Strange Weather

The Ottoman Empire has captured Vienna and is now laying siege to the Austrian government-in-exile established in the city of Linz. Both the United States of Europe and the Kingdom of Bohemia have come to Austria’s assistance, but everyone knows this is going to be a long and brutal struggle. Meanwhile, Poland is coming to a boil. The Bohemians have sent an army into Poland with the goal of expanding King Albrecht Wallenstein’s growing empire in eastern Europe. When Grantville General Mike Stearns sends the Hangman Regiment of his Third Division into the region, they find themselves at the center of a growing storm—one that threatens the continued existence of the United States of Europe.

A New Entry in the Heirs of Alexandria Series

Orkise is loose. The snake-god of plague has been awakened by Lucia del Maino, the bastard daughter of the recently overthrown duke of Milan, Phillipo Visconti. With the venomous magic of Orkise at her command, Lucia plots to marry and then murder the usurper who now rules Milan, the condottiere Carlo Sforza—known to friend and foe alike as the Wolf the North. On his side, Sforza has only the skill and cunning of his physician, Francisco Turner—who is on good terms with the Valdosta brothers and may be able to neutralize Venetian hostility. But even if he can, will that be enough to save the Wolf of the North? For out there in the countryside of northern Italy, Orkise is uncoiling all the plagues of hell.

For free sample chapters for all Baen Books, and more, visit www.baen.com.
From the Con Chair

Welcome to ConGregate 6!

As always, I want to start by thanking all of the fans, volunteers, dealers, and guests for coming to the convention. Without you guys, it’s just a dark building sitting here in the heat of July. So, thank you for making ConGregate happen!

Now, usually I take this opportunity to address some type of fan politics that have cropped up. Instead, I have recently found myself feeling somewhat nostalgic as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the first human steps on the moon. I can’t help but think about all the things which we thought of as science fiction (tablets for example), that are now science fact; and all the things that might yet be developed. It is, after all, the “what if” that makes great science fiction, and that’s one of the things we celebrate at ConGregate.

Regardless of your interests, however, take the time to sit in on some panels, enjoy some workshops, play a game show, or just enjoy a concert or movie. This weekend should be about having fun. Let’s focus on that and have a great weekend!

-James Fulbright
President/Con Chair
Convention Staff

**ConSuite Director**  
Assistant ConSuite Director

**Director of Registration**

**Director of Operations**

**Marketing Director**

**Publications**

**Volunteers**

Harassment Policy

We are endeavoring to make ConGregarate a safe place for fans to gather. Even so, certain types of inappropriate, offensive or harassing behavior can be found at public places across the world. To the best of our ability, we want to prevent inappropriate conduct during the convention.

It is very important that if you are being harassed, or in any way feel endangered, that you report it immediately. For the convention to be able to address issues, it is important that we be made aware of any situation that might occur, with as many details as can be provided (names, badge numbers, descriptive information, etc.).

If you feel you have been harassed, please find the nearest convention volunteer and ask to be directed to the Convention Chairman or Vice Chair. During convention hours, you should be able to locate a staff member at the con registration table, the Prefunction area, or at Con HQ (see map on p. 20).

Additionally, if you see someone being harassed, we encourage you to speak up and say something. As a community, fandom needs to work together to make sure everyone is treated with respect.

Once a complaint of discriminatory harassment has been filed, an investigation will be conducted. The nature and extent of the investigation will depend upon the complaint. The convention will respect the wishes of the person reporting the harassment when deciding on further steps. A convention participant, who the con organizers believe has committed harassment, or who fails to cooperate with an investigation, may be sanctioned or asked to leave the convention without a refund at the discretion of the con organizers. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

Actions taken by the con staff are separate and distinct from any legal action and do not, in fact, preclude legal consequences from happening.

* * *

**Definition of Harassment** - to create an unpleasant or hostile situation, especially by uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct.

Types of harassment include but are not limited to: physical assault, battery, deliberate intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate or unwelcome physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention, negative comments regarding gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, race, or religion.
1. When you are in the convention areas, you must wear your badge. Lost badges will only be replaced once. The basic gist here is: yes, you have to wear your stinking badges.

2. The staff of ConGregate reserves the right to toss anyone (members, guests, dealers, volunteers... anyone) out of the convention, without a refund, if they are behaving like a jerk. ConGregate’s management will be the sole arbiters of what constitutes behaving like a jerk. (Also see our Harassment Policy on p. 2)

3. Please be aware that harassment falls under rule number two (2) above. Keep in mind that the determination of what is harassing behavior is typically defined by the VICTIM. We will only consider intent when determining the fate of anyone we feel is guilty of harassing their fellow con-goers.

4. ConGregate requires that you provide your real name when you register for the convention. An alias can be used on your badge, but our database must have your real name associated with it. Anyone who provides false information to the convention may be asked to leave the con, without a refund.

5. Mother always said, “Don’t run in the house!” The same applies to the con site.

6. Do not tear up the hotel! We like it here and want to come back at some point. If you have a lapse in judgment and we catch you wrecking the hotel... well,... go back and read rule number 2.

7. You may only hang signs on the walls of the hotel with the hotel’s permission. Special materials, and possibly labor, will need to be provided by the hotel. Fees for those services will apply.

8. Bladed weapons must be sheathed and peace-bonded at all times. All other actual weapons are prohibited in the con space (Ballrooms, Prefunction Space, Programming Suites, and Con Suite). Blasters and fake weapons are permitted if you swing by the reg desk first and allow us to “peace-bond” it (which usually consists of tying orange ribbon around the barrel).

9. The staff of ConGregate cannot permit unauthorized vendors to sell anything at the convention. The dealers have paid good money to be here and it’s simply not fair to them otherwise.

10. Please switch your cell phones, and other electronic devices, to silent ring while you are in the programming rooms. If you do receive a call, we ask that you leave the room before you answer your phone.

11. Please be aware of, and courteous to, your fellow conventioneers as you navigate the walk spaces in the convention. In particular, try not to block the aisles in the dealer room, the panel rooms, and especially the ramp leading from the lobby to the Prefunction area.

12. As with most hotels, the Red Lion Hotel makes a good chunk of its money from catering. It is one way they can help keep your convention costs low. You may not eat food in the con space unless it was purchased from the hotel. Your options this weekend are: you can eat what you buy from the hotel, go out to eat, or eat in your personal room.

13. The hotel has requested that no “outside” alcohol be brought into the con areas. We encourage you to patronize the hotel bar, the hotel concessions booth, or to drink in your private hotel rooms & suites.

14. ConGregate is not responsible for items lost during the convention. As each of us has lost stuff from time to time, we can sympathize with you. We’ll even try to help you find said items. We cannot, however, afford to replace them. Sorry.

15. While the convention organizers encourage members to bring their children to ConGregate, we ask that parents take an active role in monitoring the events in which their children participate. Some events (and most parties) may not be suitable for all ages. Also, please be aware that ConGregate is not a daycare service. Children left unattended may be remanded to the care of Child Protective Services of Guilford County.

16. ConGregate is offering a “Kids Track,” during specific times during the convention, that has activities specifically designed for children. Feel free to take your children there if they need a break from the con. Please be aware, however, that this area is not designed as daycare.

17. No smoking (or vaping) inside the hotel. Smoking areas are available outside of the hotel lobby and on the terrace outside the convention center.

18. We believe in the “no costume is no costume” rule. Naked people are not quite appropriate for ConGregate’s common areas.

19. There are specific rules regarding photography. You can find them on p 4.

20. Since discussions of a political nature have a tendency to become incendiary, we ask that you limit those to your private hotel rooms or outside of the hotel.

21. No rule listed here supercedes local law, state law, federal law or hotel policy. You still have to obey those strictures.

22. People sometimes ask us if we can pass along a copy of their book, manuscript, etc. to an author or editor. Generally speaking the answer is “no,” because most of our guests are, for professional reasons, not willing to accept unsolicited works.

23. And, finally, our most important rule during the convention is: HAVE FUN!
Hawaiian Shirt Friday

Each year, ConGregate remembers contributors that we have lost from the science fiction and fantasy world. The tradition began in memory of Aaron Allston, who was well known for his love of Hawaiian shirts.

We encourage everyone to wear a Hawaiian shirt on Friday, July 12 in honor of:

- Harlan Ellison, author
- Steve Ditko, comics artist/writer
- Elmarie Wendel, actor
- Jacqueline Pearce, actor
- Bill Daily, actor
- Al Matthews, actor
- James Karen, actor
- Stan Lee, writer/editor/actor/producer
- Douglas Rain, actor
- William Goldman, writer
- Penny Marshall, director/actor/producer
- Albert Finney, actor
- Beverley Owen, actor
- Carol Emshwiller, author
- Carrie Richerson, author
- Betty Ballantine, editor/publisher
- Janet Asimov, author
- Luke Perry, actor
- Jan Michael Vincent, actor
- Lawrence G. DiTillio, writer/game designer
- W.H. Pugmire, author
- Vonda N. McIntyre, author
- Richard “Warbunny” Desautels, fan
- Gene Wolfe, author
- Jonathan Frid, actor
- Matt Rose, make-up artist
- Peter Mayhew, actor
- Peggy Lipton, actor
- “Uncle Timmy” Bolgeo, fan
- Tim Conway, actor
- Paul Darrow, actor
- Dennis Etchison, author/editor

Photography Policy

1. While photography and videography are generally allowed in all convention spaces and the hotel lobby, photography, flash photography, or videography may be prohibited at certain events or in specific areas. These will be identified by signs, announcements, or notations in the panel descriptions in the program book, as appropriate. Violating the photography & videography rules can result in your removal from the area or event.

2. Photographers and videographers may not block walkways or emergency exits with their equipment. Backdrops may not be put up in any convention space without the permission of the convention.

3. You must ask for permission before you take a person's picture or record them, and take the answer “no” with good grace.

Statement on Inclusion

At ConGregate, we pride ourselves in trying to provide an inclusive environment, and are proud to support all fans regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, physical appearance, body size, age, race, color, religion or national origin.
Eric Flint
Guest of Honor

Eric Flint’s writing career began with the novel *Mother of Demons*, published in 1997. With David Drake, he has collaborated on the six novels in the Belisarius series (*An Oblique Approach, In the Heart of Darkness, Destiny’s Shield, Fortune’s Stroke, The Tide of Victory* and *The Dance of Time*), as well as a novel entitled *The Tyrant*. His alternate history novel *1632* was published in 2000, followed by many sequels, several of which made the New York Times bestselling list. In addition to the twenty novels he has written in the *1632* series, he has edited twelve anthologies of short fiction set in that universe. He also publishes the *Grantville Gazette*, a bi-monthly electronic magazine devoted to the series which has now produced over seventy issues.

Flint has co-authored SF adventure novels with the South African writer Dave Freer: *Rats, Bats & Vats, The Rats, the Bats, and the Ugly*, and *Pyramid Scheme*. His comic fantasy novels *The Philosophical Strangler* and *Forward the Mage* came out in May of 2001 and March of 2002. He is also working on a major fantasy series with Mercedes Lackey and Dave Freer, the first four volumes of which are *The Shadow of the Lion, This Rough Magic, Much Fall of Blood* and *Burdens of the Dead*.

Flint is also working on several other ongoing projects:

- With David Weber on a series of novels set in Weber’s *Honor Harrington* universe. The first three of these, *Crown of Slaves, Torch of Freedom* and *Cauldron of Ghosts*, have already appeared.
- A new alternate history series taking place in Jacksonian America, the first two volumes of which have already appeared: *1812: The Rivers of War* and *1824: The Arkansas War*.
- Further volumes in the Joe’s World series, which began with *The Philosophical Strangler* and *Forward the Mage*.
- Hard SF adventure novels with Ryk Spoor, set in the universe they created in the Bemmie trilogy (*Boundary, Threshold, and Portal*), which include *Castaway Planet* and *Castaway Odyssey*.
- Two SF adventure volumes with K.D. Wentworth, *The Course of Empire* and *The Crucible of Empire*. He has now finished the third volume in the series, *The Span of Empire*, with David Carrico, which was published in September of 2016.

In addition to his own writing, Flint is the editor of several series reissuing the works of past SF authors. These include James H. Schmitz, Keith Laumer, Christopher Anvil, Murray Leinster,
Randall Garrett, Tom Godwin and Howard L. Myers. He was also the editor of the online science fiction and fantasy magazine, Jim Baen’s Universe.

Flint graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1968, and later received a masters degree in history from the same university. Despite his academic credentials, Flint spent the next quarter of a century as an activist in the American trade union movement, working as a longshoreman, truck driver, auto worker, steel worker, oil worker, meatpacker, glassblower and machinist. He has lived at various times in California, Michigan, West Virginia, Alabama, Ohio, and Illinois. He now lives in northwest Indiana with his wife Lucille.

**Michael A. Stackpole**  
*Special Literary Guest*

Michael A. Stackpole is the multiple New York Times bestselling author of over forty fantasy and science fiction novels, his best known books written in the Star Wars® universe, including I, Jedi and Rogue Squadron, as well as the X-Wing graphic novel series. He has also written in the Conan, Pathfinder, Battletech and World of Warcraft universes, among others.

In 2017, Stackpole was the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University Distinguished Writer-in-Residence. Stackpole’s other honors include: Induction into the Academy Gaming Arts and Design Hall of Fame, a Parsec Award for “Best Podcast Short Story,” and a Topps’s selection as Best Star Wars® Comic Book Writer. Stackpole is the first author to sell work in Apple’s App Store, and he’s been an advocate for authors taking advantage of the digital revolution.

**Toni Weisskopf**  
*Special Literary Guest*


Weisskopf is a graduate of Oberlin College with a degree in anthropology. She is the mother of a delightful daughter, and lives in a hundred-year-old house with three cats, two dogs, and many spears. She is also interested in space science and is an active participant in the Tennessee Valley Interstellar Workshop.

**Valentine Wolfe**  
*Special Musical Guests*

Valentine Wolfe is a gothic metal duo blending the ethereal soprano vocals of Sarah Black and the thunderous roar of Braxton’s electric upright bass to evoke the imaginary soundscape of Mary Shelley and Edgar Allan Poe.

In addition to their gothic metal stylings, their eclectic musical interests have afforded them multiple opportunities to broaden their musical horizons in recent years, having been contracted to lend their unique sound to theatre productions; composing and performing the scores for Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice, The Tempest (Warehouse Theater), The Winter’s Tale (Furman University), and Twelfth Night (The Distracted Globe), the voice of The Angel in the Warehouse Theater’s production of Angels in America, silent films such as Nosferatu and The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, and short horror films.

Drawing inspiration from all things macabre, including literature, poetry, and history, they follow the back alleys of streets lit with yellowed gas lamps, casting shadows long against the walls; where Jack the Ripper stalked his victims, where Dracula walked with Mina. Together they’ve provided the drama and the grandeur of the gothic at conventions all up and down the East Coast.

Their release, The Elegiac Repose, 9 death positive songs about mourning, loss, and grief, was profiled on Death and the Maiden (deadmaidens.com) and supported by a grant from Greenville, SC’s Metropolitan Arts Council. Their most recent album, The Haunting of Mary Shelley, has been met with critical acclaim.

Visit them online at valentinewolfe.com
Valentine Wolfe

AT CONGREGATE 6
JULY 12-14, 2019

FRIDAY NIGHT FRIGHTS:
NOSFERATU WITH LIVE SCORE
BY VALENTINE WOLFE

GHOST STORIES
WITH TALLY JOHNSON

MOZART’S REQUIEM:
TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION
WITH BRAXTON FROM VALENTINE WOLFE

MUSIC FOR THE DEAD. GOTHIC METAL.
ETHEREAL SOPRANO, SOLO DISTORTED AND
AMBIENT BASS, DRUM PROGRAMMING,
AND...DEATH POSITIVE.

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**Jim Beall**
Jim Beall (BS-Math, MBA, PE) has been a nuclear engineer for over 40 years, a war gamer for over 50, and an avid reader of science fiction for even longer. His experience in nuclear engineering and power systems began as a naval officer, shortly after surviving one of Admiral Rickover’s infamous interviews, aboard USS Long Beach (CGN-9). Civilian experience includes design, construction, inspection, enforcement, and assessment with a nuclear utility, an architect engineering firm, and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC). Assignments at the USNRC include reactor inspector, inspection team leader, safety analyst, and reactor policy assistant to three different Presidential-appointed different USNRC Commissioners while earning the agency’s Meritorious and Distinguished Service awards.

Duties of those policy-level posts included substantial research into alternative and speculative energy sources, as well as energy forecasts. Some of those other sources were coal, oil, hydro, geothermal, tidal, solar, wind, fracking, space-based, heavy water reactors, breeder reactors, fusion, and even anti-matter.

Coauthor of Journal of the British Interplanetary Society (JBIS) paper, “Ecological Engineering Considerations for ISU’s Worldship Project.” Baen Books (baen.com) has published six of his non-fiction articles:

- “Our Worldship Broke!”
- “Case Studies in Handwavium”
- “From Corvus to Keyhole -- Shipyards: Past, Present, and Science Fiction”
- “Radium Girls of Science and Science Fiction”
- “Atomic Follies”
- “Grid Wars: Innovation, Feuds, Rivalry, and Revenge in the Never-ending Battle to Electrify America and the Planet”

**Samantha Bryant**
Samantha Bryant is a middle school Spanish teacher by day and a mom and novelist by night. That makes her a superhero all the time. Her secret superpower is finding lost things. She writes because it’s cheaper than therapy and a lot more fun. She’s best known for her Menopausal Superhero series of novels and stories.

When she’s not writing or teaching, Samantha enjoys time with her family, watching old movies, baking, reading, gaming, walking in the woods with her rescue dog, and going places. Her favorite gift is tickets (to just about anything). You can find her on Twitter @mirymom1 or at her blog/website: http://samanthabryant.com

**Alexandra Christian**
Alexandra Christian is an author of mostly romance with a speculative slant. Her love of Stephen King and sweet tea has flavored her fiction with a Southern Gothic sensibility that reeks of Spanish moss and deep-fried eccentricity. Her guiding principle as a romance novelist has always been to write romantic adventures for people who think they hate romances. After all, love itself is life’s greatest adventure. A self-proclaimed “Southern Belle from Hell,” Lexx is a native South Carolinian who lives with an epileptic wiener dog and her husband, author Tally Johnson. In addition to her writing, she also has unhealthy obsessions with Sherlock Holmes and Star Wars. Her long-term aspirations are to one day be a best-selling authoress and part-time pinup girl. She’s also a member of Romance Writers of America and Carolina Romance Writers. Questions, comments and complaints are most welcome at her website: http://lexxxchristian.wixsite.com/alexandrachristian

**David B. Coe/D.B. Jackson**
David B. Coe/D.B. Jackson is the author of more than twenty novels and as many short stories.

As D.B. Jackson (DBJackson-Author.com), he is the author of *Time’s Children* (October 2018) and *Time’s Demon* (May 2019), the first books in The Islevale Cycle, a time travel/epic fantasy series from Angry Robot Books. He also writes the Thieftaker Chronicles, a series set in pre-Revolutionary Boston that combines elements of urban fantasy, mystery, and historical fiction.

Under his own name (DavidBCoe.com) he has written the Crawford Award-winning LonTobyn Chronicle, the critically acclaimed Winds of the Forelands quintet and Blood of the Southlands trilogy, the novelization of Ridley Scott’s *Robin Hood*, and a contemporary urban fantasy series, the Case Files of Justis Fearsson. He is the co-author of *How To Write Magical Words: A Writer’s Companion*.

He is currently working on several projects, including his next book for Angry Robot, his first editing endeavor, and a tie-in project with the History Channel. David has a Ph.D. in U.S. history from Stanford University. His books have been translated into a dozen languages.

**Carol Cowles**
Carol has long been a fixture of Geek Culture in Charlotte. She has served for several years as the Programming Director for ConCarolinas and worked the Carolina and Arizona Renaissance Festivals for 15 years. She also podcasts – she is Carol the Cat on the weekly Guardians of the Geekery and The Cinemistress on Geek Radio Daily. When she is not podcasting – she is reading, writing or crafting. If you have trouble locating her, check your local cineplex, as movie theatres are her second home. Her
fandoms include all things Tolkien, Doctor Who, Horror and skulls – lots of skulls.

You can find her on the interwebs at www.guardiansofthegeekery.com, www.geekradiodaily.com or www.purplehairedpixie.com

Ben Davis
Ben Davis has a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics and an M.S. in Nuclear Astrophysics from the University of Notre Dame. He taught at the college level for several years on a number of technical subjects ranging from computer programming and math to, of course, astronomy and physics. In the late nineties, he took up a career in software and industrial controls engineering (robot programming and electronics are fun as they seem). As a lifelong fan of science fiction, his main avocations now involve history, futurism and skepticism. When not traveling with his wife, playing with his dogs, climbing rocks, or attending cons, he spends his spare time pondering general relativity, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence and the effects of antimatter on the dark matter/dark energy problem. Sometimes, he hunts for true psychics, ghosts and other paranormal phenomenon to no avail.

Dimensional Riffs
Dimensional Riffs began as geeks cracking jokes and cranking out tunes. After a while, they realized they were pretty good at it. Jennifer, Chuck, Kat, Drew, and DJ take their favorite sci-fi genres (Doctor Who, Firefly, etc.) and a bunch of other stuff from 21st-century geekdom and make them into song. When they’re not rocking out in cons, they’re living, working, and laughing across southeastern Virginia – from Richmond to Suffolk.
https://dimensional-riffs.bandcamp.com/releases

Patrick Dugan
Patrick Dugan is the author of the Darkest Storm series. The first book in the series, Storm Forged, debuted in May 2018. Storm Forged is a near future dystopian super hero novel that follows Tommy, a powered individual as he fights to save his father from being killed on TV. The second installment, Unbreakable Storm, is scheduled for a 2019 release. Patrick’s new series, a cyberpunk heist novel is finished and will be published at a later date.

Being a full-time computer programmer, Patrick has started a blog on his site discussing the technologies that are available to writers to help with everything from marketing, to sales, to organizing all the things involved with being an author. You can find his easy-to-follow tips at www.patrickdugan.net/blog

Patrick has degrees in Recombinant Gene Technology and Business from SUNY Fredonia and Oswego, respectively. He’s an avid gamer, both board and video, though he spends a lot of his spare time in Azeroth. He resides in Charlotte, NC with his wife and two children.


JT the Enginerd
JT the Enginerd has a background in Engineering from Virginia Tech but jumped ship slightly in order to teach Engineering Design at the high school level. She has been teaching two levels of engineering for the past six years and is currently working on obtaining National Board Certification. In addition to teaching, she advises a chapter of the Technology Student Association (a STEM and leadership based group) and has had officers at regional state, and national office as well as fulfills duties at levels within the organization. She also serves as the TSA Representative on the Virginia Technology and Engineering Educators board.

Outside of work, JT is a pretty all purpose geek, into most realms of sci-fi and fantasy from Marvel, DC, Star Wars, Star Trek, Harry Potter, BSG and much much more. She also is a gamer, crafter, and general maker.

Jason Gilbert
Jason Gilbert is the author of The Clockworks of War series, and will be releasing the final book of the series at ConGregate 2019! His stories are Alternate History with an Urban Fantasy and Horror element set in worlds of the supernatural, and sometimes involve steam and gears! You can check out his writing at www.jasonhgilbert.com!

When he’s not writing stories, he’s watching crap cinema that would make your toes curl. Jason is the man behind Fail-Flix, a review site that tackles the best of the worst films with all the grace of a rabid water buffalo in an antique China shop. He also managed to collect a few favorites in his movie guide, Bad Movie Beware! Grab a few laughs at https://failflix.wordpress.com! He’s glad to be returning to ConGregate this year, and can’t wait to have a great weekend with everyone!

Jason Graves
Jason Graves is the publisher and chief editor at Prospective Press, a traditional publisher of genre fiction and select non-fiction titles, currently with twenty-five books in print and over thirty authors represented. The company now encompasses seven traditional imprints and two hybrid imprints for institutional/academic clients and individuals. He is an illustrator and the author of four novels, and was once punched—lightly—by Muhammad Ali.
Robert E. Hampson
Robert E. Hampson, Ph.D. is THE (brain) scientist behind the science fiction for more than a dozen writers. He has assisted in the (fictional) creation of future medicine, brain computer interfaces, unusual diseases, alien intelligence, novel brain diseases (and the medical nanites to cure them), exotic toxins, and brain effects of a zombie virus. With over a dozen short stories published and in process, his fiction ranges from the Four Horsemen Universe-4HU (Chris Kennedy Publ.), to Baen’s Black Tide Rising universe to the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command’s Mad Science Writing contest (U.S. Army Small Wars Journal). He has a recent novel, Do No Harm, in the 4HU and is co-editor with Les Johnson of the mixed science and fiction anthology Stellaris: People of the Stars (Baen). Dr. Hampson is a Professor of Physiology/Pharmacology and Neurology with over 35 years’ experience in animal and human neuroscience. His professional work includes more than 100 peer-reviewed research articles ranging from the pharmacology of memory to the effects of radiation on the brain, and is leading a multi-institutional clinical research effort to develop a “neural prosthetic” to restore human memory. With more than two million words in scientific writing alone, communicating science to professionals and lay audiences is his greatest interest. He is known to many by his former pen-name “Tedd Roberts” or his internet handle “Speaker to Lab Animals,” having given public talks on science, science fiction (and the science in science fiction) to professors, students and civic groups, government agencies as well as SF/F conventions. He is available as a subject matter expert via the Science and Entertainment Exchange – a service of the National Academy of Sciences - and as an author through his websites: http://tedd roberts.com and http://hampsonlab.org.

Dave Harlequin
Described by both press and colleagues as an “independent renaissance man” and “voice of the underground,” among other things, Dave Harlequin is a professional screenwriter, journalist, author, and independent filmmaker from Charlotte, North Carolina. Harlequin is the Creative Director and Lead Screenwriter of independent film collective A Stranger Concept Films and has won over two dozen awards throughout his filmmaking career. In addition to his film work, Harlequin is also the Editor in Chief of Nerd Nation Magazine, has over a dozen published short stories, dozens more non-fiction published credits, and has been nominated for two Rondo Hatton Awards for his journalistic contributions. Outside of his career in entertainment, Harlequin is an avid hockey fan and beer aficionado, and enjoys cooking, coffee, gaming, and hanging out with his dog. www.astrangerconcept.com www.nerdnationmagazine.com www.imdb.com/name/nm568391

John G. Hartness
John G. Hartness is a teller of tales, a righter of wrong, defender of ladies’ virtues, and some people call him Maurice, for he speaks of the pompatus of love. He is also the award-winning author of the urban fantasy series The Black Knight Chronicles (Bell Bridge Books), the Bubba the Monster Hunter comedic horror series, the Quincy Harker, Demon Hunter dark fantasy series, and many other projects.

In 2016, John teamed up with a pair of other publishing industry ne’er-do-wells and founded Falstaff Books, a small press dedicated to publishing the best of genre fictions “misfit toys.”

In his copious free time John enjoys long walks on the beach, rescuing kittens from trees and playing Magic: the Gathering.

For samples of John’s ridiculous sense of humor, check out these free ebooks - http://bit.ly/1U8eASF

Tom Hutchens
Tom Hutchens is the founder/CEO of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club. He is the Mandalorian armorsmith; combining ancient techniques with today’s technology to create hyper-realistic Mandalorian armor costumes.

Janet Iannantuono
Janet Iannantuono is a convention runner, Star Wars collector, and all-around fan. As a child in 1977, Star Wars combined her interests of mythology, science fiction, fantasy, and the adventure stories of Jules Verne and Edgar Rice Burroughs. Forty years later, her Star Wars collection is big enough to take up an entire room, and her fandom has grown beyond a galaxy far, far away. Over the years, she’s adopted the fandoms of Doctor Who, Farscape, Marvel, Stargate, Star Trek, DC’s Legends of Tomorrow, and anything with kaiju fighting. Her favorite authors include Heinlein, Asimov, McCaffery, Donaldson, Brooks, and of course many of the Star Wars authors like Timothy Zahn. For the last twenty years, she’s been an active participant in the fan community by volunteering at and running conventions. She spent four years as the Assistant Director of Star Wars Programming at DragonCon, worked in the LucasFilm Pavilion at San Diego ComicCon, and as a Hall Manager, part of Lucasfilm’s “Elite Squad” at the six previous Star Wars Celebrations, Founding Board Member and staffer for ConCarolinas, and has spent five years running her own convention in Charleston called AtomaCon. Janet is a graphic designer and avid crafter. She has use these skills to develop logos, badge and program book artwork, design costumes for her daughter Michelle, and design Geek inspired pieces from recycled items (water bottle Daleks, air freshener Cthulhu, steampunk journals and hats)
AtomaCon 2019
November 22-24
Hilton Garden Inn North Charleston, SC

Myke Cole  Faith Hunter

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Michelle Iannantuono
Michelle Iannantuono is a full time filmmaker, published author, and the co-runner of AtomaCon. Her debut fiction trilogy, starting with *Paradisa*, has been published by Falstaff Books. She has written and multiple shorts and a feature, including *Devil’s Advocate, Ohm, Psychoacoustics*, and the award-winning *Livescream*. Her work leans in the science fiction and horror directions, because before switching careers to follow her passion, she was an industrial chemist (which is equal parts scientific and horrifying). When she’s not behind the camera or behind the pen, she’s probably gaming, fangirling something, or politely asking Cthulhu to eat her chaos.

Chris A. Jackson
As a professional sailor, writer, scientist, and life-long gamer, writing nautical and RPG tie-in fantasy came naturally for Chris A. Jackson. His Scimitar Seas novels from Dragon Moon Press have won multiple gold medals from *Foreword Reviews Magazine*, and his Pathfinder Tales novels, *Pirate’s Honor*, *Pirate’s Promise*, and *Pirate’s Prophecy* from Paizo Publishing have received high praise. Aside from his pirate stories, Chris’ magical assassin, Weapon of Flesh series has become a Kindle bestseller, culminating in 2017 with the sixth novel, *Weapon of Mercy*. He’s also branched into the Horror genre with his novella *The Deep Gate*, an Arkham Horror tie-in story from Fantasy Flight Games. *The Deep Gate* represents two firsts in Chris A. Jackson’s writing career: it is his first contemporary sea story, and his first work of horror. His newest endeavors include a paranormal science-fantasy series, the Dragons of Boston, to begin with *Dragon Dreams* from Falstaff Books in spring of 2019, and his newest self-published series Blood Sea Tales, which launched in 2018 with *The Pirate’s Scourge*.

His recent short works include “Dia de Los Muertos,” in the *Drawing Destiny* Shadowrun anthology, “First Command,” in the *Women in Practical Armor* anthology from Evil Girlfriend Media, and a series of short stories for the Legendary Planets Adventure Path by Legendary Games, for *Pathfinder, Starfinder*, and D&D5e play. He has written many short stories for Mangoose Publishing’s *Traveller RPG* to be published in their Pirates of Drinax adventures.

Lastly, he has published the Cheese Runners Trilogy of satire-science fiction novelettes available in digital, paper, and Audible versions.

Drop by jaxbooks.com and sign up for his mailing list.

Stuart Jaffe
Stuart Jaffe is the madman behind the Nathan K thrillers, The Max Porter Paranormal Mysteries, the Parallel Society novels, The Malja Chronicles, *The Bluesman, Founders, Real Magic*, and much more. He trained in martial arts for over a decade until a knee injury ended that practice. Now, he plays lead guitar in a local blues band, The Bootleggers, and enjoys life on a small farm in rural North Carolina. For those who continue to keep count, the animal list is as follows: one dog, two cats, three aquatic turtles, nine chickens, and a horse. As best as he’s been able to manage, Stuart has made sure that the chickens and the horse do not live in the house.

Nickie Jamison
Nickie Jamison is the secret identity of Ora J. McGuire. She is a writer of LGBTQ+ erotica and romance blended with sci-fi, fantasy, and horror. Ora’s hobbies include gaming, fan-girling, and doing marathons... on Netflix. She also vlogs about life, makeup, and KonMari decluttering on her YouTube channel. Ora lives in Hampton Roads with her darling husband and two spoiled furbabies; thecatwecalljayne and #KAYLEEmallFRYE. You can find her living #prettygeeky on all the social media @ oopswrongcookie.

Les Johnson
Les Johnson is a physicist, a science and science fiction author, and a NASA technologist. His science fiction books include *Mission to Methone, Back to the Moon, Rescue Mode*, and the soon-to-be-released *Stellaris: People of the Stars*. His popular science books include *Graphene: The Superstrong, Superthin, and Superversatile Material That Will Revolutionize the World, Solar Sails - A Novel Approach to Interplanetary Travel* and others. In his day job, he is the Principal Investigator for NASA’s Near-Earth Asteroid Scout solar sail mission which will launch in 2020 and the Formulation Manager for Nuclear Rockets in the NASA MSFC Science & Technology Office. Les is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics, A Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society, a member of the National Space Society, and MENDA – and is the Program Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Interstellar Workshop. He is a 30-year resident of Madison, AL and is originally from Kentucky. You may learn more about Les on his website: www.lesjohnsonauthor.com

Tally Johnson
Mr. Tally Johnson is a graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College and Wofford College with degrees in history. He is the author of *Ghosts of the South Carolina Upcountry*, *Ghosts of the South Carolina Midlands*, *Ghosts of the Pee Dee* (all for The History Press) and he also has a story in *An Improbable Truth: The Paranormal Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (from Mocha Memoirs Press). His newest full-length release is an anthology of Southern Gothic ghost fiction titled *Creek Walking* from Falstaff Books. He also has stories in two anthologies from Prospective Press. Mr. Johnson was also the recipient of the first Caldwell Sims Award for Excellence in Southern Folklore from the USC-Union Upcountry Literary Festival, where he is a long time presenter. Mr. Johnson has been active in many community groups, including Chester County First Steps, the Chester County Arts Council, and the Chester Little Theater.
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MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Bill Mulligan
INDIE FILM GUEST OF HONOR

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FAN GUEST OF HONOR

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among others. He is on the Roster of Approved Artists as an author, as well as the South Carolina School Librarians’ list of storytellers. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, hiking, hammock camping, visiting historic sites, and reading. He has been a guest at ConGregate, ConCarolina, Fandom Fest, MonsterCon, MystiCon, AtomaCon and Imaginarium. He is also the Storyteller-In-Residence for Palmetto State Hangers, a hammock camping group.

Paula S. Jordan
Paula S. Jordan, a former orbit analyst, writes moderately hard, character-driven science fiction, with three stories (so far) in Analog. Her first novel, a present-day alien contact story set in western North Carolina, is nearing completion. Working title: Of Seas and the Stars. The story connects a small-town group of friends with a centuries-old alien-watch network to defend both humans and friendly aliens against anti-human alien invaders.

After degrees in history and drama and several years as a freelance writer, Paula earned a BS degree in physics and worked at Computer Sciences Corporation supporting 30+ unmanned science and weather missions for both NASA and NOAA, including the Clementine mission that first detected water on the moon.

She invites you to visit her Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/PaulaSJordan/.

Chris Kennedy
A bestselling Science Fiction/Fantasy/Alt History author, speaker, and small-press publisher, Chris Kennedy has written over 15 books and published more than 60 others. Chris’ stories include the Occupied Seattle military fiction duology, The Theogony and Codex Regius science fiction trilogies, stories in the Four Horsemen universe and the War for Dominance fantasy trilogy. Get his free book, Shattered Crucible, at his website, chriskennedypublishing.com.

Called “fantastic” and “a great speaker,” he has coached hundreds of beginning authors and budding novelists on how to self-publish their stories at a variety of conferences, conventions and writing guild presentations. He is the author of the award-winning #1 bestseller, Self-Publishing for Profit: How to Get Your Book Out of Your Head and Into the Stores, as well as the leadership training book, Leadership from the Darkside.

Chris lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with his wife, and is the holder of a doctorate in educational leadership and master’s degrees in both business and public administration. Follow Chris on Facebook at facebook.com/chriskennedypublishing.biz.

Darin Kennedy
Darin Kennedy, born and raised in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Bowman Gray School of Medicine. After completing family medicine residency in the mountains of Virginia, he served eight years as a United States Army physician and wrote his first novel in the sands of northern Iraq.

His novel, The Mussorgsky Riddle, was born from a fusion of two of his lifelong loves: classical music and world mythology. The Stravinsky Intrigue continues those same themes, and his Fugue & Fable series culminates in The Tchaikovsky Finale. The first two novels in his The Pawn Stratagem contemporary fantasy series, Pawn’s Gambit and Queen’s Peril, combines contemporary fantasy with the ancient game of chess. His short stories can be found in numerous anthologies and magazines, and the best, particularly those about a certain Necromancer for Hire, are collected for your reading pleasure under Darin’s imprint, 64Square Publishing.

Doctor by day and novelist by night, he writes and practices medicine in Charlotte, NC. When not engaged in either of the above activities, he has been known to strum the guitar, enjoy a bite of sushi, and rumor has it he even sleeps on occasion. Find him online at darinkennedy.com.

Nicole Givens Kurtz
Nicole Givens Kurtz’s short stories have appeared in over 40 anthologies of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Her novels have been finalists for the EPPIES, Dream Realm, and Fresh Voices in science fiction awards. Her work has appeared in Stoker Finalist, Sycorax’s Daughters, and in such professional anthologies as Baen’s Straight Outta Tombstone and Onyx Path’s The Endless Ages Anthology. Visit Nicole’s other worlds online at Other Worlds Pulp, www.nicolegivenskurtz.com.

Cheralyn Lambeth
Cheralyn Lambeth is a professional costume, prop, and puppet builder whose work includes feature films (The Muppet Christmas Carol, The Patriot, Evan Almighty, The Hunger Games), television programs (Dinosaurs!, Homeland, Outcast), and live/interactive properties (Star Trek: The Experience, Avenue Q, Sir Purr for the Carolina Panthers). She is also a published author, with several books currently available (Haunted Theaters of the Carolinas, The Well-Dressed Puppet, and Creating the Character Costume: Tools, Tips, and Talks with Top Costumers and Cosplayers), and is excited to have recently sold her first fiction book titled ‘Twas Halloween Evening, scheduled for publication by Prospective Press in 2019.

On the fan side of things, Cher is proud to be a long-time charter member of the 501st Legion, serving on the Legion’s History/Archives team. She is also an active paranormal investigator.
with the Charlotte Area Paranormal Society, and founder/team captain of the Southern Belle Ghostbusters. To learn more about Cher, visit her website at cheralylnambeth.com, and/or follow her on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@cheralylnambeth).

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**Steven S. Long**

Steven S. Long’s been involved in the gaming industry for over twenty years, during which time he’s written, co-written, edited, or developed approximately 200 books and won numerous industry awards. Besides freelancing for lots of RPG companies, such as White Wolf Game Studios and Pinnacle Entertainment Group, he’s held full-time jobs with Last Unicorn Games, Wizards of the Coast, and Decipher. In 2001 he became part owner of DOJ, Inc., the company that bought the assets of Hero Games, and from 2001 to 2011 was the HERO System Line Developer. Currently Steve is back to freelancing and is exploring the brave new world of self-publishing. Much of his time in recent years has been dedicated to *Mythic Hero*, a comprehensive guide to world mythology for gamers, writers, and anyone else who’s interested in the myths of the world.

In addition to gaming-related projects Steve’s also spent the past few years working on Fantasy fiction. He’s had about a dozen short stories published, and keeps insisting he’ll get back to revising his novel any day now. He’s also involved with several other fascinating projects. For example, in May 2015 Osprey Publishing released his first major nonfiction work, a book about the Norse god Odin. His latest nonfiction project is an encyclopedia of mystic and arcane terminology.

Steve, who’s single and in his early 50s, lives in scenic Greensboro, NC with his cat Persimmon. He’s a graduate of Duke University and Duke University School of Law (go Blue Devils!). You can find out more about Steve and what he’s up to at www.stevenslong.com

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**Mark MacDicken**

Professional family entertainer for four decades, Mark MacDicken performs comedy magic as the eccentric wizard Flabbergast. Mark is also an accomplished actor, puppeteer, and balloon sculptor. Formerly known as Spiffy the Clown, he has performed at literally hundreds of family celebrations, as well as theme parks, fairs and festivals, company picnics, summer recreation programs, mall events, and on local television. In recent years, Flabbergast has embraced the Mid-Atlantic region fan convention scene, performing at Awesome Con DC, Balticon, MystiCon, Geek Mob, Farpoint, Shore Leave, ConGregate, MarsCon, WyvaCon, and adding more appearances all the time! The Wizard and his puppet friends are quickly becoming staples of local Renaissance Faires around Virginia and North Carolina. When he’s not dressing up in costumes and playing with his toys, Mark works in elementary school special education. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drama from the University of Southern California, and a Master of Education degree in Special Education from George Mason University. Mark lives in Northern Virginia with his wife April. www.facebook.com/FlabbergastWiz www.gigsalad.com/flabbergast_wizard_centreville

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**Gail Z. Martin**

Gail Z. Martin writes urban fantasy, epic fantasy and steampunk for Solaris Books, Orbit Books, Falstaff Books, SOL Publishing and Darkwind Press. Urban fantasy series include Deadly Curiosities and the Night Vigil (Sons of Darkness). Epic fantasy series include Darkhurst, the Chronicles Of The Necromancer, the Fallen Kings Cycle, the Ascendant Kingdoms Saga, and the Assassins of Landria. Newest titles include *Tangled Web, Vengeance, The Dark Road, and Assassin's Honor*. As Morgan Brice, she writes urban fantasy MM paranormal romance. Books include *Witchbane, Burn, Dark Rivers, Badlands, and Lucky Town.*

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**Larry N. Martin**


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**Misty Massey**

Misty Massey is the author of *Mad Kestrel*, a rollicking adventure of magic on the high seas, and the long-awaited sequel, *Kestrel’s Dance*. She is a co-editor of *The Weird Wild West* and *Lawless Lands: Tales of the Weird Frontier*, and was a founding member of Magical Words. Her short fiction has appeared in many anthologies and she’s working on a series of Shadow Council novellas for Falstaff Press featuring the famous gunslinger Doc Holliday. When she’s not writing, Misty studies and performs Middle Eastern dance and will, on occasion, surprise everyone with a batch of home-baked snickerdoodles. She’s a sucker for good sushi, African coffee, and the darkest rum she can find. You can keep up with what Misty’s doing at mistymassey.com, Facebook and Twitter.

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**Alex Matsuo**

Alex Matsuo is an actor, dramaturg, playwright by day, and a podcaster, paranormal researcher and author by night. She is the founder of the Association of Paranormal Study, which specializes in private home investigations and consultations. Alex was recently featured on Travel Channel’s *Most Terrifying Places in America* on the episode, “Cursed Towns.” She is the author of *The Haunting of the Tenth Avenue Theater*, published by Llewellyn Worldwide, the biggest paranormal and new age
publisher in the world. Alex has also published The Haunted Actor, as well as More Than Ghosts (a guide for investigators taking on private paranormal cases). Alex is also a contributing writer to The Supernatural Magazine and Paranormal Enlightenment Magazine as well as the pop culture website, TheRichest. Alex currently hosts the radio show “Ravens & Crows” on LiveParanormal.com.

Alex received her Master of Arts in theatre arts from San Diego State University in 2011 and currently resides in Raleigh, North Carolina. You can find more information at www.alexmatsumoto.com. You can find her on Twitter, Goodreads, and Facebook.

Melissa McArthur
Melissa McArthur is the founder and president of Clicking Keys Writer Services, a full-service editing, cover design, and layout company based in the upstate of South Carolina. She also serves as Associate Publisher for Falstaff Books, and is an accomplished editor and proofreader. When she isn’t working in the realm of fiction, Melissa is an adjunct professor at Winthrop University and editorial director and instructor for Author Essentials. A graduate of Winthrop University, Melissa has published short stories with Mocha Memoirs Press, Falstaff Books, FunDead Publications, and Lore Seekers Press. Her latest urban fantasy series, Guardians of Eternity, is being published by Falstaff Books. Melissa can be found hiding in the deep corners of the library or at home with her laptop and cat.

For those of you out in cyberspace, she can also be found at any of the following cyber places: Web: www.clickingkeys.com Web: www.melissamcarthur.net Facebook: www.facebook.com/melissamcarthurwrites Twitter: www.twitter.com/mcarthur_me Goodreads: www.goodreads.com/melissamcarthurwrites Falstaff Books: http://falstaffbooks.com/about-us/ Author Essentials: https://www.authoressentials.net/meet-melissa-mccarthur/

Jennifer McCollom
Professional make-up artist Jennifer McCollom got her start in Theater both throughout high school and college. A graduate of UNC Greensboro with a BA in Theater and minor in physics and has worked in the film industry since 1991 with Taking Liberty filmed in Winston Salem, NC. Then it was on to NC local favorites Dead Inn and Last Lives. From there she spent some time in LA at Westmore Make-up Academy. These smaller projects allowed Jennifer to move on to bigger projects. She has worked on The Hunger Games, Master Minds, Leatherheads, Talladega Nights, Oscar nominated June Bug and Emmy Award winning HBO mini-series John Adams, The Box a movie remake of a Twilight Zone episode, The Conjuring, and The Disappointment’s Room to name a few. Others can be found at IMDB.com.

In addition to her professional work, Jennifer’s love of the science-fiction and fantasy genres has allowed her to experiment with costuming and make-up for herself and friends at science-fiction conventions and other similar events.

She also teaches at Piedmont Community to film students. In her work, Jennifer concentrates on prosthetic and pros aide pieces and is an accomplished sculptor and airbrush artist as well.

Continuing her eduction, Jennifer took more effects classes at Westmore makeup academy in LA, the School of the Arts, and is taking Dick Smith’s advanced make-up course. She has her cosmetology license and even has attended the IMATS in LA twice and London in 2013 taking classes and visiting Gorton Studio who do a lot of work for Doctor Who. She believes you should never stop learning! In her free time she joins the local theater performing on stage and makes jewelry.

Violette Meier
Violette Meier is a happily married mother, writer, folk artist, poet, and native of Atlanta, Georgia, who earned my B.A. in English at Clark Atlanta University and a Masters of Divinity at Interdenominational Theological Center. Writing since her preteen years, she has written over 1,200 poems, 25 short stories, and 11 books. The great granddaughter of a dream interpreter, Violette is a lover of all things supernatural and loves to write paranormal, fantasy, and horror. Her books include: The First Chronicle of Zayashariya: Out of Night, Angel Crush, Son of the Rock, Archfiend, Ruah the Immortal, Tales of a Numinous Nature: A Short Story Collection, Loving and Living Life, Violette Ardor: A Volume of Poetry, and This Sickness We Call Love: Poems of Love, Lust, and Lamentation. To find out more about Violette and her unwavering imagination, visit VioletteMeier.com

Madison “Metricula” Roberts
Madison “Metricula” Roberts (she/her) is a singer-songwriter, clown, and entertainer from Raleigh, NC. Since she doesn’t sleep, Metricula divides her time between several different musical and nerdy projects.

First and foremost, you can cozy up with her at the Nerd Music Campfire and relive the summer camp nights of your youth with sing-a-longs and smores, but nerdiest! You can stream tunes from her debut EP, “Songs for Gamers” for free on Youtube or pick them up via Bandcamp. While much of her original music is for all ages, in the evenings she sometimes transforms in Dark Metricula, the grinning ringleader of the Safe Sane Consensual Clown Posse--picture a birthday clown for your 18-and-up little ones!

Metricula is also a co-host of the All in the Reflexes geek culture podcast as well as a founder of the Social Justice Bards, a group of livestreaming musicians and artists on Twitch. You can catch her live (for free!) online (Twitch) doing music or hosting Nasty Woman Knitting Circle, where she knits… adult novelty items.

In her muggle life, Metricula is a scientist, DIY enthusiast, and avid coffee-drinker. She lives in Raleigh with her spouse, Richard, her beloved cockatiel Icarus, and a cat that loves...
Richard WAAAAAAAAYYYY more than her but she's totally not mad or jealous or anything.

Follow her online basically everywhere as @metricula or find her hub at metricula.com.

Angel Metro
Angel Metro blends the elements of heartbeat and hope to create an electronic sound nestled in Dark Magic.

Based out of Charlottesville, VA she was the front woman for the fairytale gothic rock band Gild The Mourn and now creates dark electronic pop. The first album from the project, Dark Days Bright Lights, released in January 2019 and has been featured in Dark Beauty Magazine and Brutal Resonance.

Angel is also the owner of the monthly goth/alternative club aptly named Goth Night that has hosted a variety of goth/ alternative musicians and DJs from around the United States.

She finds her inspiration in horror, sci-fi, vintage Hollywood glamour, and high fantasy.

Kat Milby
Kat Milby is the soft materials side of the casual cosplay duo, Side Quest Cosplay. As a geek, pop culture addict, and fiber artist, mixing historical fashion with cosplay is her current favorite cosplay trend. With over 25 years of experience in sewing costumes, pattern hacking and general making-do in costumery, Kat would love to geek out with you over historical silhouettes, the issues you ran in to while crafting your perfect character vision, and your plans for your next cosplay. She lives in Durham, NC with her husband, her corgi, and her beloved fabric stash. When not working the day job or stress-sewing, Kat can be found playing video games, knitting, cross-stitching or planning her next great road trip. Find out more online at http://www.facebook.com/cosplaysidequest

Gary Mitchel
Gary Mitchel is a writer, reviewer, geek blogger, voice actor, gamer, sf/fantasy fan, comics reader, podcaster and International Man of Mystery (who’s too dangerous for the entire country of Canada) currently living near Atlanta. He is co-host, with Deanna Toxopeus, of the Parsec Award nominated RevolutionSF RevCast (http://revolutionsf.libsyn.com/), and co-host/Producer of RevNews podcast; a part of the ESO Podcast network. He is also co-host, with Michael French & Michael Falkner, of Who’s the Doctor: Talking Outside the Box, a video and audio podcast celebrating the Doctor Who universe, a part of the RetroBlasting Network. Gary has also appeared on The ESO Podcast, Needless Things, The Shoreleave Podcast, The Batcave Podcast, Prime Direction, The Chronic Rift, Storm of Words, The White Rocket Podcast, Shauncast, and The Saturday B Movie Reel podcasts, among many others. He can be found on the Facebook and followed on the Twitter as @Gary_Mitchel (and yes Star Trek fans, it’s his real name).

Gary is the Co-Director, with Joe Crowe, of the American Sci-Fi Classics Track at DragonCon. He is also the Co-Director of Otherworlds Programming at WHOlanta with Darrin Bush. At these conventions, he has discussed Sci-Fi TV, zombies, movies, zombies, cartoons, comics and zombies. Some attendees have stated that he is “hilarious,” and Gary swears that said people are not related to him.

Bill Mulligan
Bill Mulligan is a high school science teacher with a love for horror films, comic books and special effects who had the good fortune to find kindred spirits in Sanford, North Carolina. 13 years, 5 feature films, nearly 2 dozen short films and a whole bunch of podcasts and convention panels later, he is an active part of the North Carolina indie film scene as a writer, special effects guru, actor, cinematographer, heck, he’ll hold the microphone or man the craft service table if you ask him. His screenplay for the hopefully upcoming Blood of the Dragon recently won best original screenplay at the Carolina Screenwriting Showcase. He has been fortunate enough to work with some of the best folks in the North Carolina filmmaking scene, in such films as Knob Goblins, 400 Ways to Kill a Vampire, Belladonna, Cache Me if You Can, A Few Brains More: Summer of Blood and the upcoming Blood of the Mummy.

Derek Nieman
Derek Nieman has been part of the southeast convention scene for over 15 years. An original member of the Carolina Garrison of the 501st Legion, it goes almost without saying that Derek is a huge Star Wars fan and avid costumer. Not limited to just being a one trick fan boy, Derek also has a huge interest in costuming in other genres, which inspired him to join the cast of the Carolina Renaissance Festival in 2003. After competing in and winning costume contests across the Carolinas, Derek went on to manage costume contests at Charlotte area conventions. Derek’s other interests include gaming, Harry Potter, Anime, Marvel, Game of Thrones, Batman, historic costuming, and Doctor Who.

Chris Oakley
Chris Oakley owned and operated Oakley’s Gently Used Books, a bricks & mortar used bookshop with a specialty in Sci Fi/Fantasy, for more than 20 years (1995-2016) in Charlottesville, VA. She has been a bookseller at Madicon, MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, Libertycon and Omegacon. She has edited and published “underground” newspapers as well as literary magazines. As a GCIU Journeyman, she worked in small commercial print shops before opening her bookshop in 1995. For many years, she was the organizer and moderator for the VA Festival of the Book Sci Fi Fantasy programs with Katherine Kurtz, Hugh Howey, Stephen Hickman, Steve White, Toni Weisskopf, David Coe, Jack Campbell (John Henry) and others as guests. Chris still brings her passion for bookselling and science fiction to the vendor’s rooms of conventions and does volunteer book sorting, research and pricing for her local Friends of the Library book sales.
Michael D. Pederson
Michael D. Pederson is the publisher/editor/graphic designer responsible for Nth Degree. Mike began his career as a writer/publisher in 1988 when his SF short story, “Dust Storm,” won first place in a local writing contest. In the 1990s, he wrote and published the Raven comic book series (with artist R. Craig Ensln) and edited and published Scene, a Virginia-based entertainment magazine. In 2001, Mike was part of the “Best in Class – Master Division” winning presentation (Pre-Emptive Strike) at the Millennium Philcon Masquerade. Two months later he started Nth Degree. In 2007, he wrote a chapter on “Writing for Magazines” for Dragon Moon Press' Writing Fantasy: The Author’s Grimoire. In addition to Nth Degree, in 2006 Mike (along with Tee Morris and Tony Ruggiero) came up with the crazy idea of hosting a science-fiction convention in Richmond, Virginia. After its tenth year, RavenCon moved to Williamsburg and Mike is still the con chair. Starting in 2018, RavenCon expanded to two events a year. Other than RavenCon, Mike has also run programming for Trinoc*con, been Fan Guest of Honor for ConCarolinas and Mysticon, co-chaired a successful NASFiC bid, and served as Master of Ceremonies for MarsCon. Between Nth Degree and his many convention appearances, Mike has become the East Coast’s go-to guy for interviews. He’s interviewed guests for Balticon, ConCarolinas, ConGregate, MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, and StellarCon. In the last few years Mike has interviewed a wide range of writers, gamers, artists, and actors. In 2017, Mike was honored with the Rebel Award for his contributions to Southern Fandom. Yes, Mike is an insanely busy person; if you see him at a convention please feed him lots of caffeine and/or beer. When not engaged in geekish pursuits, Mike is an under-employed graphic designer and lives in Richmond, Virginia.

Matthew Penick
Matthew Penick has been a cosplayer for over a decade and took his passion for costuming to the professional level in 2010 with the creation of the theatrical design company Ribbons and Rivets. The self-taught designer began primarily working with leather, and still considers leatherwork to be the company’s specialty, but over the years has added a plethora of materials and processes to the Ribbons and Rivets toolkit to bring all manner of characters to life for other cosplayers, promotions, book covers, and films. His work can be found at www.ribbonsandrivets.com and while he spends most of his time working on commissions or inventory pieces for Renaissance Festivals and Comiccons he does manage to feed his old cosplay itch every now and then. His personal costumes can be seen at www.facebook.com/ZealousCosplay

Maya Preisler
Maya Preisler is a professional artist, blogger, editor, and gamer with twenty-four years of convention experience. She is a published illustrator whose art has been featured at various art shows and conventions. Her poetry and writing have been published in various literary magazines and her website received international attention in the early 2000s. As a gamer, Maya was one of only two women ever inducted into a local gaming clan (the other being her sister) and spent ten years as an administrator and tech for LAN gaming at conventions. She is a professional game demonstrator for No Ordinary Gamers and an MIB for Steve Jackson Games. Maya has a BFA from UNC Charlotte and currently works several freelance jobs as an artist, illustrator, and designer and volunteers as a staffer at multiple conventions. You can find her online at www.mayarenee.com, facebook.com/artofmayarenee, and twitter.com/mayapreisler

Daphne Reeder
Daphne Reeder has been a creative force from a very young age. Beginning at the age of 5, she’s been on television programs on WTVI, in plays & stage performances, and modeled, both in front of a camera and on the runway. She has always enjoyed the freedom of dressing up, and became an accomplished cosplayer by the time she was 17. Since then, she has added to her arsenal of outfits to cross multiple genres, though her passions are sci-fi/fantasy and horror. She has modeled for multiple events and has been on posters and flyers around the Charlotte and Atlanta areas.

Ms. Reeder is not only a cosplayer and model, but she’s also a talented actress, and has graced the screens of many a film festival. The mind behind Drache Media Films, an independent film company that focuses on the sci-fi and horror genres, Ms. Reeder has several projects in the works, on which she will be teaming with 13th Floor EFX.

Leann M. Rettell
Leann M. Rettell was born and raised in West Virginia but now lives in North Carolina with her husband, three children, three crazy dogs, and two aloof cats. She is the author of the Conjuraric Series and the upcoming Dream Thief Series published by Falstaff Books. She has dreamed of being a writer since she was a little girl. Never give up. Dare to dream and believe in magic.

Gray Rinehart
Gray Rinehart writes fiction, nonfiction, and music. He is the only person to have commanded an Air Force satellite tracking station, written speeches for Presidential appointees, and had music on The Dr. Demento Show. He is currently a contributing editor (the “Slushmaster General”) for Baen Books.

Gray is the author of the near-future science fiction novel Walking on the Sea of Clouds, and his short fiction has appeared in Analog Science Fiction & Fact, Asimov’s Science Fiction, Orson Scott Card’s Intergalactic Medicine Show, and multiple anthologies. He is also a singer/songwriter with two albums of mostly science-fiction-and-fantasy-inspired music.

During his rather odd USAF career, Gray fought rocket propellant fires, refurbished space launch facilities, “flew” Milstar satellites,
drove trucks, processed nuclear command and control orders, commanded the largest remote tracking station in the Air Force Satellite Control Network, and did other interesting things. His alter ego is the Gray Man, one of several famed ghosts of South Carolina’s Grand Strand, and his web site is graymanwrites.com.

Nat Ryan
Dubbed Miss “Hot glued hot mess 2018” Nat Ryan has been costuming for the past 9 years, specializing in custom patterning, body painting, special effects, con crunch costuming tactics, cosplay marketing and extreme (and I mean extreme) costume budgeting. When she isn’t donning a blazer and pumps battling the 9-6 as a digital designer, you can find her either deep in a pile of fabric, on her fourth glass of wine in a flower crown, or alone in a dark room with her PS4 and a XL bag of Hot Fries. Recently diagnosed with Lyme Disease in early 2018, her current goal is helping other con-goers with chronic disorders and “spoonies” feel comfortable, safe and supported on the con floor and in our nerd subculture.

Chris Shewsbury
Chris Shrewsbury has volunteered, paneled, guested, staffed, and been committee at literally dozens of cons along the east coast for 30+ years. He’s a nationally certified sign language interpreter, working in entertainment, education, medical, and government settings. Following Navy service he taught hearing and hearing-impaired students, pre-K through university. Recently, Chris developed neurological illness affecting strength, balance, and increasing pain, requiring wheelchair use, and resulting in several surgeries, including lower leg amputation. He’s a tireless disability advocate and encourager, especially within the convention community. Still cosplaying, many costumes incorporate his disability, such as building a mobile TARDIS around his wheelchair, earning first prize in NC Comicon’s Doctor Who division. A busy public speaker, writer, comedian, and costume judge, he’s also a Sci-Fi Programming Manager (Conapalooza), Accessibility Director (RavenCon), Panelist (everywhere!), and creator of Accessibility Services at Animazement. Chris’ sense of humor and love of all things geek make him a popular convention Guest.

Rich Sigfrit
To say that I enjoy podcasting and new media would be a gross understatement. My credits include mentions in high school and collegiate papers, newspapers, Podcasting for Dummies, and Advanced Podcasting Tricks. I have been called an innovator, having created the first fandom podcast (RotO), the first podcast for an Independent Wrestling Federation (Halo: Hardwired), and distributed the first comic book made available via podcast feed (Podcast 9).
I was the force behind the official Troma Podcast and a former host/editor of the 501stCast, the official podcast of the 501st Stormtrooper Legion. I produced the long running Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show starring Mister Adventure, serving as writer and primary voice actor for recorded and live stage versions. I served as the Technical Editor for the most recent (3rd) edition of Podcasting for Dummies. Currently, I am co-host on the long running Geek Radio Daily podcast (geekradiodaily.com) and a variety streamer (twitch.tv/richiemuenster), I’m a Whovian, Star Wars fan, and am known to watch the occasional episode of the Handsome Brothers Ghostbusting Power Hour known as Supernatural. You’ve probably seen me at a con as the Master of Ceremonies or on a panel about podcasting (I starting podcasting in ’03, for Pete’s sake!). You may have seen my alter ego, Richie Muenster on a burlesque stage as an emcee for Creativity Out Of Context (an art collective I co-founded with Sarah Jynxx), the Succubus Sorority, The Riot Kittens and formerly of Nerd-Vana, NC Performers Society and Vaudevillain Revue (I keep my clothes on, I’ve read the petition). I am the current reigning 3rd place champion of SparkCon’s Pun Tournament, like long walks on the beach and my turn-ons are metal bikinis, goth girls and Nathan Fillion.

Today I want you to think.
Today I want you to feel.

But most importantly,
today I want you to laugh.
**MAP OF THE CON SITE**

**FIRST FLOOR OF HOTEL**

- Heritage
- Pub
- Restaurant
- Elevators →

**SECOND FLOOR OF HOTEL**

- Suite 207
- Suite 215
- Elevators
- Boardroom

### Room Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heritage</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Kids Track / Programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonial</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Open Gaming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kittinger</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Cantina / Programming</td>
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<td>Salon A</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Dealer Room</td>
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<td>Salon B-C-D</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Main Programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victorian A</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victorian B</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provincial</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boardroom</td>
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<td>Programming</td>
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<td>Suite 221</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>ConSuite</td>
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KIDS TRACK SCHEDULE

FRIDAY • JULY 12
4:00pm – 5:00pm  Science Experiments  Heritage
5:00pm – 5:30pm  Educational TV: For Kids By Kids (AP)  Heritage

SATURDAY • JULY 13
9:00am – 9:50am  Saturday Morning Cartoons  Salon B-C-D
10:00am – 11:00am  Create your own "Forky!"  Heritage
11:00am – 12:00pm  BB-8: Make & Take  Heritage
1:00pm – 2:00pm  Flabbergast’s Close Up Magic  Heritage
2:00pm – 4:00pm  Scavenger Hunt  Heritage

SUNDAY • JULY 14
10:00am – 10:50am  Junior Xeno-Archeologists  Victorian A

See the events descriptions in this book for more information about any specific Kids Track panel or event.

ConGregate 8
DEEP SOUTH CON 59

ConGregate is pleased to announce that we have won the bid to host another DeepSouthCon in 2021!

NEW HORIZONS!
**Charming Underclothes**

Charming Underclothes is a movie recreation performance group that brings films to life! Shadowcasting, as it’s called, is a midnight movie phenomenon that started with *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. We began conquering castles with our RHPS debut on February 26, 2016, in Roanoke, VA. Since then, we have become a traveling cast that expands our stage to Lynchburg and Charlottesville, and we also do conventions and special events throughout the year. During our runtime, we have expanded our celluloid dreams to other movies, such as *The Lost Skeleton Of Cadavra, Clue, and Hocus Pocus*. Every show we do is in costume, with props, and also designed to give the viewers a very memorable experience with exciting pre-show games and audience interactions.

**Mark Wandrey**

Bestselling author of military sci-fi and zombie apocalypse, Mark Wandrey has been creating new worlds since he was old enough to hold a pen. Author of more than 14 novels, he is the creator and co-owner of the wildly successful Four Horsemen Universe. He’s a 3 time DragonCon Award finalist as well. Mark lives a full time RV lifestyle all over the US where he is constantly writing and watching Russian dash cam video accompanied by his wife Joy and two chihuahuas.

**White Plectrum**

In all the years I’ve been performing as White Plectrum, one thing has remained constant: the support of all those who have listened, sung along, and helped spread the music. I couldn’t continue to do this without your support. When White Plectrum began, I had no idea it would go this long. Bill and I wrote and performed songs together, then began to perform songs others – James, Erik, Raymond – had helped us write or had written for us. The first WP songbook, *Filks For Our Times*, was done by Bill on his computer. We made cassettes and sold them at the conventions to the few who requested them. It was pizza and gas money, but to us, it was a labor of love. We both loved doing the music and doing the shows. Bill got married and moved to South Carolina. When he moved, I asked if he was ok with me keeping the name we’d come up with together. His one caveat was “don’t embarrass me”. I hope I’ve done you proud, old friend. I’d really love to do one more show with you. Maybe someday...

I moved to Roanoke. That’s where my solo “career” as White Plectrum began. I started working with new people – Jerry, Michael, Rhaps, Shrewlet, and whoever else showed up - writing and coming up with new ideas. We’d all get together at my place for pizza, or just to hang out. Sooner or later, someone would toss out an idea, the guitar would come out, and a new filk...
Michael G. Williams

Michael G. Williams writes wry horror: stories of monsters, macabre humor, and subverted expectations. He is the author of two series for Falstaff Books: The Withrow Chronicles, including *Perishables* (2012 Laine Cunningham Award), *Tooth & Nail, Deal with the Devil, Attempted Immortality, and Nobody Gets Out Alive*; a new series in The Shadow Council Archives featuring one of San Francisco’s most beloved figures, *Servant/Sovereign*; and the science fiction noir *A Fall in Autumn*. Michael also writes short stories and contributes to tabletop RPG development. Michael strives to present the humor and humanity at the heart of horror and mystery.

Michael is also an avid podcaster, activist, reader, runner, and gamer, and is a brother in St. Anthony Hall and Mu Beta Psi. He lives in Durham, NC, with his husband, two cats, two dogs, and more and better friends than he probably deserves.

Allen Wold

Allen Wold was born in south-western Michigan, finished high school in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from college, in Claremont, California, where he later met his wife, Diane. They married in 1972, and moved to North Carolina, where he began his career as a full time writer. In 1986, he became a full time father. In 2003, he became a full time writer again, when his daughter, Darcy, went off to college.

He has fourteen published novels, two collections of short stories, and a reminiscence about his life with cats.

His epic heroic fantasy, *The Black Ring* (six volumes) has been published by Double Dragon. He is working on a pseudo-victorian faerie novel, *A Thing Forgotten*; a bizarre haunted house story, *The Empty House*, that is far too long; a collection of original stories about the Star Kings; and other stuff.

He has been running his version of The Writers’ Workshop at conventions for over thirty years, and a Plotting Workshop, which has been well received, for more than ten.

Allen is a member of SFWA.

Darcy Wold

Darcy Wold is a part-time artist, an inveterate editor, and an even more inveterate reader. In her day job, she works for CDISC (a standards development organization specializing in clinical data interchange) as a publishing editor and a technical metadata curator. Both roles involve finding creative ways to make things both pretty and meaningful at the same time, without either the prettiness or the meaning getting in the way of the other. Any remaining creativity goes into her art, which is currently mostly digital, and frequently fractal-based. Her published art includes some book covers and the occasional animated web ad.

Darcy was raised by a statistician and a science fiction writer in an ex-blue-collar-tobacco town, except for three years spent in west London, England. For two of those three years, she attended a theatre arts vocational school, but was unable to continue her training on the other side of the pond, and eventually majored in Asian and religious studies at a small liberal arts college in southern California. She has taken classes in a variety of partner and modern dances, and has tried to learn a couple different instruments, though without much success.

She sings mezzo in a women’s chorus, identifies roughly as Pratyeka-buddhist, is sometimes quite sarcastic, and aggressively scribbles out or deletes extraneous apostrophes at every opportunity.
**FRIDAY**

You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.

### Kitchen Sink Make-up Effects (ET)
**FRI - 1:00 PM**  
**Victorian A**
Our panelists discuss constructing gruesome yet cool special effects makeup using inexpensive items easily obtained from hobby shops and grocery stores.

Panelists: Bill Mulligan (M), Jennifer McCollom, Nat Ryan

### Science Fiction Writers Showcase (ET)
**FRI - 1:00 PM**  
**Boardroom**
A panel of SF authors discuss why they write science fiction, what draws them to the genre, and what influences their stories. Each panelist will then read a short excerpt from his or her work.

Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Samantha Bryant, Patrick Dugan, Larry N. Martin, Gray Rinehart

### The Trouble with Girls (ET)
**FRI - 1:00 PM**  
**Provincial**
Everyone talks about writing ‘strong female characters’. But this label too often reinforces stereotypes instead of breaking them. In this panel, we’re going to explore the many ways writers can smash the tropes to create characters who are more than just ‘strong females’.

Panelists: Misty Massey (M), Lilith, Alexandra Christian, Darin Kennedy, Chris Oakley

### Finding Your Podcasting Niche (ET)
**FRI - 2:00 PM**  
**Victorian A**
Podcasting continues to be a great source of information and entertainment. But with so many choices out there - how do you determine the area you are best suited to play in?

Panelists: Gary Mitchell (M), Carol Cowles, Metricula, Alex Matsuo, Rich Sigfrit

### #SocialMedia in My Story: Writing Communication Technology in Fiction (ET)
**FRI - 2:00 PM**  
**Boardroom**
We know how to write thoughts in our stories, but with social media such a part of our day-to-day lives, it needs to be in our stories too. So, from Facebook and Twitter to texting, how do you write about those technologies in your stories?

Panelists: Leann M. Rettell (M), Jason Gilbert, Nickie Jamison

### Writing Believable Military Science Fiction (ET)
**FRI - 2:00 PM**  
**Provincial**
Ever picked up a military scifi book and lost your suspension of disbelief within a page or two because it was so very, very wrong? Want to learn how to get it right? Come talk with the experts on how they nail their military scifi and write books that readers can’t put down.

Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Jim Beall, Eric Flint, Chris A. Jackson, Mark Wandrey

### White Plectrum Concert
**FRI - 2:30 PM**  
**Salon B-C-D**
Panelists: White Plectrum

### Allen’s Plotting Workshop (AP)
**FRI - 2:30 PM**  
**Victorian B**
Allen Wold’s plotting workshop teaches you the elements of plot. What is it? How do you do it? And how does it interact with other aspects of writing such as characters and dialogue?

Panelist: Allen Wold

### Out of the Hat (ET)
**FRI - 3:00 PM**  
**Provincial**
Our brave panelists show up - we draw topics out of hat - they discuss.

Panelists: Chris Shrewsbury (M), Michelle Iannantuono, Stuart Jaffe, Misty Massey, Michael G. Williams

### Short Story, Novella or Novel: How to Choose (ET)
**FRI - 3:00 PM**  
**Boardroom**
Each type of writing carries with it unique challenges - from length to details to the number of characters. Our panelists discuss how you determine which format is right for the story you want to tell.

Panelists: Leann M. Rettell (M), Samantha Bryant, David B. Coe, Melissa McArthur, Mark Wandrey

### The Doctor is In (ET)
**FRI - 3:00 PM**  
**Victorian A**
Our panelists discuss how making the Doctor female has changed the show (for the better?) and what we hope to see in the future.

Panelists: Maya Preisler (M), JT the Enginerd, Jenny Hendricks, Darin Kennedy, Jennifer McCollom
Open Filk  
**FRI - 3:00 PM**  
**Kittinger**  
Even if you’re not on the schedule, but you love to perform, please feel free to use this time to sit in and filk during our open mic time.

**Building an Alternate History World (ET)**  
**FRI - 4:00 PM**  
**Boardroom**  
What if the Germans hadn’t invaded Russia? What if Napoleon had won Waterloo? It’s fun to look at what might have happened if history had gone differently, but how do you know which way to go once you’ve chosen your point of divergence? Our experts discuss the issues involved in creating a believable alternate history world for a novel.  
Panelists: Jason Gilbert (M), Jim Beall, Eric Flint, Nickie Jamison, DJ McGuire

**Getting Started in the Indie Film World (ET)**  
**FRI - 4:00 PM**  
**Victorian A**  
Our panelists discuss how they got their start in filmmaking. Was there a particular event or time when they recognized filmmaking was not just a hobby? What advice would they give to someone who wanted to have a life creating film? Is it harder to get started or to keep going? What was the most important lesson they had to learn that has had a positive effect on their films?  
Panelists: Bill Mulligan (M), Dave Harlequin, Michelle Iannantuono, Daphne Reeder

**Kids Track - Science Experiments**  
**FRI - 4:00 PM**  
**Heritage**  
Teacher, JT the Enginerd, has pulled together some quick and easy science experiments. Come see what she shares!  
Panelists: JT the Enginerd

**Gray Rinehart Concert**  
**FRI - 4:00 PM**  
**Salon B-C-D**  
Panelists: Gray Rinehart

**Music with Metricula**  
**FRI - 4:00 PM**  
**Kittinger**  
Panelists: Metricula

Authors Roleplaying Live! The Next Generation (ET)  
**FRI - 4:30 PM**  
**Provincial**  
We had so much fun last year, we thought we’d do it again - with a brand new DM and both new and returning players. Join our super group of players as they face the challenges given to them in classic D&D fashion by DM Todd Massey.  
Panelists: Alexandra Christian, Chris A. Jackson, John G. Hartness, Misty Massey, Melissa McArthur, Michael G. Williams

To Sticky or Not to Sticky, That is the Question (How to Attach Things to Other Things) (ET)  
**FRI - 5:00 PM**  
**Victorian A**  
Costuming can involve tape, glue, sewing, etc. How do you choose? Bring your attachment issues to a discussion with costumers expert in these conundrums.  
Panelists: Derek Nieman (M), Tom Hutchens, Cheralyn Lambeth, Matthew Penick, Daphne Reeder

**Foundation for Success**  
**FRI - 5:00 PM**  
**Boardroom**  
New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole will walk you through all the things you want to consider before you sit down to begin your writing career. This will cover everything from how to plan projects, how to make time for writing and the plethora of mistakes writers make which hold them back from becoming the best writers they can be.  
Michael A. Stackpole will host a series of eight workshops over the weekend. Cost at the door is $10 per session.  
Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole

**Music with White Plectrum**  
**FRI - 5:00 PM**  
**Kittinger**  
Panelists: White Plectrum

**Kids Track - Educational TV: For Kids By Kids (AP)**  
**FRI - 5:00 PM**  
**Heritage**  
Join our junior panelists as they discuss educational TV shows that teach while still being engaging.

**Writing Ghost Stories to Images Challenge (AP)**  
**FRI - 5:00 PM**  
**Victorian B**  
Join Tally Johnson, award-winning storyteller, as he challenges participants to craft flash fiction with some spooky pictures as inspiration. There will even be prizes!  
Panelists: Tally Johnson
Event Descriptions

**Flabbergast Magic Show (ET)**
**FRI - 5:30 PM**
**Salon B-C-D**

Join the witty and wise Wickstrom and his Wizard, Flabbergast as they perform illusions and other magical tricks for fans of all ages.

Panelists: Mark MacDicken

**Ebooks vs. Paper - The Publishing Choice (ET)**
**FRI - 6:00 PM**
**Boardroom**

Our panelists debate how, when, and why to decide to go digital or paper.

Panelists: Chris Oakley (M), Nicole Givens Kurtz, Larry N. Martin, Leann M. Rettell

**Neil Gaiman on TV (AP)**
**FRI - 6:00 PM**
**Victorian A**

*Good Omens* and *American Gods* take the creative and unique worlds of Neil Gaiman and try to translate them to the small screen. Our panelists engage the audience as we discuss the two series, their similarities and differences and if the TV shows capture the essence of the author.

Panelists: Gary Mitchell (M), Janet Iannantuono, Nickie Jamison, Jennifer McCollom, DJ McGuire

**Music with Dimensional Riffs**
**FRI - 6:00 PM**
**Kittinger**

Panelists: Dimensional Riffs

**Tales from the Tables (ET)**
**FRI - 7:00 PM**
**Victorian A**

Join some of our vendors and other panelists as they talk about funny things that have happened while at a vendor’s/hallway (fan) table or signing table & (maybe) how not be the customer/fan who gets talked about.

Panelists: Chris Oakley (M), Tom Hutchens, Maya Preisler

**E Koma Mai (Opening Ceremonies) and The Manly Wade Wellman Award (ET)**
**FRI - 7:00 PM**
**Salon B-C-D**

“eh koh-moh my-ee” (means Welcome! in Hawaiian)

This is our version of opening ceremonies. There will be door prizes and short interviews of some of the guests! This is the time and place to decompress from the rigors of travel, meet friends old and new, and make the transition to being at the Con!

The Manly Wade Wellman Award will also be presented at this time.

Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Eric Flint, Michael A. Stackpole, Valentine Wolfe

Note: Toni Weisskopf will not be present.

**Book Launches**
**FRI - 8:00 PM**
**Suite 207**

Join several of our guests as they celebrate the launch of their newest books.

For specific authors and books, please see Sched.com.

**Reading and AMA - Darin Kennedy**
**FRI - 8:00 PM**
**Heritage**

Ask Me Anything and reading by Darin Kennedy

Panelists: Darin Kennedy

**On the Embodiment of Character (ET)**
**FRI - 8:00 PM**
**Provincial**

Our panelists discuss how to exude your character rather than just wearing the costume.

Panelists: Mark MacDicken (M), Syrinx, Cheralyn Lambeth, Kat Milby, Derek Nieman

**World Building in Science Fiction vs Fantasy (ET)**
**FRI - 8:00 PM**
**Victorian A**

Are there distinctions in how world building is approached for a fantasy setting rather than a science fiction setting? Are there different approaches in how the result is presented to the reader? Are there challenges on one side of the fantasy/SF split that are less of an issue on the other?

Panelists: Melissa McArthur (M), Alexandra Christian, Paula S. Jordan, Steven S. Long, Darcy Wold
World Building 101 *
FRI - 8:00 PM
Boardroom

Readers come to fiction for escape, and they love diving into
different worlds which are far more fantastic and titanic than our own.

New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole will walk
you through the key elements of making sure your world has the
depth readers crave. He covers the basics from geography and
history—the stuff you missed skipping class in Middle School—and then show you how to work religion, culture, non-human races, magick and technology into a cohesive whole which will
allow your readers to get lost in the worlds of your making.

*Classes marked with an asterisk will focus on a world created in
the classes, with that world being co-owned by all the students.

Michael A. Stackpole will host a series of eight workshops over
the weekend. Cost at the door is $10 per session.

Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole

3D Printing Demonstration (ET)
FRI - 8:00 PM
Victorian B

Join Brian Johnson, Branch Manager of the Greensboro Hemphill
Library as he walks you through the basics of 3D printing, displays some of the props the library has made as well as some
unfinished projects. He will also share examples of how 3D printing is used with cosplay and the various methods of gluing,
welding, painting and assembling 3D printed parts.

Reading - Gray Rinehart
FRI - 8:30 PM
Heritage
Book reading by the author

Panelists: Gray Rinehart

Friday Night Frights: Nosferatu with Valentine Wolfe (ET)
FRI - 8:30 PM
Salon B-C-D

Join Valentine Wolfe as they provide a live musical score to the
silent film, Nosferatu.

Panelists: Valentine Wolfe

Reading and AMA - Les Johnson
FRI - 9:00 PM
Heritage
Ask Me Anything and reading by Les Johnson

Panelists: Les Johnson

Crowdsourcing Your Costume (AP)
FRI - 9:00 PM
Victorian A

Show up with your tentative costume idea, and let us help you
with the next steps. Audience recommendations encouraged -
come with a character idea or your favorite cosplay/crafting tips.

Panelists: Derek Nieman (M), Tom Hutchens, Kat Milby, Matthew
Penick, Nat Ryan

Michael Stackpole Muses on Star Wars (ET)
FRI - 9:00 PM
Boardroom

Join Michael A. Stackpole as he takes the stage to talk about his
experience writing in the shared world of Star Wars.

Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole

Is the Movie Ever Better Than the Book? (AP)
FRI - 9:00 PM
Kittinger

We’ve all seen films made by people who seem to have never
read the source material. Occasionally you get a film that actually
improves on the original. Why is it so hard to adapt books to
screen and how have some pulled it off?

Panelists: Bill Mulligan (M), Alexandra Christian, Jason Gilbert,
DJ McGuire, Gary Mitchell

Reading - Paula S. Jordan
FRI - 9:30 PM
Heritage
Book reading by the author

Panelists: Paula S. Jordan

The Return of the Dating Game... with Books! (AP)
FRI - 9:30 PM
Provincial
Before you commit to a night of “Kindle and Chill” - find out which book you really want to date. Readers will get to
“interview” characters from different books to see which one they want to take home. Authors will get to character and
answer dating-style questions based on the popular 70s game show.

Hosts: Carol Cowles and Rich Sigfrit
Panelists: Stuart Jaffe, Chris Kennedy, Darin Kennedy, Misty
Massey, Michael G. Williams

Reading and AMA - Dr. Robert Hampson
FRI - 10:00 PM
Heritage
Ask Me Anything and reading by Dr. Robert Hampson

Panelists: Dr. Robert Hampson
Why Do You Write? (ET)
FRI - 10:00 PM
Boardroom
Ben Franklin is quoted as saying, “Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.” Our panelists discuss why they choose to write, what or who their influences were. What would happen if they stopped writing?
Panelists: Allen Wold (M), David B. Coe, Jason Graves, Melissa McArthur

Nuclear Power: Is It Worse Than Choking in Greenhouse Gases (ET)
FRI - 10:00 PM
Kittinger
Nuclear power has its benefits but are the risks worth it when faced with other global energy challenges. Our experienced scientists debate the question.
Panelists: Mike Pederson (M), Jim Beall, Dr. Ben Davis, Les Johnson

Oh, the (Folk) Horror! (ET)
FRI - 10:00 PM
Victorian A
Panelists: Bill Mulligan (M), Jason Gilbert, Kat Milby, Gary Mitchell

Reading and AMA - Chris A. Jackson
FRI - 10:30 PM
Heritage
Ask Me Anything and reading by Chris A. Jackson
Panelists: Chris A. Jackson

Geeky Rants (AP)
FRI - 10:30 PM
Victorian B
A convention favorite, panelists and attendees come armed to tell us what they hate about what they love.
Panelists: Chris Shrewsbury (M), Samantha Bryant, Janet Iannantuono, Darin Kennedy, DJ McGuire

Reading - Nicki Jamison (Ages 18+)
FRI - 11:00 PM
Heritage
Adult Reading by Nickie Jamison
Panelists: Nickie Jamison

Supreme Creators (ET)
FRI - 11:00 PM
Boardroom
We talk about world building, but what happens when you go beyond a single world - or even a single star system. How to build a universe that engages readers?
Panelists: Steven S. Long (M), Chris A. Jackson, Chris Kennedy, Larry N. Martin, Mark Wandrey

Yes, Indie Films Do Cost Money! (Budgeting for Independent Films) (ET)
FRI - 11:00 PM
Victorian A
Ever wonder how Independent films get made? Who gets paid? Who buys what equipment? Our panelists discuss what you need to think about in terms of costs before you take your first steps into the indie film world.
Panelists: Bill Mulligan (M), Michelle Iannantuono, Dave Harlequin, Daphne Reeder

So Bad, They’re Good (ET)
FRI - 11:00 PM
Provincial
Join members of the cast of Charming Underclothes as they talk about cult films – from The Rocky Horror Picture Show to Clue to Buffy the Vampire Slayer.
Panelists: Rich Sigfrit, Charming Underclothes

Stranger Things (AP)
FRI - 11:00 PM
Kittinger
The third season of the American science fiction-horror web television series Stranger Things started last week. What do we know so far? What do we hope to see this season?
Panelists: Gary Mitchell (M), JT the Enginerd, Alexandra Christian, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Leann M. Rettell

Friday Night Frights: Ghost Stories with Tally and Valentine Wolfe (ET)
FRI - 11:00 PM
Salon B-C-D
Join us for some ghost stories told by author Tally Johnson, with ambiance provided by Valentine Wolfe.
Panelists: Tally Johnson, Valentine Wolfe
**SATURDAY**

You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.

**Morality in Gaming (ET)**
SAT - 9:00 AM
Victorian A
Is your gaming world black and white or are there shades of gray? How does morality in gaming, where there is defined "EVIL," come into play?
Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Chris A. Jackson, Steven S. Long, Misty Massey, Gary Mitchell

**You Can’t Ruin What You Started (ET)**
SAT - 9:00 AM
Boardroom
A discussion of how feminism, inclusion, and diversity have been values of science fiction and comics since their inception. From Mary Shelley’s mother to Stan Lee, a historical look at both genres and how humanist values have informed and shaped them from the beginning.
Panelists: Maya Preisler (M), Samantha Bryant, Nickie Jamison, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Violette Meier

**Kids Track - Saturday Morning Cartoons**
SAT - 9:00 AM
Salon B-C-D
Join Metricula as she sings and shares some clips from Saturday morning cartoons.
Panelists: Metricula

**Falstaff/SOL Road Show (ET)**
SAT - 9:00 AM
Provincial
Join John G. Hartness and Larry and Gail Z. Martin as they showcase the upcoming releases from both their Publishing houses: Falstaff Books and SOL Books, and gives away free stuff.
Panelists: John G. Hartness, Gail Z. Martin, Larry N. Martin, Melissa McArthur

**Allen’s Regionally Famous Workshop (AP)**
SAT - 9:00 AM
Victorian B
Allen has been providing conventions with his workshop for many years. Joining by established authors, he provides a safe, creative environment to practice writing. New and established writers can benefit from this workshop.
Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Jason Graves, Paula S. Jordan, Darcy Wold

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**Inside the Author’s Studio: Eric Flint (ET)**
SAT - 10:00 AM
Boardroom
Inside the Author’s Studio, Michael D. Pederson interviews Eric Flint on everything from writing and collaborating to activism and travelling and, of course, ends with the infamous 10 questions.
Panelists: Mike Pederson (M), Eric Flint

**Where Was I Going? (ET)**
SAT - 10:00 AM
Victorian A
Writers don’t always know every step of the stories when they first start writing. Sometimes there’s a great beginning with no ending in mind, and other times the end is clear, but the trip to get there is vague. Let’s talk about some of the ways authors have learned to successfully plot their stories, and what they do when the plot takes a left turn they don’t expect.
Panelists: Misty Massey (M), David B. Coe, Jason Gilbert, Stuart Jaffe, Darin Kennedy

**Live Podcast: Convention Etiquette (ET)**
SAT - 10:00 AM
Salon B-C-D
Guests Michael G. Williams, Kat Milby, and Derek Nieman join the Effing Etiquette comedy podcast with unqualified advice on how to live your life - especially your convention life.
Panelists: Kat Milby, Michael G. Williams, Derek Nieman

**Kids Track - Open Coloring and Crafts**
SAT - 10:00 AM
Heritage
This is an opportunity for your kids to get away from the con and decompress (parents must remain with their their children).

**Music with White Plectrum**
SAT - 10:00 AM
Kittinger
Panelists: White Plectrum

**From Screen to Stage (ET)**
SAT - 10:00 AM
Boardroom
Our panelist discuss how to take something cool you see on TV or film and turn it into a costume you can wear. Keeping in mind that what we see on TV can be very different in real life, from colors to fabrics to the hidden pins.
Panelists: Derek Nieman (M), Syrinx, Kat Milby, Matthew Penick, Nat Ryan
Warships of Sea and Space: Form Follows Function
Follows Technology (ET)
SAT - 11:00 AM
Provincial
An engineer (and former naval officer) - using many images and videos - traces how the shapes both of historical ships and fictional spacecraft have always depended on technology.
Panelists: Jim Beall

Hold on to the Light (AP)
SAT - 11:00 AM
Victorian A
How do you hold on? Different people find different anchors. #HoldOnToTheLight is in an effort to raise awareness around treatment for depression, suicide prevention, domestic violence intervention, PTSD initiatives, bullying prevention and other mental health-related issues. We believe fandom should be supportive, welcoming and inclusive, in the long tradition of fandom taking care of its own. We encourage readers and fans to seek the help they or their loved ones need without shame or embarrassment. Join the conversation
Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), Michelle Iannantuono, Tally Johnson, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Chris Shrewsbury

BB-8: Make & Take
SAT - 11:00 AM
Heritage
Have you ever wanted your own BB-8? Well, here’s your chance. Just bring yourself, we’ll supply the materials. Limited - Sign up at Registration
Panelists: Janet Iannantuono

Open Filk
SAT - 11:00 AM
Kittering
Even if you’re not on the schedule, but you love to perform, please feel free to use this time to sit in and filk during our open mic time.

Dimensional Riffs Concert
SAT - 11:30 AM
Salon B-C-D
Panelists: Dimensional Riffs, Jenny Hendricks, Drew McFayden, DJ McGuire

How to Sew (Basics) (AP)
SAT - 11:30 AM
Victorian B
Join the 105th Squad as they take you through the truly basic basics of sewing - what the different parts on the machine are, how to thread a needle and what’s a bobbin anyway?

Dealing with Disabilities (AP)
SAT - 12:00 PM
Victorian A
A large segment of our world possesses some type of disability, whether mobility, sensory, cognitive, or emotional. Let’s have a safe-space dialogue based on our personal and professional experiences, with the intent of encouragement and letting folks know “You are not alone.”
Panelists: Chris Shrewsbury (M), Lilith, Maya Preisler, Nat Ryan

Literary Samplers
SAT - 12:00 PM
Boardroom
Join a group of authors as they introduce you to their works in the shortest amount of time possible.

Space Propulsion 101: A Tutorial for Writers, Aspiring Writers, and Space Cadets All (ET)
SAT - 12:00 PM
Provincial
From chemical rockets to nuclear, from ion drive to antimatter, from solar sails to laser-driven lightsails, have you ever wondered how they work and what they can actually accomplish for space travel? Within the limits of known physics, nature has provided us with methods to leave our planet and explore the solar system and beyond. In this tutorial, learn the fundamental principles of the many real space propulsion technologies in use and being developed that may one day enable us to accomplish what our imaginations create.
Panelists: Les Johnson

Comic Book Flowers - Make & Take
SAT - 12:00 PM
Heritage
We will use old comic book pages to make a flower you can take with you.
Panelists: Janet Iannantuono

Classic or Kitschy: How Films Age (AP)
SAT - 1:00 PM
Victorian A
Star Wars: The Phantom Menace, Matrix, Galaxy Quest and more are all 20 years old. How do these movies stand the test of time or change how we view movies today? Are they now “cult” classics?
Panelists: Gary Mitchell (M), Samantha Bryant, Patrick Dugan, Maya Preisler, Chris Shrewsbury
Event Descriptions

Flabbergast’s Close Up Magic
SAT - 1:00 PM
Heritage
Join the magical Wizard, Flabbergast for a little close-up, kid-friendly magic.
Panelists: Mark MacDicken

Angel Metro Concert
SAT - 1:00 PM
Salon B-C-D
Panelists: Angel Metro

Music with Metricula
SAT - 1:00 PM
Kittinger
Panelists: Metricula

21 Days to a Novel
SAT - 1:00 PM
Boardroom
New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole presents his three week program for preparing yourself to write a novel. This set of 21 exercises is broken down to give you everything from character creation to world building, practical plotting devices, dialogue development and character voice creation tools. This program is a practical, kick-in-the-pants place to start your career.
Michael A. Stackpole will host a series of eight workshops over the weekend. Cost at the door is $10 per session.
Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole

105th Live Build Party (Workshop/Demonstration) (AP)
SAT - 1:00 PM
Victorian B
You’ve seen them at cons: Stormtroopers and Mandalorians, high elves and superheroes. You’ve heard of the groups: the 501st Legion, the Ghostbusters, and more. And you’ve wondered... “How do I start?” Well, here’s your chance to find out. The 105th Squad costuming group will host a “live build” party where they will bring a number of works in progress. You’ll have a chance to meet the engineers, ask questions and maybe find answers to your own costuming challenges.
Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole

The Revenge of the Bookworm (ET)
SAT - 2:00 PM
Victorian A
How to care for, collect, value and dispose of your book collection. Information on products and resources presented by Chris Oakley, GCIU prepress journeyman with 23 years of experience as a bookseller including volunteer work with non-profit rummage sales and the Jefferson-Madison Regional Friends of the Library book sales (100k books per sale).
Panelists: Chris Oakley

Music with Dimensional Riffs
SAT - 2:00 PM
Kittinger
Panelists: Dimensional Riffs

Kids Track - Scavenger Hunt
SAT - 2:00 PM
Heritage
Woody and Buzz’s new owner, Bonnie, has lost them somewhere in the con site! Kids will explore the con space as they search for clues that will lead them to the missing toys.
Panelists: JT the Enginerd

Valentine Wolfe’s Metal Concert
SAT - 2:30 PM
Salon B-C-D
Panelists: Valentine Wolfe

Characterization *
SAT - 3:00 PM
Boardroom
Characters are king in literature and New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole brings you a toolbox full of techniques to create compelling and memorable characters. Readers read for and remember characters, and after this course, yours will be unforgettable, which will keep them coming back for more.
*Classes marked with an asterisk will focus on a world created in the classes, with that world being co-owned by all the students.
Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole

Music with Mark MacDicken
SAT - 3:00 PM
Kittinger
Panelists: Mark MacDicken
EVENT DESCRIPTIONS

From Human to Non-Human: Transformation Demonstration (ET)
SAT - 3:00 PM
Victorian A

Join Hollywood Make-up Artist, Jennifer McCollom, as she transforms author John Hartness, into a completely different character! She will talk about applying pieces, blending and other techniques that take your transformation to the next level.

Panelists: Jennifer McCollom, John G. Hartness

Science & Technology in the 1632 Universe (ET)
SAT - 3:30 PM
Provincial

GoH Eric Flint discusses the broad social, economic and other historical aspects of Science and Technology in 1632. Why aren’t there railroads all over Ring of Fire Europe by 1635? What is holding back tech development? Where can Europe and the rest of the Ring of Fire world go with technology?

Panelists: Eric Flint

The Importance of Communicating Science (ET)
SAT - 3:30 PM
Victorian B

Our panelists talk about how and why communicating science is important, and the transition between writing for academia (Robert Hampson), industry (Jim Beall and Les Johnson) and the DoD (Chris Kennedy) with Toni Wieskopf critiquing how that affects creative writing.

Biomedical Graduate Students from Dr. Robert E. Hampson’s Communicating Science course will also give seven-minute “TED Talk” style presentations about their science. Come hear about some exciting new fields of biomedical research. The students could certainly use some constructive feedback on their talks!

Panelists: Dr. Robert Hampson (M), Jim Beall, Les Johnson, Chris Kennedy, Toni Weisskopf

Reading - David B. Coe/D.B. Jackson
SAT - 4:00 PM
Heritage

Book reading by the author

Panelists: David B. Coe/ D.B. Jackson

Prospective Press Road Show (ET)
SAT - 4:00 PM
Boardroom

Join Jason Graves and some of his authors as he highlights upcoming releases from Prospective Press publishing house, and gives away some swag.

Panelists: Jason Graves, Samantha Bryant, Jason Gilbert, Cheralyn Lambeth, Gail Z. Martin

Music with Gray Rinehart
SAT - 4:00 PM
Kittinger

Panelists: Gray Rinehart

White Plectrum Concert
SAT - 4:00 PM
Salon B-C-D

Panelists: White Plectrum

Reading and AMA - Michael G. Williams
SAT - 4:30pm – 5:00pm
Heritage

Ask Me Anything and reading by Michael G. Williams

Panelists: Michael G. Williams

Finding the Story
SAT - 5:00 PM
Boardroom

New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole takes you through a series of exercises that will let you build a story from the barest spark through twists and turns. He’ll give you several story recipes and show you how you can work from them to create delightfully complex and engaging stories.

Michael A. Stackpole will host a series of eight workshops over the weekend. Cost at the door is $10 per session.

Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole

Music with The Nefarious Ferrets
SAT - 5:00 PM
Kittinger

Panelists: The Nefarious Ferrets, DJ McGuire

Auction Viewing
SAT - 5:15 PM
Provincial

This is your chance to get a look at the items up for auction, prior to the bidding process starting.

POC as Protagonist: Representation Matters (ET)
SAT - 5:30 PM
Victorian B

With the success of Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse, the importance of a POC as the protagonist is continuing to be a more successful story. Why aren’t there more? How can we leverage this success in our own work?

Panelists: Nicole Givens Kurtz (M), JT the Enginerd, Samantha Bryant, Nickie Jamison, Maya Preisler
Metricula Concert
SAT - 5:30 PM
Salon B-C-D
Panelists: Metricula

ConGregate’s Charity Auction (new time!) (AP)
SAT - 5:30 PM
Provincial
Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Greensboro Urban Ministry food bank. We hope you are able to come to the auction and support this year’s worthy cause, as we try to raise money for something that doesn’t usually get a lot of attention in July!
NOTE: THIS IS A NEW TIME FROM PREVIOUS YEARS!!

Cooking Up Conflict *
SAT - 6:00 PM
Boardroom
Conflict is the engine of all stories, and too many of them fail to use conflict to its full potential. New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole will walk you through the various types of conflict and provide you a toolkit that will allow you to shape individual stories or build them into an on running saga. You’ll learn whole new ways to approach your stories during the design phase, and how to kick them into a higher-energy orbit when they run out of steam.

*Classes marked with an asterisk will focus on a world created in the classes, with that world being co-owned by all the students.

Michael A. Stackpole will host a series of eight workshops over the weekend. Cost at the door is $10 per session.
Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole

Open Filk
SAT - 6:00 PM
Kittinger
Even if you’re not on the schedule, but you love to perform, please feel free to use this time to sit in and filk during our open mic time.

Reading - Jason Graves
SAT - 6:30 PM
Heritage
Book reading by the author
Panelists: Jason Graves

Costume Contest Green Room
SAT - 6:00 PM
Victorian A
Green Room (Pre-Judging and Waiting)
Judges: Cheralyn Lambeth, Mark MacDicken, Derek Nieman

Charity Auction Information
Anyone attending the convention is welcome to bid in the auction, but you must have a badge on to register at the auction. Your badge number will be your bidder number.

To make a bid: Raise your hand, jump up and down, or shout your bid if necessary! The auctioneer will make every attempt to see all bids, but he is not perfect. Active participation by the bidder helps!

Bids will only be accepted in whole US dollar amounts.

If you are not bidding, please be silent (to a reasonable degree).

Only request to see an item closer if you really intend to bid, since this slows down the auction.

A bid acknowledged by the auctioneer is a legal contract to purchase the item.

The highest bid acknowledged by the auctioneer is the winner. In the event of a dispute between bidders, the auctioneer shall have sole and final discretion either to determine the successful bidder or to re-offer the item in dispute.

When you make a successful bid on an item, please call out your badge number so it can be recorded. You may pay for an item as the bidding for that item ends, or items will be held until the end of the auction session, when all winnings must be paid for. Purchased items need to be removed as soon as payment has been made. Acceptable methods of payment will be announced at the start of the auction.

CAVEAT EMPTOR (“Let the Buyer Beware!”). Although the auctioneer will make every attempt to describe all items correctly, every item is sold “as is”. The convention is not responsible for, nor can we guarantee condition, authenticity, completeness, etc. of any item.

Proceeds from the Charity Auction will go to benefit:

GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY
A Lifetime of Armageddon Scenarios. When Can We Finally Relax? (ET)
SAT - 6:30 PM
Victorian B
It’s the end of the world as we know it: from earthquakes and floods to zombies and viruses, Armageddon always seems just around the corner. Our panelists discuss why we are fascinated by the end of the world.
Panelists: Dr. Ben Davis (M), Jim Beall, Dr. Robert Hampson, DJ McGuire, Bill Mulligan

Reading - Patrick Dugan
SAT - 7:00 PM
Heritage
Book reading by the author
Panelists: Patrick Dugan

Metal and a Pint
SAT - 7:00 PM
Kittinger
Join Valentine Wolfe, Jason Gilbert, and Dave Harlequin as they wax poetically on the topic of music and beverages. Recommended for ages 21+.
Panelists: Jason Gilbert (M), Sarah Black, Braxton Ballew, Dave Harlequin

ConGregate Costume Contest (AP)
SAT - 7:00 PM
Salon B-C-D
Host: Rich Sigfrit
In grand convention tradition, ConGregate will host our annual costume contest. Bring your best costume and show of your skills or just enjoy the show!
Judges: Cheralyn Lambeth, Mark MacDicken, Derek Nieman

Successful Indie Publishing: Bringing Your Book to Market (AP)
SAT - 7:00 PM
Boardroom
So you have the novel written... now what? Publisher Chris Kennedy walks you through how to navigate the intricacies of independent publishing, from start to finish, showing you what to do and what to avoid in order to bring your book to market and become a successful self-published author.
Panelists: Chris Kennedy

Reading - Allen Wold
SAT - 8:00 PM
Heritage
Book reading by the author
Panelists: Allen Wold

The End of Game of Thrones (AP)
SAT - 8:00 PM
Victorian A
The Final Season of Game of Thrones has ended. How did they do? Knowing that the TV show may not impact the books, what did you like about the series? What made GOT popular?
Panelists: Maya Preisler (M), Lilith, Jenny Hendricks, DJ McGuire, Leann M. Rettell

Match ‘em Up - Live Game Show! (AP)
SAT - 8:00 PM
Salon B-C-D
ConGregate brings you our next geeky challenge. Contestants will match wits with four celebrities to try to answer a question the same way. Prizes for the contestant with the most matches!
Panelists: Rich Sigfrit (Host), Carol Cowles, Janet Iannatuono, Gary Mitchel, Mike Pederson

Keeping Urban Fantasy Fresh (ET)
SAT - 8:30 PM
Provincial
We’ve seen Vampires and Werewolves, Dragons and Mages - how do authors find new and unique characters or creatures to keep Urban Fantasy fresh and new?
Panelists: Jason Gilbrert (M), David B. Coe, Stuart Jaffe, Gail Z. Martin
Reading and AMA - Samantha Bryant
SAT - 8:30 PM
Heritage
Ask Me Anything and reading by Samantha Bryant
Panelists: Samantha Bryant

Writing Paranormal Non Fiction (ET)
SAT - 8:30 PM
Victorian B
Our panelists discuss writing about the paranormal as non-fiction.
Panelists: Tally Johnson (M), Cheralyn Lambeth, Alex Matsuo, Violette Meier

Reading - Nicole Givens Kurtz
SAT - 9:00 PM
Heritage
Book reading by the author
Panelists: Nicole Givens Kurtz

How Much Science Should a Science Fiction Writer Know? (ET)
SAT - 9:00 PM
Boardroom
This panel will look at writing science into your science fiction. Both scientifically-minded and non-science people are welcome as we try to determine how much science does it take to make good science fiction.
Panelists: Michael G. Williams (M), Patrick Dugan, Dr. Robert Hampson, Gray Rineheart

Pitch Wars: The Sequel (AP)
SAT - 9:00 PM
Victorian A
Got a novel or series that you want to write? Then come pitch it! Three small press publishers will be on hand to offer advice (and maybe even a contract.)
Panelists: Chris Kennedy, Jason Graves, John G. Hartness

Meat Loaf Sing-along (AP)
SAT - 9:00 PM
Kittinger
It probably comes as no surprise that Meat Loaf got his start in musical theater. After all, the songs on his 1977 classic album Bat Out of Hell are pretty much big Broadway showstoppers with louder guitars. So join us as we pick a few of his classics and maybe some deep cuts to sing along to.
Panelists: Darin Kennedy

Reading - Alexandra Christian
SAT - 9:30 PM
Heritage
Book reading by the author
Panelists: Alexandra Christian

The Xeno-Archaeology Road Show (ET)
SAT - 9:30 PM
Provincial
Our intrepid group of explorers has landed on a planet in uncharted territory. Join them as they explore the artifacts left by the previous owners.
Panelists: Jim Beall (M), Jason Gilbert, Chris A. Jackson, Les Johnson, Chris Shrewsbury

The Rogue 105th (Live Reading) (ET)
SAT - 9:30 PM
Victorian B
Members of the 105th go rogue and showcase their verbal skills instead of costuming talent with a surprise script reading.

Portals in Fantasy (ET)
SAT - 10:00 PM
Victorian A
From The Magicians to Star Trek, portals are often used in science fiction to move protagonists into new territory. Our panelists discuss the best and worst uses of portals in the genre.
Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (M), Patrick Dugan, Stuart Jaffe, Darin Kennedy, Leann M. Rettell

Why is My Cowboy Fighting Werewolves? (Weird Westerns) (ET)
SAT – 10:00 PM
Boardroom
Weird Western is a subgenre that brings supernatural or science fiction genre tropes to the 19th-century Southwestern United States. What aspects are key to making something a “western”? 
Panelists: Toni Weisskopf (M), Alexandra Christian, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Larry N. Martin, Misty Massey
**EVENT DESCRIPTIONS**

**ConGregate Karaoke (AP)**
**SAT - 10:00 PM**
**Kittinger**
Join us in some very random Karaoke choices - from musicals to modern, grab a drink from the bar for courage and show off your best tune.

Panelists: Drew McFayden

**The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra (ET)**
**SAT - 10:00 PM**
**Salon B-C-D**
Charming Underclothes is a movie recreation performance group that brings films to life! Shadowcasting, as it’s called, is a midnight movie phenomenon that started with The Rocky Horror Picture Show. ConGregate is excited to partner with them to present The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra.

The Lost Skeleton of Cadavra: A bad scientist and wife, a mad scientist and skeleton, two aliens and their escaped pet are all searching for the elusive element “atmospherium”.

Panelists: Rich Sigfrit, Charming Underclothes

**The Orville: From Fart Jokes to Extermination (AP)**
**SAT - 10:30 PM**
**Provincial**
The Orville has had 2 seasons and been renewed for a third (on FOX, no less!) Our panelists talk about the show, its unique blend of comedy and drama, the characters, the storyline and how it compares to classic shows like Firefly and Star Trek.

Panelists: JT the Enginerd (M), Jason Graves, Nickie Jamison, DJ McGuire

**Ghost Hunting 101 (ET)**
**SAT - 11:00 PM**
**Victorian A**
Do things go bump in the night? Are you curious about the paranormal? Our local investigators share the necessary steps and skills needed if you want to hunt ghosts.

Panelists: Tally Johnson, Cheralyn Lambeth, Alex Matsu

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**SUNDAY**

You will find two types of events listed: Audience Participation (AP) and Experts Talk (ET). ET events are traditional con panels. In AP events, we encourage audience participation.

**Non-Denominational Prayer Service**
**SUN - 9:00 AM**
**Provincial**
This is a non-denominational prayer service open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Panelists: Gray Rinehart

**Kids Track - Junior Xenobiologist**
**SUN - 10:00 AM**
**Victorian A**
Our intrepid group of explorers has landed on a planet in uncharted territory. Join them as they explore the artifacts left by the previous owners. (Kid-friendly version)

Panelists: Jim Beall (M), JT the Enginerd, Jason Gilbert, Chris A. Jackson

**Amadeus: The Strange Tale of Mozart’s Requiem (ET)**
**SUN - 10:00 AM**
**Salon B-C-D**
Braxton Ballew of Valentine Wolfe takes you into the past to discover the strange tale of Mozart’s final composition, the one that inspired the play and movie Amadeus: Requiem in D Minor, K. 626. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction.

Panelists: Valentine Wolfe

**Story Design** *
**SUN - 10:00 AM**
**Boardroom**
New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole unravels the mysteries of creating compelling plots. A novel is a huge undertaking, written over weeks or months, and the plot has to hold it all together. From creating an outline to maintaining flexibility, this seminar gives you the insider knowledge that will separate you from all of your peers.

*Classes marked with an asterisk will focus on a world created in the classes, with that world being co-owned by all the students.

Michael A. Stackpole will host a series of eight workshops over the weekend. Cost at the door is $10 per session.

Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole
Allen’s Regionally Famous Workshop Part II  
SUN - 10:00 AM  
Victorian B  
This is part two of Allen’s Workshop. Participants from Saturday are encouraged to return.  
Panelists: Allen Wold (M), Jason Graves, Paula S. Jordan, Darcy Wold  

Music with White Plectrum  
SUN - 10:00 AM  
Kittinger  
Panelists: White Plectrum  

Chris Kennedy Publishing Road Show (ET)  
SUN - 10:00 AM  
Provincial  
Come see what will be released in the coming months from Chris Kennedy Publishing... and maybe win a free book for the effort!  
Panelists: Chris Kennedy  

Captain Marvel: Superhero (AP)  
SUN - 11:00 AM  
Victorian A  
Let’s discuss Marvel’s front and center female superhero. Our panelists discuss the importance of women telling those stories, (Wonder Woman, for example) and what the audience liked or didn’t like about the story.  
Panelists: Samantha Bryant (M), Carol Cowles, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Violette Meier, Leann M. Rettell  

Space Travel Options for the Near Future (and Beyond) (ET)  
SUN - 11:00 AM  
Boardroom  
From NASA to Space X, exploring space is a passion for some since the 1960’s. In recognition of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the first moon landing, our panelists discuss how much closer are we to going past the moon and out into the universe?  
Panelists: Toni Weisskopf (M), Jim Beall, Dr. Ben Davis, Dr. Robert Hampson, Les Johnson  

Magic Jam (AP)  
SUN - 11:30 AM  
Provincial  
How about a “Magic Jam”? Share a card trick, coin trick, or other sleight of hand; math-magic, brain teaser, 1-minute mystery, etc. Open participation to either flabbergast or be flabbergasted! Bring your own supplies or borrow from the magician moderator. Ages 7 and up.  
Panelists: Mark MacDicken  

Dimensional Riffs Concert  
SUN - 11:30 AM  
Salon B-C-D  
Panelists: Dimensional Riffs  

Leather Working 101 (AP)  
SUN - 11:30 AM  
Victorian B  
A primer for the basics of leatherwork led by the designers at Ribbons and Rivets, where participants edge, burnish, dye, seal, and decorate their very own wrist cuff. All tools and materials will be provided. Just bring a pair of hands. Fee is $20. Participants may sign up at Registration. Payment accepted at the workshop.  
Panelists: Matthew Penick  

Reading and AMA - Stuart Jaffe  
SUN - 12:00 PM  
Heritage  
Ask Me Anything and reading by Stuart Jaffe  
Panelists: Stuart Jaffe  

Care and Feeding of Cosplay (ET)  
SUN - 12:00 PM  
Victorian A  
Ever make a costume only to have it damaged in storage? Wondering the best way to keep your cosplay from having that distinct ‘con-funk’ odor? Maybe you’re just wondering how to keep all your little gadgets and gizmos in one location. Come and learn tips and tricks from veterans of cosplay and gain what knowledge they have gleaned from years of caring for cosplay and props.  
Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth (M), Tom Hutchens, Derek Nieman, Daphne Reeder, Nat Ryan  

Music with Metricula  
SUN - 12:00 PM  
Kittinger  
Panelists: Metricula
Making It Work  
SUN - 12:00PM  
Boardroom  
New York Times Bestselling author Michael A. Stackpole will walk you through the finer details of making certain your story will work, including secrets that create bestselling novels, tools for keeping the novel flowing and ways to pull it all together when it seems to have gotten out of hand or, worse yet, slowed down and threatens to die. If you’ve ever had a project run off the rails, this will help you get back on track and going again.  

Michael A. Stackpole will host a series of eight workshops over the weekend. Cost at the door is $10 per session.  
Panelists: Michael A. Stackpole  

Open Filk  
SUN - 12:00 PM  
Kittinger  
Even if you’re not on the schedule, but you love to perform, please feel free to use this time to sit in and filk during our open mic time.  

Reading - Gail Z. Martin  
SUN - 12:30 PM  
Heritage  
Book reading by the author  
Panelists: Gail Z. Martin  

Other People Write in Your Universe (ET)  
SUN – 12:30 PM  
Provincial  
When you open up your world to other authors, what are the ground rules that you set? What are some of the new ideas that your other authors have brought to the table?  
Panelists: Chris Kennedy (M), Eric Flint, John G. Hartness, Mark Wandrey  

Writing for Game Companies (ET)  
SUN - 1:00 PM  
Victorian A  
Whether it’s crafting short narratives in gaming books or full on tie-in novels that incorporate game mechanics into the prose, writing for role-playing games can be challenging. Our authors discuss the pros and cons of writing with a game system in mind.  

Panelists: Mike Pederson (M), Chris A. Jackson, Steven S. Long, Michael A. Stackpole  

Round Robin Music Fest  
SUN - 1:00 PM  
Salon B-C-D  
Our musical guests help us close out the con with a round robin collection of filks and songs.  
Panelists: Metricula, Dimensional Riffs, Mark MacDicken, Gray Rinehart, White Plectrum  

We Are Not Okay - The End of Supernatural - Friends and Fans (AP)  
SUN - 1:00 PM  
Boardroom  
For 15 years, fans have followed the Winchester brothers and “Baby” to hell and back, with angels, devils and monsters all fighting for their souls or worse. From the cast who are active on social media and at cons around the world to fans who’ve added their own stories in the form of cosplay, artwork, fan fiction, commentary, videos, and filmmaking, this series has created an impression. Join the conversation.  
Panelists: Gail Z. Martin, Lilith, Lynnia Ruby, Alex Matsuo  

Behind the Scenes - Making a Film (ET)  
SUN - 1:30 PM  
Provincial  
From scripts to storyboards, finding locations and people, our panelists discuss the popularity of making short films on a limited budget and offer some suggestions on how you can get started.  
Panelists: Bill Mulligan (M), Dave Harlequin, Daphne Reeder  

What’s Next for ConGregate?  
SUN - 2:00 PM  
Salon B-C-D  
Join us for a quick preview of ConGregate 2020. We’ll announce some of our guests and maybe share some events that are in the works.
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Guest of Honor
Larry Correia
Special Guests
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Dave “D.J.” Butler
and
Doug Dandridge

Musical Guest of Honor
Misbehavin’ Maidens

Weekend Passes
$55 thru Jan 1
$65 thru Mar 8
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Don’t Just Tell Your Story,
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2020 Guests of Honor
Mari Mancusi Richard Kadrey

The Camelot Code Sandman Slim

Plus more authors, editors, publishers, & agents learn, pitch, & network with the pros!
Exhibitors

**Dealer Room Hours**
- FRI 3:00pm - 7:00pm
- SAT 9:00am - 5:00pm
- SUN 10:00am - 2:00pm

**Dealer Room (Salon A)**
- Michael A. Stackpole
- 13anana Cream Dream
- 2 Bros And A Bard
- Cynosure Hobbies
- Fashions By Figment
- Keith’s SF Collectibles
- Maya Renee (Preisler)
- Mumswear
- Neko Kitty Studios
- Orielis’ Books
- Pair-A-Dice Games
- Ribbons and Rivets
- Roman Machine
- Scribbling Lion
- The Spinner’s Edge
- Thimsy
- White Heart Creations

**Hallway Tables (Prefunction Area)**
- Valentine Wolfe
- 105th Squad
- 501st Legion
- Mandalorian Mercs
- USS Charon (Starfleet)
- Chris Kennedy Publishing
- Falstaff Books
- Mocha Memoirs Press
- NC Writers Group (and Friends)
- FantaSci
- Mysticon
- Greensboro Public Library

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Signings

All signings are located at the Signings table in Salon A (Dealer Room) of the Queen Anne Ballroom, unless otherwise noted below.

Some guests have vendor tables where they might be found at times not listed below.

**JULY 12 • FRIDAY**
- 3:00pm – 4:00pm  Patrick Dugan & Alexandra Christian
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm  Michael A. Stackpole (at his table)
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm  Les Johnson & Mark Wandrey
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm  Eric Flint
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm  Samantha Bryant & Darin Kennedy

**JULY 13 • SATURDAY**
- 9:00am – 10:00am  Mark Wandrey & Chris Kennedy
- 10:00am – 11:00am  Michael A. Stackpole (at his table)
- 10:00am – 11:00am  Samantha Bryant & Alexandra Christian
- 11:00am – 12:00pm  Eric Flint
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm  Darin Kennedy & Chris A. Jackson
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm  Michael G. Williams & Jason Graves
- 2:00pm – 3:00pm  Leann M. Retell & Les Johnson
- 3:00pm – 4:00pm  David B. Coe & Misty Massey
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm  Patrick Dugan & Violette Meier

**JULY 14 • SUNDAY**
- 10:00am – 11:00am  Eric Flint
- 11:00am – 12:00pm  Stuart Jaffe & Misty Massey
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm  David B. Coe & Chris A. Jackson
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm  Leann M. Retell & Michael G. Williams
THE NORTH CAROLINA SPECULATIVE FICTION FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE FIVE YEARS OF THE MANLY WADE WELLMAN AWARD

The Shambling Guide to New York City by Mur Lafferty
Orbit Books (2013)

Ghost Train to New Orleans by Mur Lafferty
Orbit Books (2014)

Raising Hell by John G. Hartness
Falstaff Books (2015)

From Selected Stories by Manly Wade Wellman
Night Shade Books (Kenneth Waters, ill.)

Steeplejack by A. J. Hartley
Tor Teen (2016)

Scourge by Gail Z. Martin
Solaris (2017)

The Manly Wade Wellman Award was founded in 2013 to recognize outstanding achievement in science fiction and fantasy novels written by North Carolina authors, and is voted on by the combined membership of conventions illogiCon, ConCarolinas, and ConGregate. The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate. For more information please visit ncsff.org.
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