



## *2024 Story Catcher Workshop*

### *June 4-7, Gunnison & Crested Butte CO.*

Set in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, with the Western Colorado University Campus as our classroom, and the Gunnison Valley, Crested Butte and Grand Mesa National Forest as our playground!

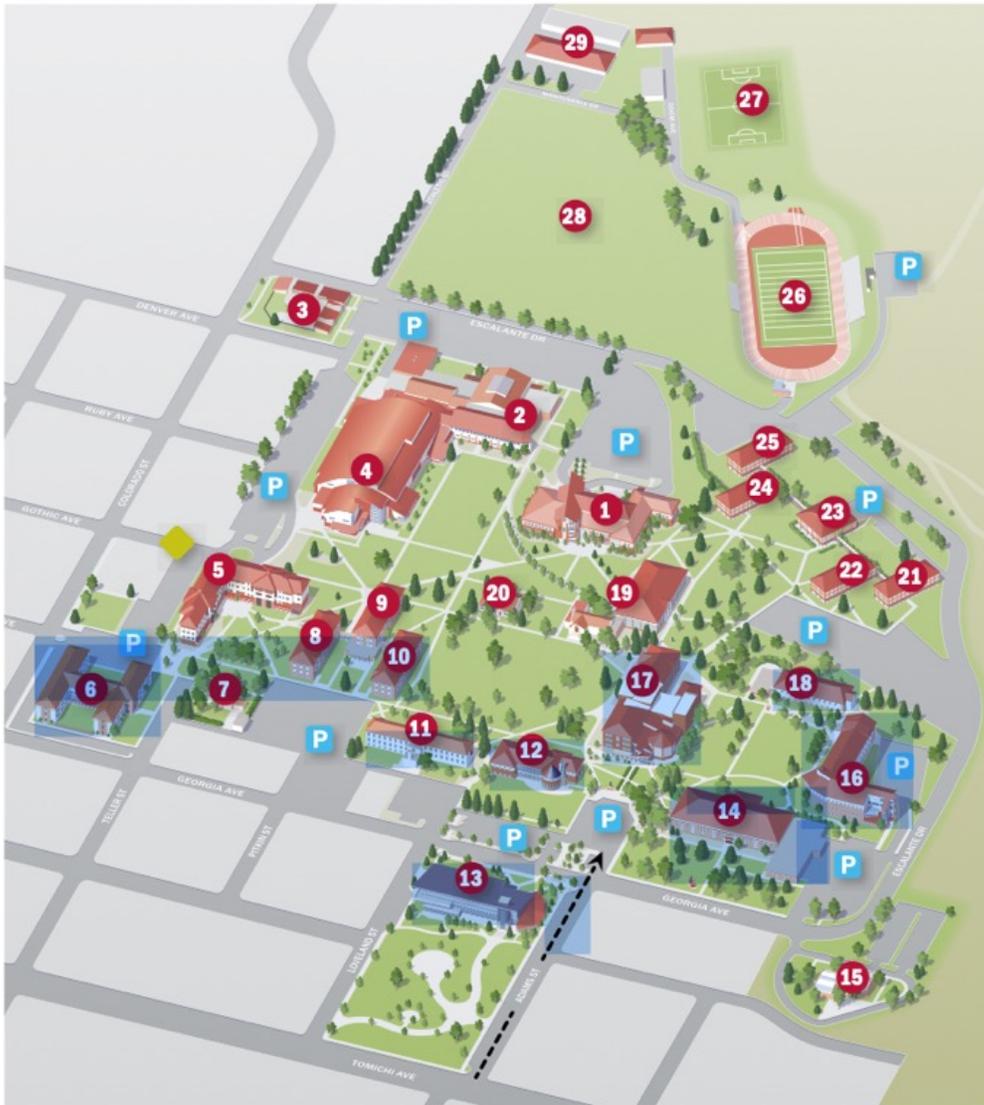


*ABOVE (L-R) Festival participants at Story Catcher 2022 on the WCU Campus. MFA Students in the Nature Writing Concentration gather for a wildflower hike at the end of their 2021 summer residency. Slate River along "Oh Be Joyful" Trail, Grand Mesa National Forest, Crested Butte.*

# Welcome to WCU Campus and the Beautiful Gunnison Valley!

Set in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, this year's Workshop and Festival promises daily inspiration, plenty of exciting writing opportunities, and hopefully a few great hikes.

**Interactive Campus Map:** <https://western.edu/about/map-directions/>



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1 University Center</b><br>Ballrooms (Meeting Space)<br>Bookstore<br>EPIC Mentors<br>LEAD & Orientation<br>Mad Jack's Cafe<br>Mail Center<br>Mountaineer Card Office<br>Multicultural Center<br>Program Council<br>Rare Air Cafe<br>Residence Life<br>Student Government Association<br>Student Health & Wellness<br>University Theater<br>Wilderness Pursuits | <b>15 Aspinall-Wilson Center</b><br>Alumni Relations<br>Western Colorado<br>University Foundation  |
| <b>2 Paul Wright Gym</b><br>Aquatic Center<br>Exercise & Sport Science<br>High Altitude Performance Lab<br>NCAA Athletics<br>Recreation & Outdoor Education   | <b>16 Hurst Hall</b><br>Mathematics<br>Natural & Environmental Sciences  |
| <b>3 Tenderfoot Child &amp; Family Development Center</b>   | <b>17 Taylor Hall</b><br>Academic Resource Center<br>Admissions<br>Campus Tours<br>Cashier's Office<br>Communication Arts<br>Disability Services<br>Enrollment Services<br>Exchange Programs<br>& International Students<br>Extended Studies<br>Finance & Administration<br>Financial Aid<br>Honors Program Center<br>Information Technology Services<br>KWSB Radio Station<br>Marketing Communications<br>New Student Advising<br>Office of the President<br>Registrar<br>Student Affairs<br>Welcome Center |
| <b>4 Mountaineer Field House</b><br>Climbing Wall<br>Club Sports<br>Fitness Center<br>Intramural Sports<br>Mountain Sports  | <b>18 Kelley Hall</b><br>Behavioral & Social Sciences<br>Clark Family School of Environment & Sustainability   |
| <b>5 Pinnacles Apartments</b><br>Pinnacles Garden   | <b>19 Leslie J. Savage Library</b><br>Career Services<br>Women's Student Lounge<br>Writing Center  |
| <b>6 Chipeta Apartments</b><br>Chipeta Garden<br>Organics Guild   | <b>20 Crawford Hall</b><br>Elementary & M.A. Education   |
| <b>7 President's Residence</b>  | <b>21 Crystal Hall</b><br>Counseling Center  |
| <b>8 Moffat Hall</b>  | <b>22 Tomichi Hall</b><br>Medical Clinic<br>24-hour Student Computer Lab   |
| <b>9 Mears Hall</b>   | <b>23 Escalante Complex</b><br>CoffeeLab<br>ICELab<br>Esports Arena<br>Small Business Development Center<br>Top o' the World Newspaper   |
| <b>10 Robidoux Hall</b>   | <b>24 Colorado Hall</b>  |
| <b>11 Ute Hall</b><br>FreeCycle<br>Mountain Rescue Team   | <b>25 Delores Hall</b>   |
| <b>12 Borick Business Building</b><br>Accounting<br>Business Administration<br>Economics  | <b>26 Mountaineer Bowl</b>   |
| <b>13 Paul M. Rady School of Computer Science &amp; Engineering</b><br>CU Partnership Programs<br>Computer Science<br>Mathematics   | <b>27 Katy O. Rady Soccer Field</b>  |
| <b>14 Quigley Hall</b><br>Art<br>Gallery<br>John & Georgie Kincaid<br>Concert Hall<br>Music   | <b>28 Crismon Practice Field</b>   |
|   | <b>29 Whipp Maintenance Buildings</b>  |

RTA Bus Stop

Parking (Free)

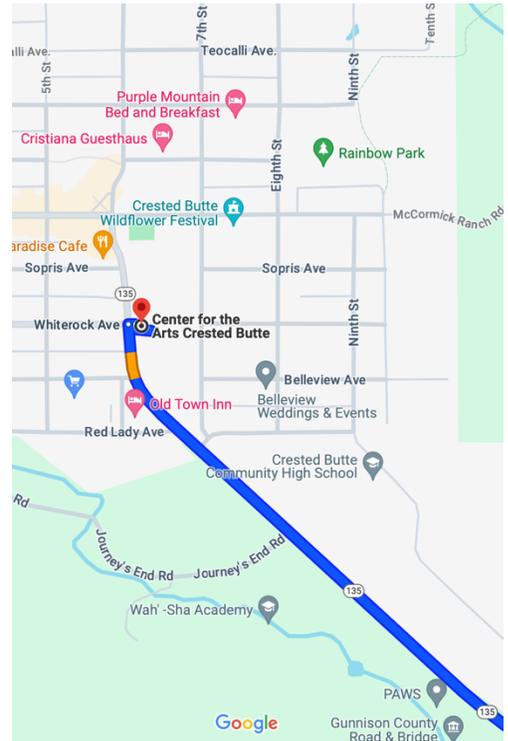
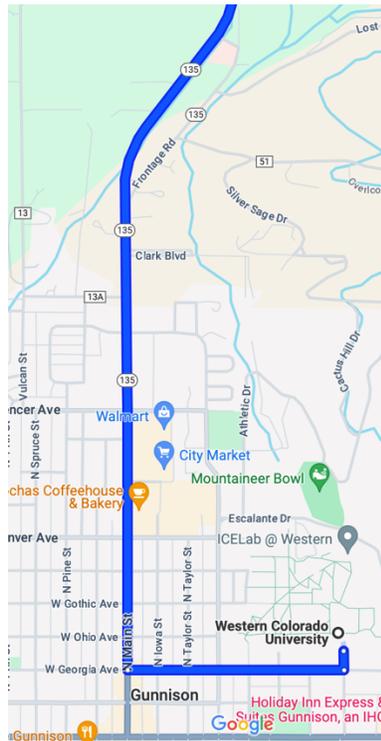
**UNIVERSITY CENTER** (#1 on the map above). Most of our events will take place here. For details about the University Center, visit <https://western.edu/student-life/university-center/>.

**WCU HOUSING:** If you selected university housing when you registered, you will be staying in the Pinnacles Apartments (#5 on the map above). You can find out more information about Pinnacles here: <https://western.edu/student-life/residence-life-housing/on-campus-housing/pinnacles-apartments/>

**PARKING and CAMPUS SAFETY:** There should be plenty of open (and free) spaces to park behind the University Center (#1) and in front of the Pinnacles Apartments (#5), first-come/first-served.

For more information about parking as well as Campus Security and Guest Services: <https://western.edu/about/administration/conference-services/guest-information/>

**CRESTED BUTTE** Our Friday Events will take place at the Center for the Arts in Crested Butte, an easy 30-minute cruise up Highway 135. We will work to coordinate rides as needed during the workshop. <https://crestedbuttearts.org>



## TIPS for a Safe and Pleasant Western Experience:

The Western Visitor Page has some excellent resources for visiting and getting around campus:

- **VISITOR GUIDES:** The “Visiting Western’s Beautiful Campus” section of the “Parents and Families” Resource page (<https://western.edu/parents-family/>) has excellent information on the following:



- Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport
- Gunnison Valley Free Bus Schedule
- Activities in the Gunnison Valley (and visitor guides)
- Activities in Crested Butte (and visitor guides)

- **TRAVEL TIPS:** The “Getting to Crested Butte And Gunnison” section is particularly detailed: <https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/visit/getting-here/>

- **LODGING & RESTAURANTS:**

- <https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/visit/trip-planning/lodging/>
- <https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/visit/trip-planning/restaurants/>

## Climate & Clothing

The Gunnison Valley is considered a semi-arid continental climate, or sometimes referred to as High Desert. The campus elevation is 7,750 feet, and the surrounding mountainous terrain has peaks as high as 12,000 feet, while the mountain village of Crested Butte to the north has an elevation of 8,900 feet. The main east/west thoroughfare, Highway 50, features expanses of flat wetlands to the east of town, and long stretches of flat, rocky terrain to the west, leading towards the Curecanti National Recreation Area and Blue Mesa Reservoir, one of the largest bodies of water in the state.

The average high temperature in June is 76 degrees Fahrenheit, with a low of 41, with generally clear days with low humidity. Because the campus and city of Gunnison are in a valley surrounded by higher elevations, cold temperatures from the mountains can descend into the valley, as well as fast-developing and sometimes intense storms. Be prepared. Most of our facilities will be air-conditioned. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME BUILDINGS CAN GET CHILLY. You may want to bring a jacket to wear indoors for these sessions.

Participants should take the typical precautions for high-altitude visits such as drinking more water, drinking less alcohol and caffeine, and protecting yourself from the sun's intense rays at this altitude. A good overview for preparing for high-altitude travel can be found at this Center for Disease Control Webpage: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/travel-to-high-altitudes>

Mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking and wildflower walks are the major trail activities during the summer. Trails can get busy, and trailheads will fill up early. A good resource is the "CBG Trails" webpage: <https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/cbg-trails/>. The Hartman Rocks Recreation Area south of town is also a popular attraction for rock climbing and mountain biking (and outdoor motorsports): <https://www.blm.gov/visit/hartman-rocks-recreation-area>. Fishing, rafting and other watersports are also very popular in the region.



*With Western Colorado  
University*

# Tuesday, June 4th

## WRITER'S RETREAT DAY ONE

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(Above) Sean Prentiss conducts advanced workshop consultations under beautiful Western Colorado skies at Story Catcher in 2022. (Right & Below) Opening Night Reception and Reading at the Western Student Center

### Advanced Workshop:

- **9 a.m. to 3 p.m University Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Rooms**
  - Manuscript Consultations with Karen Auvinen (prose) and Haesong Kwon (poetry)  
*Limited space available. Our consultants will collect writing from the participants in advance of the workshop and then meet with the writers individually to review their projects. Procedures for the consultations will be worked out with those who sign up for this part of the workshop.*
- **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
  - Please see program for dining options in Gunnison.

### Check In:

- **3-5 p.m. University Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Rooms**
  - Confirm your arrival, get your workshop folder, and receive directions for checking into campus housing.



### Evening Program:

- **5 to 6 p.m., University Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**
  - Reception and Social Hour (with cash bar)



- **6 to 7 p.m., University Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South Conference Room**
  - Dinner
- **7 to 8:30 p.m., University Center North Conference room**
  - Welcome by Steve Coughlin
  - Featured reading by Haesong Kwon and Pamela Uschuk

# Wednesday, June 5th

## WRITER'S RETREAT DAY TWO

### Morning Session:

- **8 to 9 a.m. University Center South Conference Room**
  - Complimentary Breakfast
- **9:30 to 11:30 a.m. University Center South Conference**
  - Nonfiction Craft Session with J.C. Hallman  
*How You Say What You Say Is Part Of What You Mean*  
*What defines imaginative writing and “creative nonfiction”?*  
*This lecture will examine one of the most inscrutable pieces of writing ever produced—James Agee’s six-page-long “Knoxville: Summer, 1915”—to reflect on the too-often-overlooked foundations of the techniques, strategy, and purpose of literature.*

### Afternoon Sessions:

- **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
  - Please program for dining options in Gunnison
- **2 to 5 p.m. University Center South Conference**
  - Playwriting Workshop with Steven Cole Hughes  
*Words Are Action* Participants will write their own short play in 2 hours! Dramatic writing is different from other forms of writing in that the only information an audience gets is what is coming out of characters’ mouths. We will discuss and practice writing active dialogue. Dialogue as a way of getting what you want. Words as action. Participants will also get the experience of writing a short play that has a beginning, middle, end, and premise.

### Evening Program:

#### **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

- Please see program for dining options in Gunnison.
- **7 to 8:30 p.m. University Center North Conference**
  - Featured Readings by J.C. Hallman & Karen Auvinen



(Above) Writers purchase books and collect materials between sessions at 2022 Workshop in Gunnison.

(Below) Beth Piatote leads her workshop session “The Good Thing about Bad Relatives” at Story Catcher 2023 in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



# Thursday, June 6th

## WRITER'S RETREAT DAY THREE

### Morning Session:

- **Breakfast ON YOUR OWN**
  - Please see program for dining options in Gunnison
- **9:30 to 11:30 a.m. University Center South Conf.**
  - Fiction Craft Session with Rilla Askew

#### ***Characters in Place: Place as Character***

*Whether your story is set in a contemporary interior space or historical landscapes long vanished, the physical world of your fiction shapes everything: what readers know, and don't know they know, about these characters alive in this specific time and place. Using vivid examples of published work and writing exercises that help us recognize multiple layers of place and render it on the page, this workshop is for writers at all levels, whether beginning new work or advancing a work-in-progress. Also productive for writers working in creative nonfiction.*

### Afternoon Sessions:

- **12 to 1 p.m. University Center South Conference**
  - Complimentary Lunch
- **1 to 2:30 p.m. University Center South Conference**
  - Publishing Panel with Story Catcher Writing Faculty
    - *From finding an agent to publishing your work, this panel will discuss the business side of writing with a focus on offering effective strategies for publication.*



*(above) Kelly Ann Jacobson leads a craft session at the 2022 Workshop at Western Colorado University*



*Writers gather for our lunch roundtable discussion at Story Catcher 2022 in Gunnison*

### Evening Program:

- **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**
  - Please see program for dining options in Gunnison.
- **7 to 8:30 p.m. University Center North Conference Room**
  - Featured Readings by Rilla Askew & Karen Hausdoerffer

# Friday, June 7th

## WRITER'S RETREAT DAY FOUR

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### Morning Session (Crested Butte Arts Center):

- **9 to 9:30:** Complimentary Breakfast Items (donuts, etc...)
- **9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**
  - Poetry Craft Session with Pam Uschuk

#### ***Tanagers, Aspens, Bears & Mountain Creeks: A Generative Ecopoetry Workshop***

*Welcome to this generative ecopoetry writing workshop with an emphasis on local heroes like the striking Western Tanager, our iconic and graceful Aspen trees, resident black bears (a keystone species), and watersheds like the Rio Grande and Arkansas River. I have hiked, kayaked, and lived in close contact with these locals most of my adult life. We will talk about interdependence, the way humans impact wilderness and wild beings who live in our area—while exploring poetic techniques such as sound & rhythm, ways to break lines, and various ways to create imagery. Participants will be introduced to forms like the Haibun, Abecedarian, and/or Ekphrastic poems, and will write at least one in-session poem from a prompt. We will also encounter major eco-poets such as Joy Harjo, Camille Dungy, Linda Hogan, Luis Alberto Urea, Sandra Alcosser, J. Drew Lanham, Lauren Camp, Elizabeth Jacobson, Simon Ortiz, Lucille Clifton, Galway Kinnell, William Root, Esther Belin and many more. Let's have fun while learning about and writing ecopoetry!*

### The Story Catcher Festival (Crested Butte Arts Center)

- **Lunch Location TBA**  
Will be on your own/pay-your way, but we will try to coordinate a location where most of us can meet before the Festival Activities.
- **2 to 3 p.m. 2024 Emerging Writers**  
Young Lance Fellowship & Mari Sandoz Emerging Writers
- **3 to 5 p.m. Story Sharer**  
Open Mic Featuring Retreat Participants

### Evening On Your own

**NOTE: All participants must be checked out of campus housing by 10 A.M. on Saturday**



#### **Story Land —Máya<sup>n</sup> Wéka<sup>n</sup>**

Anna Lee Walters leads the concluding session and start of the 2023 Story Catcher Festival in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

# Workshop Faculty

**J.C. Hallman** grew up in Southern California. He studied writing at the University of Pittsburgh, the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins, and the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Hallman's nonfiction combines memoir, history, journalism, and travelogue. His first book, *The Chess Artist*, tells the story of Hallman's friendship with chess player Glenn Umstead. His second, *The Devil is a Gentleman*, is an intellectual apprenticeship with philosopher William James. *In Utopia* explores the history of utopian literature in the context of visits to six modern utopias in various stages of realization. *Wm & H'ry* examines the copious correspondence of William and Henry James. And *B & Me* is an account of Hallman's literary relationship with Nicholson Baker.



[jchallman.com](http://jchallman.com)

Hallman has also published a book of short stories, *The Hospital for Bad Poets*, and edited two anthologies of "creative criticism," *The Story About the Story* and *The Story About the Story II*. Among other honors, Hallman was a recipient of a 2010 McKnight Artist Fellowship in fiction, and a 2013 Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation in the general non-fiction category.

In 2015, Hallman discovered the first evidence that proved the existence of the young, enslaved woman known as Anarcha, the so-called first cure of the diabolical "father of gynecology," J. Marion Sims. In making significant contributions to the histories of slavery and medicine, Hallman's dual biography, *Say Anarcha*, excavates and centers Anarcha's story, and provides a much-needed corrective to the false narrative of Sims's career.

— "[A] truly astounding tale...*Say Anarcha* is an important book and deserves to be widely read...In the introduction, Hallman tells us that his goal is 'to subvert every aspect of the fraudulent narrative' connected to Anarcha and to 'excavate the life story of a young, enslaved woman who changed history, only to be forgotten by it.' He has accomplished that and more."

**The New York Times**

— "Audacious . . . Hallman ranges deep and wide in this passionate . . . **wildly intelligent, deeply personal**, immoderate exploration of Nicholson Baker's entire oeuvre, reading in general, and the state of modern literature.

—NPR



[rillaaskew.com](http://rillaaskew.com)

## Rilla Askew

Best known for her American Book Award-winning novel about the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, *Fire in Beulah* (Viking 2001), Rilla Askew is the author of five novels, a book of stories, and a collection of creative nonfiction.

She's a PEN/Faulkner finalist, recipient of the Western Heritage Award, Oklahoma Book Award, the WILLA Award

from Women Writing the West, and a 2009 Arts and Letters Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Askew's essays, poems, and short fiction have appeared in *AGNI*, *Nimrod*, *Tin House*, *World Literature Today*, and elsewhere. Her book of essays, *Most American: Notes from a Wounded Place* (OU Press 2017), was long listed for PEN America's award for the art of the essay. Askew's most recent novel, *Prize for the Fire* (OU Press 2022), is about Early Modern English writer Anne Askew, who was burned as a heretic in 1546. A new collection of stories, *The Hungry & The Haunted*, will be published by Belle Point Press in Fall 2024.

*"Rilla Askew--a storyteller of truth and grace in all she writes, whether novel or essay--moves us to compassionately consider Oklahoma in all its faces. Oklahoma is a rough story of theft and coercion, of beauty and tenderness. In Most American, Askew teaches us to see with wiser eyes."*

— **U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo**

*"Five generations of Rilla Askew's family have occupied southeastern Oklahoma. Celebrating this birthright, she has concocted of it her own Faulknerian kingdom. Askew is writing a mythic cycle, novels and stories that unsettle our view of the West's settling. In a continuous fictional mural populated with hardscrabble souls - credible, noble and flawed - Askew is completing the uncompleted crossing of the plains. Trusting prose that is disciplined, luxuriant and muscular, she is forging a chronicle as humane as it is elemental."*

— **Allan Gurganus, May 20, 2009, American Academy of Arts and Letters**



[pamelauschuk.com](http://pamelauschuk.com)

## Pamela Uschuk

Author of eight books of poems, Pam has garnered many awards, including the American Book Award, the Dorothy Daniels Writing Award from the American League of Pen Women, Best of the Web, War Poetry Award, the Struga Poetry Prize for a theme poem, King's English poetry prize and prizes from Ascent and Amnesty International.

Translated into over a dozen languages, Pam's work appears in over three hundred journals and anthologies worldwide, including *Poetry*, *Parnassus Review*, *Agni*

*Review* and *Ploughshares*. Her most recent collection of poems, *Refugee*, was named one of *Kirkus Review's* "favorite books of 2023" and listed by *Orion Magazine* as "one of 14 recommended books of poetry in 2022."

She is a Black Earth Institute senior fellow and board member as well as being editor-in-chief of *Cutthroat*, a journal of the arts. She was awarded a Writing Residency at Storyknife Women's Writers Retreat in Homer, Alaska for the month of September 2022. In spring 2024 she is the Pearl S. Buck visiting writer at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia. When she's not writing, she's hiking with her dog Talulah and husband William root or birding anywhere she can.

*"With tenderness, expansive compassion, and profound gifts of radiant description, Pamela Uschuk considers so many ways people may be estranged and lost in this precious, difficult world. With brave ferocity, her poems in Refugee navigate new vision and reconnection, so desperately longed for right now and always."*

— Naomi Shihab Nye, author of *The Tiny Journalist*

*"Wild in the Plaza of Memory lives up to its title. With these poems, Uschuk has opened a public space where all things, all encounters—both beautiful and dreaded—are not only possible, they are inevitable. In this plaza of poetry, the poet moves effortlessly in time and space, addresses the living and conjures the dead, confesses personal losses publicly and public losses intimately."*

— Daniel Nathan Terry

*"These poems are matrixes of earth creatures, winds, suns and the need to replace travesty with justice. Uschuk's best collection thus far."*

— U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo

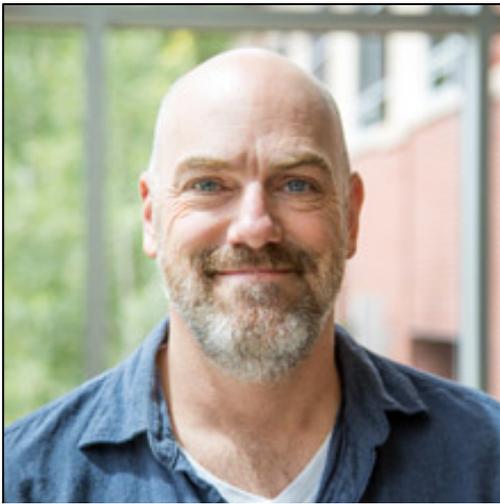


Photo courtesy of Western Colorado University

**Steven Cole Hughes** is an actor, director, playwright, and Assistant Professor and Director of Theatre at Western Colorado University in Gunnison, CO. His produced plays include: *The Billy Trilogy* (*Slabtown*, *Billy Hell*, and *The Bad Man*) winner of the Denver Post Ovation Awards for Best New Work and Special Achievement, *Cowboyily*, *Behold! The Fig Leaf Apron*, and *Indiana*. Commissions and productions have come from The Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Curious Theatre Company, The Bloomington Playwrights Project in Bloomington, IN, and the Coterie Theatre in

Kansas City, MO. His writing has appeared in *The Wanderlust Review*, and his play *A Brief History of Banned Books* will be published by BookBar Press in April 2024 in *We Can See Into Another Place: Mile-High Writers on Social Justice*. As an actor, he has appeared at theatres all over the country, on television's *Law & Order*, and in the Denver Center for the Performing Art's production of *Macbeth*. He has a B.A. in Theatre from Indiana University and an MFA from the National Theatre Conservatory.



[karenavinen.com](http://karenavinen.com)

**Karen Auvinen** is an award-winning poet, mountain woman, life-long westerner, writer, educator, speaker, and the author of the memoir *Rough Beauty: Forty Seasons of Mountain Living* (Scribner), finalist for the Colorado Book Award and the Willa Award. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *LitHub*, *Real Simple*, *Westword*, among others, and is forthcoming in *Terrain* and *Deep Wild*.

Her fiction has been nominated for two Pushcart Prizes and her poetry has won two Academy of American Poets Awards. She is the 2024 winner of the Barry Lopez Prize in Creative Nonfiction. She is also on the Graduate Faculty in Nature Writing at Western Colorado University and directs the Creative Minds Residential Academic Program at CU-Boulder.



*Academy of American Poets*

**Haesong Kwon** teaches at Dine' College on the Navajo Nation reservation. He is the author of *The People's Field* (Southeast Missouri State University Press, 2019, winner of the 2018 Cowles Poetry Book Prize) and the Chapbook *Many Have Fallen*.

Recent poems appear in *Prairie Schooner*, *Southern Humanities Review* and *Meridian*. He was recipient of the 2014 Laurence Goldstein Poetry Prize, which is awarded annually to the author of the best poem or group of poems appearing that year in *Michigan Quarterly Review*.



*Photo courtesy of Western Colorado University*

**Karen Hausdoerffer** teaches environmental writing at Western Colorado University and English for adult immigrants at the Center for Adult and Family Education. She has earned an MFA in creative writing from the University of Idaho and has published work in journals including *Indiana Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Backcountry Magazine*, and *Crab Creek Review*.

Recently, her play *The Koi Pond*, was produced as a staged reading at the Gunnison Valley Theatre Festival.

## Story Catcher Staff

**Max Logan** (student assistant) is a fourth-year English student at Western working on his BA with an emphasis on Creative Writing. He mainly writes genre fiction and has several personal projects in the works. This is his first year as the Story Catcher intern, and he is here to help in any way that he can!

**Matthew Evertson** (co-director) is Professor of English at Chadron State College currently teaching, researching, and writing about the regional influences upon the literature of the Great Plains, with a special emphasis on the Environmental Humanities, and serves on the Mari Sandoz Society Board of Directors.

**Steven Coughlin** (co-director) is Professor of English at Western Colorado University, where he serves as both the undergraduate creative writing program director and as a faculty member in the MFA Nature Writing concentration for the Graduate Program in Creative Writing. He is a widely-published poet, lead editor of Western Press Books, and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Mari Sandoz Society.

**Brenda G. Lanphear** (promotion and publicity) has attended every Story Catcher since its inception in 2012. She earned her MFA in Nature Writing from Western Colorado University in 2022 and now works at Chadron State College as their lead Instructional Design & Technology Specialist. When she isn't attending one of her two poetry groups or hiking, you'll find her working on her first novel.

## Awards and Support for Emerging Writers

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*Mari Sandoz attributed her writing success less to natural talent and more to hard work and determination (and lots of revision). She explored sweeping ideas and concepts related to the human drama, particularly as it played out on the landscape of the American West, depicted across multiple genres including ten books of nonfiction, seven novels, numerous essays, short stories, letters and collected writings. She was also a devoted writing teacher, reading and responding to the work of emerging writers of her time.*

Find out more about Mari: <https://www.marisandozsociety.org>

*ABOVE: Mari Sandoz at work in Bernard Hall for the 1948 Writer's Institute at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. (Courtesy Mari Sandoz Center)*

### The 2024 Young Lance Fellowship

In her 1963 novel *The Story Catcher*, Mari Sandoz depicts the adventures, sorrows, and hardships of the protagonist “Young Lance” as he develops his talents and eventually earns his new name and honor, “Story Catcher,” the recorder of the history of his people. The Young Lance Fellowship is therefore dedicated to helping underrepresented writers capture and share their stories.

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**Josafina Garcia** is a writer currently living in Williamsburg, Virginia. She grew up in Kentucky and earned her BA in Integrative Studies from Northern Kentucky University in 2023.

At NKU her degree allowed her to explore many of her interests through different areas of study. Her degree consisted of journalism, photography, electronic media and broadcasting, and creative writing. Creative writing was and continues to be one of her biggest passions, and Josafina hopes to pursue an MFA in the future.

Though not currently working on a longform project, Josafina continues to write in her favorite genre of creative nonfiction. She enjoys adding experimental elements into her writing as well and hopes to one day write a memoir with those elements.



# 2024 Mari Sandoz Emerging Writer Fellows

Awarded to Graduate students, teachers and part-time authors whose writing shows promise.



**Adam Carballeira** lives and works in Carbondale Colorado. He teaches English Language Arts at Bridges High School, an alternative school in the Roaring Fork Valley, and is inspired by his students every day. He is also a youth advocate, bicycle and boomerang enthusiast, dedicated son, husband, and father of three boys.

Adam "Carb" is an MFA candidate in the Graduate School of Creative Writing at Western Colorado University, focusing on Nature Writing. His work focuses on ordinary people, like you and I, who lead extraordinary lives, like you and I. He hopes to be inspired at the workshop and energized to pursue his thesis this year.



**Carmen Dunn** is in her second year of earning her M.F.A. in Creative Writing at Western Colorado University, as a cohort in the Nature concentration. Her writing passionately honors the natural beauty and wildlife of the unique places that have been a part of her life, including a family nature reserve, an old state fish hatchery, and childhood years growing up in Africa.

As a creative, she has worked with young people in speech and drama, has been a production stage manager and company manager for local and regional theatre and opera companies, has written newsletters and grants for several nonprofits, and created the Memoir Project for the Gallatin History Museum in Bozeman, Montana during Covid-19. For the past six years she has been a DJ on KGLT (Southwest Montana's alternative public radio station) where, in addition to playing amazing music, she uses the platform to promote the works of writers, poets and artists.



**Erin Hayhurst** is a writer and performer from Scottsbluff, Nebraska. She is a recent graduate from Chadron State College, where she was the editor-in-chief of the college's literary journal, *Tenth Street Miscellany*, as well as a participant in several musical theater productions. During her time at Chadron, she was also honored to present both fiction and creative non-fiction pieces at multiple Sigma Tau Delta conventions. Erin is pursuing a career in publishing where she hopes to foster a regional publication to showcase creative voices from the High Plains. She also hopes to obtain an MFA in Creative Writing so that she may continue her passion for the craft in an academic setting.

Erin is also a lover of all things supernatural and fantasy. She is currently working on the second draft of her supernatural thriller, *Agency of Martyrs: When the Screaming Stops*, which she completed in her undergrad program, and has started the second installment of the *Agency of Martyrs Trilogy*.



**Autumn Montana** is a multi-talented writer and artist from Gunnison, Colorado, where she has developed a varied career including roles as a 911 dispatcher, actor, and artist, alongside her writing endeavors. Currently working at Western Colorado University, she continues to blend her creative passions with her professional pursuits. Autumn is actively aspiring towards publishing her first poetry novel, with hopes to explore the mystery genre.

Autumn shares her life in Gunnison with her husband and two cats, embodying the essence of an "indoor-enthusiast." Her personal interests include a deep love for reading and sewing, and she has a particular fondness for true crime and mystery shows. These passions not only fuel her creativity but also weave into the textures of her written works, enhancing her narratives with layers of intrigue and craftsmanship.

# Acknowledgements

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  - Undergraduate: <https://western.edu/program/nature-writing/>
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English

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