

Wolff Cottage Writers-in-Residence: 2025

January 2026

Julie Hensley and R. Dean Johnson



Julie Hensley is an Appalachian writer and core faculty member of the Bluegrass Writers Studio at Eastern Kentucky University, where she teaches both poetry and fiction. She is the author of several books, including *Viable: Poems*, *Landfall: A Ring of Stories*, and *Five Oaks*. She was recently named the South Arts Literary Fellow for the state of Kentucky. You can find her on Facebook (Julie C. Hensley), Instagram (@julie_hensley_writer), and on her website: juliehensleywriter.com.

R Dean Johnson is the author of a story collection, *Delicate Men* (Alternative Book Press), a novel, *Californium* (Plume-Penguin), and a creative nonfiction chapbook, *Something L.A.* (Blue Cubicle Press). A Professor of English at Eastern Kentucky University, he directs their MFA in creative writing program, Bluegrass Writers Studio. You can find him online at rdeanwriter.com as well as on Facebook (R Dean Writer) and Instagram (@rdeanwriter).

February 2026

Greg Koehler



Greg Koehler is a poet and conceptual artist working at the intersection of language and individual/institutional practice in spiritual, ethical, material, and aesthetic contexts. He holds degrees from Baylor University, the University of Texas School of Law, and the James A. Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas. In support of agricultural & silvicultural enterprise, he has worked and volunteered for and with farms, ranches, vineyards, woodlands, and cooperative development projects. He is the author of the limited-edition sheaf chapbook *Tiny Ceremony* (Lighthouse Works/Mayonnaise, 2014), and his work has appeared in *Boston Review*, *jubilat*, *Ninth Letter*, *Makeout Creek*, *OH NO*, and elsewhere.

March 2026

Dawn Major



After graduating with her MFA in creative writing from the Etowah Valley Creative Writing program at Reinhardt University in 2019, **Dawn Major** was asked to join *Southern Literary Review* as an Associate Editor.

She is a longtime Atlanta resident and lives in in the Old Fourth Ward with her husband, son, a wicked kitty, and her two hell hounds. Before moving to Georgia, she lived in rural Southeast Missouri for seven years amongst farms and “some of the most stunning countryside I’ve ever experienced.” The town of Lawrenceton, Missouri, and the surrounding area was the inspiration for my book, *The Bystanders*. While I consider myself a literary fiction writer, I have gravitated into the horror and weird fiction, and love to genre-blend.

April 2026

Jessica Granger



Jessica Granger is a writer raised between London and the woods of New England. She splits her time between Los Angeles and Brooklyn and is currently a writer and Supervising Producer on a forthcoming Netflix action series. Her feature *Candlewood*—an early '90s coming-of-age film starring Tylour Paige—was featured on the 2021 Black List and is in pre-production with Washington Square Films. She previously wrote and produced on NBC's *La Brea* and CBS's *God Friended Me*, and sold an original queer psycho-sexual thriller to HBO Max in 2023. Her 2020 *Vogue* essay on grief and nude modeling is being adapted into a feature. A 2020 Almanack Screenwriters Fellow, Jessica holds degrees from USC's School of Cinematic Arts and Oxford University. Her work explores duality and the shadowy parts of human nature.

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May 2026

Melissa Ginsburg



Melissa Ginsburg is the author of the novels *The House Uptown* and *Sunset City*, the poetry collections *Runoff* (forthcoming in 2026 from Milkweed Editions), *Doll Apollo*, and *Dear Weather Ghost*, and three poetry chapbooks, *Arbor*, *Double Blind*, and *Apollo*. She is winner of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Poetry award and was named the Inaugural South Arts Mississippi State Fellow for Literary Arts. Her poems have appeared in the anthologies *A Century of Poetry in the New Yorker* and *Attached to the Living World: the Ecopoetry Anthology Vol. 2*, and in the *New Yorker*, *Image*, *Guernica*, *Kenyon Review*, *Fence*, *Southwest Review*, and other magazines. She is Director of Graduate Creative Writing Programs and Associate Professor of English at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

June 2026

Andrea Cavedo



Andrea Cavedo's writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Razor*, *The MacGuffin*, *Chestnut Review*, *HAD*, *Craft Literary*, and more, and her work has been longlisted for prizes with *The Sewanee Review* and *History Through Fiction*. Previously a public affairs consultant and lobbyist, then a researcher and arts educator, she holds a B.A. in history from the University of Chicago and an M.A. in Social and Cultural Foundations of Education from DePaul University. She has taught high school U.S. history and government for over a decade and lives just outside Chicago with her husband, two children, and a cat who is frequently in trouble.

July 2026

John T. Edge



John T. Edge, author of *House of Smoke: A Southern Goes Searching for Home*, writes and hosts the National Emmy Award-winning television show *TrueSouth* on the SEC Network, ESPN, Disney, and Hulu. Edge also writes a restaurant column for *Garden & Gun*. His 2017 book *The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South* was named one of the best books of the year by NPR and *Publishers Weekly*. Edge serves the University of Mississippi as a teacher, writer-in-residence, and director of the Mississippi Lab. And he serves the University of Georgia as a mentor in their low-residency MFA program in narrative nonfiction. He lives in Oxford, MS, with his wife, the artist Blair Hobbs.

August 2026

Charlotte Pence



Charlotte Pence recently served as Mobile, Alabama's inaugural Poet Laureate and a 2024 Academy of American Poets laureate fellow. Her most recent book of poems, *Code*, received the 2020 Book of the Year award from ASPS and was shortlisted for Best Indie Poetry Books of 2020 by Foreword Reviews. Her first book of poems, *Many Small Fires*, received a silver INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award from Foreword Reviews. She is also the author of two award-winning poetry chapbooks and the editor of *The Poetics of American Song Lyrics*. Her poetry and creative nonfiction have recently been published in *Brevity*, *Harvard Review*, *Poetry*, *Slate*, *Southern Review*, and *The New York Times* and featured on *The Slowdown*. A graduate of Emerson College (MFA) and the University of Tennessee (PhD), she is the new MFA director at Texas State University.

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September 2026

Sharon LaCour



Sharon LaCour grew up in New Orleans listening to her father and his siblings speaking in their native Louisiana French, sharing memories of their lives as the children of farmers in central Louisiana and their move to New Orleans during the Depression. Her childhood in New Orleans and the influence of her Acadian background inform her explorations of the Acadian Louisiana way of life from the 1700s and into the 20th century.

Sharon's debut literary novel, *The Meeting of Air and Water*, was a novel-in-progress finalist in the William Wisdom-William Faulkner novel competition in 2019.

Sharon lives in Lafayette, Louisiana, with her husband and pets. She works as a pianist and piano teacher. She is working on a historical novel set in the late 18th century along Bayou Lafourche, Louisiana, and a coming-of-age novel from Depression-era rural Mississippi.

October 2026

Randall Arthur



Randall Arthur is a bestselling novelist of Christian fiction. His goal as a writer of faith-based dramas is to rip the mask of pretense and politics from Christianity and present true-to-life stories that challenge, inspire, and educate. His first novel, *Wisdom Hunter* (1991), highlighted the destructiveness of authoritarian pastors and hardline legalism. The book was an instant bestseller. It also got him fired from a Baptist organization after seventeen years of service. Randall has since written four other hard-hitting novels, one work of nonfiction, and one children's book. He has an estimated half-million readers. You can preview his books, all earning 4+ stars, on Amazon. An avid traveler and adventurer, Randall says his favorite small town in the world is Fairhope. His latest novel, *A Quiet Roar*, focusing on the controversy of female pastors, was dedicated to The Fairhope Center for the Writing Arts.

November 2026

Ramona Reeves



Ramona Reeves' first book of fiction, *It Falls Gently All Around and Other Stories*, won the 2022 Drue Heinz Literature Prize and also received Texas Institute of Letters' 2022 award for Best First Book of Fiction. Set in Mobile, her collection was reviewed or featured in *The Washington Post*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Southern Review of Books*, Alabama Writers Forum, and others. She has received support from Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, the San Ysidro Writers Residency, AROHO, Community of Writers, and New Mexico State University's MFA program. She was a 2024 judge for the Flannery O'Connor Short Fiction Award, and in a past life worked for *Food & Wine*, *Travel + Leisure*, and briefly, *Esquire*. A Mobile native, she currently lives with her spouse in Austin, Texas.

December 2026

Madison Darbyshire



Madison Darbyshire is a writer and journalist living in Brooklyn, New York. She works as a newspaper reporter, first in London then New York, writing about the intersection of business, life, and culture. She holds a master's in journalism from Columbia University and a degree in English literature from the University of Virginia.

Her mother hails from Queens, New York, the daughter of a Swiss engineer and a Broadway dancer, while her father grew up in a tiny farming town in southwest Georgia, the son of a large animal veterinarian and a homemaker who wrote stories on scraps of paper she never showed a soul. These places, and her family's roots in both, deeply inform her storytelling.

She is currently working on her first novel, set in Georgia in the 1950s