

2011 5th ANNUAL MWG WRITERS CONFERENCE

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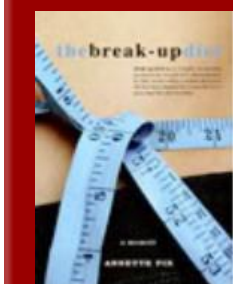
Lynn Cullen is the author of *The Creation of Eve*, named among the best fiction books of 2010 by The Atlanta Journal- Constitution and as an April 2010 Indie Next selection. She is also the author of numerous award-winning books for children, including the young adult novel *I Am Rembrandt's Daughter*, which was a 2007 Barnes & Noble "Discover Great New Writers" selection, and an ALA Best Book of 2008. Her novel, *Reign of Madness*, about Juana the Mad, daughter of the Spanish Monarchs Isabella and Ferdinand, will be released August 4, 2011. An avid traveler and historian, Cullen lives in Atlanta.



Sefi Atta is the author of *Everything Good Will Come*, *News From Home* and *Swallow*. She was born and raised in Lagos and trained as an accountant in London. She began to write while working as a CPA in New York. In 2001, she graduated with an MFA in creative writing from Antioch University, Los Angeles. Her short stories have appeared in journals like *Los Angeles Review*, *Mississippi Review* and *World Literature Today*, and have won prizes from Zoetrope and Red Hen Press. Also, a playwright, her radio plays have been broadcast by the BBC and her stage plays have been produced in Nigeria. She is the winner of PEN International's 2004/2005 David T.K. Wong Prize and the 2006 Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa. In 2009, she served as a juror for the Neustadt International Prize For Literature and received the Noma Award For Publishing in Africa. She has taught creative writing at University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University and Northwestern University. She currently lives in Meridian, Mississippi with her husband Dr. Gboyega Ransome-Kuti and their daughter Temi.



Deborah LeBlanc is an award-winning and best-selling author, a business owner and a licensed death scene investigator. She has been an active paranormal investigator for over fifteen years. She served four years as President of the Horror Writers Association, eight years as President of the Writers Guild of Acadiana and is the current president of Mystery Writers of America's Southwest Chapter. Deborah is also the founder of the LeBlanc Literacy Challenge, an annual, national campaign designed to encourage more people to read and Literacy Inc., a non-profit organization with a mission to fight illiteracy in America's teens. Her latest novel is *THE WOLVEN*.



Annette Fix is the author of *The Break-Up Diet: A Memoir*, a finalist in Foreword Magazine's 2009 Book of the Year Award. She was recently offered an option to develop her story as a cable television series. Annette is the former Senior Editor of WOW! WomenOnWriting.com, an online magazine written by, for, and about women in the publishing industry. Under her editorship, the site celebrated its first and second year on the list of the Writer's Digest 101 Best Websites for Writers. Annette provides freelance services that include manuscript analysis and comprehensive editing. In addition to speaking at national writer's conferences and regional organizations, Annette teaches online and in-person classes. When she's not wrestling her muse or igniting the creative inspiration of her students, Annette enjoys attending and performing in spoken-word shows in Los Angeles.





[Diane Williams](#) is currently the Arts Industry Director and Accessibility Coordinator for the [Mississippi Arts Commission](#), where she works with single discipline non-profit organizations, as well as with literary artists. She is also a host for the agency's weekly radio program, The Mississippi Arts Hour. Also a professional storyteller and published poet and author, Diane has written numerous articles that have appeared in magazines, journals and other publications around the country. Her newest releases, *The Storytelling Classroom – Applications Across the Curriculum and Literacy Development in the Storytelling Classroom*, with co-authors/editors Norfolk and Stenson books won Storytelling World Award (2008 and 2010 respectively). She has written a children's book and produced audio stories both original and adapted folktales. Williams has been with the Commission for over eight years and looks for opportunities to connect with the literary community.

A special thanks to Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) for supporting the mission of Mississippi Writers Guild by awarding a project grant to MWG for the 5th year!

MWG thanks its 2011 conference partners, speakers and volunteers!

Mississippi Library Commission

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MEET OUR EDITORS



[Kevin Morgan Watson](#) is the founding editor of [Press 53](#), a small literary publishing company in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and is publisher of Prime Number Magazine, an online literary journal. As a publisher and editor, Kevin has worked with writers ranging from newly published authors to winners of the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize. He is also an award-winning short story author and poet, whose works have appeared in numerous publications. Kevin serves as an advisor on adaptation of short stories to screenplays for the screenwriting faculty at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, School of Filmmaking.



[Walter Biggins](#) is a book acquisitions editor at [University Press of Mississippi \(UPM\)](#), as well as a writer and blogger at Quiet Bubble ([quietbubble.wordpress.com](#)). For UPM, he acquires 25-30 books annually in the fields of African American studies, popular culture studies, American literature, and Southern studies. His essays and columns—on film, music, literature, baseball, and other subjects—have appeared in Salon, Jackson Free Press, PopMatters, The Baseball Chronicle, and Hymnal.

[Darlin' Neal](#) is the author of the short story collections, *Rattlesnakes* and *The Moon* (Press 53, March 2010) and the forthcoming, *Elegant Punk* (Press 53, 2012). Among her many awards are this year's D.H. Lawrence Fellowship from

the Taos Summer Writers Conference and a Literary Arts Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission. Her stories have been widely published in such journals as The Southern Review, Shenandoah, Puerto del Sol, Smokelong quarterly, Eleven Eleven, The Rio Grande Review, and The Best of The Web Anthology. Her fiction and nonfiction have been nominated numerous times for the Pushcart Prize. She holds an assistant professorship in the MFA program at The University of Central Florida where she is Fiction Editor of the [Florida Review](#). She also serves as faculty advisor to UCF's undergraduate literary arts magazine, The Cypress Dome, and for The Writers in The Sun Reading Series for which she brings in writers of national caliber each semester. She serves as an editor for Blip Magazine, formerly the Mississippi Review online.



2011 Mississippi Writers Guild
On-Site Bookstore - Lorelei Books, Vicksburg, MS



Mississippi Writers Guild welcomes [Lorelei Books](#) as its on-site conference bookstore. This is the fourth year owner Laura Weeks and Lorelei Books have worked closely with MWG in this endeavor. Please contact Laura at Lorelei Books if you are interested in selling and autographing your books at the conference. For Lorelei Book Form, click [here](#).