GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD RETREAT AND GALA

On May 8-9, the museum will host the Golden Age of Hollywood Retreat and Gala. Registration is available for the full weekend or for just the gala. Full weekend participants will receive copies of three books, including Ernest Hemingway’s *A Farewell to Arms*. The 1932 film version of this novel (starring Gary Cooper and Helen Hayes) premiered in New York and Piggott, AR. The three books will focus on the time period and legacy of this novel. Then, May 8-9, participants will come together at the museum in Piggott for a weekend of meaningful discussion and fun activities. Discussion about the books will be led by experts in the field. In addition to these discussions, there will be a screening of the 1932 movie.

On the evening of May 9, everyone is invited to attend the Red Carpet Gala, which will feature heavy hors d’oeuvres and era-appropriate cocktails (including nonalcoholic options). Participants are invited to come to the gala dressed as their favorite Hollywood actor or actress. A costume is not required, however.

The cost of the full weekend is $100, which includes copies of the three books, meals throughout the weekend, and a ticket to the Red Carpet Gala. Tickets for the gala alone cost $35. All proceeds benefit the museum’s educational programming. For more information about the retreat, including the full schedule and reading list, contact the museum.

Young Authors 2015

Young Authors 2015 is now underway! This afterschool program is for Piggott Elementary School 4th, 5th and 6th graders. Students recommended by their teachers participate in a four-week program after school on Wednesdays and receive a spiral bound collection of their original stories upon completion of the program. 5th graders (pictured below) and 6th graders (right) have completed the program. 4th graders are participating now.

Director’s Corner

I’m happy to announce some new events for this summer and fall. First, the museum will be hosting this year’s meeting of the Arkansas Philological Association (the professional organization for literature professors in Arkansas). This meeting will be held on campus in Jonesboro and at the museum on Oct. 15-17. We are also finalizing plans to co-host a writers’ retreat for veterans with the Arkansas Humanities Council. We have tentatively set aside the dates of July 24-26. I will be releasing more information as it is available, so be on the lookout.

In addition, the museum is participating in an exhibit about Arkansas museums being featured in the Capitol Building in Little Rock. If you are in the area this spring, you should drop by and check it out.

Hope to see you soon,
Adam
The Hemingways’ Paris

This Spring Break, the Friends of the Pfeiffers sponsored a trip to visit the Hemingways’ Paris. We had a great time visiting sites related to both Ernest Hemingway and Pauline. We had a walking tour of the Montparnasse neighborhood where Hemingway lived before marrying Pauline Pfeiffer. We saw his apartment, his studio, Gertrude Stein’s salon, some of his favorite restaurants and bars, and the Luxembourg Gardens, which he wrote about in great detail in *A Moveable Feast*. We visited the Musee d’Orsay, which houses many of the impressionist paintings that inspired Hemingway, as well as the home and gardens of Claude Monet in Giverny.

We also visited sites related to Pauline Pfeiffer. We had a walking tour of the luxurious Right Bank, where Pauline lived while working for *Vogue* magazine. In honor of Pauline’s career, we also had a fashion tour of Paris, seeing some of the stores of current designers, as well as sites such as the original store of Coco Chanel.

Not long after marrying in Paris in 1927, the Hemingways moved back to the United States, living in Key West for most of the 1930s (with frequent visits to Piggott, of course). Ernest returned to France in 1944 as a journalist covering the Normandy landing, and later the liberation of Paris. In honor of this, we visited the Normandy American Cemetery and Omaha Beach.

Though most of our time was spent visiting Hemingway-related sites, we also visited the Paris classics: the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Louvre, and Notre Dame (to name a few). It was a great week.

Plans are already underway for next year’s trip. We will announce the destination and itinerary at a banquet on Sept. 18 at the Cooper Alumni Center. Save the date. We hope to see you there.

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Summer Writers’ Retreat—June 1-5

This summer’s writing retreat will be mentored by Garry Craig Powell. Powell grew up in England and attended the universities of Cambridge and Durham, and later, the University of Arizona. He has lived in Spain and Portugal, Poland and the United Arab Emirates, which is the setting for his novel-in-stories, *Stoning the Devil* (Skylight Press, 2012), which was long-listed for the Frank O’Connor Short Story Award and the Edge Hill Short Story Prize. The book has been described as “mesmerizing” by both George Singleton and Naomi Shihab Nye. His short stories have appeared in *Best American Mystery Stories 2009*, *McSweeney’s, Nimrod, New Orleans Review* and other literary magazines, and he has been awarded fellowships by the Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow, the Hambidge Foundation and the Arkansas Arts Council. He is an Associate Professor in the Writing Department at the University of Central Arkansas, where he teaches creative writing to undergraduates and graduate students, and he is completing a historical novel about the life of Gabriel D’Annunzio, Italy's greatest poet, playwright, playboy, and war hero in the early twentieth century—and also, arguably, the “John the Baptist” of the Fascist movement.

“There is never any ending to Paris and the memory of each person who has lived in it differs from that of any other. We always returned to it no matter who we were or how it was changed or with what difficulties, or ease, it could be reached. Paris was always worth it and you received return for whatever you brought to it.”

—Ernest Hemingway

Save the Date

May 8-9 — Golden Age of Hollywood Retreat and Gala
June 1-5 — Summer Writers’ Retreat (Garry Craig Powell, mentor)
June 6 — Advisory Committee Meeting
June 15 — Ride the Fault Line
Sept. 18 — Fundraising Banquet
Sept. 19 — Advisory Committee Meeting
Oct. 15-17 — Arkansas Philological Association Conference
Nov. 2-6 — Fall Writers’ Retreat (Pat Carr, mentor)