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MAPW Alumni Profile: T.W. Lawrence

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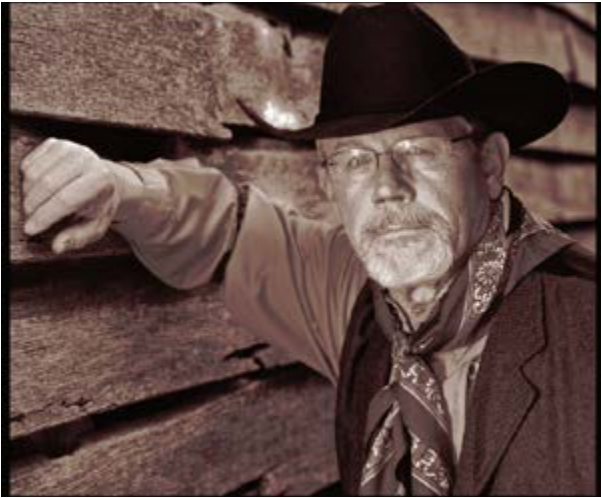
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T.W. Lawrence



T. W. Lawrence

T.W. “Walter” Lawrence (’05) is the founder of the Booth Writer’s Guild (BWG). He mentioned, “I was invited by the Booth Western Art Museum to help them put together and direct a writers’ group organized around the genre of the classic Western.” Walter organized the group which is open to writers working in all literary genres associated with Western, including song writing.

The organization meets regularly at the [Booth Western Art Museum](#) in Cartersville. “I was drawn to this opportunity because of the powerful artwork in the building. Growing up in Texas, there was a bit of nostalgia involved, but also there was a way of life that needed to be carried on,” said Walter.

Several of the BWG writers are published, one a two-time winner of the [Georgia Writer of the Year Award](#), and members learn from each other as they share their writing experiences. In addition to meetings, BWG offers a free program called “Art at Lunch” that brings in both visual artists and authors to make presentations about their works. It’s an intimate setting with a robust Q&A afterwards.

The BWG records an audio interview with each author about his or her writing style and techniques, and other matters that might interest the Guild. This November, the BWG will participate in the [Texas Book Festival](#) in Austin, attending sessions and selling members’ books at a BWG vendor’s table.

Q&A

Do you have any special stories to share about your MAPW experience?

While workshoping one of my short stories,

set in Oklahoma, the description of the landscape included a line that said, “there was nothing between the Canadian border and the Cibolo Creek on whose banks I was standing...,” when member of the critique group commented that I might want to check my facts, because Oklahoma did not actually border Canada. Several heads nodded. I lost half of my intended audience in one short paragraph!

Tell us about your writing projects, either those you pursue independently or those you pursue as a part of your job

I made a bet with myself. I said I bet that I can earn enough writing fees by selling articles, selling books, teaching writing classes, and working on writing projects to pay back the amount of money I spent on tuition and books earning the MAPW degree. I did. It took 5-1/2 years, but I did it.

On the Job: Currently working with a statewide legal organization compiling a manual of best-practices. A well organized and easy-to-read writing style helped secured that project.

Freelancing: Beginning to compose a series of short stories for the young adult market set in the West circa 1905. This anthology will be used as a teaching resource for youth ministers at the local Cowboy Churches. It’s more-or-less a sequel to my Dusty and the Cowboy series.

What advice would you offer to current or prospective MAPW students?

Actively seek to get a magazine article published (paid or not) because it has you working with a professional editor and it teaches you how to write “tight” and write “grabber” intro paragraphs.

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