

68th Annual Writers Conference at Ocean Park (Maine)

August 11- August 15, 2008



No. 3

Novelist and Short Fiction Writer featured

Diane Les Becquets will focus on setting
Áine Greaney to discuss memoir as short fiction



Diane Les Becquets, coordinator of SNHU's undergraduate creative writing program and assistant professor of English, was hailed by *Publisher's Weekly* as a "writer to watch" after the publication of her first novel, "The Stones of Mourning Creek." The book for young adults received a starred review from *Kirkus* and was the Independent Bookseller Book of the Year for 2001. Her second novel, "Love, Cajun Style," was described by *Kirkus* as "realistic, affecting, and enjoyable throughout" and received a starred review from *Booklist*.

Les Becquets received the PEN American Phyllis Reynolds Working Writer Fellowship in 2007 for her third novel, "Ice Out," which is scheduled to be released by Bloomsbury next January.

She has been a guest at the Arkansas Book Festival, the Telluride Council on the Arts, the University of Mississippi and a number of other colleges and libraries across the country. She came to SNHU after having taught creative writing and fiction through Fairfield University and the Colorado Colleges Consortium.

Born and brought up in Co. Mayo, Ireland, **Áine Greaney** now lives and writes in Newburyport. In 2006, her chapbook short story collection, "The Sheepbreeders Dance" was released from Flume Press. Her debut novel, "The Big House" was published in 2003. Her second novel, "Dance Lessons" is under consideration. She has won the Frank O'Connor Award for Short Fiction, the Irish News Short Fiction Award, The Hennessy Award, and the 2006 Flume Press Fiction Chapbook Award.

She has taught writing workshops at Emerson College, the New Hampshire Writers Project and the Seacoast Writers Association. She was on the 2007 faculty of the Cape Cod Writers Conference.

She holds a bachelor's in English and education (National University of Ireland—studied under Seamus Heaney) and a master's in English and writing. She has been a fellow of the New York State Writers Institute and the Writer in Residence at Chester College of New England.

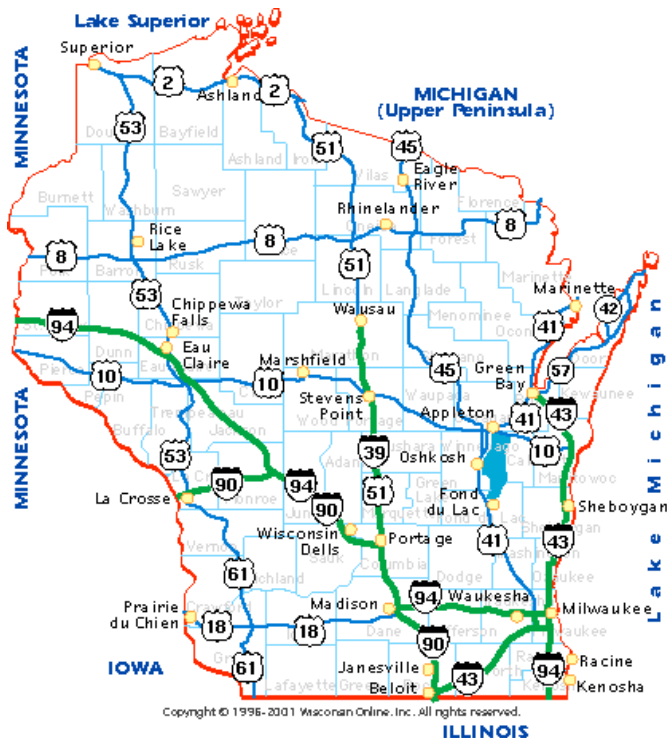


The 68th Annual Writers Conference at Ocean Park

Prompts for the Muse

1. Every city or town has things that change — sometimes because of business trends, sometimes because new cultural groups settle in the area, and sometimes for no reason that can be clearly defined. Think of a change to a place that you know well. Perhaps the local grocery store you grew up with as the A&C Market has closed its doors because of a regional chain like Stop & Shop. Maybe the "Old Red Bank" suddenly becomes "Bank of the Northeast". Think about a change that has affected your life and narrate the events that occurred. Make clear the specific details of the change, and how you feel about the changes that occurred.

2. Use the following map as a prompt.



Third 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. 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, 2008