Fairmont State University
and the
WV Storytelling Guild
present the
Mountain State Storytelling Institute

Featuring
Kevin Cordi

and
Connie Regan-Blake

Creating the Tapestry of Culture:
Weaving Stories for a Lifetime

Fairmont State University
April 3-4, 2009
Welcome...

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College, we welcome you to our campus and to the second annual Mountain State Storytelling Institute. We are proud to partner with the West Virginia Humanities Council, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts/Division of Culture and History, and the West Virginia Storytelling Guild to host this gathering.

As the home of the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center, Fairmont State and Pierpont are committed to preserving our cultural heritage and honoring the legacy of Dr. Ruth Ann Musick. Story is an integral part of our Appalachian culture, and we are working to preserve and perpetuate that culture through our programs in folk life studies and by providing students with opportunities for apprenticeships with regional master crafts persons.

The Mountain State Storytelling Institute is a wonderful opportunity for people throughout our region to share their knowledge of the craft and their love of story.

It is our sincere hope that this weekend will continue a new tradition here at Fairmont State and Pierpont, a tradition that brings together scholars, practitioners and learners in the pursuit of story.

Charles J. McClain
Interim President
Fairmont State University

Blair Montgomery
President
Pierpont Community & Technical College

As president of the West Virginia Storytelling Guild, I warmly welcome you to the second annual Mountain State Storytelling Institute.

Albert Einstein was quoted as saying, “Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the earth.” At this storytelling Institute we have combined both knowledge and imagination in an attempt to expose your mind to new storytelling aspects, practices and opportunities.

Whether you are a storyteller or a fan of storytelling, we believe that this event will be an encouragement and benefit to your future storytelling endeavors.

My sincerest thanks to each individual who promoted, presented, or performed to make this an outstanding experience for everyone.

Suzi “Mama” Whaples
Mountain State Storytelling Institute...

Through this institute we want to provide participants the opportunity to explore story as a life-long endeavor. The presenters will focus on story for and with young people, how story has changed and will continue to change in the age of technology and preservation for family story and oral history as an act of preserving culture. As a community of scholars and learners we will explore the following questions?

1. How can story be used to meet academic and social goals in the classroom?

2. What is the nature of story in an age of every changing technology?

3. How can we preserve the history of our families and local culture and transmit that history to the next generation through story?

This project is being presented by Fairmont State University with financial assistance from The West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this brochure do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
The Storytellers...

Julie Adams is a singer/songwriter and, since 1983, featured vocalist for the internationally syndicated public radio show Mountain Stage. She has performed with Kathy Mattea, Sarah McLachlan, Bruce Cockburn, Shawn Colvin, and many others.

Dr. Claudia Aman is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education and Reading at Fairmont State University where she teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in language and literacy. Her teaching interests and expertise are in using children’s literature to enhance and enrich learning across the curriculum, specifically in the social studies and place-based education.

Colleen Anderson is a writer, designer, and songwriter. Her songs have been featured on Mountain Stage and The Folk Sampler, and she has released two collections, Fabulous Realities and Going Over Home. Together, Colleen and Julie have twice led a weeklong songwriting workshop, Sources of Song, at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.

Sheila Benson is an assistant professor of English education at West Virginia University. She currently coordinates the English education program and serves as a university liaison for East Fairmont High School. She has taught high school English and French in Idaho and Utah along with stints as a debate coach and accompanist for choirs and musicals. She believes that every life event should be considered in light of its STP (story telling potential).

Dr. Judy Byers is the Director of the Gabor WV Folklife Center, and the Abelina Suarez Professor/Senior Level of English Education and Folklore Studies at FSU. She is the Executrix of unpublished folklore estate of Dr. RuthAnn Musick and a member of Hill-Lorists, an educational storytelling troupe.

Sheila Coleman-Castells is an educator and teacher trainer with over 25 years of experience in K-12 and Higher Education, both here and abroad. She has taught bilingually in every grade, and has trained both elementary and secondary teachers on the bachelors through doctoral levels in many colleges and universities. While a teacher in Washington, DC, she participated in and was eventual co-moderator of a program that taught/facilitated peer mediation between HS students in a heavily gang predominant area of the city.
Jo Ann Dadisman holds a bachelor’s degree from Shippensburg State College (PA) in Secondary Education. She holds a master’s degree in English Education from WVU and has done post-graduate work there, with an emphasis on Appalachian Studies. She joined the WVU faculty as the English 102 and English 103 Coordinator for the Center for Writing Excellence. She is also a Co-director for the National Writing Project at WVU and teaches their Summer Institute Graduate Course.

Constance Edwards, Assistant Professor of Music, joined the faculty of Fairmont State in 2005. She teaches courses in music history and music appreciation as well as studio bassoon. In addition to her teaching, Dr. Edwards is an active performer in both symphony orchestras and chamber ensembles and has twice performed at the annual conference of the International Double Reed Society (IDRS). She is a graduate of the College of Wooster, the University of Akron, and the University of Arizona.

Creative storyteller and arts consultant, Dr. Gail N. Herman, has performed and taught storytelling extensively throughout the United States, as well as in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Jamaica, Germany, Ghana, India, and the Virgin Islands. Besides performing for students in schools and libraries, Dr. Herman works with teachers and helping professionals to infuse storytelling and the kinesthetic, musical, and spatial aspects of learning into reading and other curriculum areas of our schools. She teaches for Lesley University, MA, Garrett College, MD, and The University of Connecticut (CONFRATUTE) in CT.

Ellesa Clay High is an Associate Professor of English at West Virginia University, where she teaches American Indian literature and creative writing. In addition to her writing, which has appeared in journals and anthologies across the nation, she is a storyteller who focuses on the traditional stories of Eastern Woodland Native peoples, particularly those who have called West Virginia home. She is a member of the Lower Eastern Ohio Mekoce Shawnee.

Michael and Carrie Nobel Kline met through of love of singing and oral traditions. They have made a life together performing music, gathering stories, and documenting diverse communities in West Virginia and beyond. They have each published in the Oral History Review and Goldenseal Magazine. Michael holds a Ph.D in Folklore from Boston University and Carrie an M.A. in American Studies from SUNY/Buffalo. As recipients of the 2005 Oral History Association’s Non-Print Award, WV Media Arts (1999) and Spirit of WV Awards (2006)) they have produced a score of audio histories and folk music documentaries based on recorded interviews.
Richard Knoblich’s writings have been published in various national and regional magazines. He has entertained audiences throughout the Mid-Atlantic region including the Colonial Williamsburg storytelling festival. His book, Talking ‘bout the Relatives, was inspired by a romanticized image of family at a mythical old homestead on the mountain where he relates the shenanigans of rustic characters caught in modern times.

Dr. Richard Pierce is an Assistant Professor of Education at Fairmont State University. He taught 6-12 Computer Applications and later acted as the District Technology Coordinator in Texas before coming to Fairmont State University. His research interests include student motivation and educational technology.

June Riffle graduated from Fairmont State with a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education, major: English, minor: social studies. She then earned a master’s degree in Reading from WVU. A student of folklore, she also acquired a folklore minor from Fairmont State University. She performs with Jo Ann Dadisman as “Mountain Echoes.”

Mary Rogers is a graduate of Fairmont State with a degree in Theatre and an Education Certification in Oral Communication and Computer Science. She enjoys combining both her love of theatre and computers to create her stories. Mary is a member of the Fairmont State University Storytelling Guild.

Katie Ross, currently an adjunct professor at Allegany College of Maryland and guild member, holds a teaching degree (Spanish and French) from Cal Western University in San Diego. She has won storytelling contests in Maryland and Ohio. For more than 25 years Katie taught Spanish and French at the middle school level in Allegany County, Maryland. She will be assisted in her workshop by her husband, Otto Ross, and his musical instruments. Otto is an educator as well as a musician; the two perform together as a storytelling duo they call Stories by the Score.

Noel W. Tenney grew up in a family that loved a good story, constantly expounded on family history, and emphasized the value of humor and awareness. He has taught in the public schools, worked in museums, served as artist-in-residence, and shared stories and music with educators and students all over the region. Noel now serve as Cultural Specialist and Instructor with the Frank and Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center on the campus of Fairmont State University and Pierpont Community & Technical College, as well as Director of Special Projects for the Upshur County Historical Society.
Karen Vuranch weaves together a love of history, a passion for stories and a sense of community. She has toured internationally with Coal Camp Memories. Based on oral history she collected, it chronicles a woman’s experience in the Appalachian coal fields. Homefront is also a oral history play she wrote about women in WWII. Karen recreates seven historical figures including author Pearl Buck; labor organizer Mother Jones; humanitarian Clara Barton. In addition to performances, she teaches Theatre and Speech for Concord University and is the Special Projects Director for the National Coal Heritage Area.

Suzi “Mama” Whaples has been performing professionally as a storyteller for the last 12 years. Before making storytelling her vocation, she worked in child evangelism and as a Youth Media Specialist in a local library. While working at the library she envisioned educating the children of West Virginia about their rich Appalachian heritage by using the art of storytelling. She formed a group of three tellers and called them THE MOUNTAIN WOMEN. In 1998 they won the National Storytelling Contest in Hillsboro, Ohio. They, also, took away the top honor for Echo’s in the Coalfields in 2001.
Special Presentations...

Keynote Scholar Kevin Cordi
Keeping the Flame Burning:
Preserving Storytelling in our Lives

This keynote will emphasize the importance of carrying the torch of storytelling, and highlight the need for continuing storytelling in our lives and in children’s lives. It will draw on Kevin’s work as the previous Executive Director of the National Youth Storytelling Hall of Fame and his national and international campaign entitled “Telling Our Story.” He will highlight the international Story Box project and his successful Voices across the World program to have storytelling in every state and country.

Kevin has recently been appointed by The Ohio State University as the first ever “Academic-Storyteller-in-Residence.” He was raised by his parents who regaled him with stories of West Virginia. He credits the tales of the mountains in helping him be a storyteller. He good naturedly states, “All stories are born in West Virginia, everyone else borrows.” He is a Fulbright scholar who holds the honor, according to the National Storytelling Network, of being “the first full time storytelling teacher in the country.” He has a Masters degree in “Storytelling and Education” and is a Ph.D candidate studying “ensemble storytelling and dialogic dramatic inquiry” at OSU.

Keynote Speaker Connie Regan-Blake

Connie Regan-Blake is one of America’s most celebrated storytellers. She has captivated the hearts and imaginations of people around the globe with her powerful performances and workshops. Entertaining audiences in 47 states and 16 countries, she brings the wisdom, humor and drama of stories to main stage concert halls, libraries and into the corporate world. Both as a solo artist and a member of the acclaimed Folktellers duo, Connie has been featured on seven award-winning recordings – five audio and two videos produced by PBS. New Age Magazine, School Library Journal, and Southern Living have praised her work. She has been a guest on NPR’s All Things Considered, ABC Good Morning America and CNN.

When Connie takes the stage she generates a brightness and warmth, drawing in listeners with her engaging humor and Southern charm. Her stories range from hilarious traditional Appalachian Mountain tales to poignant true-life drama. A consummate professional, Connie’s rare talent can transform a convention hall into a wondrous landscape and turn a packed theater into an intimate circle of friends.
Ilene Evans creates educational theater programs that span a vast range of arts disciplines including music, dance, drama, and storytelling. Ms Evans is an inventive storyteller using movement and sound to weave stories and histories to inspire young and old alike. Ms Evans has taught, lectured, and performed throughout the United States and Europe. Ms Evans received her B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology from Trinity College in Deerfield, Illinois and is currently working on her Master’s degree in storytelling at East Tennessee State University. She makes her home in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia.

POTLUCK is a feast of stories, songs, and poems that will satisfy your soul, lift your heart, and tickle your funny bone. Karen Vuranch, Julie Adams, and Colleen Anderson have gathered their very best and very favorite pieces about cookery and community — and the connections between them — into an hour-long live performance that’s full to the brim with laughter and love.

This program is presented with financial assistance from the WV Division of Culture and History, and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the WV Commission on the Arts.
The Workshops...

Barbry Allen: A Musical Journey  
by Constance Edwards  
Constance will be focusing on the ballad of “Barbry Allen” and its many variants, illustrated by a few musical examples. Study of this imported ballad will lead to a brief discussion of a few ballads native to West Virginia.

Bore No More…Making the Bible Come Alive Through Story  
by Suzi “Mama” Whaples  
Keeping children interested while teaching the Word of God can be a difficult task but with a few fresh ideas and activities they can have fun and learn at the same time.

Creating Living Histories and Portrayals -  
Coralie Franklin Cook  
by Ilene Evans  
In this session, participants will learn techniques to tell stories of the past. Students can read, research, write, and then tell the stories of the past in vignettes, plays, and monologues that turn history from “Uggghhh” into “Ahhhh.”

Digital Storytelling Using Photoshop  
by Richard Pierce  
The session explores the available tools to create media rich stories.

Blogging - What is a Blog?      (Workshop 1)  
by Susanna “Granny Sue” Holstein  
What is a blog and why would a storyteller want one? Explore a unique tool that allows storytellers to develop new connections online. This session provides an overview of blogging and its potential for storytelling. Explore gadgets, tracking software and more in a hands-on environment. (Seating is limited to 15 on a first come, first served basis)

Blogging - Get Ready, Get Set...Blog!      (Workshop 2)  
by Susanna “Granny Sue” Holstein  
Get ready, get set...blog! In this session, attendees will set up basic blogs using information from Workshop 1. (attendance at workshop 1 is highly recommended if you are not already familiar with blogging)  
{Seating is limited to 15 on a first come, first served basis}
Evaluating and Exploring Folklore: Traditional Literature in Children’s Lives
by Claudia Aman
Folklore helps children understand their world and can allow them to explore feelings of anger and joy, despair and elation. Children often struggle with notions of good and evil, firmly believing that justice and goodness can prevail. Because many fairy tales and folk tales share this theme they are particularly suited for young children. This session will explore some criteria for evaluating folklore and explore some common themes in traditional literature for children.

Hearing Between The Lines: Developing Story Sound Effects
by Gail N. Herman, Ph.D.
Gail will introduce the concept of using musical intelligence to “hear between the lines”. She will tell a story and the participants will decide on and make sound effects, first with their voices and then with world folk musical percussion instruments from the Mid-East, Africa, Thailand, China, Japan, and the Virgin Islands.

Family – The Inheritance That Keeps on Giving
by Richard Knoblich
Mementos and photos are nice family treasures. But memories, like photos, can fade. Sometimes the best inheritance for family memories is to write about the events to infuse emotion for later telling.

Growing Up In a Storytelling Family: Value and Application
by Noel Tenney
Drawing from my family story content, this session will be illustrated with storytelling, emphasizing the regional context and value of the story in understanding family history, human interaction, and sense of place.

Kindling the Fires of Tradition: Sharing Native American Stories
by Ellesa Clay High
Using colorful artifacts, songs and stories, Ellesa brings a holistic approach to sharing Native history and traditions from our region. Participants should gain a deeper appreciation of the role stories have held in Native communities, the important position of the teller, and how words could be held as sacred and healing.

Listening for a Change: Oral History and Mountain Memories
by Michael and Carrie Nobel Kline
What are the cornerstones of West Virginia culture that find voice in oral testimonial? Learn deep listening for effective story gathering. Replace stereotypical images of mountain life with stories of women and children waiting for news at the mouth of the mine. Commemrate archetypal resilience among farmers and industrial workers.
Middle School Story Listeners with a Spanish Twist ¡Olé!
by Katie & Otto Ross
This workshop is for people wishing to use story as a tool for language acquisition and for those wanting to tell to middle schoolers. To illustrate what works, Katie and her husband Otto will share a mini-program of story, music, and Spanish. A bibliography of age-appropriate resources will be distributed.

Oral History: Collecting, Presenting and Performing
by Karen Vuranch
Participants will learn how to effectively gather oral histories by exploring the interview process, electronic media, individual and group sessions and other aspects of oral history. Karen will discuss how to present oral history with examples of printed pieces, exhibits and performances as well as how to perform stories based on oral history.

Preserving the Spoken Word:
Recording Your Stories For Future Generations
by Mary Rogers
A quick lesson in recording stories onto computers and editing the files with the freeware software Audacity. A method that can be used to preserve family stories or in the classroom for class projects. Note: class will be held in a computer room, some hands on experience may be possible.

Puppets and Story Slotting in Early Childhood and Primary Grades
by Gail Herman
Participants learn the art of story slotting plots with different puppet creatures and people. Each group of 4 or 5 people works on “original” stories, slotted into a simple folk structure plot or two that I have presented.

Revisiting the West Virginia folktales of Patrick W. Gainer in Witches, Ghosts and Signs 2nd Edition (WVU Press 2008)
by Judy Byers
Dr. Patrick W. Gainer, renowned West Virginian folklore scholar, first published his collection, Witches, Ghosts and Signs in 1975 as a compilation of his lectures and tale collecting from people in central West Virginia for over half a century. In 2008, a second edition of this book was published by the West Virginia University Press. Dr. Byers and her folklore students provided a classification of customs and motifs of tales in an appendix project. Dr. Byers will explain the appendix project, provide an overview of this rich collection, and tell some of these ghost and witch tales.
Speaking Peace to Young Appalachia: Using Storytelling in a High School Conflict Resolution Program in WV
by Sheila Coleman-Castells and Ilene Evans
In this session, participants will learn how one West Virginia county high school is combining the implementation of a conflict resolution program with Appalachian-based storytelling, to get to the “heart” of issues between students, and help educators and community members better assist young people as they negotiate conflict in their lives.

Storytelling in Song
by Colleen Anderson and Julie Adams
Forget formulas! There are many ways to frame a narrative and convey a message in song. Songwriters Julie Adams and Colleen Anderson will talk — and sing — about several different ways in which they construct a story and develop an emotional tone when writing a song.

The Story Box Discovery:
Help Welcome the First Arrival to West Virginia!
by Kevin Cordi
In this workshop we will feature The Story Box. The Story Box is a box of stories that has been traveling on and off again since 1995. Each place the box travels people place their stories in the box and the Story Keeper celebrates the stories in the box but also how they can add to the box. The box is traveling to Fairmont and this is your opportunity to be involved.

Using Storytelling to Jumpstart Classroom Writing Assignments
by Sheila Benson and JoAnn Dadisman
Often we need only look within to find the stories that are asking to be told. This interactive workshop will use actual photographs and collective memory to help participants discover and practice collaboration as writing process. While it is designed for teachers, we welcome all participants. Please bring paper and pen, and come prepared to find story kernels for developing into either oral or written tales.

West Virginia Ghost Tales
by JoAnn Dadisman and June Riffle
Ghost tales hold a unique place in the lonesome, shadowed hills of West Virginia. We will explore the various types of tales told and collected within our state. The importance of these kinds of tales to our regional culture and the value of ghost tales to the child in all of us will be discussed. Various collections will be examined and interview techniques for collecting tales as oral history will be reviewed. Participants should be prepared to share their own stories.
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<th>Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:00-8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>R.A. Musick Library Lobby</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Jason A. Young</td>
<td>Wallman Hall Auditorium</td>
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<td>9:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Keynote Scholar</td>
<td>Kevin Cordi</td>
<td>Wallman Hall Auditorium</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:45 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Special Session Historic Storytelling</td>
<td>Ilene Evans as Coralie Franklin Cook</td>
<td>Wallman Hall Auditorium</td>
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<td>1:00 - 2 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Richard Pierce</td>
<td>Skylab, Library</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Michael and Carrie Noble Kline</td>
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<td>Judy Byers</td>
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<td>Rich Knoblich</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Katie Ross</td>
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<td>2:15 - 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Gail Herman - “Puppets and Story...”</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Suzi “Mama” Whaples - “Bore No More...”</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>JoAnn Dadisman and Sheila Benson</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Noel Tenney</td>
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<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
<td>Ellesa Clay High</td>
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<td>3:30 - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Story Swap with Refreshments</td>
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<td>Student Lounge, Library</td>
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<td>Dinner on your own</td>
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<td>7:00 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Otto Ross</td>
<td>Wallman Hall Auditorium (Free and open to the public)</td>
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<td>7:30 - 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Storytelling Presentation</td>
<td>Kevin Cordi - MC</td>
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<td>Connie Regan-Blake, Jason A. Young</td>
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<td>Susanna “Granny Sue” Holstein</td>
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<td>Ilene Evans</td>
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## Mt. State Storytelling Institute
### Friday and Saturday, April 3-4, 2009
#### Schedule

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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Continental Breakfast</td>
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<td>Falcon Center Conference Area Hallway</td>
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<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome and Announcements</td>
<td>Jason A. Young</td>
<td>Conference Rooms 301, 302, 303</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker</td>
<td>Connie Regan-Blake</td>
<td>Conference Rooms 301, 302, 303</td>
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<td>10:45 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Kevin Cordi</td>
<td>Conference Room 301</td>
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<td>Noon</td>
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<td>1:00 - 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Special Session -</td>
<td>“Potluck” featuring Karen Vuranch, Julie Adams and Colleen Anderson</td>
<td>Conference Rooms 301, 302, 303</td>
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<td>2:30 - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Claudia Aman</td>
<td>Conference Room 301</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Connie Edwards</td>
<td>Conference Room 302</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Gail Herman - “Hearing Between…”</td>
<td>Conference Room 303</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Susanna “Granny Sue” Holstein</td>
<td>Computer Lab 1</td>
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<td>3:45 - 4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Julie Adams and Colleen Anderson</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>JoAnn Dadisman and June Riffe</td>
<td>Conference Room 302</td>
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<td>Concurrent Session</td>
<td>Sheila Coleman-Castells and Ilene Evans</td>
<td>Conference Room 303</td>
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<td>Susanna “Granny Sue” Holstein</td>
<td>Computer Lab 1</td>
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<td>5:00 - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Closing. Address questions and themes</td>
<td>“Stories from the Farmington Mine Disaster”</td>
<td>Conference Rooms 301, 302, 303</td>
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Session Room Chairs...

*Students enrolled in the Honors Communication 2201 class. All other students are enrolled in Theatre 2220: Oral Interpretation.

Storytelling Institute Planning Committee...

Susan B. Bailey  
JoAnn Dadisman  
Francene Kirk  
Peter Lach

Amy Pellegrin  
June Riffle  
Debby Rogers

Special Thanks To...

WTCS Radio  
Cathy Basagic and FSU Food Service  
Derek Crites, FSU Falcon Center  
Peggy Frum and FSU Bookstore  
Thelma Hutchins and Staff, FSU Ruth Ann Musick Library  
Maya Nye  
Virgil Rogers  
Amy Saunders  
Troy Snyder  
Robin Yeager, FSU Falcon Center