



NEWS RELEASE

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ROPEWALK WRITERS RETREAT DEADLINE NEAR

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Friday, April 19, is the deadline to submit manuscripts for critique in the third annual RopeWalk Writers Retreat, a week-long conference on creative writing sponsored by the University of Southern Indiana.

The retreat will be held June 2-7 in New Harmony, Indiana.

Four distinguished authors will conduct the workshops, two each in fiction and poetry on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with Tuesday and Thursday devoted to participant conferences with faculty and to writing.

Featured authors include Stephen Dobyns, professor of English and director of the Creative Writing Program at Syracuse University; Amy Hempel, faculty member for such programs as Writers at Work, Bread Loaf in Vermont, and the New York State Summer Writers Institute; Michael Martone, Fort Wayne native and Indiana University graduate who currently is Briggs Copeland Assistant Professor of Fiction at Harvard; and Heather McHugh, poet and Master of Fine Arts faculty member at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina.

Dobyns is the author of more than 15 books of poetry and fiction and recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and three National Endowment for the Arts fellowships. Hempel is the author of two published collections of stories, *Reasons to Live* and *At the Gates of the Animal Kingdom*; her nonfiction has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, and other periodicals. Martone's works include *Fort Wayne is Seventh on Hitler's List*, *Alive and Dead in Indiana*, and *Safety Patrol*; he is a two-time NEA fellow and Ingram Merrill Foundation grant winner. McHugh is a 1989 Guggenheim Fellow; her books of poetry include *Dangers*, *A World of Difference*, *To the Quick*, and *Shades*.

The RopeWalk Retreat will be held at the New Harmony Inn and Conference Center in the Posey County community that was the site of two nineteenth century utopian experiments. Dr. Thomas A. Wilhelmus, assistant dean of the USI School of Liberal Arts and RopeWalk director, said the retreat is designed to provide a natural outlet for the talents of writers. Participants are encouraged to write during the retreat, not simply listen to others talk about writing, and will have an opportunity to discuss the type of writing that interests them.

Tuition is \$275; Indiana residents can get a 10 percent discount. Partial scholarships are available to qualifying writers, with preference given to full-time students. Scholarship information is available from the English Department, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, Indiana 47712. Retreat information and application forms are available from the USI Office of Continuing Education at the previous address or by calling 812/464-1863 or 800/467-8600.

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