

## WCYA Alumni Mini-Residency Testimonials:

Lisa Doan – “Alums who don’t come the Mini-Rez are nuts. I found the two editors I’ve worked with at the AMR.”

Lindsey Lane - “Even though I already had an agent, one of the agents at AMR expressed an interest in the manuscript I read from. I loved knowing that they’re really listening and it feels so good when they say something lovely to you.”

Mauren Hourihan – “Here are a few lines, though in truth, I could write a book on what AMR has meant to me. Contrary to popular belief, I am actually somewhat shy. I’m thrilled to say that I found my agent, Erzsi Deak, at the AMR.”

Debbie Gonzales – “I had a manuscript critique with agent Rubin Pfeffer at the AMR. He asked if he could pass my manuscript on to his colleague, Melissa Nasson, who is now my agent. Soon thereafter, she sold a manuscript that was actually part of my creative thesis! I’ll be published now because of the AMR.”

Katherine Quimby – “The workshop feedback I received during the 2015 AMR helped tremendously as I was feeling my way into my first new project since graduation.”

Melanie Fishbane – “For me, the AMR is about reconnecting and reaffirming myself as a writer and see old friends. It is also a great opportunity to connect with people in the industry.”

Helen Pyne – “I really enjoyed the Alumni mini rez this year and every year that I've gone. The agent whose critique I bought last summer LOVED my first 100 pages and wants the rest of my soon to be finished novel. I always learn so much every year from the speakers and the participants that I will keep coming back.”

Joyce Ray – “Besides loving the camaraderie with fellow alums and just drinking in the atmosphere of our beloved campus, I have benefited from the AMRs, as evidenced by the fact that I return! The high level of critique I receive from alums is paramount. It goes deep into the core of my manuscript, asking questions that force me to examine themes and question the actions of my characters. In addition, preparing my critiques of others' manuscripts offers me the opportunity to learn from their writing. It's all because of the high bar set by VCFA!”

Amy Emm – “In response to your request, I was thinking about how I just love coming back to campus to be reminded of where it all started. Yes I get professional leads and help but I also get so much more - a chance to visit Montpelier, reconnect with old friends and meet newer grads, and just a chance to participate in the ongoing learning process (attending lectures and readings) - I like to feel that I'm back in school once again (I even love staying in the dorm!!).”

Bethany Dellinger – “I arrived as a harried homeschooling mother of 4 children, not sure I even belonged at AMR ten years after graduation and still no sale. But Rubin greeted me even before I introduced myself and said he was looking forward to our one-on-one meeting the following day. At best, I hoped for an honest critique from such a seasoned veteran of the industry, but I walked away with an invitation to submit my YA novel to his associate, Melissa Nasson, even though the rewrite was unfinished. Two months later I signed with Melissa. I couldn’t be more pleased to have Rubin Pfeffer Content as my advocate and ally.”

Jeff Schill – “AMR has been instrumental in helping me to understand the intricacies of the publishing world and has given me the opportunity to message my work and writing in a respectful and meaningful way to agents and publishers.”