Every summer, against the breathtaking landscape of the Pine Ridge Region of Northwest Nebraska, we gather with our writers-in-residence to generate new work, practice our craft, hone our skills and then share and receive personalized feedback during the retreat. Participants spend their nights and days together building a writing community focused on exploring the wild terrains of our lives.

Although we cannot meet face to face this summer, we can maintain this important creative outlet and sustain the spirit of Story Catcher by joining two of our session leaders, Dinty W. Moore and Alyson Hagy, for a one-day virtual workshop, which will lay the groundwork for meeting together in our beautiful setting next summer.
Virtual Writing Workshop Registration:
With Dinty W. Moore & Alyson Hagy

- General Registration: $25
  (Includes one-year membership to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society)
- Current Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Members: $10
- Students (High School or College): $10
  (NOTE: students may apply for a fee waiver—contact mevertson@csc.edu for details)

- REGISTRATION OPENS June 22 (click the link below)
- Space is limited to 20 writers. Early registration is encouraged.

Upon registration, you will be contacted by the organizers with instructions for how to prepare for and attend the virtual workshop—please make sure your contact information is accurate.

Refunds: Due to limited space, refunds can only be offered up to five days after registration. For planning purposes, there will be no refunds made after July 1.

Monday, July 6th — Online Workshops
Originating from CSC Campus

NOTE: Sessions Are Mountain Daylight Time (MDT)

9AM: Welcome Session

9:30 to 11:30 A.M.  “Flash-Demic” I: The Art of Flash Nonfiction and the Heart Story
With Dinty W. Moore
The flash form – crafting concise stories that flash like lightning in a reader’s mind – is not only fun but also a perfect vehicle for experimentation and artistic growth. Students in this workshop will be offered a series of prompts to locate the “heart story,” or the invisible river of meaning, and will craft, then revise, unique flash essays, particularly as they relate to the current health-crisis and other conflicts in society.

1:30 to 3 P.M.  “Flash-Demic” II: Workshop
With Dinty W. Moore
After working on their individual writing projects and responding to the prompts from the morning session, participants will share their work and get feedback from Dinty and the other writers attending.

3:30 to 5:30 P.M.  “American Community: A Fiction Exercise and Discussion.”
With Alyson Hagy
This session will focus on a couple of things writers can do to “power up” their fiction. Alyson will read some short pieces to demonstrate, and then we will write a bit—and share.

5:30 to 6 P.M.  Closing Remarks
Matthew Evertson, Steven Coughlin and Markus Jones
A sneak-preview of the Story Catcher Workshop and Retreat for 2021
Dinty W. Moore was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania, and, according to his Amazon author page, spent his formative years fishing for bluegill, riding a bike with a banana seat, and dodging the Sisters of St. Joseph. He earned a BA in writing from the University of Pittsburgh, worked briefly as a journalist, and also served short stints as a documentary filmaker, modern dance performer, zookeeper, and Greenwich Village waiter. It was only after failing at each of these professions that he went on to earn an MFA in fiction writing from Louisiana State University.

Moore is the former director of Ohio University’s BA, MA, and PhD in creative writing programs. He has authored various books of literary nonfiction as well as textbooks and craft guides, most notably Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy (Ten Speed Press, 2015), The Accidental Buddhist (Harmony, 1999), and his memoir, Between Panic and Desire (Bison, 2010), which won the GrubStreet National Book Prize.


Moore has been published in Harpers, The New York Times Sunday Magazine, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Utne Reader, Salon, Okey-Panky, the Southern Review, the Georgia Review, and the Los Angeles Review of Books. A National Endowment for the Arts fellowship recipient, Moore has guest taught creative nonfiction seminars across the United States and in Europe. He is the founder and editor of influential internet journal, Brevity (brevitymag.com), on the editorial board of Creative Nonfiction magazine, and is a frequent speaker and teacher at writers’ conferences.

“Between Panic and Desire is more autopsy than memoir—a strange new hybrid. It’s a fantasy of letting go of the things that have haunted Moore his entire life. These things do, in fact, float off the pages.”
— Los Angeles Times

“This book is funny, funny, funny. It is an unconventional—some might say, experimental—collection of frolicsome and touching personal essays. . . . [T]he book is a rare example of how unusual form actually helps. It is the ideal display for Dinty’s imagination. He daydreams. He fantasizes. He hallucinates. And this is nonfiction. For anyone who thinks the genre is nothing more than a retelling of facts, pick up a copy of Between Panic and Desire. . . . It is literary nonfiction with integrity. And it’s fun.”
— Oxford Town

[In Dear Mister Essay Writer Guy: Advice and Confessions on Writing, Love, and Cannibals] “Moore presents a guide to writing essays that is both brilliantly instructive and wonderfully entertaining ... Highly recommended for writers and anyone who loves to laugh out loud while they read.”
— Library Journal

“Advice books for writers are a dime a dozen but Moore provides a fresh approach ... [The Mindful Writer is] A compact book of practical and philosophical truths for both novice and veteran writers.”
— Publishers Weekly

“[The Story Cure is] a handbook for writers who have encountered artistic ailments such as writer’s block, character anemia, flat plot, and silent voice. Moore’s signature wit and wisdom are once again on display in this useful guide for writers of all levels of experience.”
— Poets & Writers

Author website: dintywmoore.com
Alyson Hagy grew up on a farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Michigan. While at Michigan, she was awarded a Hopwood Prize in Short Fiction and a Roy Cowden Fellowship. Early stories were published in *Sewanee Review*, *Crescent Review*, and *Virginia Quarterly Review*.

Hagy taught at the University of Virginia, the University of Michigan, and the Stonecoast Writers Conference in Maine before joining the faculty at the University of Wyoming in 1996.


Her most recent novel *Scribe* (2018) is described by Graywolf Press as “a haunting, evocative tale about the power of storytelling, drawing on traditional folktales and the history and culture of Appalachia” where the author “has crafted a gripping, swiftly plotted novel that touches on pressing issues of our time—migration, pandemic disease, the rise of authoritarianism—and makes a compelling case for the power of stories to both show us the world and transform it.”

Hagy has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Christopher Isherwood Foundation. Her work has won a Pushcart Prize, the Nelson Algren Prize, the High Plains Book Award, the Devil’s Kitchen Award, the Syndicated Fiction Award, and been included in *Best American Short Stories*. Recent fiction has appeared in *Drunken Boat*, *The Idaho Review*, *Kenyon Review*, INCH, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*.

Abiding interests include hiking, fishing, cohabitating with Labrador Retrievers, college athletics, and making artist’s books. She lives in Laramie, Wyoming.

“Alyson Hagy’s Scribe is a lean, hard wolf of a thing. There’s something feral and panting about it. Vicious. It is sour and cruel and vivid, with a long memory and blood in its teeth. It gives nothing away....In the end, Scribe finally feels like an Appalachian fairy tale, pared-down and merciless in its telling. It's a story that doesn't stop when you close the covers, but continues growing until the shadow of it is larger than you recall.”

— Jason Sheehan, NPR Book Reviews

“Scribe, which begins with the baying of hounds and ends with silence, reminds us on every page that humans remain the storytelling animal, and that therein might lie our salvation. . . . In this brave new world, a woman with a pen may prove mightier than a man with a sword.”

— The New York Times Book Review

“Good stories teach us how to read them, and the opening pages of Boleto are entertaining, entrancing teachers. . . . Hagy often dazzles with her descriptions of the Wyoming landscape and wildlife. Whether it’s the corral of the Testerman ranch, the rugged passes of the Black Bell Ranch or the depressed outskirts of Anaheim, the settings glimmer with well-chosen metaphors.”

— The New York Times Book Review

“In her gift for the language of horses, as in the beauty of her prose, Hagy will inevitably recall Annie Proulx, Kent Haruf and Cormac McCarthy. But she is writing as much about wealth and class, about work and privilege, as about horses and the Western landscape.”

— The Washington Post

Author website: alysonhagy.com
Mari Sandoz at work in Bernard Hall for the 1948 Writer’s Institute at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. (Courtesy Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center)

2015 Retreat at Camp Norwesca near Chadron State Park
Acknowledgements

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Society and the Esther and Raleigh Pilster Endowment
http://www.marisandoz.org

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Special thanks to Elizabeth Chase, Executive Secretary, for all her efforts in setting up the website, promoting the workshop, completing the contracts for the workshop and minding the budget; J.L. Schmidt, Public Relations Coordinator, for all the great news releases, newsletter items and publicity; and Christy Chamberlin, board member, for helping with planning, registration and funding.

English and Humanities at CSC
The English and Humanities Department at Chadron State College has provided funding for portions of the workshop and the guiding vision and organization through our Planning Committee and our Departmental Staff:

- Matthew Evertson, Professor, Workshop Director
- Steven Coughlin, Associate Professor, Planning
- Markus Jones, Assistant Professor, Planning

Get Outside Yourself with English and Humanities at CSC! (www.csc.edu/english) (Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/englishCSC) (Twitter: @english_csc)

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center
http://www.sandozcenter.com/
In addition to providing a beautiful meeting place for our workshop, the staff of the center have provided invaluable support through planning, gathering materials and setting up the welcome packets, and promoting and publicizing the workshop.

Chadron State College
A very special thanks goes out to the College Relations staff, including Tena Cook and Alex Helmbrecht for promoting our event. Thank you to CSC Conferencing for helping to publicize our workshop and for helping with registration. Conferencing, Housing, and Dining Services at CSC have helped coordinate our comfort at the workshop, and kept us well-fed!

Finally, we appreciate very much the support from the present leadership on campus including President Dr. Randy Rhine and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. James Powell and Dean of Liberal Arts Dr. James Margetts.

And Others
Thanks go out to all who have volunteered to help, promoted or supported our workshop this year!