Conference at a Glance

8:30-9:00  Conference Registration and Check-In
9:00-9:05  Welcome to UNM’s Twelfth Annual Writers Conference
          Marie McGhee, Senior Program Manager
9:05-9:15  Let SouthWest Writers Help You
          Rob Spiegel, President
9:15-9:30  Introduction of Faculty
          Sandra Toro, Conference Coordinator
          Instructors: Paula Paul, Susan Baker,
                      Steve Brewer, and Jules Nyquist
9:30-10:30 New York Times Best Selling author of 19 award-winning mystery novels, Margaret Coel
10:30-10:45 Break
10:45-12:00 Publishing Today: Q & A Panel of Editors and Agents
            Editors: Morgan Podraza, Anna Michels,
                      Chelsey Emmelhainz
            Agents: Deborah Herman, Liz Trupin-Pulli,
                     Steven Salpeter
12:00-1:00 Lunch with Editors, Agents and Instructors
1:00-2:00  Featured Speaker: Jane Lindskold, best-selling author of Science Fiction and Fantasy novels,
          and author of “Wanderings on Writing”
2:00-2:15  Break
2:15-3:15  Paula Paul, Historical Fiction
          Steve Brewer, Self-Publishing
3:15-4:15  Sarah Baker, Women’s Fiction
          Jules Nyquist, Poetry

Learn about the market and the craft of writing.
Make contact with editors, agents, and other writers.
Socialize with people who care about the same things you do in an inspiring and enjoyable environment.
As you prepare for the conference, think of questions you’d like answered during the 90 minute panel. Write them down and be prepared to take the microphone and ask them. Take advantage of the opportunity to network with other writers, teachers, agents and editors at breaks and during lunch. Move around from table to table and engage in the conversations.
Check out the book table, not only for books written by the participants, but for additional books on the craft of writing in your genre, whether it be historical fiction or poetry or memoir.
Follow-up: Accept business cards and take the time to jot a note on the back of the card about the person who gave you the card, in case you decide to follow up with a new connection.

Most writers are nervous. Remember editors and agents are human, they have as much invested in finding a great new writer as you have in being that writer. Be clear, precise, and prepared. Outline the premise of your project.
Fiction: Three things will get the agent or editor hooked on your project: Setting, protagonist, and problem. Deliver those briefly, and with punch, and you have a basic pitch. Be brief and focus on the elements that give your story plausibility, inherent conflict, originality, and gut emotional appeal.
If your project is nonfiction, talk about the subject, your unique slant on it, your research, and your qualifications.
Publishing credentials are helpful to include: Prior novel publication, short stories in recognized magazines, journalistic experience, professional articles, and ad writing all indicate you have professional experience as a writer.
Bring a two-page, single-spaced synopsis and be prepared to give it to agents, editors, and other writers as the opportunity presents itself and seems appropriate. Do not bring your manuscript to the conference.

Prepare Your Pitch

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What You Should Know About Publishing Today:

Chelsey Emmelhainz, Associate Editor, Harper Collins

Anna Michelis, Associate Editor, Sourcebooks

Morgan Podraska, Publishing Assistant for UNM Press

Elizabeth Trupin-Pulli, Jet Literary Agency

Deborah Herman, Jeff Herman Agency

Steven Salpeter, agent with Curtis Brown, Ltd.

The Trials and Rewards of Creating a Series of Western Mysteries

Margaret Coel, Keynote Speaker: Margaret, a four-generation Coloradan, sets her novels among the Crowaghps in Wyoming. The winner of numerous awards, she is also the author of the short story collection Watching Eagles Soar. She has published four non-fiction books, including Chief Left Hand, a history of the Arapaho.

Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Young Adult fiction

Jane Lindskold, Featured Speaker, is the author of twenty-five novels, seventy short stories, and a non-fiction book on writing. A former college professor, she is a working writer on the subject of creative writing. She took her PhD in English Literature at Fordham University in New York.

Paula Paul: With twenty-seven novels to her credit, Paula has written historicals, mysteries, literary novels, and contemporary women's fiction, including novels for young adults.

Jules Nyquist: Jules is not only a poet, but a mentor of poets. She lives in Old Town where she hosts poets and writers at her Poetry Playhouse. Widely published, she has twice been a finalist in the New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards.

Sarah H. Baker: She grew up in New Orleans. After running off to Alaska to enjoy a taste of the wild pipeline days, she returned to the lower 48 and earned a Master's degree in engineering. She has lived all over the US; while moving around, she stumbled on the joy of her life-writing. She writes mysteries and romances and will focus on Women's Fiction in her workshop.

Steve Brever has taught numerous classes at the Midwest Writers Workshop, SouthWest Writers and the Tony Hillerman Writers Seminar. He also speaks frequently at mystery conventions. Most of his books have been published by traditional publishers, but he has recently begun to self-publish with Amazon/Smashwords. He will focus on self-publishing in his workshop.

Morgan Podraska, Publishing Assistant for UNM Press, joined the innovative team at the UNM Press after completing her M.A. in the Humanities at the University of Chicago. Her past experience includes working for Blue Mesa Press, Poetique Magazine, Ficition, and Brown and Miller Literary Associates.

Margaret Coel is the bestselling, award-winning author of 19 mystery novels set among the Arapahos on Wyoming's Wind River Reservation, including The Man Who Fell From The Sky. She is also the author of a short story collection as well as many articles for publications such as American Heritage and The New York Times.

Jane Lindskold is the award-winning, New York Times bestselling, internationally published author of 25 novels, including the six volume Firekeeper Saga, the three volume "Breaking the Wall" series, and, most recently, Artemis Awakening and Artemis Invaded. Seventy short stories and a non-fiction book on writing called, Wandering's in Writing, attest to her dedication to the craft of storytelling.

Chelsey Emmelhainz, Associate Editor with Harper Collins, edits a wide range of fiction projects but is most drawn to smart, sophisticated commercial narratives. She is looking for voices that are amusing, honest, and perhaps even a little controversial. She also acquires contemporary and historical romance as well as romantic suspense for Avon Books and Avon Red's contemporary romance line. Avon Impulse, and psychological suspense for William Morrow's digital-first thriller and mystery line, Witness.

Anna Michelis, Associate Editor for Sourcebooks, an independent publisher outside of Chicago. She has worked on a wide variety of projects, most recently focusing on acquiring adult fiction and nonfiction. She is looking for commercial literary fiction with interesting settings and a strong narrative voice; mystery, thriller, and psychological suspense, and memoirs.

Elizabeth Trupin-Pulli, former editor at Fawcett’s Premier Books, founded Jet Literary Associates, Inc. in New York with her then husband Jim Trupin. Jet represents adult non-fiction and fiction, except sci-fi and fantasy. Her office is in Santa Fe. Her client list includes Anne Hillerman, Karima Alavi, and Sue Boggio and Matt Mare Pearl.

Deborah Herman, agent with Jeff Herman Agency, has also been an author and publisher. She has been selecting projects for the Jeff Herman agency for over 20 years. In addition she is the owner of a micro publishing company which publishes niche titles. She also does the marketing and branding. She is the author of "Spiritual Writing From Inspiration to Publication."

Steve Salpeter is a literary agent with Curtis Brown, Ltd. He was the editor-n-chief of Tea and founder of the website The Writer's Market and the Blackbird Prize for Poetry. He is seeking literary fiction, fantasy, graphic novels, historical fiction, contemporary women’s fiction, and adults who can blend elements of these genres. He is also interested in narrative nonfiction, gift books, history, humor, and popular science.

Paula Paul is the award-winning former journalist who has become an award-winning novelist writing more than two dozen books including historica, Young Adult, mysteries, contemporary women's fiction, and mainstream fiction. Her workshop will focus on historical fiction.

Jules Nyquist is the founder of the Poetry Playhouse, a space for visiting poets and writing events. Her latest poetry book, “Behind the Volcanoes” published by Beattick Press was a finalist for the 2011 NMAZ Book Awards. She has been widely published and earned her Master of Fine Arts at Bennington College in Vermont.

Morgan Podraska, Publishing Assistant for UNM Press, joined the innovative team at the UNM Press after completing her M.A. in the Humanities at the University of Chicago. Her past experience includes working for Blue Mesa Press, Poetique Magazine, Ficition, and Brown and Miller Literary Associates.

Attendees who enroll by April 1st will get a FREE one-on-one ten minute meeting with the editor or agent of their choice to “pitch” their writing project! Attendees may only choose one person, but may ask questions of other speakers throughout the day. One-on-one meetings will take place during concurrent lectures. After you register, contact Sandra Toro at storo32567@aol.com to sign up for your ten minute pitch.