


St. Davids Christian Writers' Conference, June 22-26, 2010, Grove City College, Grove City, PA

	<p>Virelle Kidder is a full-time writer and conference speaker. Her six books include <i>Meet Me at the Well</i> and <i>The Best Life Ain't Easy, But It's Worth It</i> from Moody Publishing. A former contributing writer for <i>Today's Christian Woman</i>, Virelle has had her articles published in a wide variety of Christian periodicals, including <i>Moody Magazine</i>, <i>Focus on the Family</i>, and <i>Decision</i>. Virelle will be teaching a continuing workshop called "Writing from Life Experience."</p>
	<p>David Mills, now deputy editor of <i>First Things</i>, was editor of <i>Touchstone Magazine</i> from 2003 to 2008, and is the author of <i>Knowing the Real Jesus</i> and editor of <i>The Pilgrim's guide: C. S. Lewis and the Art of Witness</i>. He teaches writing at Trinity School for Ministry and is authoring a volume on writing for Baker Books. A full-time author and editor, David will be teaching a continuing workshop called "The Christian Superstars' Guide to Writing Well" and a focus workshop on "Editing Those Prickly Creatures Called Writers."</p>
	<p>David Pierce has had nearly a dozen mystery stories published in <i>Alfred Hitchcock's</i> and <i>Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazines</i>. He also collaborated with his wife, Chonda, on two Zonderkidz children's books: <i>Tales from the Ark</i> and <i>Tales from the Manger</i>. An adjunct English professor, David recently had his first nonfiction book, <i>Don't Let Me Go</i>, published by WaterBrook Press. David will be teaching a continuing workshop called "The Secrets of Good Storytelling," and a focus workshop on "Perseverance."</p>
	<p>Eric Potter, 2009 Professor of the Year at Grove City College, is also a poet whose work has appeared in such varied publications as <i>The Christian Century</i>, <i>First Things</i>, <i>Ruminate</i>, and <i>32 Poems</i>. Advisor to <i>Echo</i>, the Grove City College literary magazine, Eric holds his doctorate in English from the University of Virginia. Eric will be teaching a continuing workshop called "Liberating Constraints: Explorations of Voice, Meter, and Metaphor in Poetry."</p>
	<p>Melanie Rigney, a past editor of <i>Writer's Digest</i> magazine, has also served as a judge for its writing competitions and as editorial director of <i>Writer's Digest</i> Books. She has more than 25 years experience as an editor and writer and has edited and evaluated manuscripts for dozens of clients. Melanie is also a writer-editor with the Department of the Treasury and oversees content on 25 of its web sites. Melanie will be leading the Writers' Retreat.</p>
	<p>Anne Slanina is the author of the <i>Annie Mouse</i> series, designed to teach children coping skills and empathy. Anne is also an associate professor in elementary/ early childhood education at Slippery Rock University. In writing her books, Anne draws on her experience as a former kindergarten, reading, and gifted education teacher. She holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Kent State University. Anne will be teaching a continuing workshop called "Writing for Young Children: a Wellspring of Opportunity."</p>
	<p>Linda Taylor is editorial director at Livingstone Corporation and part of the team that developed the best-selling <i>Life Application Study Bible</i> (Tyndale). In addition to managing book projects, Linda authored <i>Saints &amp; Scoundrels of the Bible</i> (Howard), <i>Praying God's Promises for My Child</i> (Tyndale), etc. Linda will be teaching a continuing workshop called "From Manuscript to Book: How It Happens," and focus workshops on "Why Writers Write: A Bird's Eye View of the Pub. World" and "Creating a Concept that Connects."</p>
	<p>James Watkins has authored over two thousand articles and fifteen books, including <i>Communicate to Change Lives in Person and Print</i> from Wesleyan Publishing House and <i>Writing with Banana Peels</i>. Winner of a Campus Life Book of the Year award and a Christian Retailers Choice Award for Best Series, Jim is also an editor with Wesleyan Publishing House. He will be teaching a continuing workshop called "The Wired Writer," a general session titled, "I'm a Giant Killer," and a focus workshop on "Building Your Online Platform."</p>



2010 Schedule of Classes

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 AM	9:00 AM	9:00 AM
Potter--Constraints Pierce--Story Telling Kidder--Experience Watkins--Wired	Taylor--MS to Book Pierce--Story Telling Kidder--Experience Watkins--Wired	Mills--Superstars Pierce--Story Telling Kidder--Experience Watkins--Wired
10:45 AM	10:45 AM	10:45 AM
Potter--Constraints Slanina--Children Rigney--Retreat Mills--Superstars	Taylor--MS to Book Slanina--Children Rigney--Retreat Mills--Superstars	Taylor--MS to Book Slanina--Children Rigney--Retreat Mills--Superstars
1:15 PM	1:15 PM	1:15 PM
Watkins--General Session--"I'm a Giant Killer"	Writers' Panel	Rigney--Retreat Pierce--Perseverance Taylor--Concepts
2:30 PM	2:30 PM	2:30 PM
Taylor--Bird's Eye Mills--Editing Potter--Constraints	Critique Groups Watkins--Platform Young--File Manag.	Open Mic
3:45 PM	3:45 PM	3:45 PM
Rigney--Retreat Beginners Critique Groups	Rigney--Retreat Beginners Critique Groups	St. Davids Association Meeting

## "Writing from Life Experience"

By Virelle Kidder

Wednesday-Friday 9:00 AM

Wednesday (9:00 AM): Start Strong

Are you ready to tell the truth? Your story is the most powerful and life-changing nonfiction you'll ever write. We'll nail down essential elements, no-fail principles, and boundaries every writer needs to observe.

Thursday (9:00 AM): Watch the Master

Jesus kept His audiences spell bound with techniques we can bring to our own writing. Learn from Him the essentials of story-driven teaching.

Friday (9:00 AM): Tune Your Voice

Nothing reveals an amateur more than poor structure and a fuzzy purpose for writing. Give your writing backbone, and authentic voice, and teach it to sing!

## "The Christian Superstars' Guide to Writing Well"

by David Mills

Wednesday-Thursday 10:45 AM, Friday 9:00 & 10:45 AM

How did great Christian authors accomplish their goals? I'll use examples and insights from 20th century Christian writers like Lewis, Tolkien, Chesterton, Sayers, Muggeridge, Knox, Waugh, O'Connor, Percy, and even Orwell and other secular moralists. I will also draw in contemporary authors like J. I. Packer, Timothy Keller, and Tom Wright, who write effectively for a wide readership.

Wednesday (10:45 AM): The Writer's Calling and Task

In this class we will discuss the formation of character, the spirituality of writing, and the superstars' suggestions for the writing life. We will also explore those authors' insights into how people read and respond to the challenges of the Gospel—a neglected subject in apologetics but a crucial one.

We will then talk about persona, how we and the superstars present ourselves to our readers. We will also examine the subtle signals writers send in their choice of words, length of paragraphs, etc.

Thursday (10:45 AM): How to Write Effective Prose

Here we will look at the superstars' prose styles and examine their techniques, closely and practically.

Friday (9:00 AM): How to Make Your Point Effectively

Among the subjects this class will cover is the use of evidence. Over and over again, even in writing published in major Christian magazines, the writers simply don't offer convincing proof for their arguments. Instead, they too often take the easy out of generalizing. We will discuss how to avoid this.

Friday (10:45 AM): How to Create Effective Analogies

In this class we will study examples from the famous writers on how compelling comparisons can make your point.

## “Editing Those Prickly Creatures Called Writers.”

By David Mills

Wednesday 2:30 PM

Writers say that everyone needs an editor, but they often don't mean it. The basic skills of editing include the craft of dealing with writers, as well as the craft of fixing their prose. This class covers both crafts, with some basic tricks of the trade that help people who have something to say, say it well.

## “The Secrets of Good Story Telling”

By David W. Pierce

Wednesday-Friday 9:00 AM

Wednesday (9:00 AM): A Good Story Is about One Thing...(and then Another)

All the great stories have a double ring to them: *The Wizard of Oz* is about an adventure to a magical place and meeting new friends, but it's also about falling in love with home. *A River Runs Through It* is about fly fishing in Montana during the 1930s, but it's also about being helpless to aid someone you love who is self destructing. How can you find that second story? The one that slips in quietly, but pierces the heart? I have some ideas....

Thursday (9:00 AM): The Secret to Good Storytelling Is...

Every writer knows that good fiction needs colorful characters and a vivid setting, and that the characters must have desires, wants and dreams. But, even with these main ingredients, some stories still fail to rise.

There is a glue that holds all a plot's elements together--while at the same time threatening to break it apart. This is the real secret, the part of the story's recipe that needs measured handling: *conflict*. Three levels, three ways to deal with each one, myriad possibilities. We'll take a look at how conflict is handled in different genres of storytelling.

Friday (9:00 AM): Story Ideas: Where Do They Come From?

I've had dozens of stories published. One question that always comes up is "where do you get your ideas?" When I tried to respond to that question, I discovered there is no one answer. Let me tell you how I do it and maybe, in turn, help you to discover those stories that only you can find.

## If Perseverance Was Easy, Everyone Would Do It: One Writer's Journey to Publication

By David W. Pierce

Friday 1:15 PM

All writers need encouraging. All writers need someone to believe in them.

On February 7, 1987 I sold my first short story and had an idea. *I should write a book.* A “castle in the air,” as Thoreau calls it. The journey was long and difficult. Thoreau says it’s okay to build a castle in the air, but urges us to get busy building a foundation beneath it as well. So I did, and 21 years, 42 weeks and one day later, I finished that foundation.

In this presentation—“My 21-Year, 42-Week, and 1-Day Plan To Success”—I will recall some high points and low points of this long journey. I will pass along valuable advice regarding agents and publishers and share some cautionary tales regarding agents and publishers. And, most important, I’ll stress the key to persevering: a dogged study of the craft.

## “Liberating Constraints: Explorations of Voice, Meter, and Metaphor”

By Eric Potter

Wednesday 9:00 AM, 10:45 AM, & 2:30 PM

Wednesday: (9:00 AM)—Biblical Character Voice Poem

We will discuss the role of voice in poetry, ways to create and sustain it, and how adopting someone else’s voice can free the imagination.

Wednesday: (10:45 AM)—Poetic Meter

We will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of writing in meter, review some basic meters and scansion, and practice writing in meter.

Wednesday: (2:30 PM)—Metaphor as Discovery Robert Frost once suggested that all poetry works by metaphor, saying one thing in terms of another. We will think about ways that the surprise of metaphor can lead us to new understanding, and we will do some exercises hoping to surprise ourselves.

## "Writers' Retreat"

By Melanie Rigney

Wednesday-Friday 10:45 AM, Wednesday-Thursday 3:45 PM, Friday 1:15 PM

If you need help with a troublesome manuscript, are stuck in your “work-in-progress” or just need some polishing, this workshop is for you. The in-depth writing retreat is for those who want to work hard for the week. Bring your writing struggles for honest input and look for astonishing breakthroughs.

This course is recommended for published authors, those who have won writing contests, or those who are actively involved in critique groups. Each participant must have a manuscript in progress. Enrollment is limited and by invitation. Send your regular conference registration form to the registrar and send your resume with writing credits and a writing sample not exceeding 1000 words to Melanie Rigney, 4201 Wilson Blvd. #110328, Arlington, VA 22203-1859. Deadline May 16, 2009

## "Writing for Young Children: A Wellspring of Opportunity"

By Anne Slanina

Wednesday-Friday 10:45 AM

This series of workshops will explore the entire process of writing for young children, beginning with finding your voice and ending with marketing your book.

Wednesday (10:45 AM): Getting the Ball Rolling: Tapping into the Wellspring of your own Creativity  
This lively, interactive session will focus on developing an awareness of the wellspring of inspiration that surrounds us in our everyday life. You will engage in activities to awaken your innate creative nature in order to find your own special voice for writing for young children.

Thursday (10:45 AM): Keeping the Ball Rolling: Using Knowledge of Child Development to Write for Young Children  
Participants will learn how knowledge of child development theory can assist in writing for young children. This session will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and exploration of literature that has the potential to guide children's moral, social and emotional development.

Friday (10:45 AM): Putting It All Together: Prioritizing, Collaborating, Publishing and Marketing  
You've got a great idea for your first book! Wonderful! Now what? What is your purpose for writing? Who will your audience be? Who should you be collaborating with? Should you self-publish or submit your manuscript to a traditional publisher? Once your book is in print, how will you market it?

All of these questions will be addressed in this session. I will share my own experiences, and leave you with some tips and strategies I now wish I'd known before embarking on my own writing career.

## "From Manuscript to Book: How It Happens"

By Linda Taylor

Thursday 9:00 AM & 10:45 AM, Friday 10:45 AM

Thursday (9:00 AM): Session 1

Let's start at the very beginning—with you writers! After all, nothing is going to get published without someone actually writing the book in the first place. We'll look at how to create a concept that will really connect with an acquisitions editor or agent. Then we'll discuss the three key pieces you need to get that concept into the right hands: your elevator pitch, your fifteen-minute pitch, and your full book proposal.

Thursday (10:30 AM): Session 2

We'll look closely at the anatomy of a strong book proposal and query letter, and discuss how to make yours the best they can be. Then we'll go "behind the scenes" at a publishing house, to understand the decision-making process that goes on when books are considered for acceptance. We'll also take a look at some of the financials that a publishing house is studying (yep, they *do* want to make money!).

Friday (10:30 AM): Session 3

In this last session we'll discuss all the many "hands" that touch a manuscript before it becomes a book. You'll be amazed at all the decisions that must be made in order to get that title on the shelf at the local bookstore! We'll dive right into the process of publicity and promotion, with a stop in the whole arena of self-publishing.

### Why Writers Write: A Bird's Eye View of the Publishing World

By Linda Taylor

Wednesday 2:30 PM

As a 25-year veteran of the world of Christian publishing--as well as an author, speaker, and editorial director--I'll give a picture of the sheer numbers in publishing. I will also share how books get published, what happens behind the scenes in publishing houses, why there are so many Bibles out there, and what's going on with those bestseller lists. I'll discuss some of the changes and trends in the industry (self-publishing and e-books) as well, along with reassurances about some things that will never change. Join me for an enlightening look at the world *behind* the books!

### "Creating a Concept that Connects: How to Get Your Words Heard"

By Linda Taylor

Friday 1:15 PM

Truly understanding your concept is crucial to getting your words heard. This workshop will give the tools you need to connect your concept with the right publishers, and then to be able to communicate that concept in a clear and concise way. By having a clear purpose, philosophy, and plan, you can distill your concept into an "elevator pitch," a 15-minute writer-conference pitch, and the longer proposal.

### "The Wired Writer"

By James Watkins

Wednesday-Friday 9:00 AM

I will be offering practical tips for researching and writing online, as well as for setting up your own Web site.

### "Building Your Online Platform"

By James Watkins

Thursday 2:30 PM

I will talk about how to make your presence known on the web, including blogging, and using Facebook and Twitter.

## Registration

Please print this form and mail it with a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) and a non-refundable \$100 minimum deposit to Audrey Stallsmith, Registrar, 87 Pines Road East, Hadley, PA 16130. Make checks payable to SDCWC. Submit one form for each person. Registration deadline is June 8.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Tuition:

Full-time, on campus.....\$225.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Full-time, commuter..... \$270.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(Includes lunch W-F)

Commuter, single-day tuition (includes lunch).....\$90.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Commuter, single AM class, 3 days (no lunch).....\$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

### Room and Board:

Double Room for 4 nights with meals.....\$215.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Single Room for 4 nights with meals.....\$260.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Tutorials.....\$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Early Bird Discount.....deduct \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

(Full-time only. Full payment by June 6.)

Payment.....Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information regarding: \_\_\_\_\_ Contests \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships/Work study \_\_\_\_\_ Tutorial

Any physical disabilities or limitations? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be bringing books to sell on consignment? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

First Timer? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Writing Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Beginner \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced \_\_\_\_\_ Professional

Main area(s) of writing interest:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list the morning workshops you plan to take:

\_\_\_\_\_