

Brazos Writers News

September 2008 • <http://brazoswriters.org> • P.O. Box 4025 Bryan, TX 77805

Next Meeting

7 p.m. Wed., Sept. 10 • Arts Council Building

Open Readings. Bring ten minutes of your latest masterpiece to share with the group. New material only, please. If your work fits in the category of "School Daze," then you will be eligible for a random drawing for a prize.

From the President

Mark Troy

This is the year of the blog. Liberal bloggers and conservative bloggers draw the political battle lines and even shape political events. Sports bloggers tell us what will happen this Sunday and why it didn't happen last Sunday. Pop culture bloggers tell us who's hot, what's hot, where it's hot and what's hot to wear when you're there.

If you missed the August Brazos Writers meeting, you missed out on hearing local marketing expert **Kristi Petty** tell us about the importance of blogging for writers to get the word out about your books.

Blogs = free marketing

A blog is free marketing for writers. It helps you connect to your readers; it allows you to showcase your work and develop a platform for your ideas.

Have you noticed that most of your favorite authors have blogs? If nothing else, a blog gives you a place to list your upcoming books and events. Bill Crider's Pop Culture Magazine is one of my favorites.

Think you don't have enough to say to fill a blog? Add pictures, music, or feeds from other blogs and websites. Some authors get together to share the blogging duties. Check out the Murderati blog, for example, at <http://murderati.typepad.com/>.

Think the Internet is a place for geeks? Think again. The Internet, especially the blogosphere, is a place for writers. Who do you think provides the content? It is also a place to connect with people who can help you in your writing.

One of the most exciting new blogs is <http://bloodredpencil.blogspot.com/>, The Blood-red Pencil, where editors, including Helen Ginger, a speaker at one of our workshops last year, take the mystery out of book manuscript revision.

A new trend in blogging is the blog book tour. In an era of high fuel costs and consolidation of booksellers, authors are turning to blog tours, appearing on other blogs to promote their books. Want to get on a blog book tour? Want to host other authors on your own blog? Join the blogbooktours group on Yahoo to find out how to do it.

Brazos Writers website redesigned

At Brazos Writers, we want to help you promote your blogs. Thanks to **Roland Schweitzer**, the Brazos Writers website has been redesigned and now offers a member's bookshelf section where members can list their books, their websites and their blogs.

If you have a blog, we hope you will list it on the site (www.brazoswriters.org) and that you will list Brazos Writers on your blog.

Do you need a blog? Brazos Writers has one for you. Join our social networking group at <http://brazoswriters.ning.com> where you can set up your own blog. The group also has forums where you can share your ideas on writing and list events in your writing life.

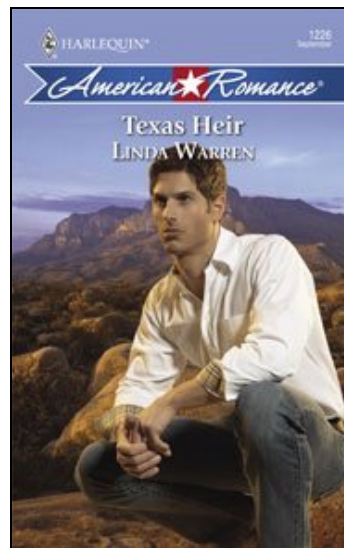
Only members who have paid their dues can set up a blog and post to the forums. Non-members, however, can read your blog and your comments on the forums. You can put the blog address in your email and in the signature line to your posts on other blog sites.

The great advantage of a social networking group is that any traffic I bring to my site also brings traffic to your site and vice versa.

Successful writing involves more than mastery of the craft; it also involves mastery of promotion. For writers, blogs are it.

My blog at <http://metroy.blogspot.com> and my page on <http://brazoswriters.ning.com> tell more about my work. Visit the new Brazos Writers website at <http://www.brazoswriters.org> and find out

all the great things Brazos Writers can do to help you promote your writing. Learn why October will be all about memoirs and family legacies in Brazos Writers. ■



New Linda Warren romance out

Kudos to internationally best-selling romance author **Linda Warren**! Her latest, *Texas Heir*, has just been released under Harlequin's American Romance line.

Here's what one reviewer said: "Wow, this book has it all: a simmering romance, a test of endurance and persistent characters that inspire readers to cheer for them. Linda Warren's writing talent is showcased in *Texas Heir* as she engages her readers to the point of the rest of the world fading to the back ground. A must-read from a must-have author: *Texas Heir* by Linda Warren."

Copies are available at Carousel Paperbacks in the Luby's shopping center in College Station.

Linda asks Brazos Writers to say a prayer for her as she recovers from knee and hip surgery this month. She promises that she'll be back, "new and improved," in time for her March release. ■

“Writing is about hypnotizing yourself into believing in yourself, getting some work done, then unhypnotizing yourself and going over the material coldly.”

—Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*

October Events

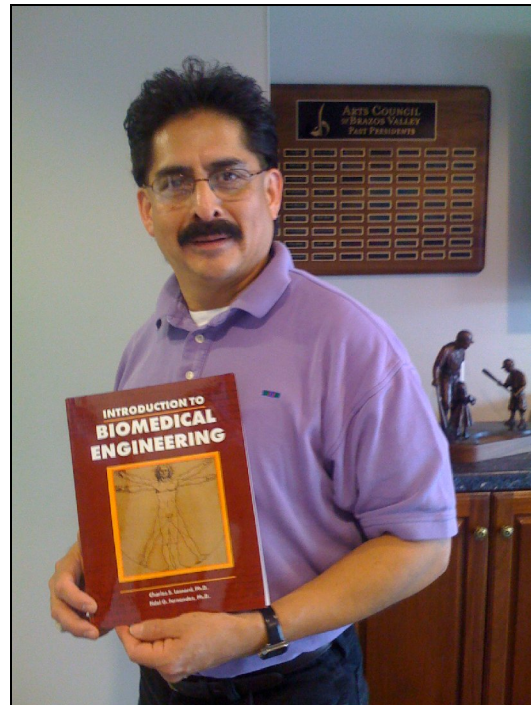


At our monthly meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 8, **Valerie Balester** will jumpstart our creativity with a hands-on writing session called “Playing with Family” that draws from family history, family members, and family stories. Valerie is Executive Director of the University Writing Center and Associate Professor of English at Texas A&M University.



Our next mini-conference is Saturday, Oct. 25. **Gayle Wigglesworth** of Houston, author of the Claire Gulliver series of cozy mysteries and *Gayle’s Legacy*, which mixes family lore with recipes, will lead a half-day session on writing family legacies and memoirs around family recipes and

publishing them in a cookbook. Each participant should bring two to five recipes. The session will be held from 9 a.m. (check-in at 8:30) to noon at the College Station Conference Center on George Bush Drive. Check brazoswriters.org for more information.



Dr. Fidel Fernandez

Brazos Writer co-authors engineering textbook

Dr. Fidel Fernandez, an academic advisor in Texas A&M’s Department of Biomedical Engineering and Brazos Writers board member, has co-authored with Charles Lessard a textbook about biomedical engineering.

He says he got involved in the project when he and Lessard developed a course to help students address a gap in their education.

“From there, several universities in the nation contacted us wanted me to present

conference papers on how we work with freshmen to keep them engaged in the major from the start,” Fidel said.

“Apparently, not much is done for the first-semester student.”

Kendall Hunt Publishing Company then asked Fidel and his colleague if they would be interested in writing a book for the course.

“We developed an outline for the course and pitched it. Several days later, he sent us a contract,” Fidel said. “Several days from that date, we negotiated the deal.”

Fidel says he is not a biomedical engineer, but his nine years in the department have taught him quite a bit.

“Our angle is to provide a layperson’s view to the field, including describing the various sub-areas to new students who know nothing about the field,” Fidel says.

“Since I am not an expert in the area, I provided readers a superficial overview of what they need to know without getting bogged down with the scientific formulas and equations that the faculty are so fond of,” he adds.

Introduction to Biomedical Engineering is available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) ■

Brazos Writers asked to submit items on war for “Worth Remembering” local forum

Writers with a unique perspective or experience concerning war are invited to submit a 500-word essay, story or poem for the Worth Remembering event to be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 10, at the

Friends Congregational Church in College Station.

Selections of another writer’s published work that reflects your experiences, as well as correspondence to or from a friend or loved one in war, will also be accepted. All work appropriate for the forum and for a general audience will be accepted.

The forum is hosted by the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, Project HOLD, Museum of the American G.I., [Honorthenames.com](https://www.honorthenames.com), [Gulfwarmemorial.com](https://www.gulfwarmemorial.com), and Friends Congregational Church.

The goal of the forum is to present the diversity of war’s impact on our lives. It is not intended as a platform for supporting or opposing military activities.

Submissions may be mailed or emailed and are due no later than Oct. 15. Send submissions to Cheryl Clements, 7598 River Ridge Dr., College Station, 77845 or email them to submission.acbv@yahoo.com. Include your full name, mailing address, phone number, and email address.

If you would like a volunteer to read your piece for you, please note that on your submission. For more information, contact submission.acbv@yahoo.com. ■

Hensel shares helpful writing websites

Thanks to inspirational author **Tammy Hensel** for letting us know about her favorite websites on writing.

Tammy sent these after our August meeting on marketing and blogs. Tammy’s site is at <http://dedicatedwriter.blogspot.com>

A Writer's Word, An Editor's Eye
<http://lillieammann.com/blog/>

Mike's Writing Workshop
<http://mikeswritingworkshop.blogspot.com/>

Writer's Digest Magazine
<http://www.writersdigest.com/GeneralMenu/>

Writers.com
<http://www.writers.com/>

Website basics
www.ecommercehelpdesk.com/webbasics.shtml

World of Quotes
www.worldofquotes.com/author/index.html

Miriam-Webster Online
<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

The Top 10 Pet Peeves of Literary Magazines
<http://www.googobits.com/articles/350-the-top-ten-pet-peeves-of-literary-magazine-editors.html>

Lynch Guide To Grammar and Style
<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing/>

Writing For The Internet
<http://www.webreference.com/internet/writing/>

The 10 Commandments of Internet Writing
<http://www.webpronews.com/topnews/2004/08/13/the-commandments-of-internet-writing>

Writing For The Internet
<http://www.internetbasedmoms.com/writing-internet/>

Internet Public Library <http://www.ipl.org/>

Ask Oxford.com - Writing For The Internet
<http://www.askoxford.com/betterwriting/online/>

Brazos Writers Events

October 8

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Mini-Conference Saturday, October 25

Gayle Wigglesworth will lead a half-day session on writing family legacies and memoirs around family recipes and publishing them in a cookbook.

November 12

Open Readings. If your work deals with the theme Political Animal, then you will be eligible for a door prize.

December 10

Holiday Potluck Dinner and Round Robin Story

January 14

Open Readings. If your work deals with the theme Chills and Cold Feet, then you will be eligible for a door prize.

2008 Brazos Writers Officers

President, Mark Troy

President-Elect/Program Chair, Rhonda Brinkmann

Past President, Roland Schweitzer

Treasurer, Fidel Fernandez

Corresponding Secretary, Susan Adams

Recording Secretary, Helen Sheffield

Newsletter Editor, Ann Kellett