



Narrative Nonfiction Residency Guide July 31–August 6, 2022

*“You might aspire to art but it better start as craft.”
–Geraldine Brooks, Nieman Storyboard*



**Grady College of Journalism
and Mass Communication
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

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LOCATION INFORMATION

Host Hotel

- [Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Conference Center](#)
- 1197 S Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30602
- See page 13 of this guide for more information on accommodations.

Events

- Unless otherwise noted, all sessions and events are on the fourth floor of [UGA's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication building](#).

Daily Breakfast

- 8–9 a.m.: Continental Breakfast, Journalism Building fourth floor

RESIDENCY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, July 31

6 p.m.

OPENING RECEPTION

[Wall and Broad](#)

345 E Broad St, Athens, GA 30601

MONDAY, Aug. 1

9–10:15 a.m.

WELCOME: Introductions, Who We Are
Rosalind Bentley

10:30–12 p.m.

“What Is Narrative?”
Moni Basu

In this session, we'll explore the art of telling stories—true stories. Or the literature of fact, as writer John McPhee calls it. We'll discuss the elements of strong storytelling and the process of crafting a great piece, short or long.

12–1 p.m.

Lunch

1-3 p.m.

**“On the Same Page: Navigating the
Writer-Editor Relationship”**

KaToya Ellis Fleming (MFA '18)

Using real-world examples and raw copy from the “Bigger Than Bravery” manuscript, KaToya Ellis Fleming will show how she works with writers to take story drafts "from rough to ready" during the editorial process, while building trust between writer and editor along the way. Anthology contributors **Kamille Whittaker (MFA'21)**, **Rosalind Bentley (MFA'17)** and mentor **Lolis Eric Elie** will read brief excerpts from their “Bigger Than Bravery” essays.

3:15 p.m.

A Virtual Conversation with Alice Walker

4-6 p.m.

“Tribute to Valerie”

A gathering arranged by Dr. Jeff Springston, Director of UGA Grady Master of Fine Arts Programs.
PAF, Journalism Building

TUESDAY, Aug. 2

9-10:30 a.m.

“Story Theory and Narrative Arcs”

Melissa Fay Greene

Optional for Graduating students Humans have been creating narratives for probably 70,000 years—ever since the cave-paintings—through art, dance, music, and oral and written stories. In the 20th century, thinkers like Sigmund Freud, Joseph Campbell, Carl Jung, and Otto Rank described glimpses of the underlying shapes of stories. Recently, neuroscientists have entered the field, tracking the brainwave and neurochemical reactions of volunteers as they watched or listened to stories. Their results have peeled back more of the mystery of stories’ deep structure, revealing an archetypal story arc. As nonfiction writers, we can’t always hit all the markers on a hero’s journey, but we ought to know about them! Because, *if* they’re present and we can deploy them, they’ll seize the imagination and attention of our readers like nothing else in our craft.

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

“Frenemies, No More: Historians and Writers”

Danielle McGuire

Journalism has been called “history in a hurry.” Yet, there can be tension between historians and journalists. Journalists sometimes don’t credit the deep research of historians. In turn, historians sometimes dismiss the fast but critical work of journalists. Historian Dr. Danielle McGuire discusses this relationship and goes deep on the archival research she did for her book, [*“At the Dark End of the Street,”*](#) which documented how

sexual violence was used to break the civil rights movement. McGuire's research uncovered [the pivotal case of Recy Taylor](#) and the NAACP secretary sent to investigate the crime: Rosa Parks. But in a speech about Taylor by Oprah at the Golden Globe Awards, Dr. McGuire's role was obscured. Dr. McGuire will talk about how historians and writers can work together to tell important stories.

12:30–1 p.m. **Student Craft Talk: “Digging Into the Archives”**
Adam Brimanson

1–1:45 p.m. **Lunch**

2–6 p.m. **“Out of Obscurity”**
Jill Severn

Our dive into research continues, led by Jill Severn, head of outreach and access at the Russell Library. It's said that those in power write history and those who suffer write the songs. Marginalized voices provide a counter narrative to the historical record. Severn will discuss the power dynamics and nature of the documentary record: What gets saved, what doesn't? What goes in archives, what doesn't? And how to approach searching for materials in the archives. Students will participate in a research exercise, tour the library's vault and galleries.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 3

9–10:30 a.m. **Interviewing for Story: What Writers Learn from Experience**
Two writers talk about what they've learned as MFA students, then join mentor **Patricia Thomas** for a conversation about getting the most out of every interview. Thomas has interviewed thousands of people in her career as a journalist and author, and has taught the art and craft of interviewing to lawyers and academic researchers as well as to nonfiction storytellers. There will be practical advice for experienced journalists and newcomers as well.

**Student Craft Talk: “Interviewing Loved Ones
About Trauma”**
Ryan Shepherd

Student Craft Talk: “The Art of the Interview”
Joshua Peacock

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **“Notes from the Southside Lois Lane”**

Natalie Moore

Award-winning journalist Natalie Moore has spent her career reporting for radio, newspapers and three nonfiction books, including [“The Southside: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation,”](#) named one of the best nonfiction books of 2016. Moore’s interviewing and storytelling skills were key in writing her new play, [“The Billboard,”](#) a timely drama about the abortion debate. The play has roots in Moore’s coverage of anti-abortion campaigns on Chicago’s South Side. Moore will talk about how narrative nonfiction skills and techniques can be essential in writing other genres.

12:15 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. **“Developing Lead Characters in a Nonfiction Work”**

Lolis Elie

Television series like “Breaking Bad” or “Grey’s Anatomy” use an opening scene to establish characters and propel the story forward. Journalist, author and television writer Lolis Elie will use his documentary [“Faubourg Treme,”](#) as well as the television series [“Dope Sick”](#)—based on author, journalist and former program contributor Beth Macy’s nonfiction book—to show how some of those same techniques are used in nonfiction writing to develop characters and plot.

2:45 – 3 p.m. **Break**

3 – 4 p.m. **Student Craft Talk: “Metaphors”**

Julie Thompson

Student Craft Talk: “Reaching for Meaning”

Shannon McCaffrey

6:00 p.m. **Reading Rehearsals for Graduating Students (*mandatory*)**
[Georgia Center hotel and conference center](#), 2nd floor lobby
outside the hotel auditorium

Graduating students will rehearse their 9–12 minute reading excerpts with MFA alumni.

THURSDAY, Aug. 4

9:00–9:30 a.m. **Student Craft Talk: “From Polemic to Story: How to Turn a Big Idea Into Compelling Narrative”**
Nick Chiles

9:30–10 a.m. **Student Craft Talk: “Writing About Spirituality”**
Caroline St. John

10:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m. **“Getting It Right in Memoir”**
Laurie Hertzell

When we write memoir, how do we know we are getting it right? Memoir comes from memory, emotions, and personal experience, but it also has to be based in fact. What do we do if our memories aren’t detailed? How do we create scenes? And what if our memory conflicts with the memory of someone else who went through the same experience? Laurie Hertzell will discuss the mechanics, responsibilities and ethics of reporting for memoir, using examples from her books [“News to Me: Adventures of an Accidental Journalist”](#) and [“They Took My Father: Finnish Americans in Stalin Russia,”](#) as well as other texts. *During the session, students will do two reporting and writing exercises, which we will read aloud and discuss.*

1:15–2:15 p.m. **Lunch**

2:30–4 p.m. **“The Eye and the “I”: First-Hand Reporting, First-Person Writing” (Optional for graduating students)**
Jan Winburn

We examine two essential tools for telling stories with authority: observation and perception. What is the key to reporting with your eyes—and using the rest of your senses? When is putting yourself in the story effective—and required? When is it an indulgence? Through our reading and discussion, we emerge with a checklist to apply to our stories—to better measure our own “seeing eye and hearing ear” and a litmus test for applying “I.”

For our discussion, please read in advance this short 1,800-word narrative that won a Pulitzer Prize in 1969. [“Pfc. Gibson comes home,” by John Fetterman](#)

5:15–7:45 p.m. **Student Readings**
(Small reception 5:15–6 p.m.)
[Georgia Museum of Art](#)
90 Carlton St, Athens, GA 30602

FRIDAY, Aug. 5

9–9:30 a.m. **Student Craft Talk: “How to Find Stories”**
Mikeie Reiland

9:45–10:45 a.m. **“The Bigness of the Small Story: Small Stories
That Tell Us Who We Are”**
Alex Kotlowitz

Many of us want to write stories about big topics: poverty, race, identity, religion, crime. It’s the small story, however, that tells us who we are. The best ones are intimate while revealing larger truths about our society. Alex Kotlowitz is an award-winning journalist and Medill School of Journalism professor at Northwestern University. His book, [“There are No Children Here,”](#) was a landmark example of writing sensitively and impactfully about Black communities. Ta-Nehisi Coates has called Kotlowitz “one of our great American journalists.” Kotlowitz will discuss the importance of telling a small story that gets to a much larger truth.

10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Craft Books Discussion Led by John T Edge**

This mentor panel discusses how to read and leverage craft books, including relatively unheralded books like [“Several Short Sentences About Writing”](#) by Verlyn Klinkenborg. A sermon on the sentence, this book of insights also functions like a book of meditations. Craft books come in all sorts of forms. They depend on all manner of approaches. This panel entertains the question — How do we writers get the most out of reading craft books? This session aims to provide students—and mentors—with new insights on the value of craft books to inform nonfiction writing.

****Class prep — Bring a copy of your favorite craft book and come prepared to celebrate (and critique) that book and its approach. Bonus points if that craft book is relatively unheralded.*

12:45 p.m.–until **Individual and Group Student-Mentor Meetings**

SATURDAY, Aug. 6

10–11 a.m. **Closing Circle**

Midday **Opportunity for Student-Mentor Meetings**

3 p.m. **Graduation and Reception**
UGA Fine Arts Theatre
255 Baldwin St, Athens GA 30602

GUEST SPEAKERS

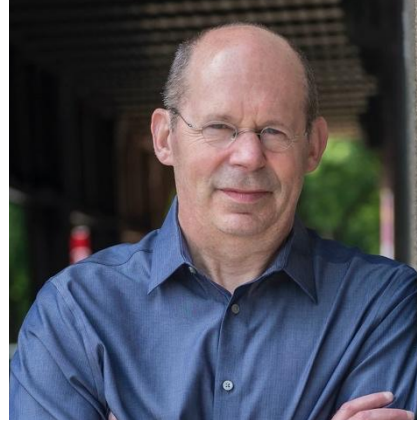
Katoya Fleming (UGA MFA '18) is assistant professor of publishing arts at [UNC Wilmington](#), where she teaches and contributes to curriculum development for the department's unique [publishing certificate program](#). While serving as an editor at the Oxford American magazine and its 2019–2020 Jeff Baskin Writers Fellow, Fleming acquired works from writers both emerging and renowned, as well as assisted in the planning and editing of digital content, including a segment for an episode of the Points South podcast. She has taught classes and workshops at Hendrix College, the Georgia Writers Association's Red Clay Writers Conference at Kennesaw State University, the University of Georgia, and elsewhere. She is a graduate of Spelman College (BA), where she served for a year as editor of *FOCUS* literary magazine, and the University of Georgia (MFA '18). A native of Georgia, Fleming is at work on a bibliomemoir titled "Finding Frank," an excerpt from which appears in the Spring 2020 issue of the [Oxford American](#). Her work focuses on race and culture in the American South.



Laurie Hertz is Senior Editor for Books at the Minneapolis Star Tribune, where she has worked for more than 20 years. Her journalism and short fiction have appeared in newspapers, magazines and journals across the United States, in Finland and in Australia. Her fiction has been published in the literary journals South Carolina Review, North Dakota Quarterly and elsewhere, and her nonfiction has been anthologized and also published in the Chicago Tribune, TriQuarterly, Brevity.blog, Siirtolaisuus (Turku, Finland), Ascent, Blue River Review, and many other places. Her work has received a multitude of awards, including recent honors from the Society for Features Journalism and the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists, which honored her with a first-place award for arts criticism in 2021. She is the author of three books, including ["News to Me: Adventures of an Accidental Journalist,"](#) winner of a 2011 Minnesota Book Award. She has an MFA in creative nonfiction from Queens University in Charlotte, N.C., is past president of the National Book Critics Circle and current autobiography chair of NBCC's board of directors.



Alex Kotlowitz is the author of four books, including [“An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago,”](#) which received the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize. His other books include the national bestseller [“There Are No Children Here,”](#) which received the Helen B. Bernstein Award and was adapted as a television movie produced by and starring Oprah Winfrey. It was selected by The New York Times as a Notable Book of the Year along with his second book, [“The Other Side of the River,”](#) which also received The Chicago Tribune’s Heartland Prize for Nonfiction.



His book on Chicago, [“Never a City So Real,”](#) was recently released in paperback. His documentary, [“The Interrupters,”](#) a collaboration with Steve James, premiered at Sundance in January 2011 and aired as a two-hour special on PBS’s Frontline and cited as one of the best films of the year by The New Yorker, The Chicago Tribune, Entertainment Weekly and The LA Times. For the film, Alex received an Emmy, a Cinema Eye Award and an Independent Spirit Award.

A former staff writer at The Wall Street Journal, Alex’s work has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times Magazine and on This American Life. His stories have also appeared in Granta, Rolling Stone, The Chicago Tribune, Slate and The Washington Post, as well as on PBS (Frontline, the MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour and Media Matters) and on NPR’s All Things Considered and Morning Edition. His play, “An Unobstructed View,” written with Amy Drozdowska, premiered in Chicago in June 2005.

Danielle McGuire, Ph.D., is an award-winning historian, public speaker and author of [“At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape and Resistance—a New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power”](#) (Knopf), which won the Frederick Jackson Turner Award and the Lillian Smith Book Award. Her Journal of American History article, “It was Like We Were All Raped: Sexualized Violence, Community Mobilization and the African American Freedom Struggle,” won the A. Elizabeth Taylor Prize for best essay in southern women’s history and was reprinted in the Best Essays in American History.



She is the editor with John Dittmer of [“Freedom Rights: New Perspectives on the Civil Rights Movement,”](#) and wrote the foreword for John Hersey’s [“The Algiers Motel Incident.”](#) McGuire is a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians and has appeared on PBS, CNN, MSNBC, Headline News, National Public Radio, BookTV, and dozens of local television and radio stations throughout the United States. Her popular essays have appeared in the Los Angeles Review of Books, the Detroit Free Press, Bridge Magazine, Washington Post, Huffington Post and CNN.com. She is

currently at work on [“Murder in the Motor City: the 1967 Detroit Riot and American Injustice,”](#) about police violence in Detroit, to be published by Knopf.

Natalie Moore covers segregation and inequality for WBEZ, Chicago’s NPR affiliate. Her enterprise reporting has tackled race, housing, economic development, food injustice and violence. Moore writes [a monthly column for the Chicago Sun-Times](#). Her work has been published in Essence, Ebony, the Chicago Reporter, Bitch, In These Times, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Guardian. She is the author of three nonfiction books including, “Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation,” co-authored with Natalie Hopkinson, and [“The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation.”](#)



Moore is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Chicago Library Foundation’s 21st Century Award, the Studs Terkel Community Media Award for reporting on Chicago’s diverse neighborhoods, Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism, the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association, and the Voice of Progressive Journalism Award from In These Times. She has also received awards from Public Radio News Directors Incorporated, National Association of Black Journalists, Illinois Associated Press and Chicago Headline Club. The Chicago Reader named her best journalist in 2017. She received an honorary doctorate from Adler University in 2018.

She has an M.S.J. in Newspaper Management from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and a B.A. in Journalism from Howard University. She has taught at Columbia College and Medill.

Jill Severn has been a certified archivist with the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies for 25 years. She holds an MA in history from the University of Georgia and a Certificate in Museum Management from the University of South Carolina. She manages the access and outreach unit, which includes exhibit and events programs, research services, and instruction. For most of her career, Severn has focused on exploring and developing an archives-centered pedagogy for learning both in and outside academia. In 2015 she helped to establish the University of Georgia's Special Collections Faculty Teaching Fellows Program, which provides training and support to university instructors to



develop archives-centered courses that make significant use of special collections materials. Since 2015, 69 faculty from 20 different departments on campus have completed the program. The program has been honored by the Georgia Historical Records and Advisory Council in 2020. In 2021 Severn was awarded the Marta Lange/CQ Press Award, given annually by the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

One of the greatest American writers of any era, **Alice Walker** is the author of seven novels, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning, [“The Color Purple,”](#) and the classic, [“Meridian.”](#) The National Book Award winner has also written four short story collections, four children’s books, and numerous volumes of essays and poetry. Her work has been translated into more than two dozen languages, and her books have sold more than fifteen million copies. In 2007, her archives were opened to the public at Emory University, about 80 miles from Walker’s hometown of Eatonton, Georgia. Walker chose UGA/MFA Narrative Nonfiction Program founder, Valerie Boyd, to edit Walker’s personal writing into the 2022 book, [“Gathering Blossoms Under Fire: The Journals of Alice Walker, 1965–2000.”](#)



Kamille Whittaker (UGA MFA '21) is an Atlanta-based journalist and Managing Editor of [Atlanta magazine](#). In 2020, she co-founded [Canopy Atlanta](#), an award-winning community-led digital publication and journalism training project. As head of education, she directs Canopy's Fellowship program alongside Canopy staff and in collaboration with Atlanta's journalism community. She also instructs and tutors undergraduate and graduate students at Mercer University's Academic Resource Center Online



Writing Lab. Creatively, she muses at [Jump At The Suns](#)—a culture and foodways narrative space; and is building [Perhaps, To Bloom](#), a storytelling project documenting the swelling Caribbean presence in Atlanta and the South. Previously, she served first as staff writer (2007–2009) and then associate editor (2009–2019) for Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine and Atlanta Daily World (2017–2019).

Her tenure in journalism is rooted in the Black Press. She began as an editorial intern in 2002 for Black Voice News newspaper in her hometown of Riverside, California. She worked in the same capacity with the D.C.-based Heldref Publications (now Taylor & Francis), an academic publisher of 40 humanities and scientific journals and The

Washington Post in conjunction with Newsweek magazine (formerly WPNI) for the Metro, Education and Health desks, before returning to the Black Press via the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) as a National Correspondent. In 2005, she began serving the internationally circulated and curated culture, history and politics journal *Liberator Magazine* as contributor, associate editor and then co-editor.

Kamille holds degrees from the University of Georgia (MFA '21) and Howard University (political science and journalism).

NONFICTION FACULTY MENTORS



Moni Basu is the Michael and Linda Connelly Lecturer in Narrative Nonfiction at the University of Florida, where she's known as Prof. B. Moni worked as a reporter and editor for 35 years before becoming a full-time professor. She still writes as a freelancer and her most recent work has been published in the Bitter Southerner and Flamingo magazine. She loves terrific storytelling. Her 2012 e-book, [“Chaplain Turner’s War”](#) (Agate Publishing) grew from a series of stories on an Army chaplain in Iraq. A platoon sergeant gave her the name “Evil Reporter Chick” and she was featured once as a war reporter in a Marvel comics series. Moni’s work has been recognized with national and international accolades, but she is most proud of her latest award: the 2020 University of Florida Teacher of the Year. Born in Kolkata, India, Moni grew up straddling two cultures, which explains her interest in exploring the complexities of race, ethnicity and identity. English is not her first language and she has never taken a class in journalism.



Rosalind Bentley is the Interim Director of the UGA’s Narrative Nonfiction MFA Program. She is also deputy editor at the Southern Foodways Alliance’s journal, “Gravy,” and editor-at-large for the OXFORD AMERICAN. Rosalind’s work has been recognized in Best American Essays, 2021 edition, and has been anthologized in Best American Newspaper Narratives. Her work has also appeared in the [New York Times](#), the [Oxford American](#), Saveur, [Southern Living](#), Longreads and [Essence magazine](#), among others. She is a [two-time James Beard Award](#) finalist and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for a special project on race relations in Minnesota. Her essay “Iron and Brass,” will appear this fall in “Bigger than Bravery: Black Resilience and Reclamation in a Time of Pandemic,” edited by Valerie Boyd and published by Lookout Books. In Fall 2022, her essay “For the Nourishment of Our Bodies,” will appear in “Reckonings and Reconstruction: Southern Photography from the Do Good Fund,” by University of Georgia Press.



John T. Edge writes about the American South. NPR, Publisher's Weekly, and others named ["The Potlikker Papers"](#) a best book of 2017. Edge hosts the television show ["TrueSouth"](#) on the SEC Network, ESPN, and Hulu. A contributing editor at Garden & Gun, he served the Oxford American as a columnist for twenty-plus years. For three years Edge wrote the "United Tastes" column for The New York Times. Twice honored by the James Beard Foundation with the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award, Edge received the 2018 nonfiction prize from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. The Georgia Writer's Hall of Fame inducted Edge in 2019. John T Edge lives in Oxford, MS, where he serves the University of Mississippi as director of the Mississippi Lab and writer-in-residence for the Department of Writing and Rhetoric.



Lolis Eric Elie is a New Orleans-born, Los Angeles-based writer who has published in several genres. His television credits include ["The Man in the High Castle,"](#) ["Treme,"](#) ["Bosch,"](#) ["Greenleaf"](#) and ["The Chi."](#) Working with the award-winning director Dawn Logsdon, he co-produced and wrote the PBS documentary "Faubourg Treme: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans." His essay "America's Greatest Hits" is included in Best African American Essays: 2009. A former columnist for The Times-Picayune, Lolis is the author of ["Treme: Stories and Recipes From the Heart of New Orleans,"](#) and ["Smokestack Lightning: Adventures in the Heart of Barbecue Country."](#) He is also co-producer and writer of ["Smokestack Lightning: A Day in the Life of Barbecue,"](#) the documentary based on that book. Lolis is editor of ["Cornbread Nation 2: The Best of Southern Food Writing."](#) A contributing writer to the Oxford American, he has published work in The Bitter Southerner, Gourmet, The Washington Post, Time, The New York Times, Bon Appetit, Downbeat and The San Francisco Chronicle.



Melissa Fay Greene is the author of six books of nonfiction: [“Praying for Sheetrock”](#) (1991), [“The Temple Bombing”](#) (1996), [“Last Man Out”](#) (2003), [“There Is No Me Without You”](#) (2006), [“No Biking in the House Without a Helmet”](#) (2011), and [“The Underdogs”](#) (2016), and is the Kirk Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at Agnes Scott College. Melissa’s work has been translated into a dozen languages and has been honored with a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship, two National Book Award nominations, a National Book Critics Circle Award

nomination, the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize, the Southern Book Critics Circle Award, the ACLU National Civil Liberties Award, the Hadassah Myrtle Wreath Award, the Lillian Smith Book Award, the Georgia Book Award, a Lyndhurst Foundation Fellowship, the Georgia Governor’s Award for the Arts & Humanities, and induction into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame. “Sheetrock” was named one of the “Top 100 Works of American Journalism of the 20th Century” by a panel convened by NYU. She has contributed to The New York Times, The New Yorker, The Atlantic, The Washington Post, New York Magazine, Newsweek, LIFE, [CNN.com](#), and other periodicals. A Macon native and 1975 graduate of Oberlin College, Melissa and her husband, defense attorney Don Samuel, are the parents of nine, the in-laws of four, and the grandparents of two.



Patricia Thomas has been mentoring narrative nonfiction students in the MFA program since 2017, following 12 years as the founding director of the MA program in health and medical journalism at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. She held the Knight Chair in Health and Medical Journalism at UGA before becoming a Professor Emerita. Having grown up in a small town in Central Florida, she was eager to go elsewhere for college and earned degrees from UC Berkeley and Stanford. For more than three decades she worked as a reporter and editor in the San Francisco Bay Area, Atlanta and Boston, specializing in science, health, and

medicine. She was a science writing fellow at MIT, the editor of Harvard Medical School’s consumer newsletter, and a visiting scholar at Boston University. Pat realized during her year at BU that she wanted to teach writers to become better storytellers. By that time, she had written a narrative nonfiction book of her own: [“Big Shot: Passion, Politics, and the Struggle for an AIDS Vaccine”](#) was published in 2001 and named a Washington Post notable book.



Jan Winburn spent more than four decades at national and global news outlets, working as a narrative editor, writing coach and investigative editor. Since 2018, she has mentored students in UGA's MFA in narrative media writing. And in 2021, she was [named the T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professor](#) at the University of Montana School of Journalism, where she taught trauma-informed reporting and narrative storytelling. Her [2022 TedX talk](#), "Don't tune out: How news of trauma can make you a better person," highlights her personal experience with trauma and the way it fueled her professional desire to uncover stories of resilience behind headlines of tragedy. She received the [2009 Mimi Award](#) given to editors "who encourage journalistic excellence and understand the emotional landscape of

assignments on tragedy and trauma." Stories she edited have won many significant journalism awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing, the Peabody, the Edward R. Murrow Award, the Livingston Award for Young Journalists, the Ernie Pyle Award for Human Interest Storytelling and the Batten Medal for Public Service. She led reporting teams at CNN, the Baltimore Sun, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Hartford Courant and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She is the author of "[Shop Talk and War Stories: Journalists Examine Their Profession](#)" and co-editor of two e-books, "[Secrets of Prize-Winning Journalism 2013](#)" and "[Secrets of Prize-Winning Journalism 2014.](#)"

HOTEL & DINING INFORMATION + TIPS

Our host hotel for this residency is the [Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Conference Center](#), located at 1197 S Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30602, within walking distance of our classes in the [Grady College of Journalism building](#).

COST: The room rate is \$89 per night, excluding taxes, fees and parking. All rooms are king rooms except for one room that has two double beds. Each person pays for their own room. When you place your reservation, use the group code, MFAFR to get the rate. The hotel recommends registering online by visiting hotel.uga.edu and hovering over the reservations tab. When you do that, the group code option should appear on the drop down menu. Click on "GROUP CODE" and enter the code "MFAFR." Otherwise, if you click on reservations, it will take you straight to booking and you won't get the discounted rate option. And of course, you can always call the hotel at 706-542-2134.

PARKING: Parking is \$10 per day. You can, however, buy a pass for \$50 from the Georgia Center that will allow you to come and go at will throughout the residency without having to pay a fee each time you enter the hotel lot.

DINING OPTIONS: The Georgia Center has two restaurants, the Savannah Room (sit-down restaurant with a full menu) and the Bulldog Bistro, which has snacks, to-go breakfast and light take away options

OTHER DINING/SHOPPING OPTIONS:

- A number of fabulous and unique restaurants and shopping for all budgets are within walking distance of the hotel in Five Points on Lumpkin Street.
- Downtown Athens offers more unique restaurants and shops, just on the edge of UGA's north campus.
- The [Tate Student Center](#), located adjacent to the Grady College of Journalism, has fastfood options, including Chick-fil-A, Niche Pizza, Barberitos and Panda Express.
- Right around the corner from the Tate Center eateries is the [Market at Tate](#), a convenience store offering packaged snacks, sundries and drinks.
- And don't miss the University Bookstore, Athens' largest store for UGA souvenirs. And they have a few books as well.
- Earthfare, a healthy food grocer located in Five Points.

TIPS FOR THE RESIDENCY:

- Dress for Georgia's hot and humid summers.
- Bring a sweater or jacket because classrooms can be cool and sometimes overcompensate for the heat.
- Bring a water bottle. There are motion-sensor water fountains located in Grady for a quick refill.
- Bring your laptop or other writing implements to take notes during the information-filled presentations and talks.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- North Campus in general, because it's the oldest and most picturesque part of campus. This includes the UGA Arch (edge of North Campus and downtown Athens) and the President's Fountain beside Old College.
- [Sanford Stadium](#) and the Brass Bulldog (in the Memorial Hall Plaza)
- [Stegeman Coliseum](#) (adjacent to the Georgia Center)
- [Butts Mehre Heritage Hall](#)
- [Tree That Owns Itself](#)
- [Avid Bookshop](#) – independent bookseller in Five Points