

**Earlham School of Religion**  
 228 College Avenue  
 Richmond, Indiana 47374  
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OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2003  
 in  
 RICHMOND, INDIANA  
 KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
 Scott Russell Sanders  
 FEATURED SPEAKERS:  
 Scott Russell Sanders  
 Haven Kimmel and Pat Schneider

ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

# The Ministry of Writing

EARLHAM SCHOOL OF RELIGION PRESENTS



# The Ministry of Writing

AN ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

October 24-25, 2003

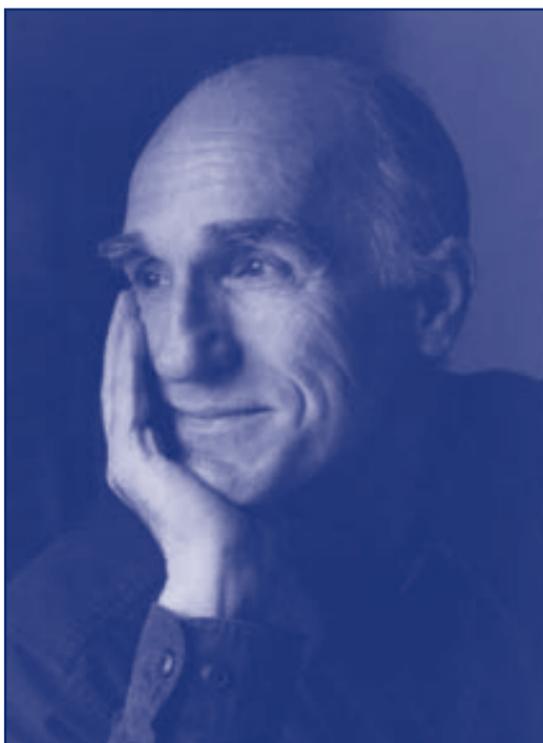
## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

"Mystery is not much in favor these days," writes Scott Russell Sanders in *Staying Put*. "The notion that there are limits to what we can do, what we can know, limits to our dominion, does not set well with kings and queens of the hill. Humility and reverence, we hear, are attitudes of cowards. Why worship a face we cannot measure on a meter? Why tell stories about a power we cannot photograph?"

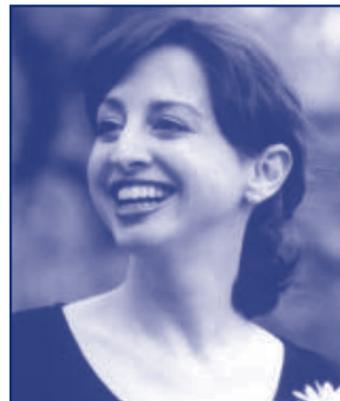
As an essayist, novelist, and children's book author, this year's keynote speaker has made an eloquent case for the power of stories and the force of spirit. Scott Russell Sanders' many publications include novels (*The Invisible Company*, *Bad Man Ballad*, *Terrarium*, *The Engineer of Beasts*), collections of short stories (*Wilderness Plots*, *Fetching the Dead*), works of creative nonfiction (*Writing from the Center*, *Staying Put*, *The Paradise of Bombs*, *Secrets of the Universe*, *In Limestone Country*), as well as books for children (*The Floating House*,



Pat Schneider



Scott Russell Sanders



Haven Kimmel

*Here Comes the Mystery Man*, *Warm as Wool*, *Aurora Means Dawn*, *Hear the Wind Blow*). His essay, "The Force of Spirit," appeared in *The Best American Essays 2000*, the fourth time his work has appeared in this annual collection of outstanding nonfiction. Sanders' most recent books are *Hunting for Hope*, *The Country of Language*, and *The Force of Spirit*.

Haven Kimmel and Pat Schneider will be joining Scott Russell Sanders as featured speakers at this year's colloquium. Haven Kimmel, an ESR alum, made her literary debut with *A Girl Named Zippy*, a critically acclaimed memoir, and followed it up with an equally successful novel, *The Solace of Leaving Early*. Pat Schneider is a writer, playwright, poet, and teacher

whose creative writing workshops for low-income populations were the subject of a documentary featured on national public television.

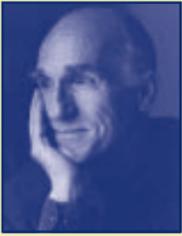
# WORKSHOPS

The workshops listed below will be repeated.

Please choose one to attend in the morning and a different one for the afternoon session.

## Making Essays

led by Scott Russell Sanders (afternoon only)



Scott will discuss his writing process, drawing on the materials used in composing several of his essays. He will also follow up on earlier remarks, suggesting how the writing of essays can serve as a way of discovering meaning and depth in experience. Participants are invited to bring questions that arise in their own work as writers.

Scott Russell Sanders is the author of eighteen books, including *Staying Put*, *Hunting for Hope*, and *The Force of Spirit*. For his work in nonfiction, he has won the Lannan Literary Award and the John Burroughs Essay Award. He is Distinguished Professor of English at Indiana University.

## On Writing Fiction

led by Haven Kimmel



Drawing from her own experiences as a novelist, Haven will offer participants some considerations on the joys and the challenges of writing fiction.

Haven Kimmel's first book *A Girl Named Zippy*, is a comic memoir. She is also the author of two novels, *The Solace of Leaving Early*, and *Something Rising* (Light & Swift). She's a full-time writer, and lives in Durham, North Carolina.

## "Silence Is All We Dread"

led by Pat Schneider



"*Silence is all we dread/ There's ransom in a voice.*"  
—Emily Dickinson

The intention of this workshop is to encourage and empower the poetic voice. Pat writes, "I will offer two exercises, one for the creation of a poem in free verse, one for the creation of a poem in an established form. We will talk about poetry and the writing of it, with an emphasis on my belief that writing is a universal art form, belonging to everyone."

Author of eight books including four volumes of poems, *Writing Alone & With Others* and *Wake Up Laughing: A Spiritual Autobiography*, Her writing workshop method has helped a generation of writers of all kinds find and liberate their writing voices. Her work has been featured on NPR and on National Public Television.

## Spirituality in Writing

led by Lil Copan



In this workshop we'll explore various approaches to spiritual writing (memoir, meditation/reflection, journal-based writing, etc.), as well as look at ways that writers within those genres—Thomas Merton, Henri

Nouwen, Thomas Kelly, Kathleen Norris, Anne Lamott—might inform our own approaches to spiritual writing. With a view to setting up the groundwork for a book proposal, bring ideas and writing samples—if you have them.

Lil Copan is acquisitions editor with Paraclete Press. Previously, she worked as literary series editor with Shaw Publishers, followed by a short time with the small literary/arts press David R. Godine.

## The Basics of Screenwriting

led by Nina Shelton



This workshop will cover the sources for screen projects, namely theme vs. arena vs. what-if premises. What makes a good story before Hollywood? What makes a good story before God? In discussion, we'll consider these questions. We will also cover the basics of the three-act structure.

Nina Shelton is an Emmy-nominated television producer and a writer. She is currently Children's Programming Producer for WTIU-A PBS Station in Indiana. Previously, she spent several years at HBO as a producer/writer where she earned her Emmy-Award Nomination.

## With Imagination and Spirit: Writing as Public Ministry

led by Brent Bill



Do you believe, like Flannery O'Connor, that "writing is primarily amissionary activity" and that the main reason you write is "to speak, without apology, ... of Christ even when Christ is not recognized?" If so, you'll

want to attend this workshop that looks at what it means to write as ministry. We'll look at the reasons for using the miraculous power of language in telling good news—not the least of which is helping us uncover what we, as writers and people of faith, feel, think, and believe.

Brent Bill is the author of thirteen books (the latest being *Imagination and Spirit: A Contemporary Quaker Reader*), contributor to five others (including *Quaker Lite 2.5* and *Keeping The Faith: Best Indiana Sermons*), and more than 100 magazine articles. Brent is also a writing instructor and coach.

## Daily Bread: Writing In and About Everyday Life

led by Mary Lacey



All the best books and teachers say, "Write what you know," and this is good advice, meant to free us to acknowledge our own expertise in theme, style, and voice. But writing what we know—the material of

daily lived experience, memory, and the stories we have inherited—is also a way to discover what we don't yet know. This workshop will invite you to write what you know, in search of openings into other, deeper experience of knowledge.

Mary Lacey is associate professor of English at Earlham College, where she teaches modern literature, poetry, and creative writing. She received her BA from Earlham (1983) and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan (1990).

## Writing on the Threshold

led by Nan Phifer



We'll write about the moments when someone we love came into, or left, our lives. Such times often brim with spiritual dimension. Nan will guide participants in retrieving memories of births, deaths, and other kinds

of union or parting; and she'll provide questions for reflection on our writings that may heighten our awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Nan Phifer is Associate Director of the Oregon Writing Project at the University of Oregon, and she teaches workshops in writing spiritual memoirs. Her most recent book is *Memoirs of the Soul: Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography*, a Writer's Digest Book.

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 24

7:00 p.m. Registration  
7:30 p.m. Reading: Scott Russell Sanders and Haven Kimmel

Saturday, October 25

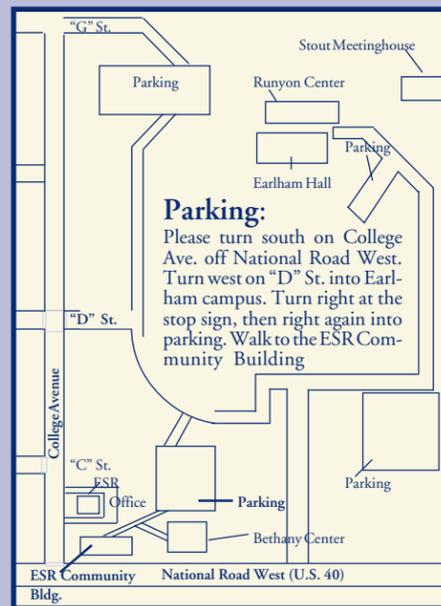
8:15 a.m. Registration  
9:00 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Scott Russell Sanders: *Telling True Stories*  
10:30 a.m. Refreshment Break  
10:45 a.m. Workshop Session One (choose one)  
*Fiction*—Haven Kimmel (title forthcoming)  
*Spirituality in Writing*—Lil Capon  
*"Silence Is All We Dread"*—Pat Schneider  
*The Basics of Screenwriting*—Nina Shelton  
*Imagination and Spirit: Writing as Public Ministry*—Brent Bill  
*Writing on the Threshold*—Nan Phifer  
*Daily Bread: Writing In and About Everyday Life*—Mary Lacey  
12:15 p.m. Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Haven Kimmel: *Healing Fictions*  
2:00 p.m. Workshop Session Two (choose one)  
*Making Essays*—Scott Russell Sanders  
*Fiction*: Haven Kimmel (title forthcoming)  
*Spirituality in Writing*—Lil Capon  
*"Silence is All We Dread"*—Pat Schneider  
*The Basics of Screenwriting*—Nina Shelton  
*Imagination and Spirit: Writing as Public Ministry*—Brent Bill  
*Writing on the Threshold*—Nan Phifer  
*Daily Bread: Writing In and About Everyday Life*—Mary Lacey  
3:30 p.m. Refreshments/Autograph Party  
4:00 p.m. Pat Schneider: *"There's Ransom in a Voice: Creative Writing as Art and Empowerment"*  
7:30-9:30 Readings and Open Mic

The colloquium will be held in the ESR Community Building at the northeast corner of the Earlham Campus. A finalized schedule and list room assignments for workshops and other gatherings will be distributed at registration.

Previous keynote speakers for the Colloquium have been:

1992—William Zinsser  
1993—Sam Keen  
1994—Keith Miller  
1995—Walter Wangerin  
1996—Madeleine L'Engle  
1997—James M. Wall  
1998—Noel Paul Stookey  
1999—Will D. Campbell  
2000—Donna Jo Napoli  
2001—Elizabeth Cox  
2002—Phil Gulley

"The Ministry of Writing" colloquium was endowed by individuals in honor of Tom Mullen at the time of his retirement as Dean of Earlham School of Religion in 1990. Tom retired from ESR in 1997. His "Writing for the Religious Market" class, first offered over 20 years ago, was the beginning of ESR's unique emphasis in the ministry of writing. This colloquium is one way the school demonstrates its commitment to the written word as an important form of ministry.



# REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Colloquium *prior to Oct. 1*: \$65  Colloquium *after Oct. 1*: \$70

Colloquium: undergrad/grad student: \$25 Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop One preference (number first and second choice)

\_\_\_\_ *Fiction*—Haven Kimmel (title forthcoming)  
\_\_\_\_ *Spirituality in Writing*—Lil Capon  
\_\_\_\_ *"Silence is All We Dread"*—Pat Schneider  
\_\_\_\_ *The Basics of Screenwriting*—Nina Shelton  
\_\_\_\_ *Imagination and Spirit: Writing as Public Ministry*—Brent Bill  
\_\_\_\_ *Writing on the Threshold*—Nan Phifer  
\_\_\_\_ *Daily Bread: Writing In and About Everyday Life*—Mary Lacey

Workshop Two preference (number first and second choice)

\_\_\_\_ *Making Essays*—Scott Russell Sanders  
\_\_\_\_ *Fiction*—Haven Kimmel (title forthcoming)  
\_\_\_\_ *Spirituality in Writing*—Lil Capon  
\_\_\_\_ *"Silence is All We Dread"*—Pat Schneider  
\_\_\_\_ *The Basics of Screenwriting*—Nina Shelton  
\_\_\_\_ *Imagination and Spirit: Writing as Public Ministry*—Brent Bill  
\_\_\_\_ *Writing on the Threshold*—Nan Phifer  
\_\_\_\_ *Daily Bread: Writing In and About Everyday Life*—Mary Lacey

A \$65 registration fee covers all colloquium events, including Friday night readings, all plenary sessions and workshops, Saturday lunch and refreshments, and the reading/open mic session Saturday night. This should be paid no later than October 1. After that date, the cost increases to \$70. There are a limited number of openings for undergraduate and graduate students available for \$25 each if registered before October 1.

Send to: Writing Colloquium 2003, Rita Cummin, Earlham School of Religion, 228 College Avenue, Richmond, IN 47374. E-mail: cummiri@earham.edu

The colloquium will be held in the ESR Community Building at the northeast corner of the Earlham Campus. A finalized schedule and list room assignments for workshops and other gatherings will be distributed at registration.