

2023 SWA Faculty Members:

Cassandra King



CASSANDRA KING is an award-winning author of five bestselling novels and two nonfiction books in addition to numerous short stories, essays, and magazine articles. Her latest book, *Tell Me A Story*, a memoir about life with her late husband, Pat Conroy, was named SIBA's 2020 non-fiction Book of the Year. A native of LA (Lower Alabama), Cassandra resides in Beaufort, South Carolina, where she is honorary chair of the Pat Conroy Literary Center.

For more information, check out Cassandra's website: www.cassandrakingconroy.com

Susan Montanari



Susan McElroy Montanari spent the majority of her life on the beach and tidal creeks surrounding Savannah, Georgia. She obtained a Bachelors of Arts degree in English and Literature from Georgia Southern University. While living in Connecticut, Susan was a finalist in two categories for the 2010 Tassy Walden Award for New Voices in Children's Literature: one for

her picture book, *My Dog's A Chicken*, and the other for her middle grade novel, *The Day Sasquatch Ate My Journal*. Susan's publishing credits include; from Schwartz & Wade at Penguin Random House— *My Dog's A Chicken*, illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf (2016) (Northern Lights Humor Award) and (South Carolina Picture Book of the Year nominee 2019), *Who's the Grossest of Them All?* illustrated by Jake Parker (2016), *Hip-Hop Lollipop* (2018) ("School Library Journal" starred review) illustrated by two-time Caldecott Honor recipient Brian Pinkney, and *Goldilocks for Dinner?* (2019) (a "Junior Library Guild Selection" and "International Literacy Association Children's Choice 2020 Reading List") illustrated by Jake Parker, and from Source Books— *The Halloween Tree* (2019) illustrated by Theresa Martinez. Susan's hobbies include gardening, scuba diving, natural science, legend tripping, and cryptozoology. Susan currently lives in Beaufort, SC, with her husband, Dan, and a cat named Tybee. Erzsi Deak of Hen & Ink Literary represents Susan. Visit her at <http://susanmontanari.com>. And follow her on Twitter [@susanmontanari](https://twitter.com/susanmontanari).

Michael Lister



New York Times bestselling and award-winning novelist Michael Lister is a native Floridian best known for his acclaimed John Jordan "Blood" mystery thriller series.

Michael grew up in north Florida near the Gulf of Mexico and the Apalachicola River in a small town world famous for tupelo honey. Captivated by story since childhood, Michael has a love for language and narrative inspired by the Southern storytelling tradition.

Before becoming a full-time novelist in 2000, Michael taught high school, worked as a college professor and inspirational speaker, owned and operated a bookstore, wrote a popular syndicated column, served as a newspaper editor, operated a community theater, wrote plays and screenplays, and worked for a production company. He has lectured extensively in the areas of creative writing, film, literature, spirituality, and self-help.

In the 90s, Michael was the youngest chaplain within the Florida Department of Corrections. For nearly a decade, he served as a contract, staff, then senior chaplain at three different facilities in the Panhandle of Florida—a singular experience that led to his first novel, 1997's critically acclaimed, **POWER IN THE BLOOD**.

Michael is also the author of the Burke and Blade Panama City Beach PI series (**THE NIGHT OF, etc.**), the 1940s Jimmy Riley noir series (**THE BIG GOODBYE, etc.**), and the thrillers **DOUBLE EXPOSURE, BURNT OFFERINGS, and SEPARATION ANXIETY**.

Michael is the recipient of two Florida Book Awards—for **DOUBLE EXPOSURE** and **BLOOD SACRIFICE**, respectively. His work has spent time on both the *New York Times* and the *USA Today* Bestseller lists, been translated into German, and adapted into stage plays. Currently, **DOUBLE EXPOSURE** is in development for a feature film and the John Jordan books for a TV series.

Michael lives in North Florida, where in between writing stints, he enjoys time with his family and friends, playing basketball, and making music.

For more information, visit Michael's website: <http://www.michaellister.com>

Shari Stauch



CEO and creator of Where Writers Win, Shari Stauch has been involved in publishing, marketing and PR for 30 years. She is the co-creator of [Pool & Billiard Magazine](#), celebrating 30 years as the sport's oldest monthly magazine. In 2004 she retired from the Women's Pro Billiard Tour after a 20-year career as a top player and marketer/co-creator of the tour (inducted into the WPBA Hall of Fame in 2007) to pursue development of Where Writers Win and serve a growing community of writers and authors.

As former board chair of Charleston's [Center for Women](#), she served as moderator for the Center's Women's Writer Series, and she is past producer, alongside team member Bren McClain, of the [South Carolina Writers Workshop](#) (SCWW) Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, along with Charleston's Pubsense Summit and PubSmart.

In 2008, Stauch signed on as Co-Director of Programming for [Words & Music: A Literary Feast in New Orleans](#), and re-launched the organization's website. The elite conference brings in authors of note, from Ted Turner to Dennis Lehane to Tim O'Brien, Robert Olen Butler and Justin Torres, along with the nation's best and brightest agents and editors, and promising authors from around the globe.

Stauch continues to work with the **Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society** as well as with publishers, agents, editors, and emerging authors throughout the U.S., using her marketing and PR talents to help authors broaden their audiences, and publishers realize greater sales potential. Shari has given workshops and keynote speeches at conferences across the country, including the Writers Digest conference NYC, Tucson Festival of Books, Chanticleer Writers Conference (Seattle), Lawyers for the Creative Arts (Chicago), Florida Writers Conference, Publish15 (Atlanta), IPBA Publishing University, Pat Conroy Literary Festival (Beaufort, SC), Historical Writers of America and more.

Stauch is a certified executive coach, an award-winning essayist and fiction writer, and author of four non-fiction books. She is also a contributor to [Office For One: The Sole Proprietor's Survival Guide](#) and [You Can Do It!: The Merit Badge Handbook for Grown-Up Girls](#).

Shari is the principal author of the WWW blog, with new posts published each week, and a contributor to the IngramSpark blog.

When she's not working (and often when she is...) she can be found cozied up in her three-story library in a house she and her husband Jeff and their two children built near Charleston, SC in 1999...

Visit Where Writers Win: <https://writerswin.com/the-team/shari-stauch/>



Terri Gerrell

Terri Gerrell is the Owner-Operator at [Southern Yellow Pine \(SYP\) Publishing](#).

Southern Yellow Pines Publishing promotes Southern Authors of fiction and non-fiction throughout the Southeast. The Tallahassee, Florida publisher works with new and aspiring

authors, and strives to publish unique works set in specific locals that reflect the culture of that area.

Visit the Southern Yellow Pines Publishing website at <https://www.syppublishing.com>.

