

Wolff Cottage Writers-in-Residence: 2025

January 2025

Margaret Snow



Margaret Ann Snow lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where she spends her days farming, mothering, reading, and writing. In 2004, along with her partner, David, she started Snow's Bend Farm. Both her farm work and her writing are inspired by a love of good food, a conviction to care for the land and people, the scientific aspects of farming, a passion for plants, and a wonderment of nature. Her work has previously been published in *Gravy* (Southern Foodways Alliance), *Gastronomica* (University of California), *Tributaries* (Alabama Folklife Association), and *Taproot*.

February 2025

Beth Shelburne



Beth Shelburne is an independent journalist and writer focused on issues of justice and injustice in the Deep South. In 2023, she released a critically-acclaimed podcast series called *Earwitness* that investigates the Alabama death row conviction of Toforest Johnson. She's reported extensively on the crisis in Alabama prisons and in 2018 was named a Writing for Justice Fellow with Pen America. Her work has appeared in publications throughout Alabama as well as *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Bitter Southerner*, and *Facing South*. Beth spent 20 years working as a TV news anchor and reporter. Her broadcast journalism has been recognized by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the National Edward R. Murrow Awards, and the Associated Press Media Editors Annual Awards. Beth lives with her husband and daughter in Birmingham.

March 2025

Tom Franklin



Tom Franklin was born and raised in Dickinson, Alabama. He held various jobs as a struggling writer living in South Alabama. In 1997 he received his MFA from the University of Arkansas. His first book, *Poachers*, was named as a Best First Book of Fiction by *Esquire*, and Franklin received a 1999 Edgar Award for the title story. Franklin has published two novels: *Hell at the Breech*, published in 2003, and *Smonk*, published in 2006. The recipient of the 2001 Guggenheim Fellowship, Franklin now teaches in the University of Mississippi's MFA program and lives in Oxford, Mississippi with his wife, the poet Beth Ann Fennelly, and their children.

April 2025

Mary Miller



Mary Miller is the author of two short story collections and two novels, most recently *Biloxi: A Novel* (Liveright 2019), which received starred reviews from Kirkus and Booklist. Her stories have appeared in the *Paris Review*, *Oxford American*, *McSweeney's Quarterly*, and *American Short Fiction*, and anthologized in *Norton's Seagull Book of Stories* and *Pushcart: Best of the Small Presses XLIV*, among others. She is a former Michener Fellow at the University of Texas (2010–2013) and Grisham writer-in-residence at the University of Mississippi (2014–2015). Miller is an Associate Professor at Mississippi University for Women and lives in Oxford, Mississippi.

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May 2025

Alan Samry



Alan Samry, a writer, librarian, and public historian, is the author of three Fairhope books. A below-the-knee amputee, his first book, *Stump the Librarian: A Writer's Book of Legs*, a memoir and history of leg amputees, was published in 2018. Alan is the librarian at Coastal Alabama Community College in Fairhope. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama, an MFA in Creative Writing from Spalding University, and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Alabama. Alan's side hustle is leading locals and visitors on his Fairhope by Foot walking tours.

June 2025

Matt Kessler



Matt Kessler grew up in Mobile, Alabama, and has since called many places home, including Chicago and Los Angeles. His book *The Wiregrass*, a true crime narrative in the tradition of David Grann, Patrick Radden Keefe, and Michelle McNamara, will be published by Grand Central in the USA, and Penguin Michael Joseph in the UK. Kessler's reporting has appeared in *The Guardian* and *The Atlantic*. His radio work has been broadcast by Mississippi Public Broadcasting and Illinois Public Media. He holds an MFA in Fiction from the University of Mississippi, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Literature & Creative Writing at the University of Southern California. He lives in Birmingham with his partner Hannah, their dog Iggy, and their cat Goldie.

July 2025

Mark Brooks



Mark Brooks grew up in northeast Alabama on Puddin' Ridge in Deer Head Cove. After graduating from Ider High School, he attended Northeast Alabama Community College, then transferred to The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he earned a B.A. and M.A. in English. In 2000, he moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, for one year, which quickly turned into seventeen. Mark returned home in late 2016, which is when he devoted time to expanding one of his short stories into his debut novel, *Laying Autumn's Dust*.

For personal interests, he enjoys reading, creative writing, breweries, college football, scuba diving, rock climbing, snow skiing, trout fishing, and—foremost—trail running. He has instructed writing and literature courses for a handful of colleges.

August 2025

Nancy McGlasson



Nancy T. McGlasson, born in Lynchburg, Virginia, graduated from Hollins College and UT, Knoxville, and retired as UTK's Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Sister to Fairhope's Loula Wilson (and brother-in-law Chuck), McGlasson retired early to write. Her first book, *Flying Kites at Night*, describes her son's suicide, freedom of speech, a suicide support group gone wrong, and healing for those who have lost someone. She'll bring *Make Yourself an Interesting Woman* to FCWA's Wolff Cottage. 'Cile Turner, Nancy and Loula's grandmother, was the first woman to have her own radio program, on NBC in 1930, following Amos and Andy. A white woman, she performed the music she initially studied in black churches in Southside Virginia. Her colleague James Weldon Johnson stated that she portrayed blacks "without betrayal." Both books are creative nonfiction.

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September 2025

Snowden Wright



Snowden Wright is the author of the novel *American Pop*, a *Wall Street Journal* WSJ+ Book of the Month and NPR Favorite Book of the Year. He has written for *The Atlantic*, *Salon*, *Esquire*, *The Millions*, and the *New York Daily News*, among other publications, and previously worked as a fiction reader at *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, and *The Paris Review*. Wright was the Visiting Writer and Prose Faculty at the 2021 Longleaf Writers Conference, and his debut novel, *Play Pretty Blues*, won the 2012 Summer Literary Seminars' Graywolf Prize. Recipient of the Marguerite and Lamar Smith Fellowship from the Carson McCullers Center, Wright lives in Yazoo County, Mississippi. His latest novel is *The Queen City Detective Agency*.

October 2025

Michael Shoemaker



Michael Shoemaker (Magna, Utah) is a poet, writer, and photographer. He is the author of *Rocky Mountain Reflections* (2023, Poets' Choice) and *Grasshoppers in the Field* (forthcoming in 2024), which combine poetry, prose, short stories, and photography. He holds a master's degree from Pacific Lutheran University and is a current finalist for an editor position with *The Clayjar Review*. He was awarded the Tilikum Christian Writer's Residency in Newberg, Oregon, and chosen as an Ekstasis Magazine Ambassador.

In 2023, Michael's poetry appeared in over 30 literary journals and magazines and six anthologies. His online photography portfolio is at <https://michaelshoemaker.crevado.com/>.

He lives in the Salt Lake Valley with his wife, son, and cat, where he enjoys looking out on the Great Salt Lake every day.

November 2025

Virginia Reeves



Set in Alabama, **Virginia Reeves'** debut novel, *Work Like Any Other*, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, and Booklist named it to their Top 10 First Novels of 2016. It has been adapted into a graphic novel and translated into multiple languages. Virginia's second novel, *The Behavior of Love*, has also been translated into multiple languages and been reviewed by *The New Yorker*, *French Elle*, and *Le Monde*, among others. Virginia is a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers, and she currently teaches writing and literature at Helena College. She lives in Montana with her family.

December 2025

Jane Walton



Jane Walton received her MA in journalism from the University of Mississippi. She was the winner of the 2021 Kenyon Review Developmental Editing Fellowship for Emerging Writers in fiction. She was selected as a finalist in fiction by the *Sewanee Review* in 2019. Her work has appeared in the *Kenyon Review* and *Mississippi Magazine*. She is currently at work on a novel.