LARRY CORREIA

New York Times Best-Selling Author
Tough Guys, Guns, and Monsters—Masterful, Hard-hitting, Gritty and Fun!

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From the Con Chair

Wow! What a wild ride the last 28 months have been. We stand here at the culmination of the efforts of a lot of people... a whole lot of people. It all started with an exploratory gathering of friends in March of 2012, to see if we thought we could pull off running a relaxacon, and ended with the launching of a brand new, full blown SF convention. Along the way, our journey included the discovery that no hotel in the area would offer a small relaxacon terms that we could meet and also the discovery that the fans, dealers, pros and even other con runners had the utmost confidence that we would be successful running a new con. We greatly appreciate that last part, even if we weren’t as sure of our abilities as you folks were. Thanks for that, it really kept us moving forward!

We hope that ConGregate lives up to your expectations, because, really, that’s the ultimate purpose of the con.

So, please... enjoy!

-James Fulbright
President/Con Chair
ConGregate Productions

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Harassment Policy

We are endeavoring to make ConGregate 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, with as many details as can be provided (names, badge numbers, descriptive information, etc.), any situation that might occur.

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 in the Hanes Boardroom (Con Ops).

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, race, or religion.
Rules of the Convention

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 out of the convention, without a refund, if they are behaving like a jerk.

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. Please see our full harassment policy on page 2.

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

5. 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.

6. Bladed weapons must be sheathed and peace-bonded at all times. All other actual weapons are prohibited in the con space (Ballrooms, Pre-function Space 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).

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. As with most hotels, the Marriott 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 (it’s in our contract). In other words, your options this weekend are: you can eat what you buy from the hotel, go out to eat, or eat in your personal room.

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

11. 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.

12. 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 Forsyth County.

13. ConGregate is offering a “kids area” on Saturday that has crafts and coloring books. 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.

14. No smoking inside the hotel. Smoking areas are available outside of the hotel lobby.

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

16. There are specific rules regarding photography. You can find them below.

17. 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.

18. And, finally, our most important rule during the convention is: HAVE FUN!

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. Please ask for permission before you take a person’s picture or record them, and take any no’s you receive with good grace.
Larry Correia
Writer Guest of Honor

Larry Correia is the New York Times bestselling novelist who originally self-published in 2008. His novel, *Monster Hunter International*, reached the *Entertainment Weekly* bestseller list and he received a publishing contract with Baen Books. *Monster Hunter International* was re-released in 2009 and made the Locus bestseller list. The sequel, *Monster Hunter Vendetta*, was also a New York Times bestseller, as was the third book in the series, *Monster Hunter Alpha*. Correia was a finalist for the John W. Campbell award in 2011, and is a 2014 Hugo finalist for his novel *Warbound*.

Correia’s works tend to include monsters such as vampires, werewolves, etc., as well as containing strong magical themes. They are also notable for the amount, and accuracy in detail, of their firearms usage.

Located in Utah, Correia now spends his time as a writer and a part-time firearms instructor.

Mark Poole
Artist Guest of Honor

Mark Poole is one of the original twenty-five *Magic: The Gathering* artists. Mark’s work is often hard to pick out due to a variance in style, but he typically features balanced palettes and often incorporates Japanese themes and elements. His works; however, grace numerous iconic cards such as Ancestral Recall, Balance, Counterspell, and several of the original dual lands.

Mark was one of several retro-artists brought back during Time Spiral to recapture the early feel of the game. He updated many of his iconic works and continued to provide original art through the Morningtide release.

His Dungeons & Dragons credits include the *Magic Item Compendium* and *Magic of Incarnum*.

He has also done work for other gaming companies including White Wolf Studios, Warcraft, Sony Online Entertainment, Dragon Storm, Valley Games, Upper Deck and Ziggurat Games.

He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of South Carolina in 1987. He currently resides in Lexington, South Carolina and is an avid bass player with the band Albion.

Toni Weisskopf
Special Literary Guest

Toni Weisskopf Reinhardt is the publisher of Baen Books. Under the name T.K.F. Weisskopf she is the co-editor, with Greg Cox, of two SF anthologies for Baen: *Tomorrow Sucks* and *Tomorrow Bites*, about vampires and werewolves respectively, recently reprinted in an omnibus volume. With Josepha Sherman, she compiled and annotated the definitive volume of subversive children’s folklore, *Greasy Grimy Gopher Guts*, published by August House.

This year, she is nominated for a Hugo Award for Best Editor-Long Form.

A graduate of Oberlin College with a degree in anthropology, she is the mother of a delightful daughter.

Jennifer McCollom
Special Media Arts Guest

Professional make-up artist, Jennifer McCollom got her start in Theatre through both high school and college. She graduated from UNCG with a BA in Theatre and a minor in Physics. Her first professional film was *Taking Liberty* filmed in Winston-Salem, NC. Then it was on to local favorites *Dead Inn* and *Last Lives*.

Jennifer followed up her local work with a trip to LA to study at the Westmore Make-up Academy. Her work on the smaller NC projects allowed Jennifer to move on to bigger projects after her LA experience. She has been a make-up artist on *Army Wives*, *The Hunger Games*, *Leatherheads*, *Talladega Nights*, *The Box*, *The Conjuring*, the Oscar nominated *June Bug*, the Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries *John Adams*, *Homeland* for Showtime, Spike TV’s *Bar Rescue*, Cinemax’s *Banshee*, and CBS’s new summer drama, *Reckless*.

When film work was quiet in NC, she attended RCC Cosmetology School and attained her cosmetology licence to add to her skills.

Jennifer was born in Wilmington, NC and lived Pennsylvania and Florida before settling down in Randleman, NC with her husband and cats. She believes you should never stop learning!
Maggie Allen
Maggie Allen recently started writing short fiction, but for her day job at NASA, she has years of experience writing and podcasting about various non-fiction topics in astronomy and astrophysics. Maggie is a guitarist and singer in the rock band Naked Singularity, which released its first album of original music in 2013. They are currently working on the second album. Maggie has had short stories published in A Hero By Any Other Name, the Time Traveled Tales anthologies, and Athena’s Daughters.

Her band’s website may be found here: naked-singularity.com and her writer website here: writermaggie.blogspot.com

Theresa Bane
Vampirolologist Theresa Bane has been featured on Discovery Channel’s Twisted History: Vampires as well as E!’s 10 Sexiest Vampires, and William Shatner’s Weird or What for her knowledge and expertise on the undead.

Bane is the author of Encyclopedia of Demons in World Religions and Cultures, The Encyclopedia of Vampire Mythology, Encyclopedia of Fairies in World Folklore and Mythology, Actual Factual: Dracula, Haunted Historic Greensboro, Folktales and Ghost Stories of North Carolina’s Piedmont, Folklore and Food, and numerous RPG (role-playing game) supplements, including co-authoring the Bare Bones Multiverse core rulebook. She has also written a dark humor book entitled The Bloodthirsty Weasels: On the Loose and Buck Wild as well as regularly writing content and satirical articles for on-line magazines and gaming supplements. Recently she has delved in audio books and has been the Associate Producer on Patricia Briggs’s Dragon Bones and Dragon Blood, as well as Vampire Empire: The Greyfriar and Riftwalker by Clay and Susan Griffith, all of which are produced by Buzzy Multimedia.

When not writing, Bane travels, educating audiences about the differences between traditional mythology and horror fiction. A diehard gamer originally from the NY/NJ area, she currently resides in North Carolina with her husband, T. Glenn Bane. Please feel free to visit her website: www.theresabane.net

T. Glenn Bane
T. Glenn Bane, President of Scaldcrow Games RPG, is also a freelance artist, graphic designer; and is the illustrator behind Little Buck’s Fantastic Visions, the finest and most creative stock art available for the best price.

Tricia Barr
Tricia Barr is a writer and professional fan of science fiction and fantasy. Her novel Wynde won the Gold Medal for Best Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror ebook in the 2014 Independent Publisher Awards. Wynde is an epic tale of a young woman’s personal struggle to stay true to her family and fulfill her destiny amid the political conflicts and visceral dangers of an interplanetary war. A tie-in short story titled “Mission Accomplished” will be published in the science fiction and fantasy anthology Athena’s Daughters by Silence in the Library.

Her FANgirl Blog is a prominent genre-focused website with an emphasis on analyzing strong female characters and the heroine’s journey. Tricia contributes to numerous geek websites, including Lucasfilm’s Star Wars Blog and Random House’s science fiction and fantasy blog Suvudu, and co-hosts the podcast Fangirls Going Rogue for RebelForce Radio. She also has conducted interviews and written articles for the print magazine Star Wars Insider, including two cover features on Padmé Amidala (Issue #142) and Princess Leia (Issue #144), and she provided editorial services on Del Rey’s Star Wars: The Essential Reader’s Companion.

A Duke University graduate and a licensed professional engineer, she has worked as a transportation engineer for over twenty years. Tricia is active both Twitter (@fangirlcantina) and Facebook (FANgirl Zone/Fireheart Series).

Natania Barron
Natania Barron is in a word tinkerer with a lifelong love of the fantastic. She has a penchant for the unusual, and has written tales of invisible soul-eating birds, giant cephalopod goddesses, gunslinger girls, and killer kudzu. Her work has appeared in Weird Tales, EscapePod, Steampunk Tales, Crossed Genres, Bull Spec, and various anthologies. Natania’s first novel, Pilgrim of the Sky, released in December 2011. She is also the co-editor of Bull Spec. When not venturing in imagined worlds, she can be found in North Carolina, where she lives with her family.

Her website is www.nataniabarron.com, and you can follow her @nataniabarron.

Diana Bastine
Diana Bastine is an author and editor living in North Carolina. She has written novels, short stories, poetry and blog articles – some of which have even been published.

Diana is also a Reiki Master and a Crystal Energy Therapist, as well as an ordained minister. She sells t-shirts and tote bags with her “Fairy CatMother” logo (as well as “Fairy DogFather” t-shirts).

Selkie is her third novel, following The Source and Shapeshifter. She is working on the fourth book in the series, tentatively titled Gabriel’s Secret, as well as a steampunk manuscript featuring 19th century labor organizer ‘Mother’ Jones and a non-fiction manuscript about a relatively new energy healing modality.

Davey Beauchamp
Davey Beauchamp (daveybeauchamp.com) is the creator of the Writers for Relief anthology series, the Agency 32 series, the award nominated Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show; podcast (pulpadventures.net) along with Podcasting’s Rich Sigfrit, and Gallifrey Pirate Radio a podcast dedicated to Doctor Who (gallifreypirateradio.com) along with his co-hosts Angela
Danny Birt

Award-winning author Danny Birt was born about three decades ago in Washington State to Irish and Californian parents, and has since lived in Idaho, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Hawaii, Virginia, and North Carolina. He attended high school at New Mexico Military Institute, studied music therapy and psychology at Loyola University New Orleans, and most recently graduated from Shenandoah University with his Master’s Degree in Music Therapy. Danny has now settled in eastern North Carolina where he is a faculty member at a local college. In his spare time, Danny’s hobby is finding new hobbies.

**The Blibbering Humdingers**

These mischievous masters of musical hi-jinx will wizard-rock the tea towel right off of your house elf. Hailing from Cary, NC, Scott & Kirsten have been singing together for nearly 20 years. They formed the Blibbering Humdingers in 2007 upon the release of the final Harry Potter book. True to their name (an obscure Luna Lovegood reference), they mostly perform original, comedic pop-songs about the wizarding world of Harry Potter - in a wide range of musical styles from old-timey, to 50s do-wop, to 80s new-wave, to straight rock. In addition to HP they dabble in all kinds of other nerdy things like RPGs, Timelords, medieval history, steampunk, Jedi, Browncoats, Ren Faires, SCA, and such.

They've appeared at various conventions including ConCarolinas, LeakyCon, RavenCon, StellarCon, Ohio Valley Filk Festival, Wrockstock, the 2011 Quidditch World Cup, and host a “top secret wizard rock show” each year at the SCA's Pennsic War. Their songs have been featured on a variety of charity compilations and podcasts and are often joined by various friends to fill out their sound with drums, bass, electric violin or whatever kind of band they can piece together.

With songs like “Voldemort Made Me Crap My Pants” and “Dobby, Bang Your Head.” it’s hard not to have a good time at a Humdingers show. More at BlibberingHumdingers.com

**The Carolina Ghostbusters**

The Carolina Ghostbusters is a group of paranormal investigators who keep the Carolinas safe from spooks, specters, ghosts, spirits, ghouls, and the occasional demon. Experts in paranormal phenomena, the Carolina Ghostbusters travel around in their Ecto-1, a custom vehicle equipped with a wide array of Ghostbusting equipment, including radar, sensor mics, infrared, a satellite microwave up-link, a vast array of warning lights, and an unmistakable siren. When they're not busting some heads, in a spiritual sense, they enjoy meeting with their fans at charity events, parades, parties, weddings, and other social functions. The Carolina Ghostbusters are available for charity events, public appearances, and private events.

The Carolina Ghostbusters are M.Doc Geressy, Chuck Carte, Mikki Stith, Joey Masarick and Cheralyn Lambeth. More information is available at their website: CarolinaGhostbusters.com.

**Alexandra Christian**

Alexandra Christian is an author of mostly paranormal erotic romance and horror. In case you don’t know what that means, she writes about not-so-nice girls getting it on with out-of-this-world heroes. Vampires, werewolves, selkies, angels and demons— and that’s just recently!

A self-proclaimed “Southern Belle from Hell,” Lexxx is a native South Carolinian who lives with an epileptic wiener dog and a pet ghost hunter. She has published several novels, novellas and short stories with Ellora’s Cave, Purple Sword Publications and Mocha Memoirs Press. She looks forward to sharing her twisted view of reality with the masses through erotic paranormal romance and horror. Lexxx’s long-term aspirations...
AtomaCon

November 14-16, 2014
Charleston Plaza Hotel
North Charleston, SC

The Lowcountry’s first 3 day, family-friendly, multi-genre convention featuring Costuming, Literature, Art, Science and Technology

LITERARY GUEST OF HONOR:
John Jackson Miller
Author of Star Wars: Kenobi

Artist Special Guests: Scott Ronie and Sean “That Godzilla Guy” McGuinness

Filk Special Guest: Moss Bliss

Gaming Room provided by SCARAB, Carolina Ghostbusters Ecto 1, SC Ghostbusters Vigo Myst3ry Machine, 501st Legion, R2 Builders, Pod Casters, Film Festival, and much more.....

www.AtomaCon.org
Glenda C. Finkelstein is a professionally-trained broadcaster, costumer, movie car motorhead, actor, designer, and paranormal investigator.

Working in radio for over 20 years with nationally syndicated morning shows like Johnboy & Billy and Bob & Tom, Doc is the creator and host of the Sci-Fried Eggs radio show and 5 Minute Delay Radio Network and is an instructor at the Connecticut School of Broadcasting Charlotte Campus.

In convention circles, Doc is best known for his Ecto-1 and Men in Black LTD. But he also has a wealth of knowledge and experience. As a movie car expert, prop builder, costume designer, and experienced tailor, there’s not much Doc can’t or hasn’t designed or created, including costumes and props for Ghostbusters, Indiana Jones, Lord of the Rings, Star Trek, Star Wars, Ren Fests, Men in Black, superheroes, villains, and even Civil War uniforms. Doc is also the founder of the Carolina Ghostbusters and the FBI MiB.

Doc has also been involved in the paranormal field for over a decade and is a strict scientist when it comes to investigations. He prefers to focus on the classification of phenomena in an effort to have paranormal occurrences and research recognized as an empirical science.
A.J. Hartley

A.J. Hartley is the international bestselling author of a dozen novels including the mystery/thrillers The Mask of Atreus, On the Fifth Day, What Time Devours and Tears of the Jaguar and the young adult fantasy adventures Act of Will and Will Power. The first of his Darwen Arkwright children's fantasy trilogy (Darwen Arkwright and the Peregrine Pact) came out from Penguin/Razorbill in 2011 and won SIBA's best YA novel of 2012. It was followed by Darwen Arkwright and the Insidious Bleck, and Darwen Arkwright and the School of Shadows. With David Hewson he has written two adaptations of Shakespeare plays as Game of Thrones-esque epic thrillers: Macbeth, a Novel (audio edition voiced by Alan Cumming) and Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, a Novel (the audio book of which is performed by Richard Armitage [Thorin Oakenshield], both of which were international bestsellers).

He is UNC Charlotte’s Robinson Professor of Shakespeare, specializing in performance theory and practice, and has published several scholarly books on dramaturgy, political theatre, the stage history of Julius Caesar and campus production with Palgrave, Manchester University Press and Cambridge University Press.

John G. Hartness

John G. Hartness is a teller of tales, righter of wrongs and some call him the Pompetus of Love. Okay, maybe he’s an urban fantasy and horror author from Charlotte, NC with a background in theatre and a love for fried pickles and loud music. John is the author of The Black Knight Chronicles from Bell Bridge Books, available in the fall of 2012 wherever books or ebooks are sold. He’s also the creator of the comedic horror icon Bubba the Monster Hunter, and the short stories that bear his name.

John is also a member of the Magical Words group writing blog (www.magicalwords.net) and the host of the YouTube series Literate Liquors, where he pairs fantasy and science fiction novels with the appropriate alcohol. Hilarity often ensues. He can be found online at www.johnhartness.com and spends too much time on Twitter (@johnhartness), especially after a few drinks.

Laura Haywood-Cory

Laura Haywood-Cory has been some flavor of editor or proofreader since her first job after college, which was proofreading yellow page listings for a phone book company. She’s been involved in science fiction fandom since the mid-1980s. She has managed two sf conventions, co-founded a local sf club, and participated in an APA (amateur press association) -- the Southern Fandom Press Alliance -- for four years.

In 2008, her career path finally melded with her hobbies when she joined the team at Baen Books, where she’s an Associate Editor and is as happy a cat in a pile of catnip.

Faith Hunter

NY Times best-selling author, Faith Hunter, was born in Louisiana and raised all over the south. She writes the Skinwalker series, featuring Jane Yellowrock: Skinwalker, Blood Cross, Mercy Blade, Raven Cursed, Death's Rival, Blood Trade, and Black Arts. Her Rogue Mage novels, a dark, urban fantasy series—Bloodring, Seraphs, and Host—feature Thorn St. Croix, a stone mage in a post-apocalyptic, alternate reality, urban fantasy world. These novels are the basis for the role playing game, Rogue Mage.

For more, including a book list see www.faithhunter.net, www.gwenhunter.com, or www.magicalwords.net

Tom Hutchens

Tom Hutchens is a Star Wars costume designer, and founder of the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club. Born in Winston-Salem, Tom spent a great deal of his childhood dressing himself up as Star Wars and GI Joe characters. At the age of 18, Tom decided to become a real-life GI Joe character and join the US Navy. After being honorably discharged in 2000, Tom joined up with the local SCA chapter in North Carolina and spent part of the next two years learning about Armor production old-world style.

In 2002, college and work would take its toll and cause Tom to leave the SCA, but in 2006, at the request of his then girlfriend (who would surprisingly become his wife), he attended DragonCon in Atlanta, GA. At DragonCon he noticed several people in customized sets of Star Wars Mandalorian costumes. Being a very big “Star Wars Galaxies” player at the time, Tom was convinced that he needed to build a set of his own Mandalorian armor. In 2007, while attending AdventureCon in Knoxville TN, Tom would convince a small group of Mandalorian costumers to help him create a home for Mandalorian costumes. This idea would become the foundation for the Mandalorian Mercs Costume Club, a globe-spanning organization of over 800 members in 53 chapters recognized by Lucasfilm Ltd. as the Elite Mandalorian Costume Organization.

When not working his day job, Tom spends his time maintaining the armor for his character Mandalore the Uniter, as well as working on armor commissions. He and his wife own and maintain a small farm near Mocksville NC.

Stuart Jaffe

Stuart Jaffe is the author of The Max Porter Paranormal-Mysteries, The Malija Chronicles, the Gillian Boone novels, The Bluesman pulp adventures, Real Magic, and After The Crash, as well as the short story collection, 10 Bits of My Brain. Numerous other short stories have appeared in magazines and anthologies. He is the co-host of The Eclectic Review -- a podcast about science, art, and well, everything.

Stuart lives on a small farm in North Carolina, and for those who keep count; the latest animal listing is as follows: one dog,
four cats, one albino corn snake, one Brazilian black tarantula, three aquatic turtles, assorted fish, one rabbit, four chickens, and a horse. Thankfully, the chickens and the horse do not live inside the house.

Les Johnson
Les Johnson is a scientist, an author, and the Senior Technical Advisor for NASA’s Advanced Concepts Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He is a author of science fiction (Going Interstellar anthology, Back to the Moon novel, and with co-author Ben Bova, Rescue Mode, released by Baen Books in June) and four popular science books. At NASA, he is a co-investigator for The University of Surrey’s Deploytech (Solar Sail) Project, served as the NASA co-investigator on the Japanese T-Rex Space Tether Experiment, and was PI of NASA’s ProSEDS tether propulsion experiment. He thrice received NASA’s Exceptional Achievement Medal and has 3 patents.

He was the featured interstellar explorer in the January 2013 issue of National Geographic Magazine, served as a technical consultant on the movie Europa Report, spoke at TEDx Huntsville 2013, and appeared in NatGeo’s “Evacuate Earth” and “How to Survive the End of the World” series. Les is a member of the British Interplanetary Society, the US National Space Society, The World Future Society and MENSA.

For more information, please visit his website: www.lesjohnsonauthor.com

Tally Johnson
Born and raised in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, Tally is a graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College and Wofford College with degrees in history. He attended graduate school in history at Winthrop, but did not complete his thesis. He has written several articles on both local history and hauntings for the Chester News and Reporter and Yorkville Enquirer newspapers. He is currently the Special Services Manager at the Chester County Library focusing on IT and local history/genealogy. He is a member of the OSCAR artists’ roster through the Chester County Library.

It’s a long-time guest and moderator at ConCarolinas, Fandom Fest, and MystiCon on both the paranormal and writing tracks.

He is the author of three books and e-books on South Carolina ghosts, the following published by the History Press of Charleston; Ghosts of the South Carolina Upcountry (2005), Ghosts of the South Carolina Midlands (2007), Ghosts of the Pee Dee (2009), and Civil War Ghosts of South Carolina (2013) from Post Mortem Press. He is working on other topics at present, both fiction and non-fiction.

He currently lives in Chester South Carolina with his wife, who is a much better author than he is, Alexandra Christian.

Paula S. Jordan
Paula S. Jordan is the author of “The Gift of Unbinding” (May, 2001) and “Two Look At Two” (April, 2011), both in Analog. “Vooorh,” her novella-length sequel to “Two Look At Two,” will also appear in Analog in the near future.

After degrees in history and speech, and several years as a free-lance writer, she earned a BS degree in physics. Then came thirteen years as an orbit analyst for NASA and NOAA, supporting 30+ unmanned science and weather missions including the Clementine mission that first discovered water on the moon.

Now a freelance writer and community volunteer, she is at work on more short stories and her first real novel. She blogs regularly at Darkcargo.com

Phil Keeling
Phil Keeling is a comedian based out of Savannah, Georgia. His combination of manic intellectualism and vulgarity has caused comedian/producer Lee Keeler to call him “a combination of Oscar Wilde and Larry Flynt”.

Keeling began smashing heads with the laughter hammer in 2009, and was an original piece of an unnamed collective of comedians that forged what is now the Savannah comedy scene.

Since then he has been seen at the Hollywood Improv, the North Carolina Comedy Arts Festival, and the Kovalchick Convention center—not to mention constant shows throughout the South. He has shared stages with the likes of Neil Hamburger, Myq Kaplan, Neal Brennan, and Tom Rhodes.

“Conquistadork”, Phil’s first comedy album, was released in April of 2012.

Phil’s blog, Notes From The Conquistadork (www.conquistadork.net), explores the beautiful culture of geekiness in the 21st century, with essays on gaming, books, films, and television. Phil is also an editorialist for Bell of Lost Souls (www.belloflostsouls.org), one of the biggest wargaming news sites on the internet.

Debra Killeen
Debra Killeen is the author of the award-winning fantasy series, “The Myrridian Cycle.”

All of the books in the series, An Unlikely Duke, A Prince in Need, Legacy of the Archbishop, Priestess Awakening and Kingdom have won awards at ReaderViews, and Legacy of the Archbishop also won a Written Art Award. Debra is hard at work on her next projects – Unholy War and the Naomi/Sebastian paranormal mystery series—as well as some shorter works.

Debra resides in the Triangle area of North Carolina, where she shares a home with her sister, author Diana Bastine, and three exceptional cats – Finn, Isis and Osiris.
Guests of the Convention

More information is available at Debra’s website, www.myrridia.net, and Debra can be contacted at debra.killeen@myrridia.net

Pamela K. Kinney

Under the pseudonym, Sapphire Phelan, she has published erotic and sweet paranormal/fantasy/science fiction romance along with a couple of erotic horror stories. Her erotic urban fantasy, Being Familiar With a Witch, is a Prism 2010 Awards winner and a Epic Awards 2010 finalist. The sequel to Being Familiar With a Witch, A Familiar Tangle With Hell, was released June 2011 from Phaze Books. Both eBooks were combined into one print book, The Witch and the Familiar, released 2012.

She also has done acting on stage and in films, is a Master Costumer, costuming since 1972, and she even does paranormal investigating, including for DVDs for Paranormal World Seekers, filmed by AVA Productions. She is also casting director for High Mountain Films’ The 19th (as well as an extra in the film), and wrote a horror screenplay, “Crawlspace Creep” now with a production company and hopefully to be filmed soon.

She admits she can always be found at her desk and on her computer, writing. And yes, the house, husband, and even the cats sometimes suffer for it!


Regina Kirby
Regina Kirby is the winner of the 2013 Rebel Award, a lifetime achievement award for ‘contributions to Southern Fandom’. She also is the recipient of the 2005 Georgia Fandom Award.

Regina serves as the Senior Director of Programming for Dragon Con. She is known for running Hospitality Suites all over the South, worked in guest services at multiple conventions and is a past Chair of Chattacon.

She lives outside of Atlanta with her husband, Bill.

Nicole Givens Kurtz
Nicole Givens Kurtz is the author of several published novels and scores of other titles under various pen names. Her science fiction works have been named as Finalist in the 2006 Fresh Voices in Science Fiction (Zephyr Unfolding), Eppie Finalist in Science Fiction (Browne Candidate) and Dream Realm Finalist in Science Fiction (Browne Candidate).

Nicole’s science fiction and horror short stories have appeared in such noted publications as Anotherrealm, Tales of the Talisman, and Wild Child Press. In addition to fiction, her nonfiction articles have appeared in Afrique newsmagazine as well as Moondance, and ePregnancy.

Nicole is often a guest at science fiction and fantasy conventions, where she frequently serves as a panelist on dystopian literature, anime, and electronic publishing.

She is also the publisher of Mocha Memoirs Press, LLC, a small press specializing in speculative fiction. Visit www.mochamemoirspress.com for more information.

For a complete list of Nicole’s works, email her at cyberpunklvr@gmail.com.

Todd Lacey
Todd’s history in theatre and film go back to the early 70’s when he first appeared as ‘Pinocchio’ in the summer stock theatre with the Edison Players. His credits in film include The Three Amigos, The Last of the Mohicans, Gettysburg and The Abyss just to name a few. Todd has worked alongside well-known actors such as Dustin Hoffman, Daniel Day Lewis, Chevy Chase, Jeffery Daniels and Steve Buscemi.

This year Todd wants to share with you the secrets of creating that costume you’ve always wanted to do and how to stand out amongst the others. He will show you how to save money and where to find those bargains for your costume creation.

Todd is also the founder and CEO of West Highland Films, a production company that produces independent films. Todd is also working on his first fantasy novel that will debut in 2014.

Cheralyn Lambeth
Cheralyn Lambeth is a professional costume, prop, and puppet builder whose work includes feature films (The Muppet Christmas Carol, Evan Almighty, Leatherheads, The Hunger Games), television (Dinosaurs!, Homeland), interactive properties (Paramount’s Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton, Titanic: The Movie on Tour) and books (Haunted Theaters of the Carolinas, The Well-Dressed Puppet). On the fan side of things, Cher is a long-time member of and Historian for the 501st Legion, and can also be seen as the Romulan Commander in the Starship Farragut episode “The Price of Anything,” as well as the Computer Voice of the Starship Montana in the web audio series Star Trek: The Continuing Missions. Currently Cher lives in Charlotte, free-
lancing on film/TV projects and working on her latest book Creating the Character Costume: Tools, Tips, and Talks with Top Costumers and Cosplayers. She also joins her fellow Carolina Ghostbusters as co-host of the weekly podcast The Sci-Fried Eggs, occasionally featuring her own segment, “Cher’s World of Weirdness.”

Emily Lavin Leverett
Emily Lavin Leverett is an author and editor of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, but she got her professional start in publishing editing erotica. She is also an English professor and a medievalist. She’s edited the Big Bad: an Anthology of Evil and the forthcoming Big Bad II with John Hartness. Her short stories have appeared in Flash Fiction Online and Drafthorse: A Journal of Work and No Work. She is currently working on multiple projects including an epic urban fantasy with fellow medievalist Sarah Adams and a dark urban fantasy YA project on her own.

She’s a transplanted Californian who lives in North Carolina with her husband and their two cats.

Allegra Liana
Allegra Liana (sometimes known as “The Chainmail Chick”) is a geek-of-all-trades who got her start in the con scene working with award winning fantasy artist Alan Welch. From these humble, chainmail bikini’d beginnings, she has become a costumer, artist, and model (with an ever expanding closet of costumes, far too many of which involve body paint). She creates her own fantasy artwork through digital photo manipulation, helps run professional costuming company Ribbons and Rivets, and assists with marketing and sales for other costuming businesses. She is also happy to be a representative member of the League of Hot Geeks and part of the Charisma+2 talent agency.

Allegra currently attends events all over the East Coast and Midwest as a promotional model, guest, vendor, costume contest judge, and has won several costume contests herself. She has appeared in video skits, event trailers, ads, and numerous pieces of artwork in a variety of media. In her free time, Allegra is an avid collector of books and cats, and remains firmly in denial about her future as a crazy cat lady.

Steven S. Long
Steven S. Long is a writer and game designer who’s been working primarily in the tabletop roleplaying game field for the past twenty years. During that time he’s written or co-written nearly 200 books. He’s best known for his work with Champions and the HERO System, but has worked for many other RPG companies including Last Unicorn Games, Pinnacle Entertainment Group, Decipher, and White Wolf. In recent years he’s branched out into writing fiction as well, and recently completed a non-fiction book on the Norse god Odin for Osprey Publishing. His Master Plan for World Domination has reached Stage 65-Omicron.

You can find out more about Steve and what he’s up to at www.stevenslong.com.

Gail Z. Martin
Gail Z. Martin is the author of Ice Forged in the The Ascendant Kingdoms Saga and the upcoming Reign of Ash (Orbit Books, April 2014), plus the upcoming Deadly Curiosities urban fantasy (Solaris Books, July 2014). Other books include The Chronicles of The Necromancer series (The Summoner, The Blood King, Dark Haven & Dark Lady’s Chosen) and The Fallen Kings Cycle (The Sworn and The Dread). She is also the author of two series on ebook short stories: The Jonmarc Vahanian Adventures and the Deadly Curiosities Series. Her work has also been featured in a variety of US and UK anthologies.

Find her online at www.AscendantKingdoms.com, on Twitter @GailZMartin, blogging at DisquietingVisions.com and at GhostInTheMachinePodcast.com

Misty Massey
Misty Massey is the author of Mad Kestrel (Tor Books), a rollicking fantasy adventure of magic on the high seas, and the upcoming ebook Kestrel’s Voyages. Misty is one of the featured writers on Magical Words (www.magicalwords.net).

When she’s not writing, she studies Middle Eastern dance and has danced as a member of the Carolina Renaissance Faire’s troupe, the Jewels of the Caravan. Misty’s short fiction has appeared in Rum and Runestones (Dragon Moon Press) and Dragon’s Lure (Dark Quest Books). You can see more of what Misty’s up to at her website, www.mistymassey.com or find her on Facebook and Twitter.

James Maxey
James Maxey is the author seven fantasy novels (Bitterwood, Dragonforge, Dragonseed, Down of Dragons, Greathadow, Hush, and Witchbreaker) and two superhero novels (Nobody Gets the Girl and Burn Baby Burn). His short fiction has appeared in Asimov’s, Intergalactic Medicine Show, and numerous anthologies. The best of his short stories appear in the collection There is No Wheel.

James lives in Hillsborough, NC with his wife Cheryl and more cats than he’s proud to admit. More information about his fiction can be found at: dragonprophet.blogspot.com.

Drew Meyer
Drew Meyer is a Librarian and Science Educator who moonlights as a Podcaster and Game Designer. He’s currently the product consultant for Scaldcrow Games and has contributed to several of their recent releases. He’s been the co-host of Gallifrey Pirate Radio, a Doctor Who vid-cast, since 2012. He may or may not have a beard...
Rhonda Oglesby
Game on Girl is a weekly podcast hosted by Rhonda Oglesby and Regina McMenomy, Ph.D. They interview gamers and discuss games, gaming, and game culture and their representations in mainstream media. They are also interested in how this fairly new online culture is defining our identities. Rhonda is co-host, co-producer, marketing manager, and herder of ideas.

After exhausting all math classes in high school, Rhonda and her classmates convinced a teacher to develop a curricula for a higher level math class. She received dual degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science and promptly went to work for a defense contractor. She did geeky stuff there, but she’d have to kill you to tell you. She still loves programming, software testing, and technical writing but now in less stressful circumstances. Her right brain is busy too. She taught herself web and graphic design before there were classes on HTML or JAVA and would love to spend more time on her Wacom tablet and getting graphite all over her hands. In recent years, Rhonda’s geek flag flies through things like computer and console gaming, boardgames, geocaching, and comic books.

Michael D. Pederson
Way back in 2004, Mike (along with Tee Morris and Tony Ruggiero) came up with the crazy idea of hosting a convention in Richmond, VA. He’s been chairing RavenCon ever since.

In addition to running RavenCon, Mike Pederson is also the publisher/editor/graphic designer responsible for the zine 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 Robert Quill) 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 Writing Fantasy: The Author’s Grimoire.

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 MarsCon, Mysticon, RavenCon, and StellarCon. In the last few years Mike has interviewed a wide range of writers, gamers, artists, and actors, including Aaron Allston, Kevin J. Anderson, Jennie Breeden, Terry Brooks, Jim Butcher, Orson Scott Card, Nicki Clyne, David B. Coo, Glen Cook, Peter Davison, Richard Hatch, Sherrilyn Kenyon, Rebecca Moesta, Tamora Pierce, John Ringo, Michael Stackpole, Bruce Sterling, S.M. Stirling, Lani Tupu, Janny Wurts, and Timothy Zahn.

Yes, Mike is an insanely busy person; if you see him around the con 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, VA.

Matthew Penick
Matthew Penick is a professional costumer, fitness enthusiast, and the owner of Ribbons and Rivets. Matthew first got started in costuming as a broke college student who taught himself leather working and made his first suit of armor out of scraps and remnants from the local Tandy. He began selling his work 2007, and in 2009 he started his own company. Although the company was created primarily as a leather working business, Ribbons and Rivets has developed into a costuming company that incorporates a variety of materials to bring designs and characters to life. Happily, that very first suit of armor is still in action (having received numerous upgrades) and is now the award-winning Nightwalker armor set, which can be seen in several short films and a feature length movie, The Gamers 3: Hands of Fate.

Angela Pritchett
Angela Pritchett is a costumer, actress, makeup artist and writer originally from Charlottesville, VA but currently residing in Asheboro, NC.

She has won countless costuming awards and has judged at numerous conventions along the east coast. She has appeared in and has done makeup FX on films such as Plan 9, Porkchop 2, Porkchop 3D and Fear Fighter.

Angela is an author of horror and steampunk fiction. Her short stories are available to purchase in different anthologies (which she normally has with her on hand at conventions).

She is a host of the Youtube show “The Girls Who Waited”; the geek girl show about Doctor Who and other sci-fi, fantasy genre shows and books. She is a regular on the podcast Gallifrey Pirate Radio.

In her everyday life, Angela keeps busy by teaching the newer generation of children how to play musical instruments! She also loves to play with her cats, Ebbie and Boushie and her Pug, Max!

You can find her online at angelapritchett.blogspot.com and www.facebook.com/StarAngelCosplay

Stephen Mark Rainey
Stephen Mark Rainey is author of the novels Balak, The Lebo Coven, Dark Shadows: Dreams Of The Dark (with Elizabeth Massie), Blue Devil Island, The Nightmare Frontier, and The Monarchs; five short story collections; over 100 published works of short fiction; and several Dark Shadows audio productions, which feature members of the original ABC-TV
series cast. For ten years, Mark edited the award-winning *Deathrealm* magazine and has edited several anthologies, including *Deathrealms, Song Of Cthulhu, and Evermore*. He is an avid geocacher, which frequently takes him to fascinating places — many of them quite creepy. Mark lives in Greensboro, NC.

**Randy Richards**

Randy Richards was born in New Orleans, within walking distance of “The Battle of New Orleans”. He has been playing Dungeons & Dragons since the late 70s. “In the early 80s,” Randy says, “We had the Basic D&D boxed game in school, and I played a Cajun halfling.” Later, he became friends with Gary Gygax.

Richards was elected to the Board of Directors of the Science & Engineering Education Foundation in 2006. He also published *Dreadmire*, a swamp source book for D20/D&D games. In 2008, he became an officer of Star One Delta, a local sci-fi/science organization.

In 2013, Richards was commissioned to write a new Alternate-History-Fantasy series called, *The League of Founding Fathers*. His first book in the series, *Paul Revere: The Zombies Are Coming*, is due out this year.

**Gray Rinehart**

Gray Rinehart is the “Slushmaster General” for Baen Books. His fiction has appeared in *Analog Science Fiction & Fact*, *Asimov’s Science Fiction*, *Redstone Science Fiction*, and elsewhere.

Gray retired from the US Air Force after a rather odd career in which he fought rocket propellant fires, refurbished space launch facilities, “flew” satellites, 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 www.graymanwrites.com.

**Scott Rorie**

Scott Rorie is a free-lance artist from Cary, NC. Learning to draw at an early age, Scott won his first art show at 11 years old, when he won a school-wide art show. After studying art all through high school, he attended Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, majoring in Advertising Design. Although Scott works in many different media, his mainstay is the airbrush, which he taught himself to use. Like many airbrush artists, Scott started out painting T-shirts, but eventually moved on to canvas and illustration board.

In April 2006, Scott was invited to participate (and had five pieces accepted) in an art exhibit in-titled “NASCAR: Inspired” at the Hickory, NC Museum of Art. As a result of the Hickory show, Scott was interviewed by *Stock Car Pit Pass* online magazine. Scott’s pin-up work is starting to gather a following. Collectors come back to art shows each year to see what new pieces he has on display.

In 2009 Scott began working on art/sketch cards. He has worked with 5FINITY Productions on art/sketch card series such as Zombies vs. Cheerleaders, Moonstone Maximum, Voltron, P’Ups, The Pro, Honey West, Hack/Slash, Lady Death and Sheena. He has worked for Sadlittles on 4 card sets, Rantz Angels, Damsels and Dinosaurs, Dreamers of Darkness and Femforce.

Scott is a Marvel approved artist working for Rittenhouse Archives creating cards for *Marvel’s 70th Anniversary*, *Marvel’s Heroes and Villains*, *Marvel’s Dangerous Divas*, *Marvel Universe 2011*, *Marvel’s 2012 Greatest Heroes*, *Marvel’s Bronze Age* and *2013’s Marvel’s Greatest Battles* card sets. He is also a Lucasfilm approved artist working for Topps on the *Star Wars Galaxy 5*, *Empire Strikes Back 30th Anniversary WifiRevision*, *Star Wars Galaxy 6*, *Star Wars Galaxy 7* and *Galactic Files* card sets. Scott has also created sketch cards for Breygent Marketing’s *Woodstock Generation*, Classic and Vintage Sci-Fi and Horror Movie Posters, *Vampirella, Warlord of Mars* and Joseph Michael Linsner’s *Dawn: New Horizons*, Versacolor Production’s *Bettie Page Series 1 & 2* cards and *Bad Axe Studios’ Dungeon Dolls and Bombshells*; as well as *The Walking Dead* and *Tarzan 100th Anniversary* cards for Cryptozoic Entertainment. This year he added Marty and Boo Productions, Leaf Entertainment, Cult Stuff and Asylum Studios to the card companies he’s working for.

His awards include a 1st and 2nd Place Award at the Chiller Theatre Show in NJ, Best Black and White at Nexus in Orlando, FL, and Best Mono-Black and Best Horror at DragonCon in Atlanta, GA. He has been published in *Cavewoman* from Basement Comics, *Didymous* from Iron Horse Comics, *Night* from Jester Press, *Con-Tour Magazine*, *Architectural Digest* and a *Lady Death* pin-up book.

Scott lives in Cary, NC with his wife Ann and their cat, Ares. He can usually be found in his studio working on a fantasy or sci-fi pin-up painting or Sketch/art cards. Look for his fan Page on Facebook, Scott Rorie Art and Illustration.

**Tony Ruggiero**

Tony Ruggiero is best known for his dark fantasy thrillers about vampires being used by the US military. The novels are a characteristic mixture of classic vampire lore and the clandestine secrets of the military. The concept led to a series of books: *Operation Immortal Servitude, Operation Save the Innocent, Operation Face the Fear*, and *Operation Endgame*.

*Alien Deception* and *Alien Revelation* is a series that deals with an alien organization that has infiltrated the American political system. The series runs the gauntlet from humorous and light hearted to deadly serious as a young man and woman search for answers.

*Coven* is a thriller about little towns and their secrets where...
Guests of the Convention

witches have secretly been in control of the town council for years and the town has prospered... until now. The Evil From Above delves into the deep recesses of our mind and the age old battle of good versus evil which reside in the hands of a stone gargoyle.

Tony retired from the United States Navy in 2001 after twenty-three years of service and now teaches at Old Dominion University and Saint Leo University. Visit his website at www.tonyruggiero.com for more information. Books are available in print-electronic and some are also in audio format.

Edmund Schubert
Edmund Schubert is the author of about 40 short stories, about half of which can be found in the collection, The Trouble with Eating Clouds and one novel, Dreaming Creek. He’s held a variety of editorial positions, currently serving as editor of Orson Scott Card’s InterGalactic Medicine Show. An anthology of IGMS stories, co-edited with Card, was published by Tor in 2008, followed by a second one in 2012 from Spotlight Publishing. His non-fiction book, How To Write Magical Words: A Writer’s Companion, is a collection of essays about the craft and business of writing, written by the members of the writing blog MagicalWords.net. Schubert still insists, however, that his greatest accomplishment came during college, when his self-published underground newspaper made him the subject of a professor’s lecture in abnormal psychology.

Podcasting’s 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 co-wrote, with Davey Beauchamp, the Amazing Pulp Adventures Radio Show starring Mister Adventure Script Book, with its second volume debuting soon. Along with his writing talents, Davey and I have been doing Mister Adventure via podcast and live on stage for the past 5 years.

I have also done commercial voice work as the voice of CRASH and SWE Wrestling, Volaris phone systems, Howards RV and Fit Family NC (also providing puppeteering). I have MC’d numerous events at various cons and am a host for Wise Entertainment, a traveling Trivia company. Between the podcasts, requested voices from other shows, and father of 3, various audio sketches and dramas have been heard on ChronoRadio, Star Wars and Beyond, SwitchedOn Show, the Geeklabel Podcast and Dragon Pages’ Wingin’ It syndicated show, (plus countless guest appearances on other shows) of which I am very proud.

Stephen J. Simmons
Stephen retired from the Navy following twenty-one years as a nuclear-trained submariner, just in time for his children to outgrow the funny stories he always made up for them at bedtime, when he was in port. So, he started writing those stories down and inflicting them upon strangers instead. His stock-in-trade is comedic fantasy, with occasional outliers in both science fiction and dark fantasy. Stephen has sold flash fiction pieces to several online venues; every one of which ceased operation shortly afterward. He also has some fantasy stories published through Naked Reader Press, which has somehow managed to survive despite carrying his work.

Cathe Smith
Cathe Smith has always been interested in insects. As an entomology undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she worked as a crop scout in an integrated pest management lab that worked with potatoes, cabbage, and mint. That experience led her to pick up a second Bachelor of Science in agronomy. She also had a paid internship with a butterfly lab where she was trained as a lab tech in molecular genetic work, preparing her for her later job in an insect molecular genetics lab for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She worked for six years for the USDA in a quarantine lab assisting in efforts to find non-chemical based population controls for wide-spread pests of plant crops. These attempts at genetic manipulation gave her a real appreciation for amount of work that goes into biotechnology.

After six years toiling “in quarantine,” she entered the Entomology and Plant Pathology master’s program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where she specializes in Insect Genetics. Her thesis looks at the genetic diversity within genus Orchesella of Springtails in North America; her work has already doubled the number of genetically described species within that genus.

Cathe has been active in fandom for over a decade and has been a repeat contributor to Stephan Euin Cobb’s podcast, “The Future and You.” She is a First Dan black belt and former assistant instructor in the Korean martial art of Han Mu Do. She currently lives in Knoxville, Tennessee, where she crochets and really does need all that yarn.

Janine K. Spendlove
Janine K. Spendlove is a KC-130 pilot in the United States Marine Corps. Her bestselling first novel, War of the Seasons, Book One: The Human, was published in June 2011 and her next novel, War of the Seasons, Book Two: The Half-blood, was released in June 2012. She’s also had several short stories published in various anthologies. A graduate from Brigham Young University in 1999 with a BA in History Teaching, she
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Megan O'Russell

The Cauldron
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CLOAK
A New Novel by Timothy Zahn
is an avid runner, enjoys knitting, playing Beatles tunes on her guitar, and spending time with her family. She resides with her husband and daughter in Washington, DC. She is currently at work on her next novel. Find out more at www.janinespendlove.com.

Sharon Stogner
I am a blogger and co-creator of the review site, I Smell Sheep. We love anything and everything Paranormal/Sci-Fi/UF/Horror/mystery/fantasy. You name it, we are either reading it or watching it. Books, movies, comics, manga, and much more. We also interview authors, directors and actors. Moon pies and Kool-Aid are always served fresh on the blog and our Facebook group. My favorite genre is Urban Fantasy, the darker the better.

I received an undergraduate degree in biology from UNC Chapel Hill and a master’s degree in Microbiology from NCSU. I have been married for 21 years and chose to be a stay at home mom for our two girls (12 & 17). When I am not reading and reviewing, I am doing beta work for a multitude of genres, working towards my 3rd degree Black Belt in Taekwondo, and not cooking, which my family is grateful for.

www.ismellsheep.com

Travis Surber
Travis Surber is a self-taught artist/writer who got his start in the independent comic Midnight Ink in 2004. After several years of “exposure” (work without pay), he started the webcomic Haunted Holler in 2009. Since then, he has managed to self-publish 2 collections of his strips, to begin work on a collectible card game, appear on several podcasts, and is currently finishing up a graphic novel that was inspired by his daughter. Travis lives in Bassett, VA with his wife, daughter, and a surly cat.

Charles White
Charles White has been involved with gaming ever since a high school friend brought a copy of the expert set of Dungeons and Dragons to school one day. Thirty years later, Charles still games on a regular basis and runs a game on occasion. Definitely not the typical gamer, Charles is a seminary graduate and holds two masters degrees, one with a focus in American Church History and the other is an advanced masters in the area of American Religion and Culture.

Currently, Charles is the current column owner of “Divine Interventions” for Savage Insider and has previously written multiple articles on religion in gaming for World Forge Magazine. In addition, Charles consults on pantheon creation and other religion issues for RPGs. He has been a gaming guest/industry professional at several conventions such as ConCarolinas, and AEthercon.

Charles and his wife Krista are also co-founders of Fabled Environments, a cartography company that creates drop and play modern floor plans for RPG environments. Fabled Environments was nominated for an Ennie Award for Best Miniatures Product in 2007 for their work on the map entitled, “All Saints Church” and again in 2009 for their work on the map entitled, “Casablanca: A Victorian-Inspired Mansion.”

Fabled Environments has been privileged to partner with other great game companies, such as Silver Gryphon Games and Gun Metal Games, and has launched two successful Kickstarters.

White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)
Keith Brinegar was born in North Carolina, and has since lived in Texas, Mississippi, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia, and Germany, with most of those moves due to two tours of duty in the US Air Force. He began performing at an early age, receiving his first guitar at the age of 10. During his junior high and high school years, he formed several bands, at one point reaching third place in a state Battle of the Bands. He received his BA from Winston-Salem State University between tours in the Air Force. He also recorded a demo tape in Nashville, performing a cover of Kenny Rogers’ “The Gambler”. 

White Plectrum was formed from the remnants of Raymond and Bullfunkel almost 25 years ago by Keith Brinegar and Bill Mullis. White Plectrum’s first public performance was at a benefit for Stellarcon at the Loggerhead Brew Pub and Restaurant in Greensboro, NC. That performance was recorded and shortly after became White Plectrum’s first CD Insert Appropriate Title Here. When Keith moved from North Carolina to Virginia in 1996, he began a solo career as White Plectrum. Since that time there have been several more CDs, recorded both live and in studio. With performances at conventions such as StellarCon, Technicon, Rising Star, MarsCon, Sci-Con, SheVaCon, and others, Keith as White Plectrum has always given the listening audience the best show possible. Many people have supported Keith over the years, both assisting with filk-writing as well as handling and manning equipment. The current lineup has Keith on stage, singing and playing guitar; Gene Moody manning the sound system as the current “Chairman of the Board”; Isaac Moody as the “Wire Monkey” equipment handler; and Linda Turner selling CDs as “the Bodacious CD Babe”. Songs such as “The Ballad of Jones the Cat”, “Call of Cthulu”, and “the Loveable Lament of the Dragon and the Lady” have become fan favorites at shows, and many more such songs are always a staple of a White Plectrum performance.

In his mundane, “normal” life, Keith works for the federal government, but don’t hold that against him.
Allen Wold

Allen Wold was born in southwestern Michigan, where he began writing teeny little stories when he discovered an old portable typewriter in his back closet. He finished high school in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from Pomona 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, writing when he could make the time. In 2003, he became a full-time writer again, when his daughter, Darcy, went off to college, also at Pomona.

He has published nine novels (he has written several more, most of which will never see print, thank God), several short stories (mostly for the Elf Quest anthologies), five non-fiction books on computers (he’s completely self-taught, and it probably shows), and a number of articles, columns, reviews, and so forth, also concerning computers (written in language even he can understand).

Currently, Allen has an epic heroic fantasy (3000 pages, 800,000 words) with an editor; a vampire story (no twinklies) in submission; a bizarre haunted house story that is far too long; a haunted village story, also too long; and other projects in hand.

Darcy Wold

Darcy Wold was raised in the realm of science fiction conventions, and has never, to her knowledge, been mistaken for normal (a fact of which she is rather proud). She paints and draws vibrant abstracts and fantasy ‘scapes, and has a growing smattering of clinical knowledge from her day job as a technical writer for data standards. Darcy is also a regular panelist on Allen Wold’s Writer’s Workshop, where she represents that ultimate critic: the reader.

His first novel, The Planet Masters, has recently been re-issued in Kindle, Nook, and POD by ReAnimus Press (they’re on the web).

Allen has been running his version of a writer’s workshop at various conventions for more than twenty-five years, and has had some success, since several people have not only finished but sold stories started in the workshop. Allen also runs a plotting workshop, an interactive lecture, which is a lot of fun, and which people have found helpful.

Allen is a member of SFWA.

Guests of the Convention

Allen Wold was born in southwestern Michigan, where he began writing teeny little stories when he discovered an old portable typewriter in his back closet. He finished high school in Tucson, Arizona, and graduated from Pomona 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, writing when he could make the time. In 2003, he became a full-time writer again, when his daughter, Darcy, went off to college, also at Pomona.

He has published nine novels (he has written several more, most of which will never see print, thank God), several short stories (mostly for the Elf Quest anthologies), five non-fiction books on computers (he’s completely self-taught, and it probably shows), and a number of articles, columns, reviews, and so forth, also concerning computers (written in language even he can understand).

Currently, Allen has an epic heroic fantasy (3000 pages, 800,000 words) with an editor; a vampire story (no twinklies) in submission; a bizarre haunted house story that is far too long; a haunted village story, also too long; and other projects in hand.

His first novel, The Planet Masters, has recently been re-issued in Kindle, Nook, and POD by ReAnimus Press (they’re on the web).

Allen has been running his version of a writer’s workshop at various conventions for more than twenty-five years, and has had some success, since several people have not only finished but sold stories started in the workshop. Allen also runs a plotting workshop, an interactive lecture, which is a lot of fun, and which people have found helpful.

Allen is a member of SFWA.

Darcy Wold

Darcy Wold was raised in the realm of science fiction conventions, and has never, to her knowledge, been mistaken for normal (a fact of which she is rather proud). She paints and draws vibrant abstracts and fantasy ‘scapes, and has a growing smattering of clinical knowledge from her day job as a technical writer for data standards. Darcy is also a regular panelist on Allen Wold’s Writer’s Workshop, where she represents that ultimate critic: the reader.
Second Floor

- Hanes Boardroom
- Corpening
- Reynolda
- Salem
- Winston
- Piedmont
- Hearn Ballroom A/B
- Hearn Ballroom C/D
- Banquet Kitchen
- Elevators
- Skywalk
- Mitchell
- Women
- Men
- Bethabara
- Moravian
- Women
- Men
Join us as we celebrate 10 great years of sweet convention goodness. RavenCon features seven full tracks (over 200 hours!) of programming. More than 90 writers, fans, artists, scientists, musicians and costumers will be available for discussions, panels, readings and signings. There’s also anime, concerts, parties, workshops, children’s programming and our famous Gaming Room that never closes. And since it was such a hit, we’ll be running another Magic: The Gathering tournament!

More info online at http://www.ravencon.com

Registration:
Adults (18 and up):
$35 till 12/31/14
$40 before 4/10/15
$45 at the door
Young Adults (12-17): $15
Children (11 and under): Free
10% discount with valid military or student ID.

Hotel:
DoubleTree by Hilton Richmond Midlothian
(Formerly the Holiday Inn Koger Center)
Rooms are $104 per night.
Reservations: 804-379-3800

THE CON OF 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.

Alternate History (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 3:00pm
Harry Turtledove and Eric Flint are often suggested as masters of the Alternate History Genre... but does the genre encompass more than just how wars are affected? Do works such as Naomi Novik’s dragons in the Napoleonic Wars and DB Jackson’s magic in the Revolutionary War also qualify as alternate history? What makes a fantasy or SF or even steampunk story alternate history vs “just” a fantasy, SF or steampunk story? What are some other books that might also fit the “alternate history” theme but aren’t usually considered?
Panelists: Diana Bastine (mod), David B. Coe, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey, Stephen Simmons

An Alien for Your World, A World for Your Alien (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Winston - 3:00pm
What does your planet have to be like to evolve and sustain the alien your story needs? Or: What kind of alien would your fictional world tend to evolve and sustain? A discussion of basic concepts of both planet and alien design and key interrelationships between them.
Panelists: Paula S. Jordan (mod), Glenda C. Finkelstein, James Maxey, Tedd Roberts, Cathe Smith

Learn About Sched.org
Friday, July 11 - Salem - 3:00pm
ConGregate is using the mobile platform of Sched.org as the way to display the programming and guests for the convention. This panel will introduce you to the website and how to use it.
Panelists: Everette Beach

Science Fiction/Fantasy on TV (AP)
Friday, July 11 – Piedmont - 3:00pm
From Syfy to the CW, from Walking Dead to Agents of Shield to The Librarians, this open forum will give you the chance to talk about your favorite SF/F TV show.
Panelists: Jennifer McCollom (mod), Tony Finkelstein, Angela Pritchett

Multi-tasking – Multiple WIPS (Works in Progress) (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 4:00pm
How do you keep yourself straight when you have more than one series or more than one Work-In-Progress happening at the same time? How do you balance writing a novel, with writing short stories, or non-fiction articles? How do you come back to a work or series after an absence?
Panelists: Tally Johnson (mod), Theresa Bane, Alexandra Christian, Pamela K. Kinney, Travis Surber

Learning to Navigate BoardGameGeek.com
Friday, July 11 - Salem - 4:00pm
The purpose of this workshop is to introduce people to the BoardGameGeek.com website, provide an orientation of key features, and highlight several of its more powerful tools.
Panelists: The Winston-Salem Gamers Guild

The How-to’s of Podcasting (ET)
Friday, July 11 – Winston - 4:00pm
You’ve heard of podcasting but exactly what is it? How do you decide what to talk about it? And what technology do you need to make it work?
Panelists: Davey Beauchamp (mod), Natania Barron, Stuart Jaffe, Podcasting’s Rich Sigfrit

ConGoing 101 (AP)
Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 5:00pm
An introduction to the Wonderful World of Cons. Are you nervous about what to expect? Confused as to what GoH or Con Ops means. We'll have no fear... we will help you with answers to all your questions regarding conventions and give you the tools you need to have a great weekend, including reviewing the 6-2-1 rule!
Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (mod), Tally Johnson, Pamela Kinney, Regina Kirby, Toni Weisskopf

Junior Ghost Busters (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Winston - 5:00pm
Join the Ghostbusters as they introduce kids and teens to hunting ghosts and the paranormal. 
(This panel is appropriate for kids from 6-18)
Panelists: The Carolina GhostBusters

What’s Your Gamer Type? (AP)
Friday, July 11 - Salem - 5:00pm
What is Your Gamer Type? is a presentation and interactive discussion of the Gamer Types formed by the host of the podcast, (Dr. Regina McMenomy), from her research on identity and gaming.
In the panel, Rhonda briefly explains the gamer types. The audience takes a Gamer Type Quiz, and then everyone will watch video clips and discuss gamer type interactions and characteristics.
Panelists: Rhonda Ogelsby
Cues from Shakespeare: Fantasy & Thriller Writer (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Salem - 6:00pm
What can present day writers of genre fiction learn from history’s most successful writer? This presentation by international bestselling author, A.J. Hartley, explores some of the techniques Shakespeare used to please his audience, make a fortune, and produce some of the most enduring literature of all time.
Panelists: A.J. Hartley

Lt. Uhura: Diversity Began with Star Trek (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Winston - 6:00pm
Starting with a diverse cast and including American television’s first black/white interracial kiss, Star Trek has been a pioneer in diversity.
Panelists: Randy Richards (mod), Tricia Barr, Marcia Collette, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Janine K. Spendlove

Raising the Next Generation (AP)
Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 6:00pm
Join our panelists for an interactive discussion on the challenges of raising children in a geek family. What are the games (RPGs, board games or card games) for a family game night? What about books and movies? What do you do if your kids don’t share your geeky interests? Share your own experiences from the “front lines” and get advice for creating a geek-friendly house.
Panelists: Drew Meyer (mod), Natania Barron, Angela Pritchett, Charles White

Magical Words Seminar: Dialogue
Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 6:00pm
The Magical Words authors present a seminar on “Dialogue” where attendees will learn about creating realistic conversations and making characters sound unique as well as authentic.
Attendance is limited. You will need to sign up at Registration.
Panelists: David B. Coe, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey

Almost Human (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Salem - 7:00pm
A.I.’s have been a staple in SF for years. The character Data faced a trial to determine his humanity. Dorian was built with a synthetic soul. When does an A.I. move from robot to human? What qualities do they need to transcend the robot?
Panelists: James Maxey (mod), Stephen Simmons, Darcy Wold

Learning to Write for Your Editor (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Winston - 7:00pm
Every editor has certain aspects of writing that bug them more than others. For some it might be dialogue tags, for others, adverbs. What are some common “tics” editors have and how do you address them?
Panelists: Tally Johnson (mod), Theresa Bane, Alexandra Christian, Sharon Stogner

Opening Ceremonies
Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 7:00pm
Join Con Chair, James Fulbright, our Guests of Honor and Special Guests at they welcome you to the inaugural ConGregate.
Panelists: James Fulbright (mod), Larry Correia (WGOH), Mark Poole (AGOH), Jennifer McCollom, Toni Weisskopf

Blood on the Paper
Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 7:00pm
On this workshop, we’re going to talk about grammar: about how to recognize these issues and how to fix them. The question isn’t so much whether or not these ARE issues (though we can talk some about that), but WHAT these issues are and HOW to change them. How to recognize passive voice and fix it, etc. Bring your WIP and a Red Pen!! Attendance is limited. You will need to sign up at Registration.
Panelists: Emily Lavin Leverett (mod), Natania Barron, David B. Coe, Stuart Jaffe, Edmund Shubert

Writing the “Other” (ET)
Friday, July 11 - Salem - 8:00pm
How do authors portray minorities, differently abled, and gender roles in their stories? Science Fiction & Fantasy has come a long way and have often been at the forefront of these issues. What else needs to be done? How does someone write the “Other” - transgendered, person of color, without coming across as stereotyping or insulting if they aren’t “Other?”
Panelists: Edmund Schubert (mod), John Hartness, Debra Killeen, Pamela K. Kinney, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Stephen Mark Rainey

Fandom Feud (AP)
Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 8:00pm
Fandom Feud is the convention’s version of the popular game show Family Feud. Teams may register for the game at convention registration in the Lobby. All teams must be registered by 5pm on Friday night to enter.
Panelists: Jennifer McCollom (host)
Beyond the First Draft  
Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 8:00pm
Your first draft is written, from the beginning through many interesting and exciting scenes all the way to the end. If you have a finished first draft of at least one novel, and no more than two completed novels, you may apply for one of five available seats for this moderated roundtable discussion. A professional in the field of evaluating novels for publication will be available for consultation throughout the workshop. There is no additional charge. Attendance is limited. You will need to sign up at Registration.
Panelists: Paula S. Jordan (mod), Gray Rinehart

Nerdiquette 101 (ET)  
Friday, July 11 - Winston - 8:00pm
This panel/workshop covers geek dating dos and don’ts, such as why talking to a woman’s chest, even if it’s on display, is bad form, how to appreciate someone’s costume/appearance in a respectful way, how to graciously ask for a date (and more importantly, graciously take “NO” for an answer), when NO means YES (hint: never), and how to not cross that thin line that separates geeking out about your hobbies from being a conversation-hog and a creeper.
Panelists: Laura Haywood-Cory (mod), Danny Birt, Doc Geressy, Cheralyn Lambeth, Allegra Liana

Magic’s Price (ET)  
Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 9:00pm
Can magical systems make or break a story? How do magic users tap mystical powers, and since there are no free lunches what is the price? What authors create the most interesting magical systems? What do authors do when the magic user becomes too powerful?
Panelists: Steven S. Long (mod), Debra Killeen, Edmund Schubert, Stephen Simmons, Travis Surber

Resemblance to Real People is Intentional (ET)  
Friday, July 11 – Salem - 9:00pm
What you should and shouldn’t do when incorporating real people into your fiction. What about Tuckerizations (authors using a real person’s name as a character in the book)? Does it differ by genre? Are there legal concerns? Are the rules different for living/dead people? How far can you take them?
Panelists: Allen Wold (mod), Marcia Collette, Larry Correia, Tally Johnson, Tedd Roberts

Filk Collective  
Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 9:00pm
Join our filkers as they sing round robin songs of their own and maybe even create a new one or two.
Panelists: Danny Birt, White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar), Gray Rinehart, The Blibbering Humdingers

Geek Girls and Unicorns (ET)  
Friday, July 11 - Winston - 10:00pm
“Because, like unicorns, (geek girls) are not supposed to exist.”

Even with the visible presence of geek girls like Ashley Eckstein, Clare Grant and Felicia Day, there are parts of fandom that still believe that “geek girls” don’t exist or are “fake.” Why is this and what can be done to change the image?
Panelists: Rhonda Ogelsby (mod), Tricia Barr, Laura Haywood-Cory, Allegra Liana, Randy Richards

Harvesting Space for a Greener Earth (ET)  
Friday, July 11 - Piedmont - 10:00pm
How space technology can help solve our energy and environmental problems (and why space advocates and environmentalists should be working together).
Panelists: Les Johnson

What are “YOU” Reading? (AP)  
Friday, July 11 - Salem - 10:00pm
This is a basic roundtable. Bring your current favorite book and tell us why you like it and why someone else should pick it up?
Panelists: John Hartness

Phil Keeling: Comedian  
Friday, July 11 - Hearn C/D - 10:30pm
Phil Keeling is a comedian based out of Savannah, Georgia. His combination of manic intellectualism and vulgarity has caused comedian/producer Lee Keeler to call him “a combination of Oscar Wilde and Larry Flynt”.

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.

Kids Crafts (AP)  
Saturday, July 12 – Reynolda – 9:00am
We will have a room designated for parents to take their kids to allow the kids to decompress, should the con become overwhelming. There will be coloring and crafts available. NOTE: This is NOT daycare. You must remain with your child(ren).

Epic Fantasy (ET)  
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 9:00am
From Doorstop to Icon: Why is there a love/hate relationship with Epic Fantasy? What makes a story “epic” fantasy? Is it the length? The world building? The number of character POVs? Our panelists discuss all these questions and more.
Panelists: Danny Birt (mod), Nataania Barron, David B. Coe, Debra Killeen, Gail Z. Martin
THE NORTH CAROLINA SPECULATIVE FICTION FOUNDATION
IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE NOMINEES FOR THE
2014 MANLY WADE WELLMAN AWARD

The Heretic
by Tony Daniel and
David Drake (Baen)

Vaporware
by Richard Dansky
(Journal/Stone)

Monsters of the Earth
by David Drake (Tor)

Darwen Arkwright and the
School of Shadows
by A.J. Hartley
(Razorbill)

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

Ice Forged
by Gail Z. Martin
(Orbit)

The Manly Wade Wellman Award was founded to recognize outstanding achievement in science fiction and fantasy novels written by North Carolina authors. The 2014 award, voted on by the combined membership of North Carolina science fiction and fantasy conventions, covers novels published in 2013. The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate. The winner(s) will be announced at ConGregate on July 12.

ncsff.org
Forever Young (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 9:00am
With a decade or more age difference between many writers and the YA protagonists they write about, we look at tips for writing younger characters that still feel real to the reader.
Panelists: Davey Beauchamp (mod), A.J. Hartley, Janine K. Spendlove

Kickstarting Your Project (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 9:00am
Kickstarting is a new way to raise funds for your project. From gaming books to movies to anthologies and novels, kickstarting provides a unique solution to raising money. But... what does that mean for your project? What are some of the pitfalls and areas of concern of kickstarter? How do you determine if it's the right choice for your project?
Panelists: Ron Garner (mod), Maggie Allen, Larry Correia, Steven S. Long

Allen Wold's Regionally Famous Workshop
Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 9:00am
Allen has been providing conventions with his workshop for many years. Joined by established authors, he provides a safe, creative environment to practice writing. New and established writers can benefit from this workshop.
Attendance is limited. You must sign up at Registration for the workshop.
Panelists: Allen Wold (mod), Diana Bastine, Stephen Mark Rainey, Edmund Schubert, Darcy Wold

Building the Big, Bad, Radioactive Bug (AP)
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 10:00am
Have you ever wanted to create something to stomp the tar out of a large metropolitan city? Now's your chance! Our panelists will work with the audience to design a big, bad radioactive bug, capable of doing just that. The basic attributes of the creature will be recorded and passed along to our next panel: Killing the Big, Bad, Radioactive Bug.
Panelists: John Hartness (mod), Steven S. Long, Tedd Roberts, Stephen S. Simpson, Cathe Smith

The Writing Life (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 10:00am
How do they make it work? From full-time writers to part time writers, there are always challenges balancing writing and the rest of the world.
Panelists: Alexandra Christina (mod), Marcia Collette, Glenda C. Finkelstein, Faith Hunter, Les Johnson

Art and Gaming (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 11:00am
Gaming Books and Artwork have been intertwined since the first edition of D&D. How does the artwork add to the feel of the game design? How does the artist try to capture the game in his/her art?
Panelists: Steven S. Long (mod), Mark Poole, Travis Surber, Darcy Wold

Killing the Big, Bad, Radioactive Bug (AP)
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 11:00am
Our panelists will be handed the basic attributes of the Big, Bad, Radioactive Bug that was created by the previous panel. They will have no idea what the bug will be, or what it can do, but they will be tasked with finding a way to kill the bug. One caveat, they must limit collateral damage as it rampages through a large metropolitan city... so they can't just “nuke it from orbit.”
Panelists: John Hartness (mod), Ron Garner, Tom Hutchens, Stuart Jaffe, Misty Massey

Debate Club (AP)
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 11:00am
Do you remember sitting around talking about which was better? Star Wars or Star Trek? Who was the better villain: Darth Vader or Kahn? Well, here's your chance again. Just be ready for the surprise twist!
Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (mod), Doc Geressy, James Maxey

Transformation: A Makeup & Special Effects Demo
Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 11:00am
Join our talented team of costumers and makeup artists as they transform into... well, you'll just have to attend to see.
Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth, Allegra Liana, Jennifer McColлом, Angela Pritchett

Geeks Get Fit (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 12:00pm
There are a lot of stereotypes about the unhealthy geek. Our panelists talk about finding time to exercise, the benefits of exercise, and ways to incorporate “geeking out” with your fitness passions.
Panelists: Janine K. Spendlove (mod), Natania Barron, Virginia Fulbright, PA-C, Laura Haywood-Cory, Matthew Penick
How I Got My Start in Fandom (AP)
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 12:00pm
Fans talk about what got them into fandom. Was it a con? A Costume? A book? A TV Show? A movie? Why do we do dedicate time and money to our passions?
Panelists: Randy Richards (mod), Tom Hutchens, Paula S. Jordan, Regina Kirby, Mikki Stith

Urban Fantasy: Future of the Genre (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 12:00pm
From Laurell K Hamilton to Jim Butcher, Urban Fantasy has made its own niche in the broader genre of Fantasy. What defines Urban Fantasy? Can Urban Fantasy have sub genres and alternative settings? Where is this genre going in the future and what challenges does it face against new comers like dystopian fantasy and steampunk?
Panelists: Pamela K. Kinney (mod), Marcia Collette, Larry Correia, Nicole Givens Kurtz, Sharon Stogner

Every Villain is a Hero (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 1:00pm
Tom Hiddleston has described Loki from Marvel’s The Avengers as “An antagonist as opposed to a villain, but only because every villain is a hero in his own mind.” So what makes a good villain? Are the best villains “pure evil” or the ones that you have sympathy for?
Panelists: Edmund Schubert (mod), Alexandra Christian, A.J. Hartley, Emily Lavin Leverett, Tony Ruggiero

Gone Too Soon (AP)
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 1:00pm
Every so often a good show comes along and then is cancelled... Firefly is, of course, the most common example of this but what other shows did you enjoy that were cancelled early?
Panelists: Tony Finkelstein, Randy Richards

Inside the ConGregate Studio: Mark Poole (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 1:00pm
Michael D. Pederson interviews our Artist Guest of Honor Mark Poole. (And yes, we ask the 10 questions!)
Panelists: Michael D. Pederson (mod), Mark Poole

Costuming 201 (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 3:00pm
More than costuming 101, this panel is designed to talk about the “next steps” in costuming, makeup, props. How do accessories make or break a costume? How do you take your costume to the next level?
Panelists: Doc Geressy (mod), Tom Hutchens, Todd Lacey, Cheralyn Lambeth, Matthew Penick, Angela Pritchett

Baen Traveling Road Show
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 3:00pm
Join several of our guests from Baen Books as they share upcoming releases and give away Baen swag!
Panelists: Toni Weisskopf (mod), David B. Coe, Larry Corriea, Laura Haywood-Cory, Les Johnson, Gray Rinehart
105th Demo
Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 3:00pm
The 105th Squad is a multi-genre Costume and Prop Builder
group. We refer to our members as engineers, because they
work together in building various projects. Take advantage of
this workshop to share your work and learn from others. Feel
free to ask members for tips as they are here to help.
Panelists: Members of the 105th Squad

10 Years of NuWho (ET)
Saturday, July 12 – Winston - 4:00pm
We just finished celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Doctor
Who, but next year it is time to celebrate 10 years since the
re-launch of Doctor Who. Join our panelists as we look back
on the past 9 years as we move into a decade of NuWHO. We
will discuss the highs and lows, what we think has worked and
hasn’t worked. Along with what we hope the BBC might do
to celebrate 10 years since the re-launch that has become a
worldwide phenomenon. As always, we want to hear what
you have to say about Doctor 9, 10, 11 & the coming of no. 11.
Panelists: Davey Beauchamp (mod), Chuck Carte, Drew Meyer,
Podcasting’s Rich Sigfrit

Book Launch Party
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 4:30pm
Join authors Gail Martin, Misty Massey and publisher Silence in
the Library as they celebrate the launch of their books! We’ll
have cake!!
Panelists: Maggie Allen, Ron Garner, Gail Z. Martin, Misty
Massey, Janine K. Spendlove

Concert: The Blibbering Humdingers
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 5:00pm
A concert with our wonderful guest band.

NASA Panel (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 5:00pm
What is NASA now? Where is it going? Three of our guests
either work, or have worked, for NASA in a variety of areas.
We let them tell you about what they know, how things have
changed and then answer any questions you have.
Panelists: Tedd Roberts (mod), Maggie Allen, Les Johnson,
Paula S. Jordan

Concert: White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 6:00pm
Filking by White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)

Costume Contest Pre-judging
Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 6:00pm
Costume Contest Entrants should plan to have their costumes
ready for pre-judging at this time.
Please remember to eat! Costume Contestants will be asked
to remain until the costume contest begins.
Panelists: Cheralyn Lambeth, Jennifer McCollom, Angela
Pritchett

D.B. Jackson (David B. Coe) Book Launch
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 6:30pm
Join our guest D.B. Jackson as he celebrates the launch of his
third Thieftaker Book, A Plunder of Souls.
We’ll have cake and celebrate in true red, white and blue
fashion
Panelists: David B. Coe

Self-Publishing Pros and Cons
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 7:00pm
Authors sometime face the challenge of deciding between self-
publishing and traditional publishing. What are some of the
benefits of going at it yourself? What challenges do you face?
How do you determine if it is the right choice for you? How do
you assemble a good team and why do you need them?
Panelists: Stuart Jaffe (mod), Theresa Bane, Nicole Givens
Kurtz, James Maxey, Sharon Stogner

Masquerade (Costume Contest)
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 7:00pm
In grand convention tradition, ConGregate will host a costume
contest on Saturday night. The Masquerade is open to any
costumed individual or group, but all participants must have
valid ConGregate membership badges. Full rules for the
contest can be found on page 29.
Please no flash photography or video taping of the Masquerade.
Contestants will be available in Piedmont after the Ceremony
for pictures.
Hosts: Podcasting Rich Sigfrit and Chuck Carte
Judges: Cheralyn Lambeth, Jennifer McCollom, Angela Pritchett

Beyond the Evil God/Goddess: Religion in SF/F (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 8:00pm
Our panelists talk about religion in SF. How do you balance the
fantasy with reality? How do you make it feel like a valid and
deep part of the world?
Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (mod), Glenda C. Finkelstein, Debra
Killeen, James Maxey, Gray Rinehart
2014 Masquerade Rules & Information

The ConGregate Masquerade is open to any costumed individual or group, but all participants must have valid ConGregate membership badges.

Masquerade sign-up sheets will be located at the Registration table and available until noon on Saturday.

No entries will be accepted after that time.

If you have audio material to be played while you are on stage, please have it recorded on an otherwise blank CD, which is labeled with your name, your badge number, and the name of your costume (or group).

There should be no more than ten (10) seconds of blank time before your audio begins to play. The audio must be turned in with your Masquerade sign-up sheet. ConGregate cannot guarantee your audio will be played during your presentation. We reserve the right to review music before allowing it to be used. CDs can be reclaimed after the Masquerade awards are presented.

If you plan to use music during your presentation, you must provide written permission from the artist to the convention prior to the Masquerade.

There will be no live microphone for contestants to use on stage.

There will be no spotlights or other light effects available on stage.

If you plan to draw or otherwise “use” a weapon during your presentation, note that on your Masquerade sign-up sheet. Judges will make any necessary determination of suitability and safety.

If you are taking part in a group entry, only one Masquerade sign-up sheet is necessary for the entire group, but the name and badge number of all group members must be listed on that sheet.

The Masquerade is open to all ages. An adult must accompany children under the age of 14. Parents can accompany their children onstage. Entrants under 14 years of age will not be judged, but will receive certificates for participating.

Awards categories may include: Best in Show, Best Craftsmanship, Top Novice, Top Journeymen, Top Master, and Judge’s Choice. Depending on the number of entrants, other awards may be added.

Participants will be judged on costume construction, originality, and presentation. Decisions of the judges will be final.

Categories definitions:

• **Youth** costumers are those under the age of 14 years (see above).

• **Novice** costumers are those who have won three (3) or fewer major (Best -, Top -, 1st Place in a category) awards in costume competitions.

• **Journeymen** costumers are those who have won more than three major awards in costume competitions, but have won fewer than three (3) Best in Show or Best Overall awards.

• **Master** costumers are those who have won more than three (3) Best in Show or Best Overall awards and/or are paid for their work.

Any entrant may choose to compete in a higher category.

No individual may present more than one costume in the contest.

Individuals are limited to one (1) minute on stage. Groups entries are limited to one (1) minute plus thirty (30) seconds for each additional member up to a maximum of three (3) minutes on stage.

Any of the following on stage will result in disqualification and ejection from the Masquerade: smoke effects, open flames, squirting liquids, firing projectiles, throwing objects into the audience, use of obscene language, pornographic representations, full or partial nudity. Help us keep ConGregate a safe and family-friendly convention.

We ask that anyone with a costume which has won three (3) or more major (Best, Top, or 1st Place) masquerade or costume competition awards elsewhere not enter that particular costume into ConGregate competition unless it has been significantly changed or improved.

Masquers need to be in the Green Room at least one (1) hour before Masquerade time to be pre-judged and assigned a place in line. If you have a re-creation costume, bring any supporting photos, illustrations text passages, models, or other reference materials with you for judges to examine. Please remember to EAT before pre-judging!!!

It is possible that latecomers may not be allowed to participate, even if they have registered by turning in a sign-up sheet.

The Green Room will be secured while the Masquerade is taking place. Only identified contestants or their parents will have access to the Green Room in that time period.

ConGregate reserves the right to remove anyone from the contest at any time for any reason, including but not limited to: indecent costume, unprofessional conduct, tardiness, and disruption of the contest.

Participants must stay within the contest area (the Masquerade room, Green Room, or designated meeting area) until judging is completed and awards are presented.
Quick Write (AP)
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 8:00pm
Come watch as 6 (six) guests try to create an improv story given the most ridiculous scenarios.
Panelists: Tony Ruggiero (mod), Davey Beauchamp, Alexandra Christian, Marcia Colette, Emily Lavin Leverett, Tedd Roberts, Stephen J. Simmons

Awards
Saturday, July 12 – Hearn C/D – 8:30pm
While the judges debate, hang around to hear the winners of the Cornerstone and Manley Wade Wellman Awards.

The Cornerstone Award is an annual honor presented by a group of fans from the Carolinas known as the Singularity Effect, dedicated to acknowledging other fans’ contributions. To be eligible for the award, the fan must have been involved in promoting/helping fandom in the Carolinas (North and/or South) in some way for at least ten years.
The award is named after a brick that was saved during the demolition of a High Point, NC hotel that hosted multiple conventions over a number of years.

The Manley Wade Wellman Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy was founded in December 2013 to recognize outstanding achievement in science fiction and fantasy novels written by North Carolina authors. The 2014 award, voted on by the combined membership of North Carolina science fiction and fantasy conventions (illogiCon, ConCarolinas, ConTemporal, and ConGregate), will cover novels published in 2013. Nominations will open at illogiCon in January ahead of a final voting round, with the award being presented at ConGregate in July.
The award is named for long-time North Carolina author Manly Wade Wellman with the permission of his estate.
Panelists: James Fulbright, Sam Montgomery-Blinn, Rich Sigfrit

Concert: Danny Birt
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 9:00pm
Enjoy the musical stylings of Danny Birt

What’s New in Podcasting (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 9:00pm
Podcasts are a unique way to reach an audience. What’s new in the podcasting world? What geeky podcasts are out there and why should we listen to them?
Panelists: Rhonda Ogelsby (mod), Tricia Barr, Chuck Carte, Doc Geressy

Charity Auction
Saturday, July 12 - Hearn C/D - 9:00pm
We will hold a charity auction on Saturday night of the con. Proceeds from the auctions will benefit Wake Forest Baptist Health Brenner Children’s Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC. Brenner Children’s Hospital, the pediatric arm of the Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, is ranked among the best children’s hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report.
Auction Rules may be found on pg 31.
Hosts: Podcasting’s Rich Sigfrit, Angela Pritchett

Geek Trivia (AP)
Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 9:30pm
Join our guests Steve Long and Drew Meyer as they challenge you with Geeky Trivia.
Panelists: Steven S. Long, Drew Meyer

Paranormal: Truth or Fiction (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Salem - 10:00pm
Our paranormal guests address the challenges of working in a field where most don’t believe. What is it about the paranormal that draws them to seek out haunted mansions and other dark places?
Panelists: Tally Johnson (mod), Theresa Bane, Chuck Carte, Pamela K. Kinney, Cheralyn Lambeth, Randy Richards

Will Star Wars be the Next Marvel? (ET)
Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 10:00pm
With the news that Disney will create not two, as originally reported, but three spin off movies for Star Wars, it’s looking a lot like they plan to capitalize on Star Wars, much like they have with The Avengers franchise. Our panelists will discuss what types of stories they would like to see, and which characters they think should be highlighted.
Panelist: Tricia Barr (mod), Tony Finkelstein, Tom Hutchens

And so there I was… (AP)
Saturday, July 12 - Piedmont - 10:30pm
Panelists and audience members take turns telling us all the implausible/bizarre/youthful folly things they’ve done or seen happen.
Panelists: Ron Garner, Janine Spendlove
**Auction Rules**

1. Anyone attending the convention is welcome to bid in the auction, but you must have a badge on to register at the auction. Please register for a bidder number before the auction begins.

2. 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!

3. Bids will only be accepted in whole US dollar amounts.

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

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

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

7. 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.

8. When you make a successful bid on an item, please call out your bidder 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.

9. 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.

**I’m Friends With the Monster Under My Bed (ET)**

**Saturday, July 12 - Winston - 10:00pm**

Panelists will talk about the scary tales which monsters star in. How is the monster written, and are today’s monster tales far from those made up and told around a campfire by the village storyteller in the past? Are today’s monsters becoming tame from all the stories about them, or are they getting more frightening?

Panelists: Pamela K. Kinney (mod), Gail Z. Martin, Stephen Mark Rainey, Tony Ruggiero

**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.

**Interstellar Travel (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 9:00am**

More than 1000 exoplanets have been discovered, some of which may be similar to Earth. Many are now asking, “How do we get there?” Though the distances are vast, there are methods that may allow humanity to one day go to the stars – and they are within the known laws of physics. (No warp drive required!) Following a talk by Les Johnson on exoplanets research, we will explore methods that may one day allow humanity to become an interstellar species.

Panelists: Les Johnson

**Subverting the Trope (ET)**

**Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 9:00am**

How do you go about finding a unique way to approach a common trope/theme/type of character. How do you write about vampires or alien invasions or zombies or a governess in a scary mansion and make it different from all the other stories with similar starting points?

Panelists: Tony Ruggiero (mod), Larry Correia, Stuart Jaffe, Paula S. Jordan, Rhonda Ogelsby

**Non-denominational Prayer Service**

**Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 9:00am**

This open to all event will be led by Gray Rinehart and Fans for Christ.

Panelists: Gray Rinehart, Fans for Christ

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**Proceeds from the charity auction will go to benefit:**

![Wake Forest Baptist Health Brenner Children’s Hospital](www.brennerchildrens.org)
Events Descriptions

Magical Words Seminar: Live Action Slush Pile
Sunday, July 13 - Piedmont - 9:00am
Here’s how this works: submit the first page of a story or book. One page only. The Magical Words crew then has their reader read each one out loud, and as he reads they listen until they hear something that would make them stop reading if they were editors. At that point, they put up a hand. When all three have hands up, the reader stops reading and there is a discussion of what was heard. People can own up to their samples or keep them anonymous.
Panelists: David B. Coe, A. J. Hartley, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey

Concert: Gray Rinehart
Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 10:00am
Gray Rinehart entertains.

Social Media/Marketing for Authors/Artists/others (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 10:00am
Twitter. Facebook. Instagram. How does social media help an author market themselves and their work? How do you do it without going overboard or burning out?
Panelists: Gail Z. Martin (mod), Nicole Givens Kurtz, Jennifer McCollom, Randy Richards, Sharon Stogner

The Rise of the Superhero (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 10:00am
Superheroes rise in tough times. More than 70 years ago, the very first superheroes debuted in the dire times of the Great Depression and the early years of World War II. Their names became legend -- Superman, Batman, Captain America -- and they’re still with us today. Why are superheroes in film/TV/comics gaining again in popularity?
Panelists: Edmund Schubert (mod), Tony Finkelstein, Stephen S. Long, James Maxey, Drew Meyer

Allen Wold’s Workshop Recap
Sunday, July 13 - Piedmont - 10:00am
Participants return to share their work.
Panelists: Allen Wold (mod), Diana Bastine, Stephen Mark Rainey, Darcy Wold

Concert: The Blibbering Humdingers
Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 11:00am
The Blibbering Humdingers perform.

Roar! Athena’s Daughters (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 11:00am
Silence in the Library’s Kickstarter for Athena’s Daughters (AD) funded at over 500%. AD was created entirely around the concept of providing a platform by which female authors, artists, graphic designers, and editors could showcase their incredible talents.
Panelists: Ron Garner (mod), Maggie Allen, Tricia Barr, Gail Z. Martin, Janine K. Spendlove

Sports Geeks (AP)
Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 11:00am
Geeks dress up in costumes and no one blinks an eye. But wear a Panther’s Jersey or a Braves cap to a con and people look at you funny. This open forum is a place for Sports fans who also happen to be Geeks to talk a little sports. How’s your baseball team doing? After the draft, how does your football team look?
Panelists: James Fulbright (mod), Laura Haywood-Cory, Cheralyn Lambeth, Edmund Schubert

Magical Words Workshop – Part 2
Sunday, July 13 - Piedmont - 11:00am
This is part 2 of an intensive two-day seminar offering detailed, specific feedback on the first 2500 words of your manuscript by three published authors. Critique sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday of the convention. Participants are expected to attend both sessions.
This session is SOLD OUT.
Panelists: David B. Coe, Faith Hunter, Misty Massey

Concert: White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar)
Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 12:00pm
White Plectrum (Keith Brinegar) entertains.

Business of Being an Artist (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 12:00pm
Many artists fear making money from their art means they have to compromise their artistic integrity, or “sell out.” But it doesn’t have to be this way. This panel will talk about the things artists have learned in the real world from budgeting to making money doing what you love.
Panelists: Matthew Penick (mod), Allegra Liana, Jennifer McCollom, Mark Poole, Scott Rorie

World Building with Steven S. Long (AP)
Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 12:00pm
Game Designer and Author Steven S. Long takes the audience through building a world.
Panelists: Steven S. Long

Fairies, Vampires & Other Mythological Creatures (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 1:00pm
Fantasy is replete with examples of fairies, vampires and other creatures of myth. Where do the myths come from and how are they translated in fantasy? What are some examples of rarer mythological creatures that aren’t seen as often?
Panelists: Diana Bastine (mod), Theresa Bane, Alexandra Christian, John Hartness, Emily Lavin Leverett
A Closet for a Dragon
and Other Early Tales

by
Allen L. Wold

Available at Amazon
Events Descriptions

ConGregate: A New Venture (AP)
Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 2:00pm
ConGregate is a still a baby in terms of conventions. Like every con, it will have its traditions. What are some things you would like to see become tradition at ConGregate?
Panelists: Tera Fulbright

I Hate Zombies but What if... (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 2:00pm
Zombies are incredibly popular in literature and media. But how would we react in the real world? What could cause a “true” zombie outbreak? How could we defend/inoculate ourselves from it?
Panelists: Tedd Roberts (mod), Chuck Carte, Doc Geressy, Podcasting’s Rich Sigfrit, Cathe Smith

Mecha Samurai and Steampunk Camels (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 2:00pm
Is it still steampunk if it’s not in London? Exploring non-British landscapes in steampunk worlds. Are there sub-genres? Diesel Punk, Gaslight, paranormal? Does it even have to be in the Victorian age?
Panelists: Misty Massey (mod), Stuart Jaffe, Angela Pritchett, Travis Surber

Con in Review (AP)
Sunday, July 13 - Hearn C/D - 3:00pm
The con is almost over. Take a few minutes before you leave and tell us…what worked? What didn’t? We will also have a suggestion box in the room if you would like to leave ideas for guests or panel topics for future cons.
Panelists: James Fulbright

Managing Your Finances as a Writer (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Winston - 1:00pm
So you got your first check for being published. What do you do with it? How do you account for it come tax season? What about expenses? Does going to cons count? Our panelists talk about how to manage the income and expenses related to being an author.
Panelists: Gray Rinehart (mod), Glenda C. Finkelstein, Pamela K. Kinney

Allen Wold’s Plotting Workshop
Sunday, July 13 - Piedmont - 1:00pm
Allen’s plotting workshop takes you through the elements of plot. What is it? How do you do it? And how does it interact with other aspects of writing such as a character and dialogue?
Attendance is limited. You will need to sign up at Registration.
Panelists: Allen Wold

MHI Employee Handbook Charity Game
Sunday, July 13 - Reynolda - 1:00pm
HERO System Game designer, Steven S. Long will be running a session of Monster Hunter International Employees Handbook and Roleplaying Game on Sunday afternoon of the con. We will be auctioning off 4 seats in the game during our Saturday night charity auction. The fifth and final seat will be occupied by MHI creator, Larry Correia! (Not open for an audience)
Panelists: Toni Weisskopf (mod), Mikki Stith

Imperial March (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 1:00pm
Why are they always Galactic Empires? Why not republics, democracies and confederacies? Why do we assume that the future government is going to be some autocracy from the past? Is the Galactic Empire more romantic or just easier to write?
Panelists: Tricia Barr (mod), Stuart Jaffe, Stephen J. Simmons, Travis Surber

Generations in Fandom: How Do We Connect (ET)
Sunday, July 13 - Salem - 13 2:00pm
There is a lot of discussion right now about the differences within fandom. In modern work environments, we talk about the changes that Baby Boomers, Gen X and Millennials must face when working together. How can con runners and fan groups reach out to the different generations and invite them to play?
Panelists: Toni Weisskopf (mod), Mikki Stith
Winner: Gold Medal for Best Science Fiction/Fantasy/Horror Ebook
~2014 Independent Publisher Book Awards~

An epic space opera that captures the political and visceral dangers of intergalactic war, while relating a young woman's personal struggle to stay true to her family and fulfill her destiny.

Wynde, the first book in the Fireheart Series, is available in print and ebook on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and most other book retail platforms.

“The perfect mix of big fun personalities, the ominous and creepy villains, mysterious powers, flashes of romance, all within a detailed world of Prime.” ~ Jedi News UK

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NEW VENUE! 2015 The Embassy Suite, Concord, NC

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• Dealer’s Room
• Short Film Festival
• Klingon Karaoke
• Gaming
• Panels including Writing, Paranormal, Costuming, Music and More!

Register By May 4th, 2015 or Pay More at the Door!

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Sci-Fi Carolinas Style

Author Guest of Honor - John Scalzi

Old Man’s War

Redshirts

Artist Guest of Honor - Matt Busch & Lin Zy

Artist Lin Zy

Artist Matt Busch

Star Wars
Readings

Friday, July 11
4:00pm (Piedmont) – Faith Hunter
4:30pm (Piedmont) – Misty Massey
5:00pm (Piedmont) – Stuart Jaffe
5:30pm (Piedmont) – Ask a Neuroscientist: Tedd Roberts
8:00pm (Reynolda) – David B. Coe
8:30pm (Reynolda) – A.J. Hartley
9:00pm (Reynolda) – Paula S. Jordan
9:30pm (Reynolda) – Les Johnson
10:00pm (Reynolda) – Cheralyn Lambeth
10:30pm (Reynolda) – Pamela K. Kinney
11:00pm (Reynolda) – Marcia Collette & Alexandra Christian

Saturday, July 12
9:00pm (Reynolda) – Randy Richards
9:30pm (Reynolda) – Nicole Givens Kurtz
10:00pm (Reynolda) – Stephen Mark Rainey
10:30pm (Reynolda) – Tony Ruggiero
11:00pm (Reynolda) – Ghost Stories with Tally Johnson

Sunday, July 13
9:30am (Reynolda) – Gail Z. Martin
10:00am (Reynolda) – Danny Birt
10:30am (Reynolda) – Tricia Barr
11:00am (Reynolda) – Q&A: Mandolorian Mercs
11:30am (Reynolda) – James Maxey
12:00pm (Reynolda) – Maggie Allen
12:30pm (Reynolda) – Janine K. Spendlove

Signings

All signings are located in the Dealers’ Room

Friday, July 11
4:00pm – A.J. Hartley/John Hartness
5:00pm – Les Johnson/Ron Garner
6:00pm – Pamela K. Kinney/Gail Z. Martin

Saturday, July 12
10:00am – Larry Correia
11:00am – Pamela K. Kinney/Tricia Barr
12:00pm – Tony Ruggiero/Les Johnson
1:00pm – Gail Z. Martin/Ron Garner
2:00pm – Stuart Jaffe/Cheralyn Lambeth
4:00pm – AJ Hartley/Tricia Barr
5:00pm – James Maxey/John Hartness

Sunday, July 13
10:00am – Maggie Allen/Janine K. Spendlove
11:00am – Larry Correia
12:00pm – Stuart Jaffe/Tony Ruggiero
1:00pm – Cheralyn Lambeth/Jame Maxey
Surviving a Mars Mission

“[Ben Bova] gives a good read while turning your eyes to what might be in the not so distant future...”—SFX

In the year 2035 space exploration is a reality, and the first manned mission to Mars is ready for take-off. Sending humans into space is risky—but are the risks worth it? The crew of the Arrow—the eight astronauts set to be the first humans on Mars—thinks so. But powerful political forces on Earth disagree, and they'll use any mishap to prove their point. When a fluke collision with an asteroid hobbles the ship, it's not just the future of space exploration that hangs in the balance—but the lives of the crew, as well.

A thrilling and scientifically accurate tale of survival by six-time Hugo winner and science fiction legend Ben Bova and NASA space scientist Les Johnson.

JUNE 2014
www.baen.com

Journey to the Past to Save the Present!

"P.C. Hodgell writes the most strikingly weird and wonderful stories in epic fantasy today."—Charles Stross

Kothifir the Great: a land where time shifts. Here Jame, Kencyrath heir doomed to stalk the gods, arrives to find that Kothifir's gods have lost their power and its proud towers are falling.

In order to save the present, she must search the past, be it fifteen years ago when her brother Tori arrived in Kothifir, or three thousand years ago when the Wastes were a great sea ringed with rich civilizations. Somehow, Tori survived. Somehow, the cities of the plain were destroyed in one catastrophic night.

As her search wears on, Jame realizes that somewhere in the Waste lies not merely the promise of saving the land, but the threat of complete destruction.

Now, Jame must save Kothifir—without undoing time itself.

The seventh entry in P.C. Hodgell's Kencyrath epic fantasy saga.

Baen Books is distributed by Simon & Schuster
Featured Guests

Timothy Zahn  
Writer GoH

Michael Stackpole  
Writer GoH

Albin Johnson  
Fan GoH

Scott Rorie  
Special Artist Guest

July 10-12, 2015  
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