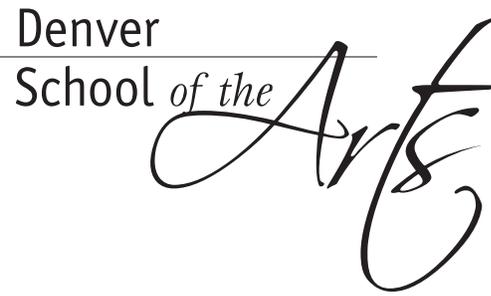


Denver School of the Arts
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August 16, 2016

Dear Creative Writing Community,

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! We have been busy preparing for the upcoming year and are excited to get started. Each year presents an opportunity for us to review and refine our program. In order to give Azar and I opportunities to work with more of your kids, this year we will swap classes at the semester for both middle school and ninth grade majors. Azar will lead seniors this year, and we'll have a mix of tenth and eleventh graders in both rooms, making sure there are lots of opportunities for our classes to interact.

Below you will find our schedule of CW events, as well as information on fundraising and our upcoming potluck. As you review our schedule of events, please make sure to mark your calendars. Also, please note several of our CW events are mandatory for students to attend.

2016-17 CW Events

- All-major potluck and fundraiser: Wednesday, **September 14^h** 6 p.m. Commons (Mandatory for all CW Majors)
- "Uncensored" High School Open-Mic Fundraiser: Thursday, **November 3rd**, 7 p.m. Black Box Theatre (Optional. Contains mature content.)
- Fall CW Middle School and 9th Grade Performance Event: **December 7th and 8th** 7 p.m. Schomp Theatre (One evening mandatory for all CW Majors)
- Middle School open-mic night: Thursday, **February 2nd**, 6 p.m. Commons (Mandatory for MS majors)
- 'Telling Stories' Collaborative HS Project: Friday, **February 10th**, 7 p.m., Schomp Theatre (Mandatory for all CW Majors)
- Senior Projects: Thursday, **March 16th**, 7 p.m, Concert Hall (Mandatory for HS majors)
- *Stories on Stage* Performance Project: Thursday, **April 13th**, Concert Hall, 7 p.m. (Mandatory for all CW Majors)
- Senior Readings/Chapbook signing and end-of-year potluck: Saturday, **May 13th**, 6 p.m., Althea Center (Mandatory for all CW Majors)

Fundraising:

As in previous years, it is our goal to raise \$15,000 beyond our budget allotment and registration fees. This works out to about \$150 per student. **These funds are critical to the continued goals of our department** as they allow us to hire visiting artists, fund projects and student publications, purchase and replace equipment, and order supplies for our rooms.

In order to avoid fundraiser fatigue, we are simply asking families to make a donation. If parents wish to write a check, great. If parents wish to include their kids in the effort to raise money for the department, that is wonderful too. Many students write letters to relatives, local businesses, etc., to solicit donations. While \$150 is the target for each family, Azar and I feel strongly that *any* amount is great.

Donations should be made payable to the DSA Friends Foundation (DSAFF). If writing a check, please write 'Creative Writing' in the memo line on the check. Two significant advantages of donating through the Friends Foundation are your donation is tax-deductible (you will receive a letter for your taxes) and donations can be made online with a credit card at: www.dsafriends.org Just click on the 'Donate!' button at the top right of the homepage, choose an amount, select 'DSA Department Donation', then select 'Creative Writing Department' in the dropdown menu. Furthermore, you can make an automatic monthly contribution if that is preferable over a one-time donation. All money sent through the foundation will come back directly to our department.

We also will continue our King Soopers rewards program, as this is a great and easy way to supplement donations. Each time our CW community reaches \$5000 or more in card reloads or purchases, we earn 5% of the total from King Soopers. Reloads can be purchased with a credit card for those folks who like to earn points/miles. **Thanks to everyone who used their cards last year. We received almost \$2500 in checks from King Soopers!** If you still have your refillable grocery card, great. We will be giving out new cards at our potluck on September 14th. The potluck is also a great time for us to collect donations from families if you'd like to write a check.

Potluck

Our first all-major event of the school year is the potluck on Wednesday, September 14^h at 6 p.m. in the Commons. This is an event for Creative Writing students and their families to come together to celebrate the beginning of the year and learn how to become more involved in the CW department. We will also introduce new students in the program and have them present individual readings of their work. We will be in contact in the upcoming weeks with more specific information about the potluck. **If you'd like to help volunteer organizing our potluck, please reach out to Azar or Moss. Our emails are below.** Feel free to contact us at any time, and we'll see everyone very soon.

Sincerely,

Moss Kaplan and Azar Kohzadi

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