

**MIDWEST
WRITERS
WORKSHOP**
#mww



STUFF TO KNOW FOR #MWW17

Thursday through Saturday

July 20-22, 2017 >> Muncie, Indiana

L.A. Pittenger Student Center, 2000 West University Avenue

Thank you for joining us for our 44th Midwest Writers Workshop. We take pride in our MWW tradition of offering instruction, fellowship, and encouragement to writers at every stage in their careers. Your investment of time and money for this year's experience may take your writing to new levels!

All MWW programs and sessions are hosted at the Ball State University L.A. Pittenger Student Center, 2000 West University Avenue, Muncie, IN.

What about parking?

Parking permits will need to be purchased at the workshop for Thursday and Friday (parking will be free on Saturday). Ball State's Parking Services will set up a table in the Student Center, in the hallway near the south entrance, to sell permits. The table will be open from 7:45 am to 9:15 am on Thursday and Friday. The table will also be open from 2:30 to 3:30 pm on Thursday. Permits cost \$5 per day. **Look for MWW interns wearing RED t-shirts with #MWW17**, who will be stationed in parking lots around the Student Center to help you find which lots to park in and direct you to the table to get your permit. You can pay for your permit, put it on your car, and then head up to the second floor to the Midwest Writers Workshop registration table.

If you are unable to arrive during the times the Parking Services table is open, there are metered spaces to park in both the garage behind the Student Center and the garage on McKinley Avenue. Those spaces also cost \$5 per day.

The Student Center is handicapped-accessible.

**Maps of the Student Center floor plans are included at the end of this document.
AND Check out the "RESOURCES" page under the "EXTRAS" tab on our website.**

What should I wear to workshop?

Since you'll be in workshop sessions most of the day, you'll want to wear something comfortable. And now that we're in a larger facility with three floors, **you will want to wear comfy shoes**. Because we have agents and editors in attendance, you may want to adopt a "business casual" policy. Dressing professionally for your agent appointment will help you present yourself at your best. You may also want to bring a sweater as some of the classrooms may be cool (sometimes cold!). We also have a selection of MWW sweatshirts for sale at our merchandise table! You may dress up for the banquet if you like but it isn't required.

What about meals?

THURSDAY:

Morning: coffee, pastries, fruit

Lunch: box lunch

Dinner: ON YOUR OWN***

Evening reception/opening for Part II: Cash Bar/cheeses/fruits/chicken tenders, etc.

FRIDAY:

Morning: coffee, pastries, fruit

Lunch: taco bar

Dinner: ON YOUR OWN***

Evening Autograph Party: Cash Bar / snacks

SATURDAY:

Morning: coffee, pastries, fruit

Lunch: ON YOUR OWN***

Dinner: cash bar/banquet

At the workshop, please see one of the catering staff as they have your food set aside in the kitchen.

Hours of Operation:

Student Center Tally Food Court: Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday – Closed

Student Center Tally Starbucks: Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday (July 22rd Only) – 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Sunday – Closed

***Planning for Meals on Your Own

Some suggestions/recommendations for dining (Thursday & Friday dinners, Saturday lunch):

In the Village (head east on University Avenue from the Student Center):

Subway	Pita Pit	Jimmy John's
Hot Box Pizza	Scotty's Brewhouse*	Two Cats Café*
Greek's Pizzeria*		

If you're comfortable driving (your parking permit will still be valid when you return):

Head south on McKinley to Jackson street and turn right (west):

On Jackson, Wendy's

On Tillotson (turn left from Jackson):

McDonald's

Burger King

Starbucks (Gold Card rewards can be redeemed here and the menu is larger than at the Student Center)

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Taco Bell

Arby's

Puerto Vallarta Mexican Restaurant*

If you'd prefer to stay in the Student Center, there is a delivery option:

Tranzind Delivery service offers delivery from several restaurants. Visit tranzinddelivery.com or download the app for your smartphone (Apple or Android only). To get delivery to the Student Center, you will need to use the address *2000 W University Ave Muncie, IN 47306* and in the delivery directions include the information that you are in the Ball State Student Center. Select a location to meet the driver and include that in your directions. Please note that the estimated wait times of 45 minutes to an hour are fairly accurate so you should place your order early. You will be able to track your delivery on the website or via the app.

*It may be difficult to get and consume your meal in the allotted time for lunch or dinner at these locations.

What should I do when I arrive?

If you are in Part I, plan to arrive on Thursday, July 20, between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. to pick up your welcome packet and nametag. Our Welcome Center and Registration Table are located on the second floor in the Browsing Lounge (the middle area of the second floor). **Look for Midwest Writers committee members wearing green shirts with the MWW logo.** We'll have coffee available and you can begin meeting other participants. An introductory welcome session begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Ballroom and the Intensive Sessions start at 9:00 a.m.

If you are in Part II, arrive and pick up your materials at 3:45 p.m. or after. We have three special sessions from 3:45-5:00 p.m.: Conference 101 (for all newcomers!), Pitching 101 (to help you practice your pitch to agents), and Query Letters 101. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., we will introduce our Part II faculty, listen to a welcome presentation by Jane Friedman, mingle and enjoy a nice spread of finger foods and a cash bar, and then have a networking time where you can "find your tribe."

If you are attending both Part I and II, you only need to sign in at the Registration Table once.

What if I have my own books to sell?

MWW provides a book consignment table for our published attendees. **After you register, if you're selling books on consignment, bring them to the Consignment Bookstore** (located in the 2nd floor Music Lounge, beside the Registration Table). The MWW Consignment Bookstore is separate from MWW-BSU operated Bookstore.

- Limit the number of books you bring to 10, although, if your 10 books sell out, you may replenish your supply.
- Price your books at a round number (if possible), for example, \$10, \$15, \$20.
- When you check in, we will give you an inventory control slip to fill out and insert into each of your books. It will list the book title, author, selling price, and a number — 1 through 10.
- You must pick up your books by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. At that time, we will give you a receipt for the check to be mailed to you within two weeks for the amount of money your books earned, minus MWW's 10% commission.

The Consignment Bookstore opens Thursday morning at 10 a.m.

You must pick up any remaining books before the workshop ends. Books left after the workshop ends will not be returned.

Consignment Bookstore Hours:

Thursday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., 4-5 p.m.

Friday, 8-10 a.m., 12-2 p.m.

Saturday, 8-11 a.m., 1:30-3 p.m.

The MWW Bookstore accepts VISA and MasterCard payments. We will also have our MWW merchandise table with sweatshirts and mugs.

What should I bring?

An important advantage to attending a workshop, besides all the knowledge that is available, is an opportunity to meet people who can help further your career. The MWW community encourages networking and building friendships with other writers. If you have **business cards**, bring some for **The Hub** table (Terrace Lounge) and to exchange with individuals with whom you have made a special connection. You will receive a list of all participants and their contact information in your welcome packet.

To help manage the quantity of information presented in the sessions, we provide a wirebound book of notes to each participant registered for Part II. You'll need pen/pencil and perhaps an extra notebook. While it's not required, you may bring **a laptop/notebook/iPad computer if you wish. (Ball State is a wireless campus.)**

Of course, if you signed up for help with Scrivener or the tutorial sessions for social media, you will want to have your laptop with you.

If you bring your cell phone, be sure that you put it on vibrate mode during ALL sessions. But keep tweeting!

How can I get the most help with my writing?

Getting feedback from other writers can be very helpful and we have various opportunities for you to share your work. We're promoting the **Two-Page Share** (manuscript form: double space, 12 point).

- 1) Find Your Tribe – Thursday evening
- 2) During your free time or when you decide to skip a session. "Show me your two-pages and I'll show you mine." 😊
- 3) Message in a Bottle – Friday evening. Look for the Message in a Bottle display in the Terrace Lounge, put your name on a ticket, and wah lah, you're in the drawing for a chance to read your Two-Page Share!

What is the "Find Your Tribe" on Thursday evening?

Welcome / Introduction of faculty

Keynote: Jane Friedman

Fellowship/Networking

Plan to stay after the formalities and introductions to renew friendships, create new ones, and have the chance to read and hear something from the labors of the past year.

Find Your Tribe

To cap off the opening festivities Thursday evening, we invite you to meet and get to know your “tribe.” From 8:00 until 9:00 (or thereabouts), participants will have the opportunity to gather with their fellow attendees who write in the same genre. This is a great way to connect to people you may benefit from knowing during the rest of the weekend, and possibly beyond.

Based on the first genre you specified on your registration, we have assigned each writer to a group. By the way, if you go to the group you are assigned to, you may end up creating sub-genres within it. But if you decide another group is a better fit, you have our blessing to go there. (Groups are maximum 30)

Your facilitator will guide your group through the next step. Our facilitators are writers like you, and they're going to have you go around and say who you are. Some of our groups are larger and others are smaller. Every group will start one way. Each person in the room (who wants to) will give their name, where they are from, and a quick sentence about what they are writing.

At this point, if your group is too large and/or the sub categories of your genre are very clear, the facilitator may elect to divide the tribe into smaller groups and possibly name someone to guide that conversation. Basically, there may be sub groups formed.

When the actual group you end up with is formed, then you all decide what happens next. Some possible topics to have an open discussion about: 1) writing in your genre; 2) marketing/finding an agent; 3) what you hope to get out of MWW conference; 4) something else the majority finds helpful.

As a group, some of you may read pages you have brought (two double spaced pages maximum for this). Not every group is going to read pages, so please don't be disappointed if you don't get to read. However, we have a session called MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE (Friday night in Cardinal Hall after the autograph signing) that is specifically for reading your pages, so you might get to read there, depending on how many people participate.

No one will "have" to speak or read who doesn't want to. If you aren't into speaking at any group at all, you are welcome to come and just sit and listen. You will learn something about the other writers attending MWW this year. Plus, you may decide to connect later, one-on-one. We think that's just fine.

We fully believe that part of the benefit of MWW is the relationships we form. We can't wait to see what connections are made this year. So whatever you do, don't miss Find Your Tribe 2017!

Purposes of the “Find Your Tribe” activity:

- An icebreaker so you meet more people more quickly.
- Networking!
- Perhaps share contact information so you have meal companions at "dinner in your own" time.
- Have someone to discuss the sessions you are in together, and/or share notes from those you are unable to attend.

What if I paid for a Manuscript Evaluation?

If you paid the \$35 fee for your manuscript to be evaluated by one of our Manuscript Evaluation Team, you are entitled to a 15-minute, one-on-one discussion of your work with the Team Member you selected. All discussion sessions between participants and the Manuscript Evaluation Team Member are Friday and Saturday during workshop hours (**Authors: Room 310A; Agents: Room 303; Editors: Room 302**). The Manuscript Team Members

will schedule their one-on-one discussions, which were emailed to you in a Google Doc, or check the list for your name/time at the Registration Table when you arrive.

How do I prepare for my Agent/Editor Pitch Session?

If you signed up for a three-minute pitch session on your registration form, you should have received an email from an agent assistant about the day/time of your appointment (**Agents: Room 303; Editors: Room 302**). Each agent will meet with individuals who pre-registered. Please come prepared.

Before the conference, it helps to do a little homework. Agents are impressed when a writer knows something about their agency and the writers it represents. At minimum, know whether the agent represents your kind of book. Don't pitch your adult thriller to an agent who handles only children's books. Know where your project falls in the marketplace. Is it fiction, is it a romance, a mystery, mainstream? Can you compare it to another published author's work? If it's nonfiction, who is the audience? What types of publishers are likely to buy it?

Authors must know about similar books that have been published and why theirs will be different. What category does it fall into, who are the readers and how will it fit into the market?

Prepare a three-minute pitch where you boil your project down to three to five sentences. Practice that pitch until you can deliver it smoothly (plan to attend our Pitching 101!). The whole point of the pitch session is to get your writing read. You're not there to chat, make a new friend or list the problems you're having with your writing but to convince the agent to give it a look.

For fiction, divide the pitch into three points: the setup, hook and resolution. For nonfiction, the title should convey the main concept of the book. Explain what the book is about, why you are qualified to write it, who will read it and what you can do to promote it.

Agents and editors are not usually willing or able to carry your manuscript home with them, but if they are interested, they may take a brief written summary. Don't expect an agent or editor to read your synopsis while you wait. Sell the agent on you as a writer and then the book you're doing. It is much more helpful to convince the agent of your talent, vision, commitment and ability and then hopefully about the book itself. In a short meeting, if the agents are interested, they usually will follow up on the phone later and get into the book stuff.

Six interns will be working as assistants to the agents. Before the conference, they will communicate with you to schedule pitches, and during the conference, they'll keep time and make sure things run smoothly. If you sign up to pitch, you will receive an email from one of these interns.

How do I prepare for my Query Letter Critique?

We have a Query Critique Team, similar to our Manuscript Evaluation Team. If you paid the additional fee of \$35 for a 10-minute one-on-one consultation (**Authors: Room 310A; Agents: Room 303; Editors: Room 302**). You received an email with a Google doc with the time.

What will the Social Media Tutors offer?

Because MWW is committed to helping you become a published writer, we talk a lot about social media. That's because changes in the publishing industry have forced writers to become "authorpreneurs"—marketers, promoters, social media experts, and much more. At MWW, we know how time-consuming and confusing these

tasks can be, and so we offer a free, tutoring center called the **Social Media Lab (Room 304)**, staffed by Ball State students and graduates.

Those who registered for a session (on Friday or Saturday) will learn both the “how” and “why” of social media: for example, how to start a blog, or for the more advanced, how to increase the readership of your blog, as well as why you should use social media as a writer.

Using Twitter to Share Your “Notes” at MWW17

If one of us says something quotable, share it on Twitter. Use the hashtag #mww17. Use tags and hashtags so that others on Twitter can find it! Also, subscribe to this list and start following the MWW faculty and staff:

Faculty--The Writers

#mystery #thriller #YA #fiction

John Gilstrap [@JohnGilstrap](#)

Jess Lourey [@jesslourey](#)

Becky Albertalli [@beckyalbertalli](#)

Angie Thomas [@acthomasbooks](#)

Mike Mullin [@Mike_Mullin](#)

Mardi Jo Link [@mardilink](#)

Ruth McNally Barshaw [@ruthexpress](#)

Nina Sadowsky [@sadowsky_nina](#)

Matthew Clemens [@chucktwain](#)

Amy E. Reichert [@aereichert](#)

Melissa Marino [@MelissaWrites2](#)

Ashley Ford [@iSmashFizzle](#)

Bronwen Dickey [@BronwenDickey](#)

Dee 🍀 Romito [@writeforapples](#)

Brenda Drake [@brendadrake](#)

Rena Olsen [@originallyrena](#)

Faculty--The Agents

#AskAgent #pubtip #query

Roseanne Wells [@RivetingRosie](#)

Jessica Sinsheimer [@jsinsheim](#)

Monica Odom [@modomodom](#)

Brooks Sherman [@byobrooks](#)

Jennifer Laughran [@literaticat](#)

Eric Smith [@ericsmithrocks](#)

Faculty--The Editors/ Publishing Professionals #pubtip #query #amediting #amwriting

Terri Bischoff [@TerriBischoff](#)

Lauren Smulski [@LaurenES](#)

Jessica Strawser [@jessicastrawser](#)

Jane Friedman [@JaneFriedman](#)

Dana Kaye [@Dana_Kaye](#)

Carol Topp [@CarolTopp](#)

MWW Committee and Staff

#mww17

MidwestWriters@MidwestWriters

Jama Kehoe Bigger @jamabigger
Kelsey Timmerman @KelseyTimmerman
Summer Heacock @Fizzygrl
Cathy Duling Shouse @cathyshouse
Maye Ralston @MayeRalston
Jeffrey O Pearson @JeffreyOPearson
Kelly O'Dell Stanley @kellyostanley
Janis Thornton @JanisThornton
Gail Werner @gailwerner
Shelly Gage @shelly_gage

MWW Agent Assistants

[Sarah Hollowell @sarahhollowell](#)

Tynan Drake @DrakeTynan

Charlie Cain @EntropyLikeIDo

Kristen Parks @kris10parks13

Amber Haynes @amberhaynes1623

Matt Swain @coffeecuppoetry

Abby Hoops @alhoops12

MWW Social Media Tutors

[Jackson Eflin @JacksonEflin](#)

Randi Flick @theliteralrandi

Makayla Smart @masmart

What is “Buttonhole the Experts”?

Buttonhole the Experts is our fun activity, and this year we have TWO sessions, one Friday morning and one Saturday morning. We have 30+ tables in Cardinal Hall with an “expert” (our faculty members and others!) at each one. Seven participants sit at each table and chat informally with the expert for about 20 minutes. Then at the ring of a bell, it’s like musical chairs. The seven at each table rise and head to another table of interest for another 20-minute chat. This process is repeated three times. In other words, everyone learns much about the various genres/topics from our experts.

What is the R. Karl Largent Writing Award?

Midwest Writers Workshop established the R. Karl Largent Memorial Fund and renamed its top writing award in honor of long-time and popular committee member R. Karl Largent, who died in 2003. The Manny Writing Contest’s top winner will receive a \$200 cash award, made possible through Robin Vincent Publishers and MWW.

The Manny Awards have become a tradition at Midwest Writers Workshop. The contest offers cash awards and is designed to recognize works in progress in four categories: short fiction, novel, poetry and nonfiction. You may enter one category only. You must be present when awards are presented at Saturday’s banquet.

What if I still have questions?

If you have questions, contact MWW Director,
Jama Bigger, at 765-282-1055 or email at midwestwriters@yahoo.com.

BE A PART OF MWW FAMILY!

FACEBOOK: Midwest Writers Workshop FAN page

or Facebook Group

TWITTER: follow MWW

@MidwestWriters

MWW Director

Twitter@jamabigger

Use hashtag #mmw17

Connect with other writers, authors, previous faculty, MWW alumni, and many participants. Maybe you have a question about pitching to agents, or manuscript submissions, or the facility. Maybe you're looking to share a motel room or a ride to Muncie. Post a question on our Discussion Board or write a comment on our Wall. (To join: type "Midwest Writers Workshop" into the search line.)

2017 Midwest Writers Workshop

Registration - Browsing Lounge

BSU Bookstore/MWW Bookstore & Merchandise

Vendors – Terrace Lounge

Music Lounge

ROOMS with Names = 2nd Floor / ROOMS with Numbers = 3rd Floor

Thursday Events – July 20, 2017

8:15-8:30 am **Browsing Lounge: Registration** welcome bags for Part I

8:30-9:00 am **Ballroom: Welcome**

9:00-11:30 am **PART I INTENSIVE SESSIONS:**

Room 301 [1] Adrenaline Rush: Writing a Thriller — **John Gilstrap**

Room 303 [2] The Book Doctor is in - Adventures in Developmental Editing — **Matthew Clemens**

Room 304 [3] Screenwriting — **Nina Sadowsky**

Room 305 [4] Writing Women's Fiction — **Amy Reichert & Melissa Marino**

Room 306 [5] Writing the Young Adult Novel — **Mike Mullin**

Room 307 [6] Writing for Children — **Ruth McNally Barshaw**

Room 308 [7] Memoir: It's Not About Your Life - It's About How You Feel About Your Life -- **Mardi Jo Link**

Room 310A [8] Rewrite Your Life: Transform Your Facts into Powerful Fiction — **Jess Lourey**

Terrace Room [9] Manuscript Makeover – **Holly Miller**

Pineshelf Room [10] Getting to Know Scrivener's Features — **Dee Romito**

Ballroom 11:45 am-1 pm **Box Networking Lunch**

1:00-3:00 pm **Intensive Sessions (continued)**

PART II begins

3:45 pm **Browsing Lounge: Registration packets for Part II available**

3:45-5:00 pm

Cardinal Hall A: Pitching 101 — Summer Heacock, Roseanne Wells, and Brenda Drake [Tips for the 3-minute pitch to agents and "pitch practice"]

Cardinal Hall B: Querying 101 — Eric Smith and Dana Kaye [Tips for improving your query letter]

Cardinal Hall C: Conference 101 — Kelly Stanley and Gail Werner [For first-time conference attendees]

5:00-6:30 pm Dinner on your own {Head to the Village / see suggestions on page 20}

6:30-8:30 pm **RECEPTION / WELCOME** (Cash bar/refreshments)

Cardinal Hall: Welcome & Keynote: Jane Friedman. The Publishing Industry in 2017: What Writers Need to Know

We'll kick off Part II with a welcoming talk by one of MWW's favorite presenters and long-time faculty, Jane Friedman. Her presentation will be informational, inspirational and filled with her special brand of cleverness, to get you in a workshopping mood.

Faculty Introductions

Alumni Lounge/Browsing Lounge/Ballroom [Cash bar/refreshments/networking: "Find Your Tribe"]

To cap off the opening festivities Thursday evening, we invite you to meet and get to know your "tribe." From 8:00 until 9:00 (or thereabouts), participants will have the opportunity to gather with their fellow attendees who write in the same genre. This is a great way to connect to people you may benefit from knowing during the rest of the weekend, and possibly beyond.

Based on the first genre you specified on your registration, we have assigned each writer to a group. By the way, if you go to the group you are assigned to, you may end up creating sub-genres within it. But if you decide another group is a better fit, you have our blessing to go there. (Groups are maximum 30)

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- An icebreaker so you meet more people more quickly.
- Networking!

- Perhaps share contact information so you have meal companions at "dinner in your own" time.
- Have someone to discuss the sessions you are in together, and/or share notes from those you are unable to attend.

Friday Events – July 21, 2017

[NO sign up necessary for Part II sessions; attend any ones you want!]

[Pitch sessions, manuscript evaluations, query letter critiques, social media, and tax/business appointments scheduled throughout Friday & Saturday]

Editor Pitches	Room 302
Agent Pitches	Room 303
Social Media Lab	Room 304
Manuscript Evaluations	Room 310A
Query Letter Critiques	Room 310B

ROOMS with Names = 2nd Floor / ROOMS with Numbers = 3rd Floor

8:15-9:00 am **Cardinal Hall:** Coffee & Networking -- **Angie Thomas interviewed by Jessica Strawser, editorial director of *Writer's Digest* [Newly added to the schedule!]**

9:00-10:15 am **Cardinal Hall**

All Agent Panel Q&A: Everything you've always wanted to know about agents but were afraid to ask.

10:30-11:30 am **Cardinal Hall**

Buttonhole the Experts -- Act 1 —3 x 20 minutes (List on page 32)

NO preparation necessary for this event -- just talking to folks! Buttonhole the Experts is one of the highlights of our conference. We have 35 or so tables with an "expert" (our faculty members) at each one, then seven participants sit at each table and chat informally with the expert for about 20 minutes. Then at the ring of a bell it's like musical chairs (or "speed dating for writers"!): everyone rises and heads to another expert's table for another 20-minute chat. This process is repeated three times. In other words, everyone learns much about the various genres/topics from our experts.

11:45-1:00 pm **Cardinal Hall:** Buffet lunch

Keynote: Jessica Strawser: Writing Lessons From 10 Years of Bestselling Author Interviews -- A full decade of my diverse 15-year publishing career has involved interviewing bestselling authors for *Writer's Digest*—and not only has their advice inspired our readership, but it's inspired me—all the way to a two-novel contract of my own. This session distills 10 years of collected wisdom into the all-time best insights into the creative process, the writing life, the craft of writing and the business of publishing. Get new perspectives on revolutionizing your writing routine, following the path of your story, revising with the right mindset, persevering through rejection, and empowering yourself to be your own work's best advocate—from award-winners and bestsellers including Alice Walker, David Sedaris, David Baldacci, Patricia Cornwell, Khaled Hosseini, Brad Meltzer, Lisa Scottoline, Chris Cleave and more.

1:15-2:15 pm

Cardinal Hall A: Editor Panel — Terri Bischoff, Lauren Smulski, Jessica Strawser

Cardinal Hall B: How to Tell if Your Story Idea Has Legs? — **Amy Reichert.**

Cardinal Hall C: Pitch Perfect — **Brenda Drake.** Nervous about pitching your manuscript to industry professionals? Not sure how to create a hook that sells? Learn the one formula you can use to create all the various pitches needed in today's market. We'll go over twitter and contest pitches, queries, synopses, plus winning titles and first pages.

Ballroom: Writing Diverse YA — **Becky Albertalli and Angie Thomas.** Guidelines for #ownvoices and outsiders

Pineshelf: Scrivener for Beginners — **Dee Romito.** If you've heard the buzz about Scrivener, but need some help getting started, or you're already using it and want to learn what else it can do, this session is for you.

You'll see how easy it is to get started with this time-saving writing program and get an overview of the many helpful features that can take your writing to the next level. You'll leave more organized, motivated, and ready to write!

Terrace Room: Book to Screen: The perils and pleasures of adaptations — **Nina Sadowsky.**

2:30-3:30 pm

Cardinal Hall A: Debut Author Panel — Bronwen Dickey (nonfiction), Summer Heacock (fiction), Jessica Strawser (fiction), Angie Thomas (fiction), Brenda Drake (fiction) Eric Smith (agent)

Cardinal Hall B: Worst Advice Ever: Write What You Know -- John Gilstrap. The real trick is to write what interests you. This session presents strategies for getting in touch with experts who can help you, and where to find answers to your most perplexing questions. Hint: Knowing a little bit is fine. The rest is about faking it. We'll talk about that, too.

Cardinal Hall C: Funding the Writer's Life: — **Mardi Jo Link.** This session gives an overview on literary contests, Kickstarter, grants, advances, speaking fees.

Ballroom: How to Write a Mystery Novel in 7 Steps -- Jess Lourey. You've got that golden idea for a crime novel, the one that won't let you go, that embellishes itself as you walk around your day. How do you turn that good idea into a great mystery, and what do you do with it after you write it? Join author of eleven mysteries and college writing instructor Jessica Lourey for the answers. Participants will be shown how to go from idea to completed novel using the seven-step POP Method in addition to receiving detailed information on cracking the world of publishing.

Pineshelf: Let's Talk About Sex: How to Write Romance--From the Subtle to the Sexy — **Melissa Marino.**

Forum Room: Why Is Writing So #\$\$%@ Hard? -- **Mike Mullin.** Is writer's block real? How do you beat it? Why is writing sometimes so difficult? Why are there days the words seem to flow without conscious thought? Is it better to write in the morning or at night? In this session, award-winning young-adult author Mike Mullin will share the work habits of dozens of famous authors, delve into the latest neuroscience and psychological research as it pertains to writing, and suggest concrete strategies you can use immediately to make yourself a more productive writer.

3:45-4:45 pm

Cardinal Hall A: Help! I have a book coming out, what do I do? — **Dana Kaye.**

Cardinal Hall B: Fail Your Way to Success — **Ruth McNally Barshaw.** This session examines how mistakes and missteps are essential in the creative process. Writing luminaries such as JK Rowling have learned to embrace and celebrate the low points. Ruth has had success and plenty of rejections, and provides insight on how to make your challenges worthwhile.

Cardinal Hall C: The Art of the Interview — **Bronwen Dickey.**

Ballroom: "You remember how the revolution happened, right, Karen?" OR How do you dialogue? -- Rena Olsen. Dialogue is perhaps one of the most challenging aspects of writing a believable story. In this session, we will practice speaking and writing dialogue that makes sense on the page, encompasses the

voice of the character, but that is not overly distracting to the reader. Participants will be asked to speak to each other during this session.

Pineshelf: Bookkeeping for Writers Who Hate Numbers -- Carol Topp. Writers are word people who usually hate numbers, but regular bookkeeping is a guarantee of business success. Author and accountant Carol Topp will share with you tips and tools to make record keeping easier. You don't need complicated, expensive software. She will show you how real authors keep their records that are easy to maintain and delight their accountant.

Forum Room: For Fun and Profit: Making Money from Your Website, Blog, and Social Media — Jane Friedman.

5:00-6:30 pm **Dinner ON YOUR OWN** (See suggestions on page 20)

6:30-7:30 pm

Alumni Lounge: Faculty Autograph Party / Ballroom: Cash Bar & Snacks / Free Photobooth

7:30-8:30 pm

Cardinal Hall B: Message in a Bottle: Open mic / 2-minute/Two-Page Share Participant Readings

We'll have a time for sharing your work at Friday evening's Message in a Bottle Reading event. Participants who chose to put their name in a bottle (see the table in the Terrace Lounge) and are selected will have an opportunity to read for two minutes/two pages. So, bring something to share!

7:30-9:30 pm

Lower-28 FREE BOWLING! GAMES, BILLIARDS!

Activities Night. Everyone from corporate workers to athletes on sports teams have bonding activities these days. The reason is to improve creativity and to inspire teamwork. Think of this time as Writer Bonding and don't worry about whether you are able to bowl--let alone if you feel like aiming for a spare. Activities are simply the backdrop for a chance to brainstorm with some, or share publishing tips with someone else you just met Thursday at Meet Your Tribe. "Let your hair down," or lay down your Serious Conference Persona and see what happens. This activity was such a blast for MWW16, that we're offering the fun again. At what other conference can you bowl with agents and authors?!

Saturday Events – July 22, 2017

9:00-10:15 am

Cardinal Hall: Buttonhole the Experts -- Act 2 — 3 x 20 minutes (List on page 32)

10:30-11:30 am

Cardinal Hall A: Internet Stalking Without Being Creepy: How to Research, Network, and Become a Priority — Jessica Sinsheimer.

Cardinal Hall B: Diversity is Not a Trend Panel — Monica Odom, Becky Albertalli, Angie Thomas, Brooks Sherman, Ashley Ford, Terri Bischoff

Cardinal Hall C: How to Become a Regular Contributor to Any Publication — Jessica Strawser. Becoming a regular contributor is the dream scenario in terms of steady paychecks, easier-to-come-by assignments,

and more byline opportunities for freelance writers, and yet so many freelancers go about this the wrong way. This session teaches you how to make ANY assignment the first of many, build relationships with editors, recognize opportunities other writers miss, earn more money with less effort, and strengthen your freelance writing career without driving yourself query-crazy.

Pineshelf: Illustrations in Children's Books — Ruth McNally Barshaw. What I know and what I'm still learning -- Analyzing the art in picture books. How the art and writing work together to surprise the reader. How they encourage the reader to turn the page. How picture book art has changed in the past 200 years, and where it seems to be going.

Ballroom: Writing is Rewriting: Strategies for fighting writer's block and how to be your own most critical reader — Nina Sadowsky.

11:45 am-1:00 pm Lunch - on your own

1:15- 2:15 pm

Cardinal Hall A: How to Research: How to Tell Believable Lies — Matthew Clemens. We'll discuss ways to do research, what to include in your novel, what to leave out, and how to not spend your whole life down the rabbit hole of research.

Cardinal Hall B: Publishing Relationships Panel — Brooks Sherman, Becky Albertalli, Angie Thomas, and Sarah Cannon; Lauren Smulski and Summer Heacock

Cardinal Hall C: Nonfiction Book Proposal Idea — Monica Odom, Roseanne Wells, Eric Smith. Literary agents and publishers are always hungry for fun, intriguing, thought-provoking, and original material to make into books. But for lots of writers, bloggers, and journalists, pursuing publication can feel like a big leap into the unknown. Never fear! This workshop will teach you everything you need to know about creating and selling a nonfiction book proposal, from generating ideas and honing your angle to leveraging your platform and searching for an agent. We will discuss best practices, pitfalls, and trends in publishing, as well as the nuts and bolts of formatting a proposal, writing a query letter, and communicating with agents and publishers. And though the workshop session is aimed at writers looking to turn an existing blog/column/web project etc. into a book, there will be time for Q&As and discussion of other avenues to publication as well. So, if you've ever daydreamed, considered, or just wondered about how to get started on making your ideas into book—this is the workshop for you.

Pineshelf: Navigating Scrivener's Features — Dee Romito. If you're already using Scrivener, but find yourself wondering which feature you should use to solve a particular issue, come join us for this workshop and discussion. Because what you need for each manuscript changes, you'll need to hone your Scrivener detective skills! We'll explore the best features for the things YOU need—perhaps multiple point-of-view, keeping research handy, or maybe tracking a plotline. This session is best for those already familiar with the basics of Scrivener. Please come with a laptop loaded with Scrivener (trial or paid version) if possible.

Ballroom: Editing Your Novel: Quick and Dirty Tips to Superboost Your Writing -- Jess Lourey. This workshop covers meta editing ("re-seeing" your work to deepen and strengthen the writing) as well as nuts and bolts line editing, including introducing the ARISE (action, romance and humor, information, suspense, and emotion) method for evaluating the strength of your scenes. In addition, author and writing professor Jess Lourey covers the importance of: reading your work out loud to evaluate grammar, consistency, voice, and word choice; ending each chapter with a hook regardless of genre; replacing dialogue tags with movement; suggestions for corralling beta readers and a discussion of whether or not to hire a professional freelance editor and how to select one if you choose that route. Bring 10 pages of your manuscript for practice.

2:30-3:30 pm

Cardinal Hall A [36] Bangs and Booms 101: What Writers Need to Know About Firearms and Explosives — John Gilstrap.

Cardinal Hall B: Promotion and Presentations Panel — Amy Reichert, Jane Friedman, Dana Kaye, Ruth Barshaw, Kelly Stanley

Cardinal Hall C: Writing and Selling the Middle Grade Novel — Jennifer Laughran.

Pineshelf: The Tools of the Trade — Bronwen Dickey. How do you find interview subjects and reach out to them? How do you take notes that you can actually use, and how do you organize all the other material (photos, audio clips, news articles) that you collect? This seminar will explore the nuts-and-bolts of research and reporting, from pre-interview jitters to assembling your final endnotes and citations. Think of it as 'all the tips and tricks this journalist wishes someone had shared with her when she started out.'

Ballroom: Going from “Tell” to “Show,” or How to Make a Scene in Your Writing — Mike Mullin. We’ve all heard the same advice: always show, never tell. It’s wrong. In this workshop, you’ll learn specific definitions for “show” and “tell.” Both are tools that should be in every writer’s box. You’ll learn when it’s better to tell than to show. And you’ll learn why showing is generally preferred in modern fiction. Come prepared to participate in a short writing exercise.

3:45-4:45 pm

Cardinal Hall A: Tax Tips for Writers — Carol Topp. Hear the federal income tax explained in clear English. She will discuss tax deductions and special tax rules for writers, as well as record keeping tips to help you stay organized. This session is loaded with examples to make your writing business less taxing.

Cardinal Hall B: PubTalk TV Session — Live streaming with Summer Heacock, Roseanne Wells, Jessica Sinsheimer, Monica Odom. PubTalkTV, where MWW meets the traditional publishing happy hour! Presented in a full AMA (Ask Me Anything) format where attendees can submit questions through the **#AskPubTalkTV hashtag** all weekend, or in person during the session, literary agent panelists Jessica Sinsheimer, Roseanne Wells, Monica Odom, and host, author Summer Heacock, armed with cocktails and open minds, will answer those questions for conference participants, all while broadcast live on the PubTalkTV YouTube channel!

Cardinal Hall C: Essays — Ashley Ford.

Pineshelf: Writing and Selling True Crime — Mardi Jo Link. The most fun you’ll ever have doing research. After "Making a Murderer" and "Serial," true crime books are, as one editor told me, “having a moment.” Here’s how to get started, where to find documents and how to access them, and how to turn a crime into a compelling narrative.

Ballroom: Channeling the Voices in Your Head: A Workshop on Voice — Rena Olsen. We all have those voices in our heads, characters who talk to us and beg us to tell their stories. But how do you translate the character you’ve imagined onto paper? How do you make sure every nuance of their personality comes across, and, most importantly, how to make sure that you take a step back and let them take the lead, even when they lead the story to unexpected places? In this workshop-style session, we will talk about how to get to know your characters, and practice getting their voices to shine on the page. Each participant will create a character and apply their voice to a generic scene.

5:00-5:45 pm **Alumni Lounge:** Cash Bar, Happy Hour

5:45-7:30 pm **Cardinal Hall:** Closing Banquet / Manny Awards / **Keynote Speaker: Jess Lourey — “Rewrite Your Life”**

Buttonhole the Experts (Fri. & Sat. mornings)

Cardinal Hall

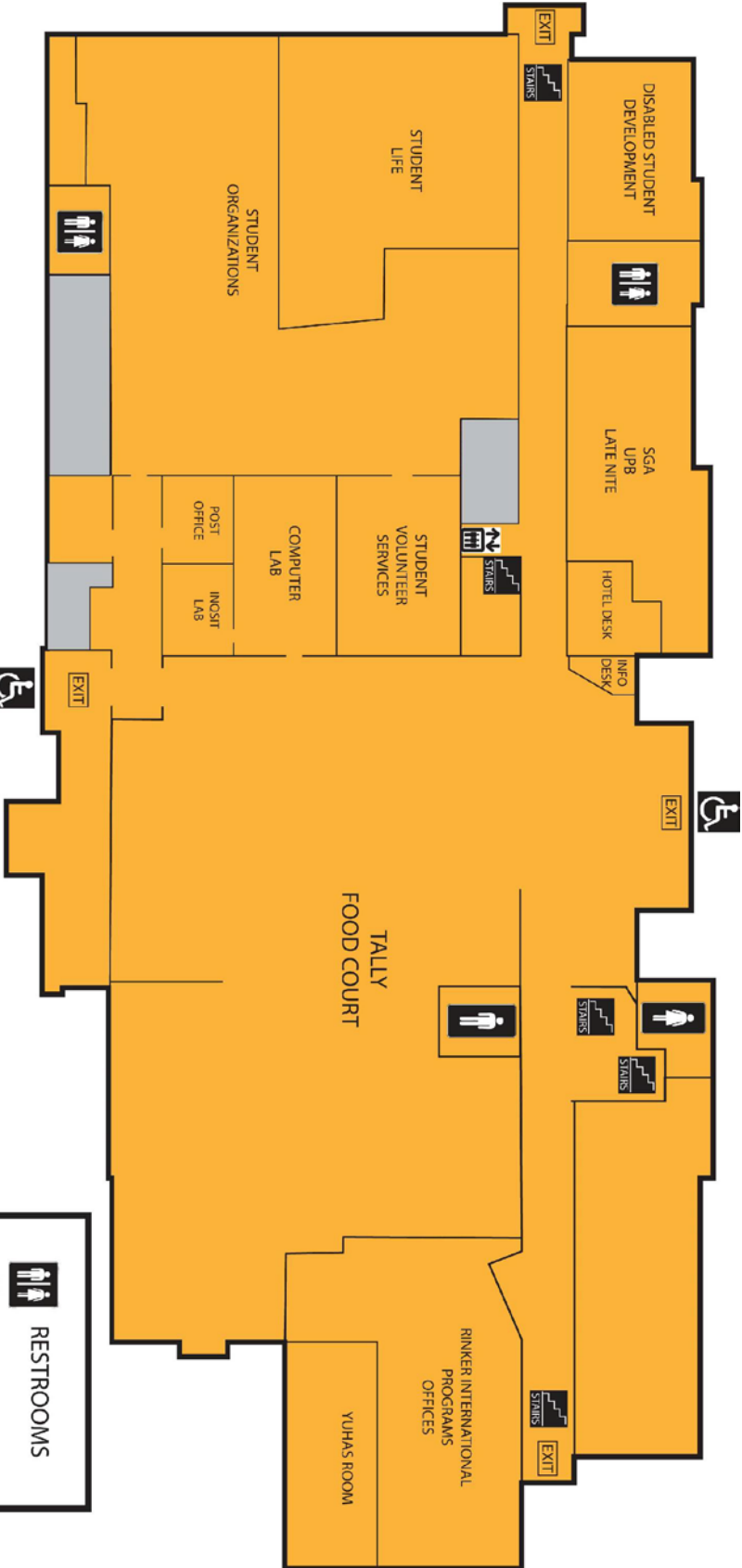
1. John Gilstrap—Presentation Skills for Authors
2. Jane Friedman—Online Productivity Tools for Busy Writers
3. Amy Reichert—Everybody Wins When You Work With Other Authors - cross promotion
4. Jess Lourey—Plot Your Mystery
5. Mike Mullin—Dialogue or anything YA related
6. Melissa Marino—Conference for Introverts (Friday am)
7. Matthew Clemens—Taking It Seriously: Writing As A Career OR I Wish I Had Known What I Didn't Know I Needed To Know. Where we talk about the mistakes beginners make not just in writing, but in self-publishing, marketing, and how to overcome them.
8. Ruth McNally Barshaw—Journaling, Illustration and Kids' Books
9. Dee Romito—Writing Children's Books
10. Roseanne Wells (agent)—The Call
11. Eric Smith (agent)—Day in the Life of an Agent
12. Jessica Strawser (editor/author)—Perseverance/success in the writing life (dealing with rejection, switching gears, staying positive—and anything about the author/editor or author/agent relationships, as I can speak to perspectives from both sides of the desk!)
13. Mardi Link—Writer's Road Trip (how to schedule and finance a book tour with other writers)
14. Nina Sadowsky—You Oughta Be in Pictures: Is your book right for the silver screen?
15. Becky Albertalli—Fleshing Out the Ensemble
16. Angie Thomas—Setting as a Character
17. Rena Olsen—A Writer's Debut Year
18. Kelly O. Stanley—Creative Self-Promotion
19. Brenda Drake—Pitch Wars and Other Contests
20. Bronwen Dickey—Expanding an Article into a Book
21. Brooks Sherman—Ask an Agent Anything
22. Jennifer Laughran—Chat with an Agent
23. Monica Odom—Ask Me Anything [About Publishing]
24. Jessica Sinsheimer—Chat with an Agent
25. Lauren Smulski—SciFi/Fantasy Worldbuilding
26. Carol Topp, CPA—Is it tax deductible? Ask your questions about tax deductions for writers.
27. Dana Kaye—What's my "Author Brand" and why do I need one?
28. Terri Bischoff—From Submission to Print
29. Dianne Drake (Despain)—What Editors Want (from a 50+ published author's POV)
30. Sarah Cannon—Writing for Middle Grade and Writing Cross-Culturally
31. Poetry—Mike Brockley and Jeff Pearson
32. Sarah Schmitt—Writing the Teen Experience When You Aren't One
33. Annie Sullivan -- Everything You Need to Know About Finding and Using Critique Partners

Dianne Drake: Her first venture into the world of writing romance novels came in the form of romantic comedy. Eventually, because of her nursing background, she moved into medical romance and discovered she loved writing the more dramatic side of romance that incorporates the medical elements she's comfortable with. So, 35 books and counting...

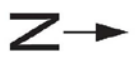
Sarah Cannon: author of *Oddity* (Macmillan, November 2017), has lived all over the U.S., but right now she calls Indiana home. She has a husband, three kids and a misguided dog. Sarah holds a B.S. in Education. She's a nerdy knitting gardener who drinks a lot of coffee, and eats a lot of raspberries. She is probably human. She is represented by Brooks Sherman.

Sarah J. Schmitt is a K-8 school librarian and Youth Service Professional for Teens at a public library who, in addition to planning a variety of events, enjoys opening up the world of books to reluctant readers. She runs a teen writing program that combines Skype visits from well-known authors and screenwriters and critique group style feedback. Prior to immersing herself in the world of the written word, Sarah earned her Master's of Science in Higher Education Administration and Student Affairs from Indiana University where she worked with first-year students as they acclimated to college life. She is an active member of Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, American Library Association and the Indiana Library Federation and is a super huge uber fan of the Midwest Writers Workshop. *It's A Wonderful Death* was released in 2016.

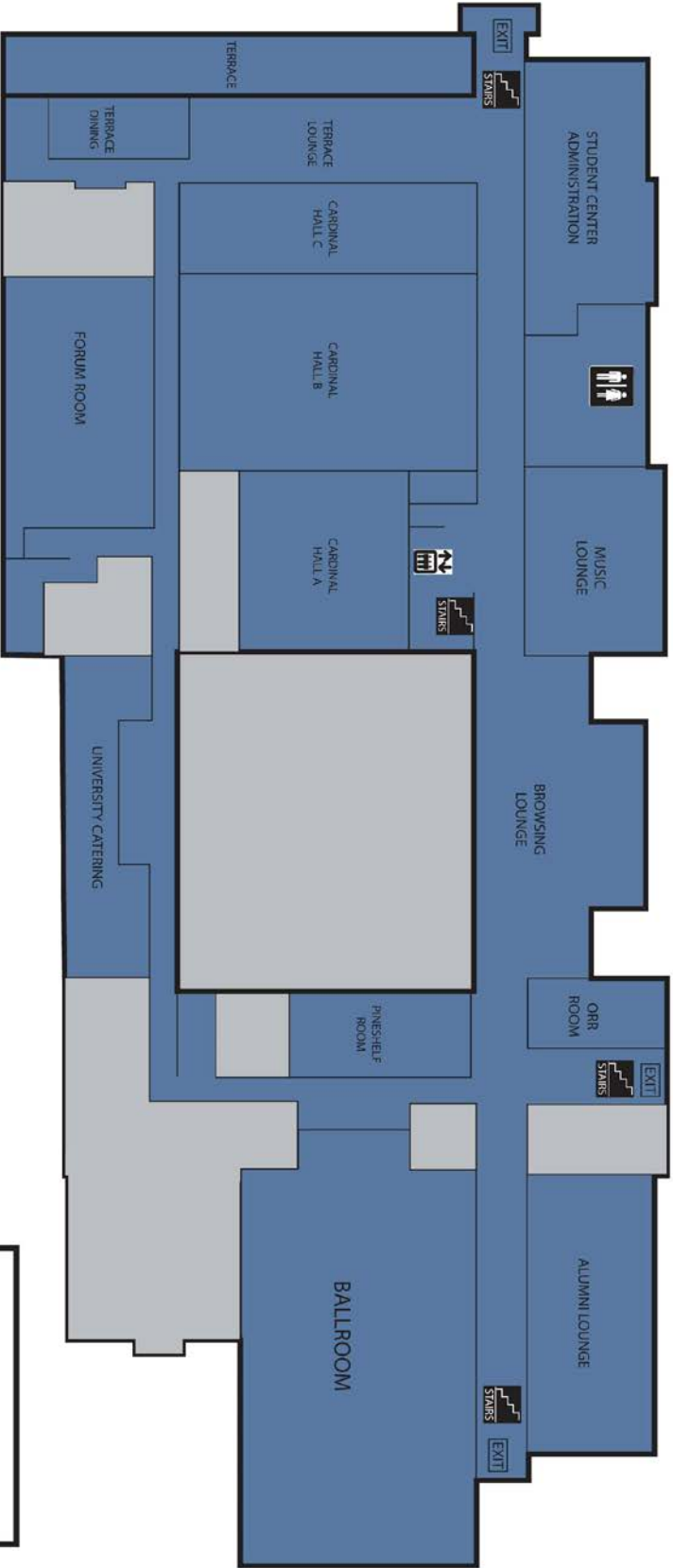
Annie Sullivan is a Young Adult author from Indianapolis, Indiana. Her work has been featured in *Curly Red Stories* and *Punchnells*, and her novel, *Goldilocks*, won the Luminis Books Award at the 2013 Midwest Writers Workshop. She loves fairytales, everything Jane Austen, and traveling and exploring new cultures. When she's not off on her own adventures, she's teaching classes at the Indiana Writers Center and working as the Copy Specialist at John Wiley and Sons, Inc. publishing company, having also worked there in Editorial and Publicity roles.



FIRST FLOOR



	RESTROOMS
	ELEVATOR
	STAIRS
	HANDICAP ENTRANCE



SECOND FLOOR



	RESTROOMS
	ELEVATOR
	STAIRS

How to get here

From I-69 Traveling North

Directions: Take exit 241 toward Muncie. Turn right at IN-332/W. McGalliard Rd. Continue on McGalliard Road about 7.7 miles. Turn right on N. Tillotson Ave. Follow 1.5 miles. Turn left at W. University. Follow .5 miles and Student Center and Hotel will be on your right.

From I-69 Traveling South

Directions: Take exit 241 toward Muncie. Turn left at IN-332/W. McGalliard Rd. Continue on McGalliard Road about 7.7 miles. Turn right on N. Tillotson Ave. Follow 1.5 miles. Turn left at W. University. Follow .5 miles and Student Center and Hotel will be on your right.

From U.S. Highway 35 Traveling West

Directions: Take the ramp onto IN-3/IN-67/Muncie Bypass/US-35. Follow 2.8 miles. Take exit for IN-32 exit toward Muncie. Turn right at IN-32/E Jackson St. Follow 3.2 miles. Continue on W. Main St. Turn right onto W. Jackson St. Follow about .5 miles. Turn right on McKinley Ave. Travel about .3 miles. Turn left on W. University. Student Center and Hotel will be on your left.

From SR-32 Traveling West

Directions: Once you pass under the bypass continue on IN-32/E Jackson St. (due to one-way streets, Jackson becomes Main St.) Follow 3.2 miles. Continue on W. Main St. Follow signs for IN-32. Turn right onto W. Jackson St. Follow about .5 miles. Turn right on McKinley Ave. Travel about .3 miles. Turn left on W. University. Student Center and Hotel will be on your left. From SR-32 Traveling West.