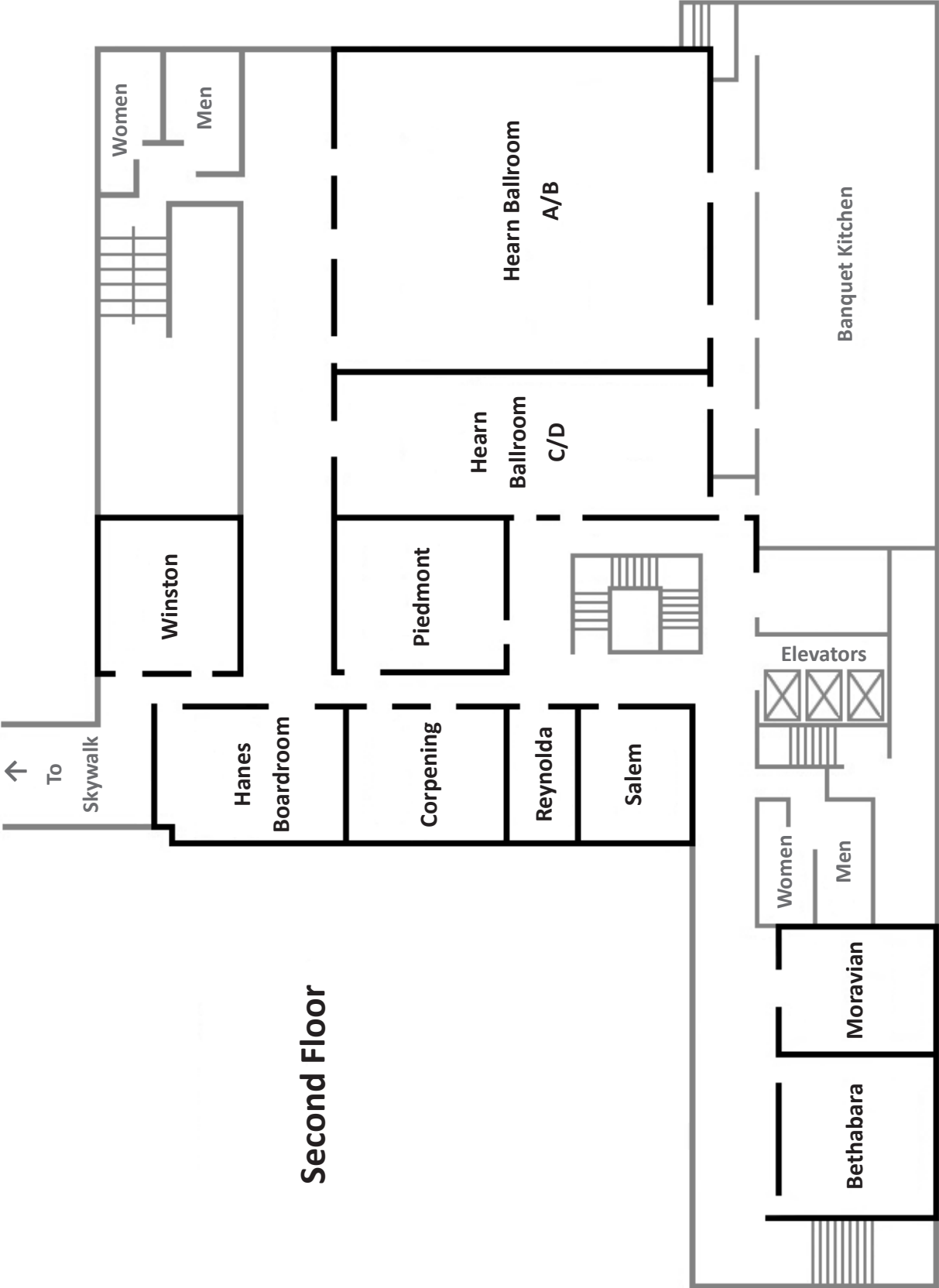
Allen is a member of SFWA.

### Darcy Wold

Darcy Wold was raised in the realm of science fiction conventions, and has never, to her knowledge, been mistaken for normal (a fact of which she is rather proud). She paints and draws vibrant abstracts and fantasy 'scapes, and has a growing smattering of clinical knowledge from her day job as a technical writer for data standards. Darcy is also a regular panelist on Allen Wold's Writer's Workshop, where she represents that ultimate critic: the reader.







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Special Guest:  
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Join us as we celebrate 10 great years of sweet convention goodness. RavenCon features seven full tracks (over 200 hours!) of programming. More than 90 writers, fans, artists, scientists, musicians and costumers will be available for discussions, panels, readings and signings. There's also anime, concerts, parties, workshops, children's programming and our famous Gaming Room that never closes. And since it was such a hit, we'll be running another Magic: The Gathering tournament!

*More info online at <http://www.ravencon.com>*



## **Registration:**

Adults (18 and up):

\$35 till 12/31/14

\$40 before 4/10/15

\$45 at the door

Young Adults (12-17): \$15

Children (11 and under): Free

*10% discount with valid military or student ID.*

## **Hotel:**

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Reservations: 804-379-3800

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## EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

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### FRIDAY

*You will find two types of events listed, Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.*

#### **Alternate History (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 3:00pm**

Harry Turtledove and Eric Flint are often suggested as masters of the Alternate History Genre... but does the genre encompass more than just how wars are affected? Do works such as Naomi Novik's dragons in the Napoleonic Wars and DB Jackson's magic in the Revolutionary War also qualify as alternate history? What makes a fantasy or SF or even steampunk story alternate history vs "just" a fantasy, SF or steampunk story? What are some other books that might also fit the "alternate history" theme but aren't usually considered?

Panelists: Diana Bastine (mod), David B. Coe, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey, Stephen Simmons

#### **An Alien for Your World, A World for Your Alien (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Winston - 3:00pm**

What does your planet have to be like to evolve and sustain the alien your story needs? Or: What kind of alien would your fictional world tend to evolve and sustain? A discussion of basic concepts of both planet and alien design and key interrelationships between them.

Panelists: Paula S. Jordan (mod), Glenda C. Finkelstein, James Maxey, Tedd Roberts, Cathe Smith

#### **Learn About Sched.org**

**Friday, July 11 - Salem - 3:00pm**

ConGregarate is using the mobile platform of Sched.org as the way to display the programming and guests for the convention. This panel will introduce you to the website and how to use it.

Panelists: Everette Beach

#### **Science Fiction/Fantasy on TV (AP)**

**Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 3:00pm**

From Syfy to the CW, from *Walking Dead* to *Agents of Shield* to *The Librarians*, this open forum will give you the chance to talk about your favorite SF/F TV show.

Panelists: Jennifer McCollom (mod), Tony Finkelstein, Angela Pritchett

#### **Multi-tasking – Multiple WIPS (Works in Progress) (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 4:00pm**

How do you keep yourself straight when you have more than one series or more than one Work-In-Progress happening at the same time? How do you balance writing a novel, with writing short stories, or non-fiction articles? How do you come back to a work or series after an absence?

Panelists: Tally Johnson (mod), Theresa Bane, Alexandra Christian, Pamela K. Kinney, Travis Surber

#### **Learning to Navigate BoardGameGeek.com**

**Friday, July 11 - Salem - 4:00pm**

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce people to the BoardGameGeek.com website, provide an orientation of key features, and highlight several of its more powerful tools.

Panelists: The Winston-Salem Gamers Guild

#### **The How-to's of Podcasting (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Winston - 4:00pm**

You've heard of podcasting but exactly what is it? How do you decide what to talk about it? And what technology do you need to make it work?

Panelists: Davey Beauchamp (mod), Natania Barron, Stuart Jaffe, Podcasting's Rich Sigfrit

#### **ConGoing 101 (AP)**

**Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 5:00pm**

An introduction to the Wonderful World of Cons. Are you nervous about what to expect? Confused as to what GoH or Con Ops means. Well have no fear... we will help you with answers to all your questions regarding conventions and give you the tools you need to have a great weekend, including reviewing the 6-2-1 rule!

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (mod), Tally Johnson, Pamela K. Kinney, Regina Kirby, Toni Weisskopf

#### **Junior Ghost Busters (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Winston - 5:00pm**

Join the Ghostbusters as they introduce kids and teens to hunting ghosts and the paranormal.

(This panel is appropriate for kids from 6-18)

Panelists: The Carolina GhostBusters

#### **What's Your Gamer Type? (AP)**

**Friday, July 11 - Salem - 5:00pm**

What is Your Gamer Type? is a presentation and interactive discussion of the Gamer Types formed by the host of the podcast, (Dr. Regina McMenomy), from her research on identity and gaming.

In the panel, Rhonda briefly explains the gamer types. The audience takes a Gamer Type Quiz, and then everyone will watch video clips and discuss gamer type interactions and characteristics.

Panelists: Rhonda Ogelsby

### **Cues from Shakespeare: Fantasy & Thriller Writer (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Salem - 6:00pm**

What can present day writers of genre fiction learn from history's most successful writer? This presentation by international bestselling author, AJ Hartley, explores some of the techniques Shakespeare used to please his audience, make a fortune, and produce some of the most enduring literature of all time.

Panelists: A.J. Hartley

### **Lt. Uhura: Diversity Began with Star Trek (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Winston - 6:00pm**

Starting with a diverse cast and including American television's first black/white interracial kiss, Star Trek has been a pioneer in diversity.

Panelists: Randy Richards (mod), Tricia Barr, Marcia Collette, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Janine K. Spendlove

### **Raising the Next Generation (AP)**

**Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 6:00pm**

Join our panelists for an interactive discussion on the challenges of raising children in a geek family. What are the games (RPGs, board games or card games) for a family game night? What about books and movies? What do you do if your kids don't share your geeky interests? Share your own experiences from the "front lines" and get advice for creating a geek-friendly house.

Panelists: Drew Meyer (mod), Natania Barron, Angela Pritchett, Charles White

### **Magical Words Seminar: Dialogue**

**Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 6:00pm**

The Magical Words authors present a seminar on "Dialogue" where attendees will learn about creating realistic conversations and making characters sound unique as well as authentic.

Attendance is limited. You will need to sign up at Registration.

Panelists: David B. Coe, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey

### **Almost Human (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Salem - 7:00pm**

A.I.'s have been a staple in SF for years. The character Data faced a trial to determine his humanity. Dorian was built with a synthetic soul. When does an A.I. move from robot to human? What qualities do they need to transcend the robot?

Panelists: James Maxey (mod), Stephen Simmons, Darcy Wold

### **Learning to Write for Your Editor (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Winston - 7:00pm**

Every editor has certain aspects of writing that bug them more than others. For some it might be dialogue tags, for others, adverbs. What are some common "tics" editors have and how do you address them?

Panelists: Tally Johnson (mod), Theresa Bane, Alexandra Christian, Sharon Stogner

### **Opening Ceremonies**

**Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 7:00pm**

Join Con Chair, James Fulbright, our Guests of Honor and Special Guests as they welcome you to the inaugural ConGregarate.

Panelists: James Fulbright (mod), Larry Correia (WGOH), Mark Poole (AGOH), Jennifer McCollom, Toni Weisskopf

### **Blood on the Paper**

**Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 7:00pm**

On this workshop, we're going to talk about grammar: about how to recognize these issues and how to fix them. The question isn't so much whether or not these ARE issues (though we can talk some about that), but WHAT these issues are and HOW to change them. How to recognize passive voice and fix it, etc.

Bring your WIP and a Red Pen!! Attendance is limited. You will need to sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Emily Lavin Leverett (mod), Natania Barron, David B. Coe, Stuart Jaffe, Edmund Shubert

### **Writing the "Other" (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Salem - 8:00pm**

How do authors portray minorities, differently abled, and gender roles in their stories? Science Fiction & Fantasy has come a long way and have often been at the forefront of these issues. What else needs to be done? How does someone write the "Other" - transgendered, person of color, without coming across as stereotyping or insulting if they aren't "Other"?

Panelists: Edmund Schubert (mod), John Hartness, Debra Killeen, Pamela K. Kinney, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Stephen Mark Rainey

### **Fandom Feud (AP)**

**Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 8:00pm**

Fandom Feud is the convention's version of the popular game show Family Feud. Teams may register for the game at convention registration in the Lobby. All teams must be registered by 5pm on Friday night to enter.

Panelists: Jennifer McCollom (host)



## EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

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### **Beyond the First Draft**

**Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 8:00pm**

Your first draft is written, from the beginning through many interesting and exciting scenes all the way to the end. If you have a finished first draft of at least one novel, and no more than two completed novels, you may apply for one of five available seats for this moderated roundtable discussion. A professional in the field of evaluating novels for publication will be available for consultation throughout the workshop. There is no additional charge. Attendance is limited. You will need to sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Paula S. Jordan (mod), Gray Rinehart

### **Nerdiquette 101 (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Winston - 8:00pm**

This panel/workshop covers geek dating dos and don'ts, such as why talking to a woman's chest, even if it's on display, is bad form, how to appreciate someone's costume/appearance in a respectful way, how to graciously ask for a date (and more importantly, graciously take "NO" for an answer), when NO means YES (hint: never), and how to not cross that thin line that separates geeking out about your hobbies from being a conversation-hog and a creeper.

Panelists: Laura Haywood-Cory (mod), Danny Birt, Doc Geressy, Cheralyn Lambeth, Allegra Liana

### **Magic's Price (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 9:00pm**

Can magical systems make or break a story? How do magic users tap mystical powers, and since there are no free lunches what is the price? What authors create the most interesting magical systems? What do authors do when the magic user becomes too powerful?

Panelists: Steven S. Long (mod), Debra Killeen, Edmund Schubert, Stephen Simmons, Travis Surber

### **Resemblance to Real People is Intentional (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Salem - 9:00pm**

What you should and shouldn't do when incorporating real people into your fiction. What about Tuckerizations (authors using a real person's name as a character in the book)? Does it differ by genre? Are there legal concerns? Are the rules different for living/dead people? How far can you take them?

Panelists: Allen Wold (mod), Marcia Collette, Larry Correia, Tally Johnson, Tedd Roberts

### **Filk Collective**

**Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 9:00pm**

Join our filkers as they sing round robin songs of their own and maybe even create a new one or two.

Panelists: Danny Birt, White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar), Gray Rinehart, The Blibbering Humdingers

### **Geek Girls and Unicorns (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Winston - 10:00pm**

"Because, like unicorns, (geek girls) are not supposed to exist."

Even with the visible presence of geek girls like Ashley Eckstein, Clare Grant and Felicia Day, there are parts of fandom that still believe that "geek girls" don't exist or are "fake." Why is this and what can be done to change the image?

Panelists: Rhonda Ogelsby (mod), Tricia Barr, Laura Haywood-Cory, Allegra Liana, Randy Richards

### **Harvesting Space for a Greener Earth (ET)**

**Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 10:00pm**

How space technology can help solve our energy and environmental problems (and why space advocates and environmentalists should be working together).

Panelists: Les Johnson

### **What are "YOU" Reading? (AP)**

**Friday, July 11 - Salem - 10:00pm**

This is a basic roundtable. Bring your current favorite book and tell us why you like it and why someone else should pick it up?

Panelists: John Hartness

### **Phil Keeling: Comedian**

**Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 10:30pm**

Phil Keeling is a comedian based out of Savannah, Georgia. His combination of manic intellectualism and vulgarity has caused comedian/producer Lee Keeler to call him "a combination of Oscar Wilde and Larry Flynt".

## **SATURDAY**

*You will find two types of events listed, Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.*

### **Kids Crafts (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Reynolda - 9:00am**

We will have a room designated for parents to take their kids to allow the kids to decompress, should the con become overwhelming. There will be coloring and crafts available. NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your child(ren).

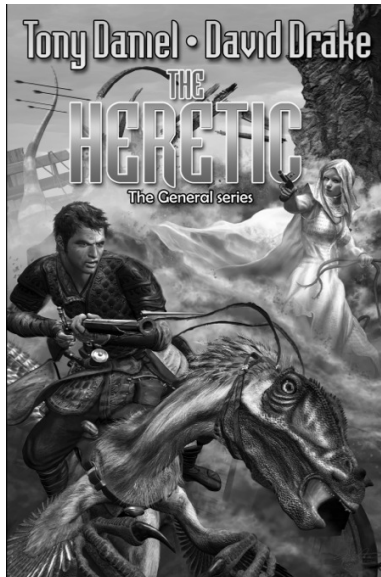
### **Epic Fantasy (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 9:00am**

From Doorstop to Icon: Why is there a love/hate relationship with Epic Fantasy? What makes a story "epic" fantasy? Is it the length? The world building? The number of character POV's? Our panelists discuss all these questions and more.

Panelists: Danny Birt (mod), Natania Barron, David B. Coe, Debra Killeen, Gail Z. Martin

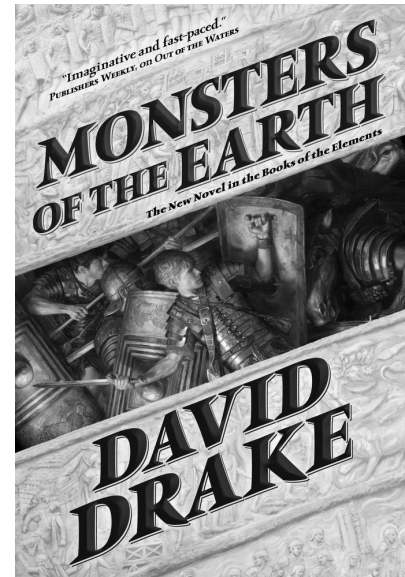
THE NORTH CAROLINA SPECULATIVE FICTION FOUNDATION  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE NOMINEES FOR THE  
**2014 MANLY WADE WELLMAN AWARD**



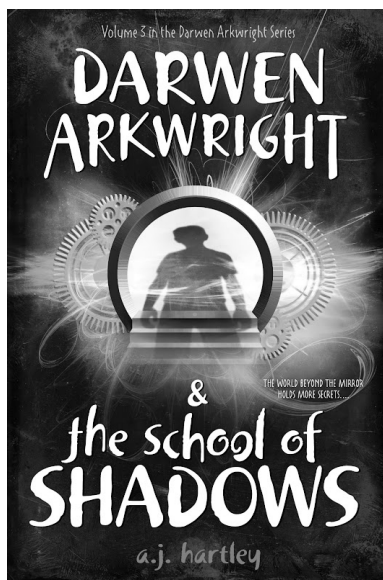
*The Heretic*  
by **Tony Daniel and David Drake** (Baen)



*Vaporware*  
by **Richard Dansky** (JournalStone)



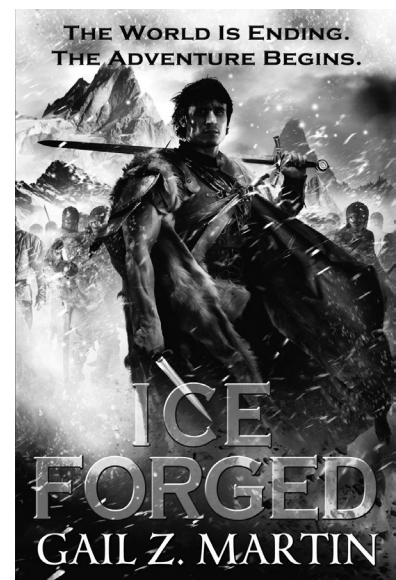
*Monsters of the Earth*  
by **David Drake** (Tor)



*Darwen Arkwright and the School of Shadows*  
by **A.J. Hartley** (Razorbill)



*The Shambling Guide to New York City*  
by **Mur Lafferty** (Orbit)



*Ice Forged*  
by **Gail Z. Martin** (Orbit)

The Manly Wade Wellman Award was founded to recognize outstanding achievement in science fiction and fantasy novels written by North Carolina authors. The 2014 award, voted on by the combined membership of North Carolina science fiction and fantasy conventions, covers novels published in 2013. The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate. The winner(s) will be announced at ConGregarate on July 12.

[ncsff.org](http://ncsff.org)

## EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

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### **Forever Young (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 9:00am**

With a decade or more age difference between many writers and the YA protagonists they write about, we look at tips for writing younger characters that still feel real to the reader.

Panelists: Davey Beauchamp (mod), A.J. Hartley, Janine K. Spendlove

### **Kickstarting Your Project (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 9:00am**

Kickstarting is a new way to raise funds for your project. From gaming books to movies to anthologies and novels, kickstarting provides a unique solution to raising money. But... what does that mean for your project? What are some of the pitfalls and areas of concern of kickstarter? How do you determine if it's the right choice for your project?

Panelists: Ron Garner (mod), Maggie Allen, Larry Correia, Steven S. Long

### **Allen Wold's Regionally Famous Workshop**

**Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 9:00am**

Allen has been providing conventions with his workshop for many years. Joined by established authors, he provides a safe, creative environment to practice writing. New and established writers can benefit from this workshop.

Attendance is limited. You must sign up at Registration for the workshop.

Panelists: Allen Wold (mod), Diana Bastine, Stephen Mark Rainey, Edmund Schubert, Darcy Wold

### **Building the Big, Bad, Radioactive Bug (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 10:00am**

Have you ever wanted to create something to stomp the tar out of a large metropolitan city? Now's your chance!

Our panelists will work with the audience to design a big, bad radioactive bug, capable of doing just that. The basic attributes of the creature will be recorded and passed along to our next panel: Killing the Big, Bad, Radioactive Bug.

Panelists: John Hartness (mod), Steven S. Long, Tedd Roberts, Stephen S. Simpson, Cathe Smith

### **Dr. Who through a Women's Eyes (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 10:00am**

All the Doctors have been male...yet most of his companions have been female. Our group of panelists discuss how the series is seen through the eyes of its women fans.

Panelists: Angela Pritchett (mod), Allegra Liana, Gail Z. Martin, Jennifer McCollom, Janine K. Spendlove

### **The Writing Life (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 10:00am**

How do they make it work? From full-time writers to part time writers, there are always challenges balancing writing and the rest of the world.

Panelists: Alexandra Christina (mod), Marcia Collette, Glenda C. Finkelstein, Faith Hunter, Les Johnson

### **Art and Gaming (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 11:00am**

Gaming Books and Artwork have been intertwined since the first edition of D&D. How does the artwork add to the feel of the game design? How does the artist try to capture the game in his/her art?

Panelists: Steven S. Long (mod), Mark Poole, Travis Surber, Darcy Wold

### **Killing the Big, Bad, Radioactive Bug (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 11:00am**

Our panelists will be handed the basic attributes of the Big, Bad, Radioactive Bug that was created by the previous panel. They will have no idea what the bug will be, or what it can do, but they will be tasked with finding a way to kill the bug. One caveat, they must limit collateral damage as it rampages through a large metropolitan city... so they can't just "nuke it from orbit."

Panelists: John Hartness (mod), Ron Garner, Tom Hutchens, Stuart Jaffe, Misty Massey

### **Debate Club (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 11:00am**

Do you remember sitting around talking about which was better? Star Wars or Star Trek? Who was the better villain: Darth Vader or Kahn? Well, here's your chance again. Just be ready for the surprise twist!

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (mod), Doc Geressy, James Maxey

### **Transformation: A Makeup & Special Effects Demo**

**Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 11:00am**

Join our talented team of costumers and makeup artists as they transform into... well, you'll just have to attend to see.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth, Allegra Liana, Jennifer McCollom, Angela Pritchett

### **Geeks Get Fit (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 12:00pm**

There are a lot of stereotypes about the unhealthy geek. Our panelists talk about finding time to exercise, the benefits of exercise, and ways to incorporate "geeking out" with your fitness passions.

Panelists: Janine K. Spendlove (mod), Natania Barron, Virginia Fulbright, PA-C, Laura Haywood-Cory, Matthew Penick

### **How I Got My Start in Fandom (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 12:00pm**

Fans talk about what got them into fandom. Was it a con? A Costume? A book? A TV Show? A movie? Why do we do dedicate time and money to our passions?

Panelists: Randy Richards (mod), Tom Hutchens, Paula S. Jordan, Regina Kirby, Mikki Stith

### **Urban Fantasy: Future of the Genre (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 12:00pm**

From Laurell K Hamilton to Jim Butcher, Urban Fantasy has made its own niche in the broader genre of Fantasy. What defines Urban Fantasy? Can Urban Fantasy have sub genres and alternative settings? Where is this genre going in the future and what challenges does it face against new comers like dystopian fantasy and steampunk?

Panelists: Pamela K. Kinney (mod), Marcia Collette, Larry Correia, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Sharon Stogner

### **Every Villain is a Hero (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 1:00pm**

Tom Hiddleston has described Loki from Marvel's *The Avengers* as "An antagonist as opposed to a villain, but only because every villain is a hero in his own mind." So what makes a good villain? Are the best villains "pure evil" or the ones that you have sympathy for?

Panelists: Edmund Schubert (mod), Alexandra Christian, A.J. Hartley, Emily Lavin Leverett, Tony Ruggiero

### **Gone Too Soon (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 1:00pm**

Every so often a good show comes along and then is cancelled... Firefly is, of course, the most common example of this but what other shows did you enjoy that were cancelled early?

Panelists: Tony Finkelstein, Randy Richards

### **Inside the ConGregarate Studio: Mark Poole (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 1:00pm**

Michael D. Pederson interviews our Artist Guest of Honor Mark Poole. (And yes, we ask the 10 questions!)

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (mod), Mark Poole

### **Magical Words Workshop – Part 1**

**Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 1:00pm**

ConGregarate teamed up with Magical Words to present a unique workshop experience during the convention. This is part 1 of an intensive two-day seminar offering detailed, specific feedback on the first 2500 words of your manuscript by three published authors. Critique sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday of the convention. Participants are expected to attend both sessions. This session is **SOLD OUT**.

Panelists: David B. Coe, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey

### **Ask the Military (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 2:00pm**

This will be a two part panel. The first half will have our speakers talking about things in military SF or similar genres that would not work in the real military. The second half would give the audience a chance to ask questions of the panelists directly. (We hope to have representatives from multiple divisions of the armed forces.)

Panelists: Ron Garner (mod), Tom Hutchens, Gray Rinehart, Tony Ruggiero, Stephen Simmons, Doc Wohlrab

### **The Myth of Strong Women**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 2:00pm**

Aaron Allston once wrote that he felt "... that most female characters, when used as protagonists and depicted in a well-rounded fashion, constitute strong women. Of course, a strong woman can be badly depicted, at which point she's no longer a protagonist. She's little more than a water heater with a woman's name." So how do you write a strong woman as something other than a man with a woman's name? What are some examples of strong women?

Panelists: Edmund Schubert (mod), Tricia Barr, Emily Lavin Leverett, Rhonda Ogelsby, Janine K. Spendlove

### **Inside the ConGregarate Studio: Larry Correia (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 2:00pm**

Michael D. Pederson interviews our Writer Guest of Honor Larry Correia. (And yes, we ask the 10 questions!)

Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (mod), Larry Correia

### **Kids Filk and Cookies**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 3:00pm**

Kid-Friendly Filking with The Blibbering Humdingers

### **Costuming 201 (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 3:00pm**

More than costuming 101, this panel is designed to talk about the "next steps" in costuming, makeup, props. How do accessories make or break a costume? How do you take your costume to the next level?

Panelists: Doc Geressy (mod), Tom Hutchens, Todd Lacey, Cheralyn Lambeth, Matthew Penick, Angela Pritchett

### **Baen Traveling Road Show**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 3:00pm**

Join several of our guests from Baen Books as they share upcoming releases and give away Baen swag!

Panelists: Toni Weiskopf (mod), David B. Coe, Larry Correia, Laura Haywood-Cory, Les Johnson, Gray Rinehart



## EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

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### **105th Demo**

**Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 3:00pm**

The 105th Squad is a multi-genre Costume and Prop Builder group. We refer to our members as engineers, because they work together in building various projects. Take advantage of this workshop to share your work and learn from others. Feel free to ask members for tips as they are here to help.

Panelists: Members of the 105th Squad

### **10 Years of NuWho (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 4:00pm**

We just finished celebrating the 50th Anniversary of *Doctor Who*, but next year it is time to celebrate 10 years since the re-launch of Doctor Who. Join our panelists as we look back on the past 9 years as we move into a decade of NuWHO. We will discuss the highs and lows, what we think has worked and hasn't worked. Along with what we hope the BBC might do to celebrate 10 years since the re-launch that has become a worldwide phenomenon. As always, we want to hear what you have to say about Doctor 9, 10, 11 & the coming of no. 11.

Panelists: Davey Beauchamp (mod), Chuck Carte, Drew Meyer, Podcasting's Rich Sigfrit

### **Book Launch Party**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 4:30pm**

Join authors Gail Martin, Misty Massey and publisher Silence in the Library as they celebrate the launch of their books! We'll have cake!!

Panelists: Maggie Allen, Ron Garner, Gail Z. Martin, Misty Massey, Janine K. Spendlove

### **Concert: The Blibbering Humdingers**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 5:00pm**

A concert with our wonderful guest band.

### **NASA Panel (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 5:00pm**

What is NASA now? Where is it going? Three of our guests either work, or have worked, for NASA in a variety of areas. We let them tell you about what they know, how things have changed and then answer any questions you have.

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (mod), Maggie Allen, Les Johnson, Paula S. Jordan

### **Concert: White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 6:00pm**

Filking by White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)

### **Costume Contest Pre-judging**

**Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 6:00pm**

Costume Contest Entrants should plan to have their costumes ready for pre-judging at this time.

Please remember to eat! Costume Contestants will be asked to remain until the costume contest begins.

Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth, Jennifer McCollom, Angela Pritchett

### **D.B. Jackson (David B. Coe) Book Launch**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 6:30pm**

Join our guest D.B. Jackson as he celebrates the launch of his third Thieftaker Book, *A Plunder of Souls*.

We'll have cake and celebrate in true red, white and blue fashion

Panelists: David B. Coe

### **Self-Publishing Pros and Cons**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 7:00pm**

Authors sometime face the challenge of deciding between self-publishing and traditional publishing. What are some of the benefits of going at it yourself? What challenges do you face? How do you determine if it is the right choice for you? How do you assemble a good team and why do you need them?

Panelists: Stuart Jaffe (mod), Theresa Bane, Nicole Givens Kurtz, James Maxey, Sharon Stogner

### **Masquerade (Costume Contest)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 7:00pm**

In grand convention tradition, ConGregarate will host a costume contest on Saturday night. The Masquerade is open to any costumed individual or group, but all participants must have valid ConGregarate membership badges. Full rules for the contest can be found on page 29.

*Please no flash photography or video taping of the Masquerade.*

Contestants will be available in Piedmont after the Ceremony for pictures.

Hosts: Podcasting Rich Sigfrit and Chuck Carte

Judges: Cheralyn Lambeth, Jennifer McCollom, Angela Pritchett

### **Beyond the Evil God/Goddess: Religion in SF/F (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 8:00pm**

Our panelists talk about religion in SF. How do you balance the fantasy with reality? How do you make it feel like a valid and deep part of the world?

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (mod), Glenda C. Finkelstein, Debra Killeen, James Maxey, Gray Rinehart

# MASQUERADE (COSTUME CONTEST)

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## 2014 Masquerade Rules & Information

The ConGregarate Masquerade is open to any costumed individual or group, but all participants must have valid ConGregarate membership badges.

Masquerade sign-up sheets will be located at the Registration table and available until noon on Saturday.

No entries will be accepted after that time.

If you have audio material to be played while you are on stage, please have it recorded on an otherwise blank CD, which is labeled with your name, your badge number, and the name of your costume (or group).

There should be no more than ten (10) seconds of blank time before your audio begins to play. The audio must be turned in with your Masquerade sign-up sheet. ConGregarate cannot guarantee your audio will be played during your presentation. We reserve the right to review music before allowing it to be used. CDs can be reclaimed after the Masquerade awards are presented.

If you plan to use music during your presentation, you must provide written permission from the artist to the convention prior to the Masquerade.

There will be no live microphone for contestants to use on stage.

There will be no spotlights or other light effects available on stage.

If you plan to draw or otherwise “use” a weapon during your presentation, note that on your Masquerade sign-up sheet. Judges will make any necessary determination of suitability and safety.

If you are taking part in a group entry, only one Masquerade sign-up sheet is necessary for the entire group, but the name and badge number of all group members must be listed on that sheet.

The Masquerade is open to all ages. An adult must accompany children under the age of 14. Parents can accompany their children onstage. Entrants under 14 years of age will not be judged, but will receive certificates for participating.

Awards categories may include: Best in Show, Best Craftsmanship, Top Novice, Top Journeyman, Top Master, and Judge’s Choice. Depending on the number of entrants, other awards may be added.

Participants will be judged on costume construction, originality, and presentation. Decisions of the judges will be final.

## Categories definitions:

- **Youth** costumers are those under the age of 14 years (see above).
- **Novice** costumers are those who have won three (3) or fewer major (Best -, Top -, 1st Place in a category) awards in costume competitions.
- **Journeyman** costumers are those who have won more than three major awards in costume competitions, but have won fewer than three (3) Best in Show or Best Overall awards.
- **Master** costumers are those who have won more than three (3) Best in Show or Best Overall awards and/or are paid for their work.

*Any entrant may choose to compete in a higher category.*

No individual may present more than one costume in the contest.

Individuals are limited to one (1) minute on stage. Groups entries are limited to one (1) minute plus thirty (30) seconds for each additional member up to a maximum of three (3) minutes on stage.

Any of the following on stage will result in disqualification and ejection from the Masquerade: smoke effects, open flames, squirting liquids, firing projectiles, throwing objects into the audience, use of obscene language, pornographic representations, full or partial nudity. Help us keep ConGregarate a safe and family-friendly convention.

We ask that anyone with a costume which has won three (3) or more major (Best, Top, or 1st Place) masquerade or costume competition awards elsewhere not enter that particular costume into ConGregarate competition unless it has been significantly changed or improved.

Masquers need to be in the Green Room at least one (1) hour before Masquerade time to be pre-judged and assigned a place in line. If you have a re-creation costume, bring any supporting photos, illustrations text passages, models, or other reference materials with you for judges to examine. Please remember to EAT before pre-judging!!!

It is possible that latecomers may not be allowed to participate, even if they have registered by turning in a sign-up sheet.

The Green Room will be secured while the Masquerade is taking place. Only identified contestants or their parents will have access to the Green Room in that time period.

ConGregarate reserves the right to remove anyone from the contest at any time for any reason, including but not limited to: indecent costume, unprofessional conduct, tardiness, and disruption of the contest.

Participants must stay within the contest area (the Masquerade room, Green Room, or designated meeting area) until judging is completed and awards are presented.

## EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

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### **Quick Write (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 8:00pm**

Come watch as 6 (six) guests try to create an improv story given the most ridiculous scenarios.

Panelists: Tony Ruggiero (mod), Davey Beauchamp, Alexandra Christian, Marcia Colette, Emily Lavin Leverett, Tedd Roberts, Stephen J. Simmons

### **Awards**

**Saturday, July 12 – Hearn C/D – 8:30pm**

While the judges debate, hang around to hear the winners of the Cornerstone and Manley Wade Wellman Awards.

**The Cornerstone Award** is an annual honor presented by a group of fans from the Carolinas known as the Singularity Effect, dedicated to acknowledging other fans' contributions. To be eligible for the award, the fan must have been involved in promoting/helping fandom in the Carolinas (North and/or South) in some way for at least ten years.

The award is named after a brick that was saved during the demolition of a High Point, NC hotel that hosted multiple conventions over a number of years.

**The Manley Wade Wellman Award** for Science Fiction and Fantasy was founded in December 2013 to recognize outstanding achievement in science fiction and fantasy novels written by North Carolina authors. The 2014 award, voted on by the combined membership of North Carolina science fiction and fantasy conventions (illogiCon, ConCarolinas, ConTemporal, and ConGregarate), will cover novels published in 2013. Nominations will open at illogiCon in January ahead of a final voting round, with the award being presented at ConGregarate in July.

The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate.

Panelists: James Fulbright, Sam Montgomery-Blinn, Rich Sigfrit

### **Concert: Danny Birt**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 9:00pm**

Enjoy the musical stylings of Danny Birt

### **What's New in Podcasting (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem -9:00pm**

Podcasts are a unique way to reach an audience. What's new in the podcasting world? What geeky podcasts are out there and why should we listen to them?

Panelists: Rhonda Ogelsby (mod), Tricia Barr, Chuck Carte, Doc Geressy

### **Charity Auction**

**Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 9:00pm**

We will hold a charity auction on Saturday night of the con. Proceeds from the auctions will benefit Wake Forest Baptist Health Brenner Children's Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC. Brenner Children's Hospital, the pediatric arm of the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, is ranked among the best children's hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

Auction Rules may be found on pg 31.

Hosts: Podcasting's Rich Sigfrit, Angela Pritchett

### **Geek Trivia (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 9:30pm**

Join our guests Steve Long and Drew Meyer as they challenge you with Geeky Trivia.

Panelists: Steven S. Long, Drew Meyer

### **Paranormal: Truth or Fiction (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 10:00pm**

Our paranormal guests address the challenges of working in a field where most don't believe. What is it about the paranormal that draws them to seek out haunted mansions and other dark places?

Panelists: Tally Johnson (mod), Theresa Bane, Chuck Carte, Pamela K. Kinney, Cheralyn Lambeth, Randy Richards

### **Will Star Wars be the Next Marvel? (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 10:00pm**

With the news that Disney will create not two, as originally reported, but three spin off movies for Star Wars, it's looking a lot like they plan to capitalize on Star Wars, much like they have with *The Avengers* franchise. Our panelists will discuss what types of stories they would like to see, and which characters they think should be highlighted.

Panelist: Tricia Barr (mod), Tony Finkelstein, Tom Hutchens

### **And so there I was... (AP)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 10:30pm**

Panelists and audience members take turns telling us all the implausible/bizarre/youthful folly things they've done or seen happen.

Panelists: Ron Garner, Janine Spendlove

### Auction Rules

1. Anyone attending the convention is welcome to bid in the auction, but you must have a badge on to register at the auction. Please register for a bidder number before the auction begins.
2. To make a bid: Raise your hand, jump up and down, or shout your bid if necessary! The auctioneer will make every attempt to see all bids, but he is not perfect. Active participation by the bidder helps!
3. Bids will only be accepted in whole US dollar amounts.
4. If you are not bidding, please be silent (to a reasonable degree).
5. Only request to see an item closer if you really intend to bid, since this slows down the auction.
6. A bid acknowledged by the auctioneer is a legal contract to purchase the item.
7. The highest bid acknowledged by the auctioneer is the winner. In the event of a dispute between bidders, the auctioneer shall have sole and final discretion either to determine the successful bidder or to re-offer the item in dispute.
8. When you make a successful bid on an item, please call out your bidder number so it can be recorded. You may pay for an item as the bidding for that item ends, or items will be held until the end of the auction session, when all winnings must be paid for. Purchased items need to be removed as soon as payment has been made. Acceptable methods of payment will be announced at the start of the auction.
9. CAVEAT EMPTOR ("Let the Buyer Beware!"). Although the auctioneer will make every attempt to describe all items correctly, every item is sold "as is." The convention is not responsible for, nor can we guarantee condition, authenticity, completeness, etc. of any item.

**Proceeds from the charity auction will go to benefit:**



[www.brennerchildrens.org](http://www.brennerchildrens.org)

### I'm Friends With the Monster Under My Bed (ET)

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 10:00pm**

Panelists will talk about the scary tales which monsters star in. How is the monster written, and are today's monster tales far from those made up and told around a campfire by the village storyteller in the past? Are today's monsters becoming tame from all the stories about them, or are they getting more frightening?

Panelists: Pamela K. Kinney (mod), Gail Z. Martin, Stephen Mark Rainey, Tony Ruggiero

### SUNDAY

*You will find two types of events listed, Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.*

### Interstellar Travel (ET)

**Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 9:00am**

More than 1000 exoplanets have been discovered, some of which may be similar to Earth. Many are now asking, "How do we get there?" Though the distances are vast, there are methods that may allow humanity to one day go to the stars – and they are within the known laws of physics. (No warp drive required!) Following a talk by Les Johnson on exoplanets research, we will explore methods that may one day allow humanity to become an interstellar species.

Panelists: Les Johnson

### Subverting the Trope (ET)

**Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 9:00am**

How do you go about finding a unique way to approach a common trope/theme/type of character. How do you write about vampires or alien invasions or zombies or a governess in a scary mansion and make it different from all the other stories with similar starting points?

Panelists: Tony Ruggiero (mod), Larry Correia, Stuart Jaffe, Paula S. Jordan, Rhonda Ogelsby

### Non-denominational Prayer Service

**Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 9:00am**

This open to all event will be led by Gray Rinehart and Fans for Christ.

Panelists: Gray Rinehart, Fans for Christ



## EVENTS DESCRIPTIONS

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### **Magical Words Seminar: Live Action Slush Pile**

**Sunday, July 13 - Piedmont - 9:00am**

Here's how this works: submit the first page of a story or book. One page only. The Magical Words crew then has their reader read each one out loud, and as he reads they listen until they hear something that would make them stop reading if they were editors. At that point, they put up a hand. When all three have hands up, the reader stops reading and there is a discussion of what was heard. People can own up to their samples or keep them anonymous.

Panelists: David B. Coe, A. J. Hartley, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey

### **Concert: Gray Rinehart**

**Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 10:00am**

Gray Rinehart entertains.

### **Social Media/Marketing for Authors/Artists/others (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 10:00am**

Twitter. Facebook. Instagram. How does social media help an author market themselves and their work? How do you do it without going overboard or burning out?

Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (mod), Nicole Givens Kurtz, Jennifer McCollom, Randy Richards, Sharon Stogner

### **The Rise of the Superhero (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 10:00am**

Superheroes rise in tough times. More than 70 years ago, the very first superheroes debuted in the dire times of the Great Depression and the early years of World War II. Their names became legend -- Superman, Batman, Captain America -- and they're still with us today. Why are superheroes in film/TV/comics gaining again in popularity?

Panelists: Edmund Schubert (mod), Tony Finkelstein, Steven S. Long, James Maxey, Drew Meyer

### **Allen Wold's Workshop Recap**

**Sunday, July 13 - Piedmont - 10:00am**

Participants return to share their work.

Panelists: Allen Wold (mod), Diana Bastine, Stephen Mark Rainey, Darcy Wold

### **Concert: The Blibbering Humdingers**

**Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 11:00am**

The Blibbering Humdingers perform.

### **Roar! Athena's Daughters (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 11:00am**

Silence in the Library's Kickstarter for *Athena's Daughters* (AD) funded at over 500%. AD was created entirely around the concept of providing a platform by which female authors, artists, graphic designers, and editors could showcase their incredible talents.

Panelists: Ron Garner (mod), Maggie Allen, Tricia Barr, Gail Z. Martin, Janine K. Spendlove

### **Sports Geeks (AP)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 11:00am**

Geeks dress up in costumes and no one blinks an eye. But wear a Panther's Jersey or a Braves cap to a con and people look at you funny. This open forum is a place for Sports fans who also happen to be Geeks to talk a little sports. How's your baseball team doing? After the draft, how does your football team look?

Panelists: James Fulbright (mod), Laura Haywood-Cory, Cheralyn Lambeth, Edmund Schubert

### **Magical Words Workshop – Part 2**

**Sunday, July 13 - Piedmont - 11:00am**

This is part 2 of an intensive two-day seminar offering detailed, specific feedback on the first 2500 words of your manuscript by three published authors. Critique sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday of the convention. Participants are expected to attend both sessions.

This session is **SOLD OUT**.

Panelists: David B. Coe, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey

### **Concert: White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 12:00pm**

White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar) entertains.

### **Business of Being an Artist (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 12:00pm**

Many artists fear making money from their art means they have to compromise their artistic integrity, or "sell out." But it doesn't have to be this way. This panel will talk about the things artists have learned in the real world from budgeting to making money doing what you love.

Panelists: Matthew Penick (mod), Allegra Liana, Jennifer McCollom, Mark Poole, Scott Rorie

### **World Building with Steven S. Long (AP)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 12:00pm**

Game Designer and Author Steven S. Long takes the audience through building a world.

Panelists: Steven S. Long

### **Fairies, Vampires & Other Mythological Creatures (ET)**

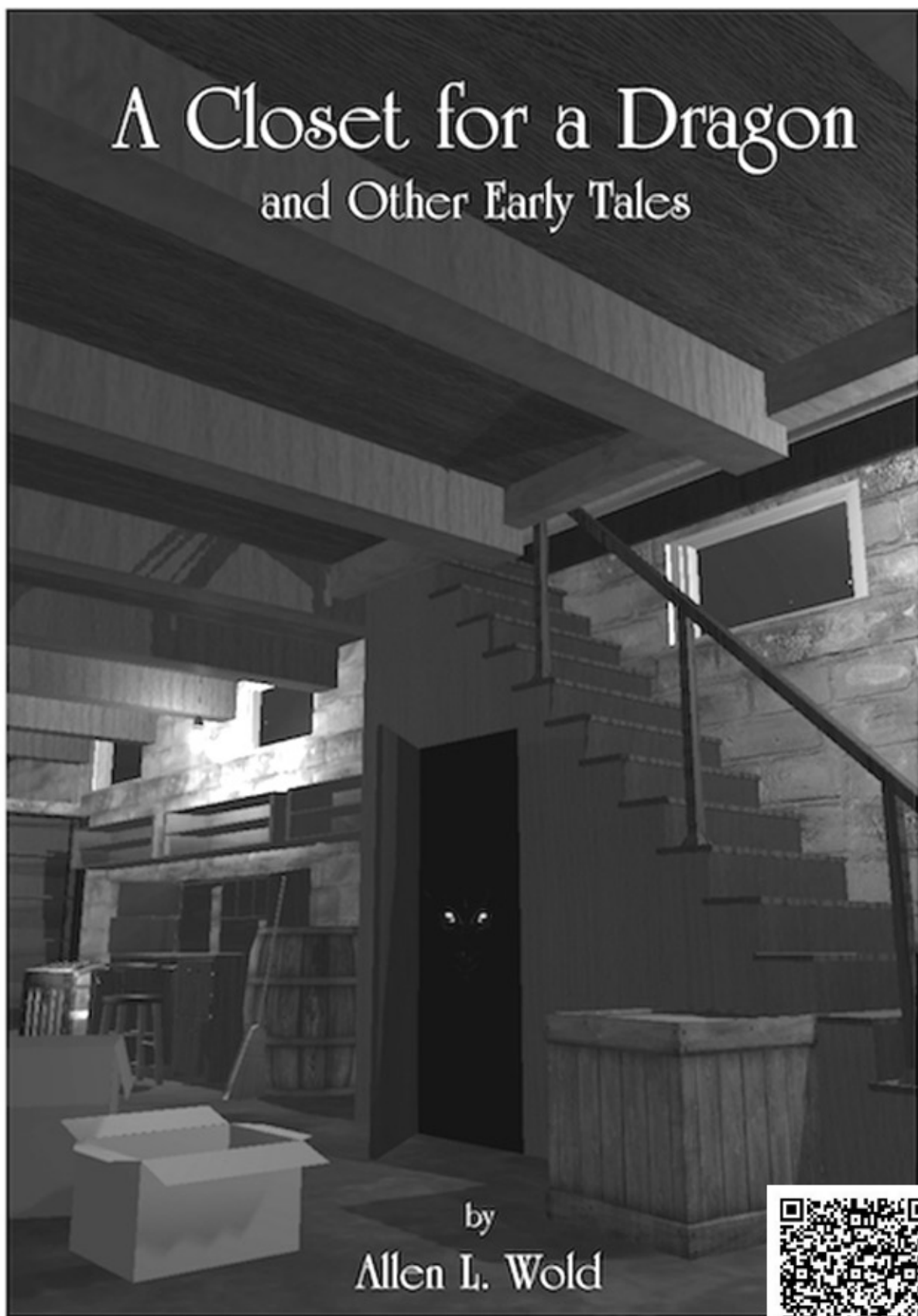
**Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 1:00pm**

Fantasy is replete with examples of fairies, vampires and other creatures of myth. Where do the myths come from and how are they translated in fantasy? What are some examples of rarer mythological creatures that aren't seen as often?

Panelists: Diana Bastine (mod), Theresa Bane, Alexandra Christian, John Hartness, Emily Lavin Leverett

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### **Imperial March (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 1:00pm**

Why are they always Galactic Empires? Why not republics, democracies and confederacies? Why do we assume that the future government is going to be some autocracy from the past? Is the Galactic Empire more romantic or just easier to write?

Panelists: Tricia Barr (mod), Stuart Jaffe, Stephen J. Simmons, Travis Surber

### **Managing Your Finances as a Writer (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 1:00pm**

So you got your first check for being published. What do you do with it? How do you account for it come tax season? What about expenses? Does going to cons count? Our panelists talk about how to manage the income and expenses related to being an author.

Panelists: Gray Rinehart (mod), Glenda C. Finkelstein, Pamela K. Kinney

### **Allen Wold's Plotting Workshop**

**Sunday, July 13 - Piedmont - 1:00pm**

Allen's plotting workshop takes you through the elements of plot. What is it? How do you do it? And how does it interact with other aspects of writing such as a character and dialogue?

Attendance is limited. You will need to sign up at Registration.

Panelists: Allen Wold

### **MHI Employee Handbook Charity Game**

**Sunday, July 13 - Reynolda - 1:00pm**

HERO System Game designer, Steven S. Long will be running a session of Monster Hunter International Employees Handbook and Roleplaying Game on Sunday afternoon of the con. We will be auctioning off 4 seats in the game during our Saturday night charity auction. The fifth and final seat will be occupied by MHI creator, Larry Correia! (Not open for an audience)

### **ConGregarate: A New Venture (AP)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 2:00pm**

ConGregarate is a still a baby in terms of conventions. Like every con, it will have its traditions. What are some things you would like to see become tradition at ConGregarate?

Panelists: Tera Fulbright

### **I Hate Zombies but What if... (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 2:00pm**

Zombies are incredibly popular in literature and media. But how would we react in the real world? What could cause a "true" zombie outbreak? How could we defend/inoculate ourselves from it?

Panelists: Tedd Roberts (mod), Chuck Carte, Doc Geressy, Podcasting's Rich Sigfrit, Cathe Smith

### **Mecha Samurai and Steampunk Camels (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 2:00pm**

Is it still steampunk if it's not in London? Exploring non-British landscapes in steampunk worlds. Are there sub-genres? Diesel Punk, Gaslight, paranormal? Does it even have to be in the Victorian age?

Panelists: Misty Massey (mod), Stuart Jaffe, Angela Pritchett, Travis Surber

### **Con in Review (AP)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 3:00pm**

The con is almost over. Take a few minutes before you leave and tell us...what worked? What didn't? We will also have a suggestion box in the room if you would like to leave ideas for guests or panel topics for future cons.

Panelists: James Fulbright

### **Flash Topic (or it's late on Sunday!) (AP)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 3:00pm**

It's Sunday. It's late. Our remaining brave panelists will talk about whatever topics you (the audience) throw at them.

Panelists: Randy Richards (mod), Glenda C. Finkelstein, Tony Finkelstein, Sharon Stogner

### **Generations in Fandom: How Do We Connect (ET)**

**Sunday, July - Salem - 13 2:00pm**

There is a lot of discussion right now about the differences within fandom. In modern work environments, we talk about the changes that Baby Boomers, Gen X and Millennials must face when working together. How can con runners and fan groups reach out to the different generations and invite them to play?

Panelists: Toni Weisskopf (mod), Mikki Stith



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# CONCAROLINAS

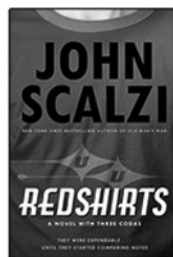
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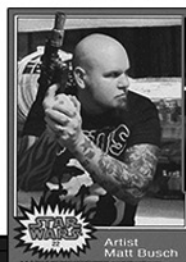
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Author Guest of Honor - John Scalzi



Artists Guests of Honor - Matt Busch & Lin Zy

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# READINGS AND SIGNINGS

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## Readings

### Friday, July 11

4:00pm (Piedmont) – Faith Hunter  
4:30pm (Piedmont) – Misty Massey  
5:00pm (Piedmont) – Stuart Jaffe  
5:30pm (Piedmont) – Ask a Neuroscientist: Tedd Roberts  
8:00pm (Reynolda) – David B. Coe  
8:30pm (Reynolda) – A.J. Hartley  
9:00pm (Reynolda) – Paula S. Jordan  
9:30pm (Reynolda) – Les Johnson  
10:00pm (Reynolda) – Cheralyn Lambeth  
10:30pm (Reynolda) – Pamela K. Kinney  
11:00pm (Reynolda) – Marcia Collette & Alexandra Christian

### Saturday, July 12

9:00pm (Reynolda) – Randy Richards  
9:30pm (Reynolda) – Nicole Givens Kurtz  
10:00pm (Reynolda) – Stephen Mark Rainey  
10:30pm (Reynolda) – Tony Ruggiero  
11:00pm (Reynolda) – Ghost Stories with Tally Johnson

### Sunday, July 13

9:30am (Reynolda) – Gail Z. Martin  
10:00am (Reynolda) – Danny Birt  
10:30am (Reynolda) – Tricia Barr  
11:00am (Reynolda) – Q&A: Mandolorian Mercs  
11:30am (Reynolda) – James Maxey  
12:00pm (Reynolda) – Maggie Allen  
12:30pm (Reynolda) – Janine K. Spendlove

## Signings

*All signings are located in the Dealers' Room*

### Friday, July 11

4:00pm – A.J. Hartley/John Hartness  
5:00pm – Les Johnson/Ron Garner  
6:00pm – Pamela K. Kinney/Gail Z. Martin

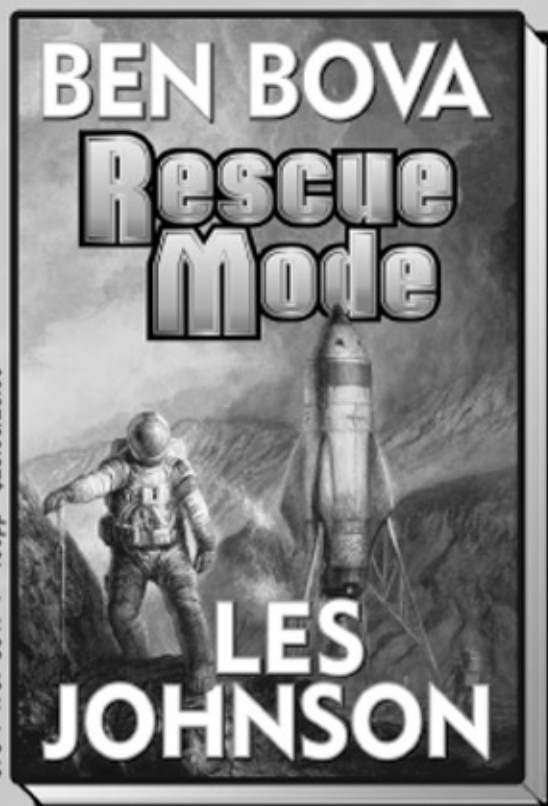
### Saturday, July 12

10:00am – Larry Correia  
11:00am – Pamela K. Kinney/Tricia Barr  
12:00pm – Tony Ruggiero/Les Johnson  
1:00pm – Gail Z. Martin/Ron Garner  
2:00pm – Stuart Jaffe/Cheralyn Lambeth  
4:00pm – AJ Hartley/Tricia Barr  
5:00pm – James Maxey/John Hartness

### Sunday, July 13

10:00am – Maggie Allen/Janine K. Spendlove  
11:00am – Larry Correia  
12:00pm – Stuart Jaffe/Tony Ruggiero  
1:00pm – Cheralyn Lambeth/Jame Maxey

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## Scoundrels and Rogues



### Featured Guests



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*Writer GoH*



**Michael Stackpole**  
*Writer GoH*



**Albin Johnson**  
*Fan GoH*



**Scott Rorie**  
*Special Artist Guest*

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