This summer, join us on Mather Quad for a celebration of the word, of story, of the thing that burns in your heart, of the thing that needs to be said. Bring your pencil, pen, laptop, your ideas and notes, your confusion. Listen, discuss, write little practice texts. Talk to other writers who understand the overflowing brain and the lonely office chair. Catch that wisp of inspiration that like a pebble in a stream changes the course of your work.

We’ll break down borders for the day, dispose of the convenience of genre, promote interstitial change: historical novel, crossover novel, ekphrastic poetry, multimedia storytelling, graphic novel, science fiction, nonfiction, translation, hybrid texts.
KEYNOTE

Closer Than You Think: Thoughts on Genre Bending, Blending and Plain-Old Jumping Ship
Paula McLain
In her keynote address, Paula McLain will discuss her experience writing and publishing across genres, the unique challenges and pleasures of working within and without boundaries, and the remarkable things that can happen when you stop thinking you’re a poet, memoirist, or novelist, and start acting like a writer.

Memoir Doesn’t Look Like That Anymore
Joyce Dyer
Memoir is changing and crossing boundaries, incorporating other forms of nonfiction to gain range and depth (literary journalism, historical narrative, biography, meditation); fiction to fill empty spaces; and poetry to find connections among seemingly disparate things. This session will describe some of these currents.

Because You Asked About the Line Between Prose and Poetry
Sarah Gridley
This workshop will trouble the line between poetry and prose by engaging select examples of two genre-breaking forms: the prose poem and the lyric essay. Participants will receive prompts and resources for independent explorations of these two hybrid forms.

The World as Character
Charles Oberndorf
In a number of great science fiction novels, the world itself is a co-protagonist, sometimes more complex than the actual characters. What techniques employed by fantasy and science fiction writers can help you think more deeply about the interaction between characters and the world they live in?

The Muse in the Museum
Lynn Powell
Ekphrasis is the description of a work of visual art in the language of poetry. How does the act of writing about a work of art help one to see it more clearly? How does one move from mere description to a deeper dialogue, or even argument, with the art?

Superman at 75: Turning Self into Superhero
Brad Ricca
The creation of Superman offers a template for creating your own superhero characters from direct personal experience. If you look at superheroes as metaphors for the human experience, you can not only understand them better—but create your own mighty mythologies. Powers? Secret Identities? Costumes?

The Digital Time Capsule
Jim Sheeler
This presentation will explore how Sheeler and his students have blended emerging technology with traditional journalistic techniques to find new ways of capturing stories that otherwise might have remained hidden.

Crossover Novels: Adult/Young Adult
Sarah Willis
What is a crossover novel? What defines a novel as adult/young adult/teen/coming of age? Can they be the same thing? Do you want them to be the same thing? Let’s discuss boundaries and expectations—who is your audience? why write with them in mind?—and come up with some workable answers.

Boundary-Crossings for Poets
David Young
This presentation will question how the poetic impulse can access prose, research, translation and “after” poems, with encouraging results for both sides of the boundary.

Breaking Genre: A Writers Conference

SCHEDULE

Registration 8-10:30 a.m.
Opening Remarks and Introduction of Faculty 8:45-9 a.m.
Keynote 9-10:15 a.m.
Class 1 (choose one: Oberndorf, Powell, Ricca, Sheeler, Willis, Young) 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Lunch 12-1:30 p.m.
Class 2 (choose one: Dyer, Gridley, Oberndorf, Powell, Sheeler) 1:45-3 p.m.
Panel: “Twenty-First Century Writing: Beyond Craft” 3:15-4:45 p.m.
Book Fair 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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**PRESENTERS**

**Paula McLain**
Keynote speaker Paula McLain received an M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Michigan and has been a resident of Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony. She is the author of two collections of poetry; a memoir, *Like Family*; a first novel, *A Ticket to Ride*; and the *New York Times* bestseller *The Paris Wife*. She lives in Cleveland with her family.

**Joyce Dyer**
Joyce Dyer teaches creative writing at Hiram College and is John S. Kenyon Professor of English. She is the author of three memoirs, *In a Tangled Wood: An Alzheimer’s Journey*; *Gum-Dipped: A Daughter Remembers Rubber Town*; and *Goosetown: Reconstructing an Akron Neighborhood*; and the editor of *Bloodroot: Reflections on Place by Appalachian Women Writers*. Dyer has won numerous awards for her writing, including the 1998 Appalachian Book of the Year Award and the 2009 David B. Saunders Award in Creative Nonfiction. She lives in Hudson, Ohio, where she’s working on a book about her town’s most famous citizen—John Brown.

**Sarah Gridley**
Sarah Gridley is the author of three books of poetry: *Weather Eye Open*, *Green is the Orator*, and *Loom*, winner of the Omnidawn Open Book Contest. Her poems have appeared in various journals, including *Crazyhorse*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Gulf Coast*, and *jubilat*. Her essays have appeared in *Poets on Teaching: a Sourcebook*, and *A Broken Thing: Poets on the Line*. Recipient of a 2009 Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council, and a 2010 Creative Workforce Fellowship from the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, she is an assistant professor of English at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Charles Oberndorf**
Charles Oberndorf teaches middle school writing at University School. He’s published three novels and five stories. His story, “Another Life,” appeared in Hartwell and Cramer’s *Year’s Best SF 15*. He’s received an Ohio Arts Council Grant and a Creative Workforce Fellowship from the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture. He’s currently working on a time travel story set in the Congo and a biographical novel about Abe Osheroff, a veteran of the Abraham Lincoln Brigades. Charlie’s patron saint is Roberto Bolaño and his muse is Greg Egan.

**Lynn Powell**
Lynn Powell is the author of two books of poetry, *The Zones of Paradise* and *Old & New Testaments*, and a book of nonfiction, *Framing Innocence*. She has been awarded a poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and fellowships in both poetry and prose from the Ohio Arts Council. Powell has published her poems in numerous journals, including *Poetry*, *Shenandoah*, and *The Paris Review*. A native of East Tennessee, she has lived in Ohio since 1990, and currently teaches at Oberlin College.

**Brad Ricca**
Brad Ricca is a SAGES Fellow at Case Western Reserve University, where he earned his Ph.D. in English. His book of poetry, *American Mastodon*, won the St. Lawrence Book Award and was featured on *A Writer’s Almanac* with Garrison Keillor. His biography about the creators of Superman, *Super Boys*, is forthcoming from St. Martin’s Press in June 2013. www.brad-ricca.com.

**Jim Sheeler**
Jim Sheeler is the Shirley Wormser Professor of Journalism and Media Writing at Case Western Reserve University. He won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing and is the author of *Obit* and *Final Salute*, which was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award.

**Sarah Willis**
Sarah Willis’s first novel, *Some Things That Stay*, won a number of awards and was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. It was made into a movie which opened in 2004. Her other novels are *The Rehearsal*, *A Good Distance*, and *The Sound of Us*. Sarah has taught creative writing classes at numerous writer’s workshops and colleges, including Hiram College, John Carroll University, The Imagination Conference at CSU, and The Writer’s Center at Chautauqua.

**David Young**
David Young is a poet, editor, translator, and scholar. For example, *Field of Light and Shadow: Selected and New Poems*; 44 years with Oberlin College Press; *Du Fu, A Life in Poetry, Seasoning: a Poet’s Year, Six Modernist Moments in Poetry*. 
Breaking Genre: A Writers Conference

DETAILS

DATE/TIME
Saturday, June 1, 2013
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

LOCATION
Conference events will take place in Clark Hall and Guilford House on the Case Western Reserve campus.

Clark Hall   Guilford House
11130 Bellflower Road  11112 Bellflower Road

PARKING
Free parking will be available in the Cleveland Institute of Art parking lot across Bellflower Road from Guilford House.

REGISTRATION FEE
$95  ($75 for college students)

A box lunch is included in the cost of the conference.

BOOK FAIR
A book fair will be on site from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Mac’s Backs will be the resident bookstore with other presses and journals.

MANUSCRIPT CONSULTATION
A very limited number of 30-minute individual consultations will be available for $55. Consultations will be limited to 10 pages for poetry and 25 pages (double-spaced) for prose. Spaces must be reserved on a first come, first serve basis through writersconference@case.edu.

REGISTRATION
Conference registration and payment will be online through Eventbrite. Visit www.case.edu/artsci/engl/ to access the link.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
216.368.1508
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www.case.edu/artsci/engl/
www.facebook.com/BreakingGenreAWritersConference
www.twitter.com/BreakingGenre

Breaking Genre is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Breaking Genre is also supported by a grant from The George Gund Foundation.

Additional support provided by Case Western Reserve University’s College of Arts and Sciences and Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities; the Cleveland Institute of Art; Cuyahoga County Public Library; and Mac’s Backs.