EVENT TITLE: The Nuts and Bolts of Student Editors: Including, Engaging and Challenging Them

Event Description: Student editors’ efforts can reach beyond slogging through the slush pile, but they need an intentional system in which to work. How do small journals include students efficiently? How do large journals engage students effectively? How do all of us challenge students without overwhelming them? Our panel of editors will share a few methods of working with student editors, explain what went well/what flopped, and respond to your journal's challenges (or help you process your new, wild ideas!)

EVENT CATEGORY: Publishing, Editing

Event Organizer & Moderator:

Katherine Abrams: Katherine Abrams is the Managing Editor of Appalachian State University’s Cold Mountain Review, an eco- and social-justice themed semiannual journal. Prior to that, she was the Co-Editor of the Stylus literary magazine at Midlands Technical College in Columbia, SC, and was a genre editor for the Pitkin Review out of Goddard College, where she received an MFA in Poetry.

Event Participants:

Lisa Lewis: Lisa Lewis's books of poetry include The Unbeliever, Silent Treatment, Vivisect, Burned House with Swimming Pool, The Body Double, and Taxonomy of the Missing. She directs the creative writing program at Oklahoma State University and serves as editor of the Cimarron Review.

Jonathan Heinen: Jonathan Bohr Heinen is the Managing Editor for Crazyhorse. His writing has appeared in Cimarron Review, Arroyo, Tusculum Review and elsewhere and has received special mention in the Pushcart anthology. He teaches at the College of Charleston and is on the staff of the Sewanee Writers’ Conference.

Caitlin Rae Taylor: Caitlin Rae Taylor is the Managing Editor of Southern Humanities Review. She has an MFA in fiction from UNCW and has worked for Ecotone, Lookout Books, and Milkweed Editions. Her work can be found in Germ Magazine, the Alabama Writers Forum, and is forthcoming from Moon City Review.

Aimée Baker: Aimée Baker is a multigenre writer and author of Doe. She teaches Professional Writing at the State University of New York, Plattsburgh where she is also the Executive Editor of Saranac Review.
OPENING REMARKS AND HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Good afternoon, and welcome to The Nuts and Bolts of Student Editors: Including, Engaging and Challenging Them

Before we get started, a couple administrative notes: (if needed)

Thank you all for being here. AWP is such a busy, active event and I know you have a lot of panel and book fair options. We really appreciate you spending this time with us. And I hope you’re as excited to explore this topic as I am. This panel came about for purely selfish reasons. As the managing editor of a journal with an annual student staff of one, I have a limited scope of experience with the different ways a student editor can participate and engage with the work of a journal, and a narrow view of the ways in which they can be challenged. I’m thrilled today to be surrounded by these fantastic editors, who have all navigated the journey of working with student editors in their own unique ways: Judith Hannan, Sonya Lea, Heather Bryant, and Susanne Paola Antonetta.

To get us started, if you could each introduce yourself and give a very brief overview of your personal experience with student editors.

PARTICIPANT INITIAL REMARKS:

Lisa Lewis:
In my experience as___

Jonathan Heinen:
In my experience as___

Caitlin Rae Taylor:
In my experience as___

Aimee Baker:
In my experience as___

MODERATOR QUESTIONS:
-How many student editors do you each have at a given time, what type of students are they (undergrad, grad, English majors, etc), and how many hours a week are they expected to put in for the journal?
-Follow-up: Is this your ideal make-up? If not, what would your ideal student editor staff look like, in terms of size, experience level, etc?

-What types of work/tasks do you delegate to student editors, and how do you equip them with the skills to do that work?

-Follow-up: Is there any specific work/set of tasks that you find student editors tend to struggle with? How do you support them through that difficulty?

-What has been the greatest challenge in managing student editors, and how are you addressing that challenge?

-Are there any aspects of the journal you’d like to give student editors a chance to work on, but haven’t done so yet? What would need to happen to change that trajectory?

-How can senior genre editors best train student editors in matters of content selection?

-How does involving student editors in the production, distribution, and management of a literary publication prepare them for non-academic jobs in the arts economy?

-Some literary magazines published by universities have moved to an all-student-run format and some have not. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach?

AUDIENCE Q&A