

MFA in Writing – Vermont College of Fine Arts

SAMPLE RESIDENCY SCHEDULE Winter 2017

Wednesday		December 28
12:00-8:00pm	WELCOME! NEW STUDENTS Arrive and Check-In. Hospitality Office is located on the first floor of Dewey Hall.	<i>Dewey Hall Hospitality Office</i>
5:30-7:00pm	Dinner.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
6:15pm	Meeting for Graduate Assistants with MFA Program Staff.	<i>South Gallery-College Hall</i>
7:30pm	Welcome meeting for new students with Melissa Hammerle, Program Director and Jericho Parmis, Associate Director, and Graduate Assistants.	<i>College Hall Gallery</i>
8:30pm	Faculty Gathering.	<i>Crowley Center</i>
Thursday		December 29
7:30-8:30am	Breakfast.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
8:45am	Program Orientation for ALL new students with MFA Program Staff.	<i>College Hall Gallery</i>
10:00am	All Faculty Meeting	<i>Noble Reading Room</i>
10:00-4:00pm	Returning Students Arrival. Check-in at Dewey Hospitality Office.	<i>Dewey Hall</i>
10:00-10:45am	New students meet Graduate Assistants for campus tour and Q&A.	<i>Gallery</i>
12:00-1:00pm	Faculty/Student Lunch. New students and faculty are invited to eat together. Look for your names on designated tables.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
1:30pm	Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting	<i>Noble Reading Room</i>
1:15-1:45pm	Library Orientation Session for new students A-M. Another session is scheduled for December 31 N-Z.	<i>VCFA Library</i>
2:00-2:45pm	Critical Writing Discussion - Led by faculty members Sue Silverman and Tomás Morín. New students encouraged to attend. All students welcome.	<i>Gallery</i>
3:00-3:20pm	WELCOME Orientation with ALL STUDENTS & FACULTY	<i>College Hall Chapel</i>
3:20-4:15pm	Academic Planning Sessions 1) New Students... <i>Gallery</i> 2) Second Semester Students... <i>Noble Reading Room</i> 3) Third Semester Students... <i>College Hall 208</i> 4) Fourth Semester Students... <i>Dewey Lounge</i> 5) Graduates... <i>Noble Lounge</i>	

4:30-5:30pm	FACULTY LECTURE: Leslie Ullman, “Discourse: Debate/Civility/Perspective...”	<i>College Hall Gallery</i>
5:00-7:00pm	Do you have everything you need to be comfortable? Stop by the Hospitality Office (First Floor of Dewey) during this time if you have hospitality needs. You can also drop off dorm requests at the Hospitality Office (box on door) or by email hospitality@vcfa.edu .	<i>Dewey Hospitality Office</i>
5:30-6:45pm	Dinner.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
6:45-7:00pm	Semester Review Sign-up.	<i>Gallery</i>
7:00pm	Meeting for all graduating students	<i>Dewey Lounge</i>
7:00-7:45pm	Student Reading Sign-up	<i>College Hall 208</i>
8:00-8:45pm	FACULTY READING: Sue Silverman, creative nonfiction writer; T. Geronimo Johnson, fiction writer; Barbara Hurd, creative nonfiction writer; David Wojahn, poet.	<i>College Hall Chapel</i>
9:00-9:45pm	Writing in a Time of Turbulence: Led by Faculty Chair Ellen Lesser and Program Director Melissa Hammerle. These past months we have witnessed a particularly discordant and divisive election. As an engaged community, we recognize the very real ways this changing political landscape has left some among us feeling threatened. As a democratic community, we seek to respect our disparate perspectives. As a writing community, we will consider how we each find—and use—our voices in an era of discord, using Toni Morrison’s words as a guide: “This is precisely the time when artists go to work...We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal...Chaos contains information that can lead to knowledge—even wisdom. Like art.”	<i>College Hall Chapel</i>

Friday

December 30

7:30-8:30am	Breakfast.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
8:30-9:45am	FACULTY LECTURE: Bret Lott & Richard Jackson, “The Biblical Influence”	<i>Gallery</i>
10:00-11:00am	Faculty Interviews (1st and 2nd semester students only). Poetry: Noble Lounge; Prose: Noble Reading Room & Conference Room.	<i>Noble Hall</i>
9:45-10:15am	THIS RESIDENCY GRADUATING STUDENTS meet in the Library for a celebration of VCFA’s newest alumni with your alumni affairs director; gifts and refreshments.	<i>Library</i>
10:30-11:00am	THIS RESIDENCY GRADUATING STUDENTS meet IT/Media Coordinator Justin Tosh to review lecture tech needs.	<i>Gallery</i>
9:45am	JULY 2017 GRADUATES meet with Jericho Parns and Melissa Hammerle.	<i>Chapel</i>
11:15-12:00pm	FACULTY READING: Brian Leung, fiction writer; Leslie Ullman, poet; Douglas Glover, fiction/creative nonfiction writer.	<i>Chapel</i>
11:45-1:00pm	Lunch.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
1:15-3:45pm	WORKSHOPS.	<i>Locations-page 1</i>
4:00-5:00pm	FACULTY LECTURES: Clint McCown, “What’s the Sentence?”	<i>Gallery</i>

5:15pm	GROUP PHOTO: GRADUATING STUDENTS & FACULTY	<i>Chapel</i>
5:15-5:45pm	Dual-Genre/Cross Discipline/Translation Studies Meeting: Optional meeting for those interested in or pursuing a dual-genre or translation concentration or considering a cross-discipline semester.	<i>College Hall 208</i>
5:00-7:00pm	Do you have everything you need to be comfortable? Check in with Hospitality regarding any hospitality-related requests.	<i>Dewey Hospitality Offi</i>
5:30-6:45pm	Dinner.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
6:15-7:00pm	Diversity Student Caucus Orientation Meeting: The Writing Program is hosting an informal gathering for diversity students, along with supportive and interested allies, to meet with each other and with members of the faculty. VCFA's understanding of diversity honors characteristics of personal identity that include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, religion, social class, and physical and neurocognitive differences. (Either eat before or bring trays or take-out containers from cafeteria to Dewey Lounge.)	<i>Dewey Lounge</i>
7:15-8:15pm	FACULTY READING: Cynthia Huntington, creative nonfiction writer/poet; David Jauss, fiction writer; Tomás Morín, poet; Harrison Candelaria Fletcher, creative nonfiction writer.	<i>Chapel</i>
8:30pm	STUDENT READINGS.	<i>Noble Lounge</i>

Saturday**December 31**

7:30-8:30am	Breakfast.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
8:30-9:45am	Faculty Interviews (3rd and 4th / 5th semester students only). Poetry: Noble Lounge; Prose: Noble Reading Room & Conference Room.	<i>Noble Hall</i>
8:30-9:15am	Library Orientation Session for new students N-Z.	<i>Library</i>
9:15-9:50am	MEETING FOR NEW STUDENTS with IT Director Peter Timpone to learn about The Commons site (for all student information, forms, resources, etc.)	<i>Library</i>
9:00am	<u>THIS RESIDENCY'S GRADUATING</u> students meet with Melissa Hammerle & Jericho Parmis	<i>Chapel</i>
10:00-11:00am	FACULTY LECTURE: Brian Leung, "The World's Most Boring Lecture on Revision"	<i>Gallery</i>
11:15-12:00pm	GRADUATE LECTURES: Dale Smith, "The Hero's Journey...Mythic Structure..." Katie Quach, "Humor Amid Tragedy..."	<i>Gallery</i> <i>Noble Lounge</i>
11:15-12:00pm	GRADUATE ASSISTANT SESSION (with Anu Amaran, Denise Evans-Durkin, Domenic Scopa): THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC-POLITICAL MUSE: A GENERATIVE SESSION FOR POETS: Take that frustration and turn it into fuel for your writing. This session will offer an opportunity to generate new work and to engage with one another in discussion of American poets whose writing reflects a deep compassion,	<i>Noble Reading Room</i>

self-perception, and elucidation of moral awareness. We will look at poems by Gwendolyn Brooks, Mari Evans, Alice Walker, Yusef Komunyakaa, and current U.S. poet laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera.

11:45-1:00pm	Lunch.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
1:15-3:30pm	WORKSHOPS.	<i>Locations-See Page 1</i>
3:45-4:45pm	FACULTY LECTURE: Trinie Dalton, “Mythic Sites”	<i>Gallery</i>
5:00-5:45pm	FACULTY GROUP READING: Ellen Lesser, fiction writer; Jacquelyn Mitchard, fiction/creative nonfiction writer; Betsy Sholl, poet; Robert Vivian, fiction/creative nonfiction writer; Martha Southgate, fiction writer.	<i>Chapel</i>
5:30-6:45pm	Dinner.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
7:00-8:00pm	READING: Matthew Dickman, poetry faculty; Xu Xi, Distinguished Visiting Faculty/Fiction.	<i>Chapel</i>
8:15-10:00pm	<p>**AUCTION: With auctioneers Matthew Dickman, Bret Lott & Ellen Lesser**</p> <p>Join us at the legendary annual New Year’s Eve Writing Auction, featuring fabulous items for every budget. Get a thrill by bidding on treasures like a literary getaway to Martha’s Vineyard, rare books, handmade jewelry, vintage collectibles, artisan liquors, crafts and edibles from near and far, local gift certificates and much more. Even if you have zero to spend, this is great entertainment. The live auction will be accompanied by a silent one, with lots of even more affordable finds. All proceeds go to the VCFA Artists’ Development Fund, which helps support student scholarships. All payment methods accepted, at the auction or the day after. Beverages and snacks provided.</p> <p>Reminder: No “outside” alcohol allowed into College Hall. Beverages purchased in Café Anna can be taken into the Gallery for special events but NOT outside of the building.</p>	<i>Gallery</i>
10:00pm-1:00am	NEW YEAR’S EVE DANCE PARTY.	<i>Café Anna</i>

Sunday

January 1

8:00-9:00am	Breakfast.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
9:00-10:00am	FACULTY LECTURE: Abby Frucht, “...Ad Lib Writing Exercise Marathon Session”	<i>Gallery</i>
10:15-11:00am	GRADUATE LECTURES: Andre Okoreeh, “Who Writes Better? Men or Women?”	<i>Gallery</i>
	Letitia Cain, “Poetic Hoaxes...”	<i>Noble Lounge</i>
11:15-12:15pm	FACULTY LECTURES: Connie May Fowler, “Revision, Forgiveness...”	<i>Gallery</i>
	David Wojahn, “...Poets Writing History”	<i>Noble Lounge</i>
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch – SANDWICH BUFFET!	<i>Noble Conference Room</i>

1:10pm	MEETING WITH ALL NEW STUDENTS about faculty assignment process and residency check-in.	<i>Dewey Lounge</i>
1:30-2:30pm	PRESENTATION BY DISTINGUISHED VISITING FICTION FACULTY XU XI - THE FUTURE OF THE NOVEL as we ponder the rise of China, the decline of Europe, the state of democracy and nationalism in the world today and the global linguistic reality that connects our planet's citizenry in this age of artificially wrought intelligence and consciousness.	<i>Gallery</i>
<u>FACULTY PREFERENCE FORMS DUE IN MFA OFFICE BY 2:30PM</u> <u>DON'T BE LATE!</u>		
2:45-3:30pm	GRADUATE LECTURES: Gayle Baldwin, "Workshop: Where Daddy Hid..." Deb Scarfo, "Messages from the Soul..."	<i>Noble Reading Room</i> <i>Gallery</i>
3:45-4:30pm	GRADUATE LECTURE: Jenna London, "How to Manage the Emotional Inferno..."	<i>Gallery</i>
4:45-5:30pm	GRADUATE READING: Catie Hannigan, poet; Amy Braun, fiction writer.	<i>Gallery</i>
5:30-6:45pm	Dinner.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
6:30pm	ALL FACULTY: Advisor Assignment Meeting	<i>Crowley Center</i>
7:00-8:15pm	GRADUATE READING: John King, creative nonfiction writer; Lizzy Fox, poet; Nikki Boss, fiction writer.	<i>Gallery</i>
8:45-9:30pm	VIDEO: Maggie Nelson Reading THE ARGONAUTS (see description page 4)	<i>Noble Lounge</i>
Monday		January 2
7:30-8:30am	Breakfast.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
8:45-9:30am	GRADUATE LECTURES: Rachel Hayes, "Freaking Out: How it Hurt My Writing..." Natalie Byers, "Anne Carson's <i>Nox</i> and the Poetics of Multimedia Documentary"	<i>Gallery</i> <i>Noble Lounge</i>
9:45-11:00am	THE ARGONAUTS DISCUSSION GROUPS (see description page 4)	<i>College Hall 206, 208, and Gallery</i>
11:15-12:00am	GROUP CONFERENCES WITH ADVISORS in faculty offices.	<i>Locations – See Page 1</i>
11:45-1:00pm	Lunch.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
12:15-1:00pm	OPEN MEETING: Interested students are invited to talk informally with Program Director Melissa Hammerle, Faculty Chair Ellen Lesser, Faculty Advisory Committee members, Academic Dean Matthew Monk and President Tom Greene about VCFA and the Writing Program.	<i>Dewey Lounge (bring ta out lunch if you'd like)</i>
1:15-3:30pm	WORKSHOPS.	<i>Locations-page 1</i>

3:45-4:30pm	GRADUATE LECTURES: Jennifer L. Thornburg, “...Reflective Voice in Memoir” Karen Cygnarowicz, “Inspired: Everything is Material”	<i>Gallery</i> <i>Noble Lounge</i>
4:45-5:45pm	ALUMNA READING/Q&A: Jericho Parms, Creative Nonfiction Writer.	<i>Gallery</i>
5:30-6:45pm	Dinner.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
7:15-8:30pm	GRADUATE READING: Deb Scarfo, fiction writer; Letitia Cain, poet; Dale Smith, fiction writer.	<i>Gallery</i>
8:45pm	GRADUATE ASSISTANT READING: Erika Anderson, creative nonfiction writer; Anu Amaran, poet; Chanel Dubofsky, fiction writer; Denise Evans Durkin, poet; Zara Lisbon, fiction writer; Jodi Paloni, fiction writer; John Proctor, creative nonfiction writer; Domenic Scopa, poet; Kate Tagai, creative nonfiction writer; Ben Woodard, fiction writer.	<i>Gallery</i>

Tuesday

January 3

7:30-8:30am	Breakfast.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
8:45-9:30am	GRADUATE LECTURES: Nikki Boss, “#Microfictionmatters” Megan Vered Thygeson, “Literature of Loss...”	<i>Gallery</i> <i>Noble Lounge</i>
9:45-10:30am	GRADUATE LECTURES: Sammi LaBue, “...Fear to Create and How to Take Action” Lizzy Fox, “Writing No Matter What: Ontological Tools...”	<i>Gallery</i> <i>Noble Lounge</i>
10:45-11:45am	FACULTY LECTURES: Jacquelyn Mitchard, “The Titlest...” Matthew Dickman, “...Poems, and Being an Expectant Father”	<i>Gallery</i> <i>Noble Lounge</i>
11:45-1:00pm	Lunch.	<i>Dewey Café</i>
11:45-1:00pm	<i>ALL FACULTY: Lunch with Program Director Melissa Hammerle. (Lunch will be served.)</i>	<i>Noble Landing Lounge</i>
1:15-2:00pm	GRADUATE LECTURES: Janet Skiff, “Navigating a Rough Route to the MFA” Erin Lillo, “...Character Thought in First-Person Novels”	<i>Gallery</i> <i>Noble Lounge</i>
2:15-3:30pm	GRADUATE READING: Andre Okoreeh, fiction writer; Karen Cygnarowicz, poet; Jenna London, creative nonfiction writer.	<i>Gallery</i>
3:45-4:30pm	SESSION ON OVERSEAS RESIDENCIES – on both SLOVENIA 2017 (faculty will be Richard Jackson, poet, and Bret Lott, prose writer); and PUERTO RICO 2018.	

		<i>Gallery</i>
4:45-5:30pm	GRADUATE LECTURES: Allison Hart, "Telling the Truth in Fiction & Nonfiction"	
	Catie Hannigan, "Experience is the Element..."	<i>Gallery</i>
5:30-6:45pm	Dinner.	<i>Noble Lounge</i>
		<i>Dewey Café</i>
7:15-8:15pm	READING: Kyle Dargan, visiting poet ; Bret Lott, fiction/creative nonfiction faculty.	
		<i>Chapel</i>
8:30pm	STUDENT READINGS.	
		<i>Noble Lounge</i>
9:30pm	TALENT SHOW. Come to participate or just to watch—you won't believe the talent we have here! Reminder: no "outside" alcohol allowed into College Hall; beverages purchased in Café Anna can be taken into the Gallery for special events – and NOT outside of the building.	
		<i>Gallery</i>
Wednesday January 4		
7:30-8:30am	Breakfast.	
		<i>Dewey Café</i>
8:45-9:30am	GRADUATE LECTURES: John King, "...Exploring Essay Arrangement"	<i>Gallery</i>
	Sam Gilpin, "...Poetically Man Dwells..."	<i>Noble Lounge</i>
9:45-10:45am	TALK: Visiting poet Kyle Dargan.	<i>Gallery</i>
11:00-12:00pm	TRANSLATION LECTURE: Visiting translator/poet/editor J. Kates. "Both Fair and Good: Sovereignty in Translation"	<i>Gallery</i>
11:45-1:00pm	Lunch.	
		<i>Dewey Café</i>
12:15-1:00pm	Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting	<i>College Hall 410</i>
1:15-3:30pm	WORKSHOPS.	
		<i>Locations- Page 1</i>
3:45-4:30pm	FACULTY GROUP READING: Patrick Madden, creative nonfiction writer; Abby Frucht, fiction writer; Richard Jackson, poet; Trinie Dalton, fiction writer.	<i>Chapel</i>
4:45-5:45pm	FACULTY LECTURES: T. Geronimo Johnson, "The Scenic Route"	
	Harrison Candelaria Fletcher, "...Habits of a Nonlinear	<i>Gallery</i>

Writer”

Noble Lounge

**Thursday
January 5**

7:30-8:30am

Breakfast.

Dewey Café

8:45-9:45am

FACULTY LECTURE: Douglas Glover, “Tick-Tock: The Art of Necessity”

Betsy Sholl, “Literary Portraits”

Noble Lounge

10:00-11:00am

TALK: Richard Michelson, **Visiting Alumni Poet**

Gallery

11:15-12:00pm

GRADUATE LECTURES: Amy Braun, “How Revision is Like a Haircut”

Gallery

11:45-1:00pm

Lunch.

Amber Rose Crowtree, “Trees in Poetry”

Noble Lounge

LGBTQ+ Meet and Greet

All who identify as LGBTQ, or as allies in support of the LGBTQ community, are invited to come together for lunch and conversation. This is a space to talk about any experiences that you’ve had as an LGBTQ+ person at VCFA, or simply to be visible as resources and allies to one another.

Dewey Café

1:00-1:45pm

STUDENT READINGS.

Noble Lounge

2:00-3:15pm

GRADUATE READING: Gayle Baldwin, fiction writer; Natalie Byers, poet; Katie Quach, creative nonfiction writer.

Gallery

3:30-4:15pm

ALL FACULTY MEETING – with President Tom Greene and Academic Dean Matthew Monk and Program Director Melissa Hammerle

Noble Reading Room

4:30-5:30pm

DISCUSSION (via Skype) WITH ARGONAUTS AUTHOR MAGGIE NELSON: See description on page 4.

Chapel

5:30-6:45pm

Dinner.

Dewey Café

7:00-8:15pm

GRADUATE READING: Jennifer L. Thornburg, creative nonfiction writer; Megan Vered Thygeson, creative nonfiction writer; Rachel Hayes, fiction writer.

Gallery

8:30pm

STUDENT READINGS.

Noble Lounge

9:30pm-
midnight

Graduation Party (following student readings). All faculty and students welcome!

Noble Conference Room

Friday
January 6

7:30-8:30am

Breakfast.

8:45-9:45am

FACULTY LECTURE: Bob Vivian, ...”Where Prose Turns to Poetry”

Gallery

10:00-11:00am

FACULTY LECTURE: Martha Southgate, “...What Fiction Writers Can Learn from *Hamilton* (and Other Musicals)”

11:15-12:00pm

GRADUATE READING: Sam Gilpin, poet; Erin Lillo, fiction writer/poet.

Gallery

11:45-1:00pm

Lunch.

Dewey Café

12:15-1:00pm

Words on the River: How to keep the VCFA residency experience alive:

Wondering what the heck you're going to do to keep the VCFA mojo going after residency? Join current student Whitney You in Dewey Lounge to hear about the River Pretty Writers Retreat started and run by VCFA alums. It's affordable, frequent, and fun. Bring your lunch (take-out containers available in cafeteria).

Dewey Lounge

1:15-3:30pm

WORKSHOPS.

Locations- page 1

3:45-4:45pm

PANEL ON TEACHING with faculty Barbara Hurd, Richard Jackson and Bob Vivian.

Gallery

5:00-5:45pm

GRADUATE LECTURES: Jason Brandt Schaefer, “Writing Toward Wonder...”

Bruce Wasserman, “...the Intersection of Poetry and Blues”

Noble Lounge

Gallery

5:45-6:45pm

Dinner. **1st SEMESTER STUDENTS:** optional over-dinner (bring trays or take-out containers from cafeteria) discussion with graduate assistants about “life after the residency”—and any yet-to-be-answered questions.

Dewey Café

Dewey Lounge

7:00-8:15pm

GRADUATE READING: Allison Hart, creative nonfiction writer; Amber Rose Crowtree, poet; Sammi LaBue, fiction writer.

Gallery

8:30pm

STUDENT READINGS.

Saturday

January 7

7:30-8:30am

Breakfast.

8:45-9:30am

LIFE AFTER THE MFA: After you graduate, how will you continue to grow and sustain yourself as a writer? Along with the other opportunities you might pursue, how can VCFA and the program community stay a part of that? Open discussion and Q&A with graduate assistants and faculty.

Gallery

9:45-12:00pm

WORKSHOPS.

Locations- page 1

11:45-1:00pm

Lunch.

Dewey Café

1:15-2:30pm

GRADUATE READING: Jason Brandt Schaefer, fiction writer; Bruce Arlen Wasserman, poet; Janet Skiff, creative nonfiction writer.

Noble Lounge

3:30pm

GRADUATION Celebration!

Reception following in the College Hall Gallery.

College Hall Chapel

5:30-6:45pm

Dinner.

Sunday January 8

7:30-8:30am

Breakfast.

Dewey Café

10:00am

Check-Out

SEE YOU THIS SUMMER!

June 26 – July 6, 2017 (Vermont); June 27-July 6, 2017 (Slovenia)