

69th Annual Writers Conference at Ocean Park (Maine)



August 10- August 14, 2009

No. 2

Memoirist Jaed Coffin



Jaed Coffin has wanted to be a writer for as long as he can remember. A philosophy major as an undergrad, Jaed wrote two unpublished novels while finishing his BA degree. After traveling abroad for several years, from Alaska to Spain to Thailand, Jaed returned home to pursue his MFA in Creative Writing. A native Mainer, he chose the Stonecoast Program because he “wanted to study at a place that understood (his) sensibility as a Maine writer, in an environment that represented who (he) was as a Maine kid.”

In a life that has taken many twists and turns in just a quarter century, Jaed was ordained a Buddhist monk in the Fall of 2001. His novel, *A Chant to Soothe Wild Elephants* (Fall, 2007), is an account of his experiences growing up in traditions rooted in both ancient and modern cultures and the challenge to reconcile one with the other. In 2003, his novel *Take the Road as it Closes* was nominated for the Story Line Press Three Oaks Prize in Fiction. His first published short story will appear in the August issue of *Portland Magazine*. Also an avid boxer, he is a two year veteran of the Portland Boxing Club and competes regularly in national competitions, most recently in the Golden Gloves amateur bouts held in early 2006. He also serves as Administrative Coordinator for the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance.

Irish Writer Aine Greaney



Aine is an Irish-born writer (County Mayo) now living on Boston's North Shore. She has published mostly fiction, in addition to some personal essays, feature and travel articles.

Her work has appeared in journals and publications such as *Creative Nonfiction*, *Natural Bridge*, *The Larcom Review*, *The Literary Review*, *Under the Sun*, *Stone Canoe*, *The Sunday Tribune*, *New Irish Writing*, *Merrimack Valley Magazine*, and *Cyphers*.

Her stories and essays have also appeared in anthologies such as *The Fish Anthology*, *Daughters of the Land*, *Irish Girls are Back in Town*, *From the Heart of Ireland*, and *Lost and Found: An Anthology of Teachers' Writing*.

Her second novel, *Dance Lessons* is under contract with a U.S. literary publisher.

In addition to writing, she teaches and lectures at various schools, libraries and arts locations. She belongs to local and regional arts and writing organizations.

Aine returns to Ireland frequently.

News about Past Attendees

For the second year in a row, **Julie Parker** has attained the distinction of being recognized as the top student in her class. This year's sophomore class numbers approximately 2500. In May she was honored at a ceremony at Awards Day held at the Providence Convention Center.

Elizabeth Verzo has been hired to perform nutrition assessments and provide cooking demos in Chicago. The job provides her the opportunity to use both her undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The short story, "Queen of the Tightrope" by **Teresa Bradley** will be published in the August issue of *Rosebud*

Dr. Jim Brosnan attended the 15th West Chester Poetry Conference where he studied the "Narrative Poem" with Lisa Williams of Sara Lawrence University.

Prompts

1. Describe an object (fruit, flower, etc.) using any of the senses EXCEPT sight.
2. Return to your hometown or a geographic place that you have visited. Look up the geological, natural, and human history. Focus on the names of places. Research their origin. Use this information to create a setting for a story or write a poem about this place.
3. Use this sign as a story starter or poem.



Second Call for Contest Entries

General Contest Rules

1. Open to all Writers Conference Participants (previous winners not excluded)
2. Only ONE entry will be accepted for each category (except Jakeman Contest)
3. Entries on 8.5 x 11 white paper, double-spaced. Include contest title ONLY.
4. All poetry and prose entries should have a 3 x 5 index card paper clipped with the author's name, address, phone number and the titles of the work submitted and WORD COUNT for prose pieces; LINE COUNT for poetry (Not counting the title)
5. Cash prizes (\$20, \$10, \$5) and award certificates will be awarded Friday morning.

The poetry entries CANNOT exceed 30 lines or 42 characters (including spaces) per line, and must also be sent electronically.

Prose Entries CANNOT exceed 1500 words.

Poetry - 4 Award Categories:

- **Adelbert M. Sr. & Lillian Jakeman Memorial Poetry Tournament**
Open style. Limited to 30 lines. Submit up to 3 poems for judging.
- **Popular Vote of Entries in Above Category by WC Participants**
All submissions will be printed in Poetry Tournament Booklet.
- **Katherine Saunders Memorial Poems on Trees**
Any length, style, form, size poem to be posted on trees in Porter Hall Grove. Must be hung by noon Wednesday to be eligible.
- **David McCord Memorial Beach Inspiration Poetry**
Bring pen and paper, a beach chair or blanket.

Prose - 3 Award Categories:

- **Fiction** 1500 word (maximum) adult fiction
- **Hilma & Alfred Barrett Memorial Non-Fiction** 1500 word (maximum) adult non-fiction.
- **Richard F. Burns Inspirational Prose** 1500 word (maximum) fiction or non-fiction inspirational.

Send ALL entries to **Dr. Jim Brosnan, P.O. Box 172, Assonet, MA 02702.**

Deadline: July 1, 2009