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**VERMONT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS**  
**MFA IN WRITING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS**

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May 1, 2009

Dear Writer,

Hello! We're enjoying beautiful spring days and we hope you are, too. We're also excited to be gearing up for the next residency, which will include a Special Event Day on July 18, 2009, on Good and Evil. Editors Stephen Roxburgh and authors Nancy Werlin and Deborah Noyes will be our guests; their bios are attached. We are also hosting the second annual Alumni Mini-Residency on July 17–19, so you'll have a chance to catch up with some of your former classmates. Finally, on July 17, we are once again hosting an auction for all students, faculty, and alumni. If you have any items to donate, please be in touch with Katie or Susannah.

As you all know, the housing forms were sent out two weeks ago; but now we're ready to tackle workshop. Workshop submissions, *with workshop forms*, are due **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

**Workshop format:** We'll be running the two types of workshop groups again this residency—the large-group format and the small-group format. The six large workshop groups will have 10 students and 2 faculty members. The four small workshop groups will have 5–7 students and 1 faculty member. In the extra time the smaller groups will have after critiquing one another's work, they will focus on one of several alternatives, including planned classes on craft, further discussion of issues that have arisen from the critiques, and exercises. The alternatives offered will vary from group to group, based on the advisor.

Again, we are looking for volunteers for the small-group format. The one change from last residency is that we will not assign small-group spots to those of you who have already tried it, unless there are extra spots left over. Other than that, these smaller groups are open to students in any semester and working in any genre. We will try to balance the groups across semesters and genres, in addition to allowing each student to work with a different faculty advisor. It is imperative that you fill out the workshop form correctly, so that we can easily tell who has worked with whom in previous residencies and semesters. If you do not fill out the form correctly, we will not be able to accommodate any requests for changes to your group assignment.

To volunteer for the small-group format, check off the line on the workshop form.

**Workshop Material** is due IN the program office by **Friday, May 22. No exceptions. No faxes or emails, please.** We need this material on time so that workshop books can go out ahead of time. We will send you the books two weeks prior to the residency so that you have time to read them and prepare for the workshop. Please attach the Workshop Submission Form with your manuscript (also attached). Read it carefully and be sure to fill it in accurately; we use these forms to create the workshop groups. Also, if you're going to be at a different address, please let us know so we can get these books to the right place.

**Guidelines** for workshop submissions and workshop preparation are attached as well. Please read and follow them carefully.

**Arrival and Departure:** As you know from the housing letter sent out two weeks ago, the summer residency will be July 11–21, 2009 (with new students arriving on the 10th). There will be an all-student orientation on Saturday, July 11th, at 3:00pm, so you should plan to be here in time for that. Departure

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should be arranged for the morning of July 21st; check-out is at 10:00am. Nothing is scheduled for that day. (If you'd like, you can plan to leave in the evening of July 20th. Graduation will end at about 5:00, and it is required that you stay through graduation.)

**Transportation:** If you're flying in to the Burlington airport, you should coordinate with Jessica's Vital Transit, the transportation service we're now working with. We've attached an information sheet from them that you can print out and reference. (We're attaching an updated sheet; it has minor changes, but no changes in price, phone numbers, or email addresses.) Their phone number is 802-349-8833, or email them at or [VCFA@jvt.us](mailto:VCFA@jvt.us). You can also check out the VCFA page on their Web site: <http://jvt.us/vcfa.html>.

**Faculty Bios** of the faculty teaching in the upcoming semester are attached.

**Winter Residency Dates:** Looking ahead, the winter residency dates will be January 10–20, 2010, with new students arriving on the 9th. Returning students need to be on campus by 3:00pm on January 10th, though feel free to arrive on the 9th with the new students if you prefer. Departure day will be January 20th, with graduation on the 19th. (You can plan to leave on the evening of the 19th if you would like; graduation will end at about 5:00, and it is required that you stay through graduation.)

**That's it!** We'll send out lecture descriptions and faculty teaching statements and publications in the next month or so. We'll also be in touch next week about VCFA's new tuition and fees and our new financial aid process. In the meantime, please be in touch with us if you have any questions.

All the best,

Katie & Susannah