

# NORA ROBERTS Oriting Institute at Hagerstown Community College



August 8-10, 2014

#### Friday, August 8, 2014

#### ALL ATTENDEES

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Check In

Homewood Suites, Lobby

7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Meet and Greet with Authors and Keynote Speakers

Homewood Suites, Patio

7:45 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Panel Discussion: The Culture and Courage of Writing

Jeanne Adams, Gail Barrett, Donna MacMeans, and Susan Donovan

Homewood Suites, Meeting Room

What makes a storyteller? What takes you from being a wannabe writer to being a full-fledged-writer? How do you know if this "job" is for you? A panel of experienced authors will talk about what drives writers to write, how you feed the muse, and what you need to do to keep going when the going gets tough.

#### Saturday, August 9, 2014

#### ALL ATTENDEES

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Check In for Late Arrivals

Kepler Center, Lobby

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Anne Myers, Dr. Guy Altieri, and Jeanne Adams

Kepler Center, Theater

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker, Hank Phillippi Ryan, Investigative Journalist and Award-Winning Suspense Writer

Kepler Center, Theater

Hank Phillippi Ryan is the investigative reporter for Boston's NBC affiliate. A television journalist since 1975, she has won 30 Emmys and twelve Edward R. Murrow awards for her work. Her work has resulted in new laws, prison convictions, homes removed from foreclosure, and millions of dollars in restitution. A bestselling author of six mystery novels, Ryan has won Agatha, the Anthony and the Macavity awards for her crime fiction. Her newest thriller, *The Wrong Girl*, was published by Forge in September 2013. *The Other Woman*, her first Jane Ryland novel was named to several "Best of 2012" lists, and won the coveted Mary Higgins Clark award. She's a founding member and instructor at Mystery Writers of America University and was the 2013 president of national Sisters in Crime. Visit her online at www.hankphillippiryan.com.

10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Break

#### MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Marketing for the New Author

Laura Reeth

Kepler Center, Theater

My family knows about my book, but how do I spread the word to everyone else? Do I need bookmarks? What about a Web page? And social media? Laura Reeth, a publicist who has worked on many diverse campaigns from U.S. Savings Bonds to Nora Roberts, gives you the lowdown on how to get the word out about you and your work.

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Plotting 101

Donna MacMeans

Learning Support Center, room 114

What's a turning point? What's a rooting interest? Learn the basic elements of story structure, which haven't changed since the ancient Greeks began writing plays. These key factors are used in movies, TV shows, and all popular fiction. You'll learn to visualize the structure and understand "turning points," as well as what it means to turn the story in an entirely new direction. This class will concentrate on the all-important first third of a novel with an in-depth discussion of rooting interests, the first six steps of the hero's journey, and the keys for capturing a reader's interest.

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Self Publishing 101

Jana DeLeon

Behavioral Sciences & Humanities Building, room 110

Now is the best time to be a writer because you have choices, even in how you publish. If you'd like to know if indie publishing is right for you, this workshop will cover the differences between indie and traditional publishing and explain how to get started with your indie career.

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Stop Messing with My Head (Point of View 101)

Gail Barrett

Behavioral Sciences & Humanities Building, room 104

What is point of view? Why does it matter? The award-winning author of more than a dozen published novels explains the basics of this essential craft technique and how it brings power and immediacy to your writing.

10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

You've Finished Your First Book, Now What? (First Book 101)

Jeanne Adams and Alicia Drumgoole

Behavioral Sciences & Humanities Building, room 11

You've written the magic words: "The End." Now what do you do? Two veteran writers and successful teachers talk about the process of turning that first-draft manuscript into a "real book" that you'll be proud to call your own. Learn about editing techniques, critique groups, beta readers, and more.

#### ALL ATTENDEES

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lunch

Career Programs Building (CPB), Valley Eatery

1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

**Creating Distinct Series Characters** 

Hank Phillippi Ryan, Susan Donovan, Sylvia Day, and Jeanne Ford

Kepler Center, Theater

Does your book have a compelling character who could star in another story? Are you already plotting your hero's next adventure? Come hear veteran series writers talk about how to keep the story fresh with a returning character, how to arc the hero's journey over more than one book, and how to keep the romance alive if the series includes a romantic element.

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Break** 

#### AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Plotting 201

Donna MacMeans

Learning Support Center, room 114

Struggling with the sagging middle of the book? Unsure of how to answer the "what now?" syndrome to get to the end? This workshop will help you complete the journey through plot structure with the last six steps of the hero's journey. We'll review turning points, the climax, the black moment, the slow curtain, and the full circle.

3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Character Development: Who Are These People and Why Are They Living in My Brain?

Susan Donovan

Kepler Center, Theater

This session will focus on character development and how writers go about creating three-dimensional people

to inhabit their novels.

3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Stop Messing With My Head (Point of View 101)

Gail Barrett

Behavioral Sciences & Humanities Building, room 104

Apply and expand what you've learned about point of view in this follow-up workshop.

3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Self Publishing 201

Jana DeLeon

Behavioral Sciences & Humanities Building, room 110

You've decided you want to self-publish, but the job doesn't end when you finish the book. You've now committed to being both author and publisher, which means you're now running your own company. This workshop will cover the many functions you'll need to perform as a business owner and how to structure them

for efficiency and long-term sanity.

3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Using Social Media for Sales Success

Laura Reeth and Leigh-Anne Lawrence

Kepler Center, room 117

Which social network should I use? How do I start building a fan base? Do I need to use social media every day? Join Laura Reeth, publicist to international bestselling author Nora Roberts, and social media specialist Leigh-Anne Lawrence as they discuss how to successfully promote your work and yourself in the complex,

ever-changing world of social media.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. **Dine Around** 

Featured area restaurants are offering discounts for dinner. Grab some friends and discuss writing while enjoying featured area restaurants. Detailed information will be provided in your registration packet.

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Presenters Open Mic

All Authors

Homewood Suites, Meeting Room

Hear from authors and presenters at this special open mic session on Saturday night.

#### Sunday, August 10, 2014

#### ALL ATTENDEES

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. **Breakfast** 

Kepler Center, Lobby

8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Anne Myers and Jeanne Adams

Kepler Center, Theater

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Closing Keynote - Sylvia Day

Kepler Center, Theater

Sylvia Day is the #1 New York Times and #1 international bestselling author of over 20 award-winning novels sold in more than 40 countries. She is a #1 bestselling author in 21 countries, with tens of millions of copies of her books in print. Her Crossfire series has been optioned for television by Lionsgate, and she has been nominated for the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Author. Visit her online at www.sylviaday.com, www. facebook.com/authorsylviaday, and on Twitter @SylDay.

#### MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Historical Fact - How to Keep Your Historical Fiction "Real"

Dennis Frye, Bob Savitt, and Donna MacMeans

Kepler Center, room 117

Learn how you can create a historical context for your work and craft authentic characters from two prominent historians and a writer of historical fiction.

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. The Scoop: Everything You Need to Know about Writing One Author Learned on TV

Hank Phillippi Ryan

Learning Support Center, room 114

Join award-winning suspense writer and investigative journalist Hank Phillippi Ryan as she shares her top ten tricks on writing a killer novel in any genre. Discussion topics include writing techniques, committing to the craft, and valuable resources in the author's toolbox.

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Police Procedures: Write it Right—Research Session

John King

Learning Resource Center, room 133

Back by popular demand: Get a first-hand, behind-the-scenes look at police procedures that will help make your book authentic and exciting.

- Learn about the profession of law enforcement: the language, the procedure, and the jurisdictional differences between local police and federal agencies such as the FBI.
- Participate in the firearms simulator—playing the role of a responding officer and feeling the stress that officers experience in these potentially deadly encounters. You can also observe how police officers really respond to an "active shooter." Participants can actively participate as hostages to get a different perspective.

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Quick! Hide the Body: Body Disposal for Writers

Jeanne Adams

Behavioral Sciences & Humanities Building, room 114

Your villain's hard at work and the bodies are piling up. Your villain doesn't want that body found, so how does he or she hide it? And what happens if your hero has to go to a funeral? Do you know how to write one? With 13 years in the funeral and cemetery industry, Jeanne Adams can tell you how. Whether you've got fire, flood, fish, or a fit-and-finish funeral in your story, come learn how to write it right.

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. A Conversation with Sylvia Day

Kepler Center, Theater

Take part in a Q&A with international bestselling author Sylvia Day.

ALL ATTENDEES

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Panel Discussion: How You Get It All Done - A Writer's Life

All Authors

Kepler Center, Theater

You have a day job and a family, but after this weekend, everything you've learned makes you want to write even more than before. How do you manage to fit writing in with everything else in your life? How do authors do all the things they need to do to be successful? Hear our expert panel discuss how to fit everything in, manage your time, and, more importantly, give your all to your writing in between everything else.

12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Reception and Booksigning

Courtesy of Turn the Page Bookstore in Boonsboro, Maryland

Kepler Center, room 101/Lobby

1:00 p.m. Conference Ends

#### Opening Keynote Hank Phillippi Ryan

Hank Phillippi Ryan is the investigative reporter for Boston's NBC affiliate. A television journalist since 1975, she has won 30 Emmys and twelve Edward R. Murrow awards for her work. Her work has resulted in new laws, prison convictions, homes removed from foreclosure, and millions of dollars in restitution. A bestselling author of six mystery novels, Ryan has won Agatha, the Anthony, and the Macavity awards for her crime fiction. Her newest thriller, *The Wrong Girl*, was published by Forge in September 2013. *The Other Woman*, her first Jane Ryland novel, was named to several "Best of 2012" lists and won the coveted Mary Higgins Clark award. She's a founding member and instructor at Mystery Writers of America University and was the 2013 president of the national networking group Sisters in Crime. Visit her online at www.hankphillippiryan.com.



#### Closing Keynote Sylvia Day

Sylvia Day is the #1 New York Times and #1 international bestselling author of over 20 award-winning novels sold in more than 40 countries. She is a #1 bestselling author in 21 countries, with tens of millions of copies of her books in print. Her Crossfire series has been optioned for television by Lionsgate, and she has been nominated for the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Author. Visit her at www. sylviaday.com, www.facebook.com/authorsylviaday, or on Twitter @SylDay.



## **Presenters**

#### Jeanne Adams

Jeanne Adams is the author of several romantic thrillers including *Deadly Little Secrets*, *Deadly Little Lies*, and *Deadly Charms*. As a former marketing executive, Adams has worked for research parks, governmental agencies, and non-profits, but is now happily employed as a full-time writer and consultant. Adams is a member of Romance Writers of America, Mystery Writers of America, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, and International Thriller Writers. She is also a proud member of both the Washington Romance Writers and the Maryland Romance Writers, her local RWA chapters, and several online RWA chapters. Learn more about Adams at *www.jeanneadams.com*.



#### Gail Barrett

Award-winning author Gail Barrett always wanted to be a writer. After living everywhere from Spain to the Bahamas, earning a graduate degree in linguistics, and teaching high school Spanish for several years, she finally fulfilled that lifelong goal. Her novels have won numerous awards, including the Holt Medallion, the Booksellers Best Award, the National Readers' Choice Award, and the Romance Writers of America's prestigious Golden Heart award. She currently has 13 books in print, including her latest romantic suspense trilogy, Buried Secrets, which is set locally. To learn more about Barrett, visit www.gailbarrett.com.



#### Jana DeLeon

New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Jana DeLeon was born in the bayous of Louisiana, which is the setting for all of her novels. She has written 10 single-title mysteries and nine books for Harlequin Intrigue, two of which won RT Reviewers Choice Awards. Her self-published Miss Fortune series has been on the USA Today list and in the top 100 lists at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and iBooks. Visit her online at www.janadeleon.com, at www.facebook.com/janadeleonauthor, or on Twitter @JanaDeLeon.



#### Susan Donovan

New York Times bestselling author Susan Donovan is known for writing funny, sexy, and suspenseful romance novels—a mixture she calls "brain candy for smart women." She's had 18 novels and novellas published since she began writing in 2001. Donovan earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and has worked as a reporter in Chicago, Albuquerque, and Indianapolis. Her novel, *Take a Chance On Me*, won RT Magazine's 2003 Reviewers Choice Award for best contemporary romance and she's a two-time RITA finalist in the contemporary single title category. Donovan's newest contract is with Penguin USA for a novella and three contemporary romances set on



a tiny New England island. She lives in Washington County, Maryland, with her family and dogs, and can be reached online at www.susandonovan.com.

#### Alicia Drumgoole

Alicia Drumgoole is a writer and English instructor at Hagerstown Community College. She completed her undergraduate degrees in English and political science from Binghamton University. Upon her graduation, she won a prestigious journalism fellowship at the New York State Senate, and went on to complete a master of arts degree in English at the University of Albany. Following this, she worked as a political writer and analyst, producing speeches and other government documents for state and local politicians.



Drumgoole has had several short works of fiction and poetry published in regional magazines, and also lends a hand writing and copyediting documents for The AbleGamers Foundation.

Her first novel, *The Problem with Power*, written under the pen name Agnes Jayne, is now available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million, Kobo, and several area bookstores. Visit her online at www.agnesjayne.com.

#### Jeanne Ford

Jeanne Marie (Grunwell) Ford is an Emmy-winning writer for Days of Our Lives, where she got her start as an unpaid intern. Other credits include As the World Turns, One Life To Live, and five published children's books, including Mind Games (Houghton Mifflin, Publisher's Weekly starred review). She holds an MFA in writing for children from Vermont College. In addition to her full-time writing gig, she is an adjunct English instructor at Frederick Community College and Hagerstown Community College. Visit her online at www.jeannemariegrunwell.com and www.teachingauthors.com.



#### Dennis Frye

Dennis Frye is the chief historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. An award-winning author of eight books and 92 articles, Frye's latest book, *September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril*, focuses on the fragile state of the nation during the Civil War. Frye has served as a commentator and consultant for three Emmy Award-winning television documentaries on the Civil War.



#### John King

John King is has over 30 years of law enforcement experience and is a nationally recognized leader in the implementation of community policing. He has been a regular presenter at the International Law Enforcement Academies in Budapest, Hungary, and Roswell, New Mexico. As part of the State Department's ATA program, he taught anti-terrorism in Mali, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Jordan, India, Ecuador, and the Philippines.



King served as chief of police for the City of Gaithersburg, Maryland, from 2007 to 2010. Prior to that appointment, King had a 26-year career with the Montgomery County Police Department where he rose to the rank of assistant chief. He has a bachelor's degree

from Marist College and a master's degree from the University of Baltimore. He is a graduate of the DEA Commanders School and the FBI National Academy.

#### Leigh-Anne Lawrence

Leigh-Anne Lawrence is the social media and public information specialist at Hagerstown Community College. As a public relations professional, she has over eight years of experience in social media management and has worked with numerous nonprofits, small businesses, and higher education institutions. Lawrence regularly speaks on social media best practices at regional and national conferences; colleges and universities; and community organizations such as the Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce and the Maryland Small Business & Technology Development Center. She has an A.A. in liberal arts from HCC, a B.A. in English from Shepherd University, and an M.A. in professional writing from New England College. Visit her online at www.leighannelawrence.com.



#### Donna MacMeans

Donna MacMeans is a certified public accountant who has won multiple awards for her writing including the Romantic Times Reviewers Choice Award for Historical Love & Laughter, the Aspen Gold award, and the More Than Magic award. Her books have been finalists for the Maggies, the Holt Medallion, the Lories, the Prism, and Book Buyers Best. MacMeans has presented workshops to various chapters of Romance Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. Her third manuscript, *The Education of Mrs. Brimley*, won the coveted Golden Heart medallion for Best Long Historical Manuscript presented by Romance Writers of America® in 2006. Penguin Books, Berkley



Sensation imprint, purchased that book and launched MacMeans' published-author career. She has been writing fiction since 1996. Visit her online at www.donnamacmeans.com.

#### Laura Reeth

Since 1985, Laura Reeth has promoted everything from German irons, espresso makers, French cookware, Italian mineral water, and U.S. Savings Bonds to the United Way, children's book authors, Pennsylvania elementary schools, the New Jersey Romance Writers, and Barnes & Noble. However, Reeth is best known for her work as publicist to international bestselling author Nora Roberts. In addition to promoting and marketing Roberts' work (both her romance titles and her mystery titles written under the pen name of J.D. Robb), Reeth also administers the author's official Facebook fan pages, manages Roberts' fan mail, and organizes events and book signings on the author's behalf.



#### Dr. Robert Savitt

Bob Savitt is the president of the board of directors of the Washington County Historical Society and the director of the Middletown Valley Historical Society. He has lectured on 19th and 20th century history throughout the state of Maryland and has been published in a variety of magazines, newspapers, and journals. Previously, Savitt worked for the Department of Defense and served as a legislative director for a U.S. senator. He holds a doctoral degree from Georgetown University.



## LOCATION GUIDE

Day	Program Time	Program	Speaker	Buildings	Classrooms
Friday	3:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Check In		Homewood Suite	s Lobby
Friday	7:00 p.m 7:45 p.m.	Meet and Greet with Authors		Homewood Suite	s Patio
Friday	7:45 p.m 8:45 p.m.	The Culture and Courage of Writing	Jeanne Adams, Gail Barrett, Donna MacMeans, and Susan Donovan	Homewood Suite	s Lodge
Saturday	8:00 a.m 8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast and Check In for Late Arrivals		Kepler	Lobby
Saturday	8:30 a.m 9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Anne Myers, Dr. Guy Altieri, and Jeanne Adams	Kepler	Theater
Saturday	9:00 a.m 10:00 a.m.	Opening Keynote	Hank Phillippi Ryan	Kepler	Theater
Saturday	10:00 a.m 10:15 a.m.	Break		Kepler	Lobby
Saturday	10:15 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Marketing for the New Author	Laura Reeth	Kepler	Theater
Saturday	10:15 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Plotting 101	Donna MacMeans	LSC	114
Saturday	10:15 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Self Publishing 101	Jana DeLeon	BSH	110
Saturday	10:15 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Point of View 101	Gail Barrett	BSH	104
Saturday	10:15 a.m 12:00 p.m.	You've Finished Your Book, Now What?	Jeanne Adams and Alicia Drumgoole	BSH	114
Saturday	12:15 p.m 1:15 p.m.	Lunch		CPB	Valley Eatery
Saturday	1:45 p.m 3:15 p.m.	Creating Distinct Series Characters	Hank Phillippi Ryan, Susan Donovan, Sylvia Day, and Jeanne Ford	Kepler	Theater
Saturday	3:15 p.m 3:30 p.m.	Break		Kepler	Lobby
Saturday	3:30 p.m 5:15 p.m.	Plotting 201	Donna MacMeans	LSC	114
Saturday	3:30 p.m 5:15 p.m.	Character Development	Susan Donovan	Kepler	Theater
Saturday	3:30 p.m 5:15 p.m.	Point of View 101	Gail Barrett	BSH	104
Saturday	3:30 p.m 5:15 p.m.	Self Publishing 201	Jana DeLeon	BSH	114
Saturday	3:30 p.m 5:15 p.m.	Using Social Media for Sales Success	Laura Reeth and Leigh-Anne Lawrence	Kepler	117
Saturday	6:00 p.m 7:30 p.m.	Dine Around		Off-Campus	
Saturday	8:00 p.m 9:00 p.m.	Presenters Open Mic		Homewood Suite	S
Sunday	7:30 a.m 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast		Kepler	Lobby
Sunday	8:15 a.m 8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Anne Myers and Jeanne Adams	Kepler	Theater
Sunday	8:30 a.m 9:30 a.m.	Closing Keynote	Sylvia Day	Kepler	Theater
Sunday	9:45 a.m 11:00 a.m.	A Conversation with Sylvia Day	Sylvia Day	Kepler	Theater
Sunday	9:45 a.m 11:00 a.m.	How to Keep Your Historical Fiction Real	Dennis Frye, Bob Savitt, and Donna MacMeans	Kepler	117
Sunday	9:45 a.m 11:00 a.m.	The Scoop: Everything You Need to Know about Writing	Hank Phillippi Ryan	LSC	114
Sunday	9:45 a.m 11:00 a.m.	Police Procedures: Write It Right	John King	LRC	133
Sunday	9:45 a.m 11:00 a.m.	Body Disposal for Writers	Jeanne Adams	BSH	114
Sunday	11:15 a.m 12:15 p.m.	How You Get It All Done Panel	All Authors	Kepler	Theater
Sunday	12:15 p.m 1:00 p.m.	Reception and Booksigning	Courtesy of Turn the Page Bookstore	Kepler	101

## Additional Information

#### Mark Your Calendars

2015 Nora Roberts Writing Institute

August 7-9, 2015

Keynote Speakers

Tess Gerritson and Brad Parks









#### Connect:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nrwihcc

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Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/nrwihcc

Web: www.nrwi.org

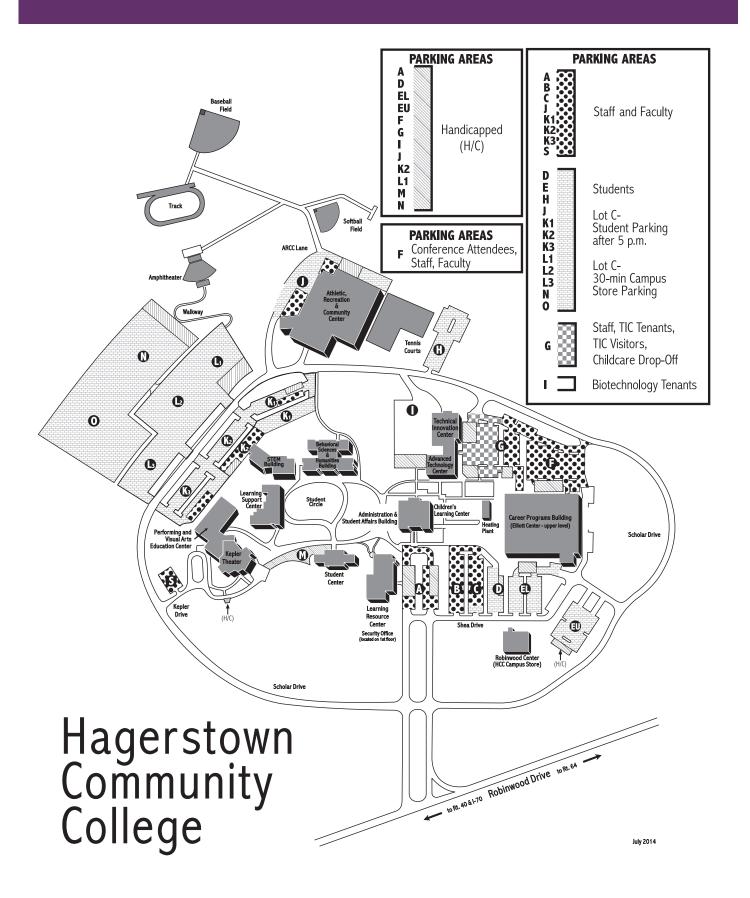
Photos and videos from this year's conference will be posted on the NRWI website and on social media. You'll also get a behind-the-scenes look at upcoming conferences and workshops including the annual NRWI conference next summer.

Tweet live from the 2014 conference!

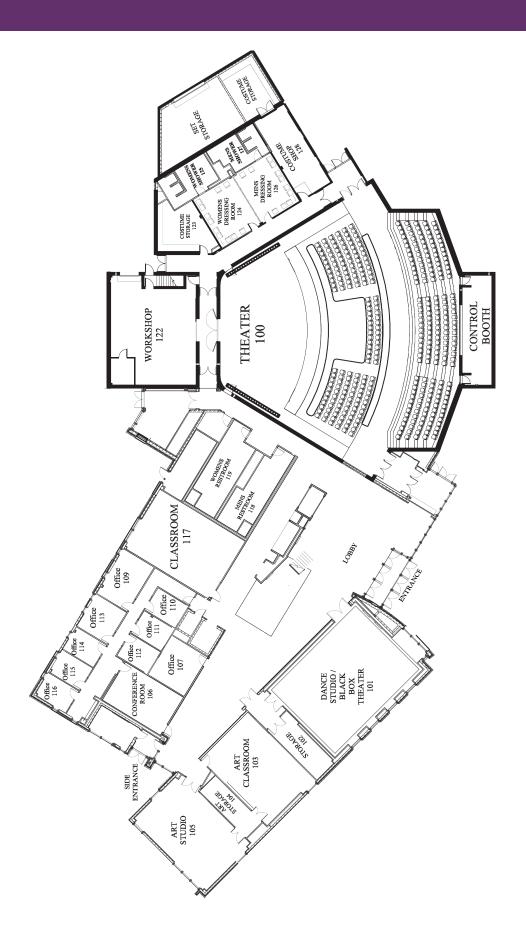
Use the conference hash tag
#nrwi2014

to share your favorite moments and breakout sessions

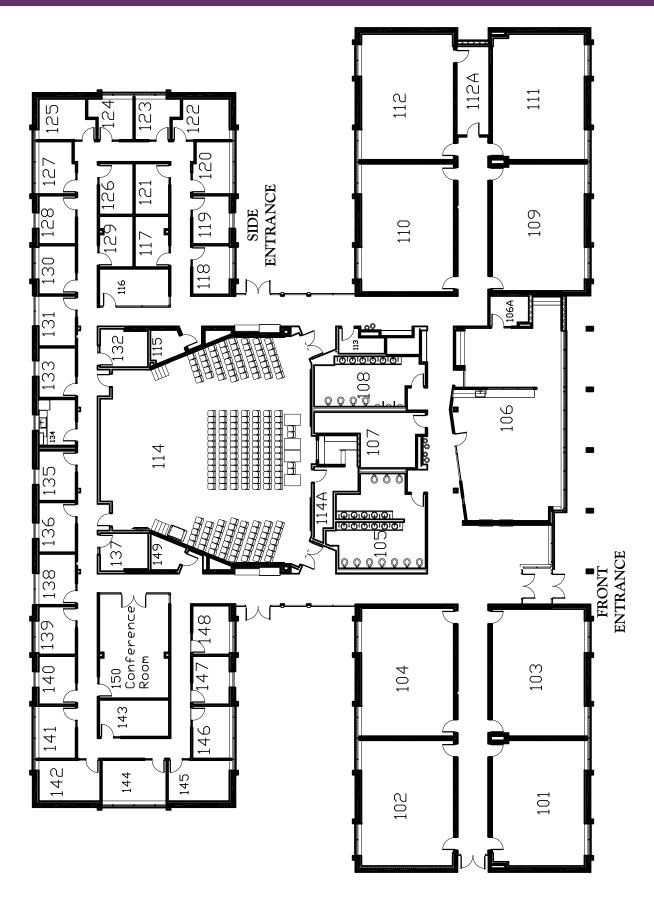
## CAMPUS MAP



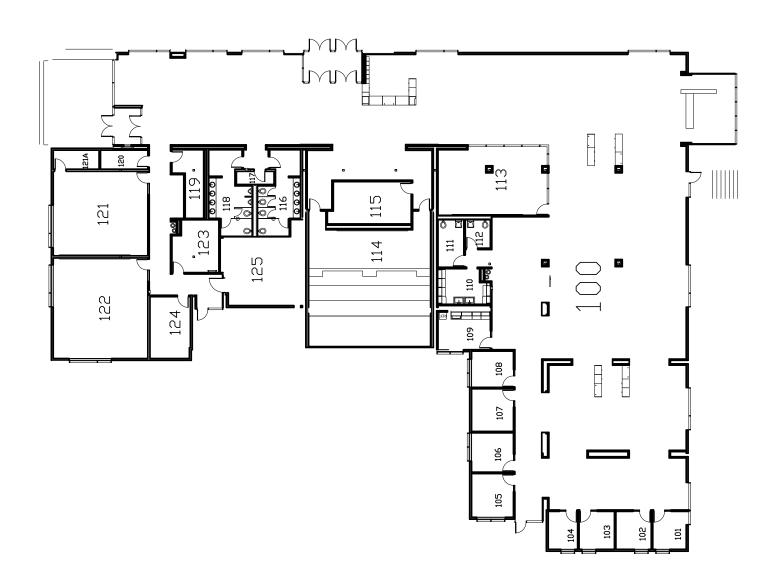
## KEPLER CENTER MAP



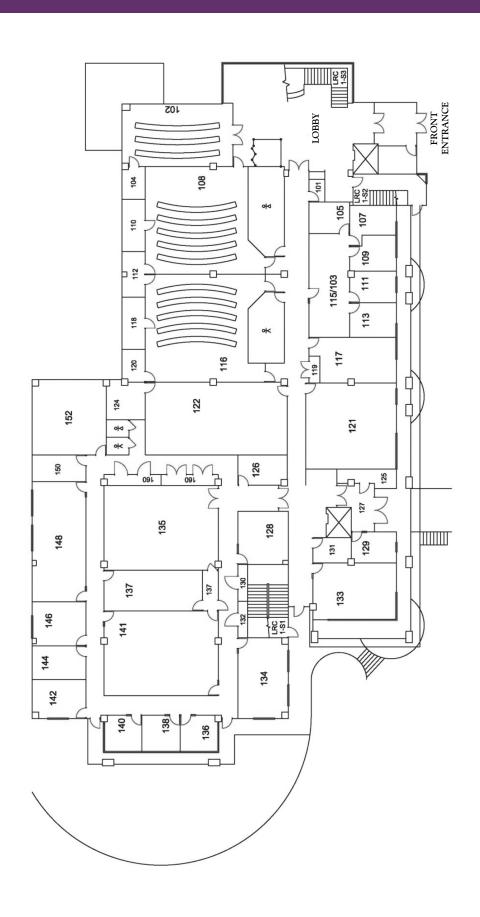
## Behavioral Sciences & Humanities (BSH) Building Map



## Learning Support Center (LSC) Map



## Learning Resource Center (LRC) Map



## Notes