

## Workshop Presenter Bios

### **Lisa Brunette**

Lisa Brunette is a novelist, game writer, and journalist. Her nonfiction work has appeared in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Seattle Woman*, *Crosscut*, and many others. She's the award-winning author of the Dreamslippers mystery series and has hundreds of story design and writing credits in digital games. Read her blog—and sign up for a free book—at [www.lisa-brunette.com](http://www.lisa-brunette.com). She will teach a workshop: “Books, Games, and Bylines: What It Takes to Be a Novelist, Game Writer, and Journalist.”

### **Melanie Dobson**

Melanie Dobson is the award-winning author of sixteen timeslip, historical romance, and suspense novels including *Catching the Wind* and *Beneath a Golden Veil*. Three of her novels have won Carol Awards, and *Love Finds You in Liberty, Indiana* won Best Novel of Indiana in 2010. Melanie loves to explore old cemeteries and ghost towns, hike in the mountains, read fiction, and play board games with her family. She lives near Portland, Oregon, with her husband, Jon, and two daughters. She will teach two workshops: “Why Bad Things Must Happen to Good Characters: How to Create Conflict in Fiction” and “Stitching Together Timeslip Fiction.”

### **Robert Dugoni**

Robert Dugoni is the critically acclaimed New York Times, #1 Wall Street Journal, and #1 Amazon Best Selling Author of The Tracy Crosswhite series, *My Sister's Grave*, *Her Final Breath*, *In the Clearing*, and *The Trapped Girl*. He also wrote the best-selling David Sloane series, *The Jury Master*, *Wrongful Death*, *Bodily Harm*, *Murder One* and *The Conviction*, and the stand-alone novel *The 7th Canon* and the nonfiction book, *The Cyanide Canary*, and several short stories. He is the recipient of the Nancy Pearl Award for Fiction, a finalist for the International Thriller Writers and the International Mystery Writers Awards, and has twice been nominated for the Harper Lee Award for legal fiction. He will present a morning keynote and teach two workshops: “Creating Plots for Page Turners” and “Playing God: Creating Memorable Characters.”

[www.robertdugoni.com](http://www.robertdugoni.com).

### **Kait Heacock**

Kait Heacock grew up in the same city as her literary idol, Raymond Carver. Her debut short story collection, *Siblings and Other Disappointments*, is available now. Her fiction has appeared in *Esquire*, *Joyland*, *KGB Bar Lit Mag*, *Portland Review*, *Tin House*, and *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*. Her nonfiction has appeared in *Bustle*, *Crab Creek Review*, *DAME*, *Largehearted Boy*, *Literary Hub*, *The Millions*, and *The Washington Post*. She will be teaching a workshop: “How to Be Both: The Balance Between Writer and Publicist.”

### **Jane Hodges**

Jane Hodges has worked on staff at *Advertising Age*, *Small Business Computing*, *Fortune*, and *The Seattle Times* and freelanced full time since 2004 for outlets ranging from community papers to newswire Mergermarket and *The Wall Street Journal* and for corporations including Earnest, Expedia, Motif Investing, and Zillow. She's the author of the book *Rent Vs. Own* (Chronicle Books). She will teach a workshop: "Finding Your Angle: Freelancing for Beginners, Book Authors, and Platform Builders."

### **Mike Lawson**

Keynoter Mike Lawson was raised in Pueblo, Colorado, attended college at Seattle University and earned a degree in engineering. After college, he spent about 30 years working for the US Navy as a nuclear engineer. He worked in Washington, DC, but spent most of his career at the naval shipyard in Bremerton, Washington, where he managed organizations related to overhauling nuclear-powered submarines, cruisers, and aircraft carriers. So how did he go from nuclear engineering to writing? The short answer is he likes to write. "I tell people that if you want to be a writer you need some talent, a lot of persistence, and a whole lot of luck," Mike said. In 2004, he signed with a fantastic agent who liked *The Inside Ring* and negotiated a two-book deal with a publisher. He has since published 11 novels in the DeMarco series and three books featuring DEA Agent Kay Hamilton: *Rosarito Beach*, *Viking Bay*, and *K Street*. He will deliver the afternoon keynote and teach a workshop: "Fourteen Novels: What I've Learned/Mistakes I've Made."

### **Debby Lee**

Debby Lee, raised in the cozy town of Toledo, Washington, has published three anthologies with a traditional Christian publisher, Barbour Publishing, with more in the works. *The Courageous Brides* and *Mountain Christmas Brides* anthologies made the Christian Book Expo's Bestsellers List. She also contributed to three independently published collections that have performed well. She is knowledgeable about what makes an anthology work and what freezes it in its tracks. She has been involved in American Christian Fiction Writers and Romance Writers of America. She is represented by Tamela Hancock Murray of the Steven Laube Literary Agency. Debby loves connecting with her readers through her website at [www.booksbydebbylee.com](http://www.booksbydebbylee.com). She will teach a workshop: "Bundle Up! The Pros and Cons of Book Bundles."

### **Tod Marshall**

Tod Marshall, the 2016-18 Washington State Poet Laureate, is the Robert K. and Ann J. Powers Endowed Professor in the Humanities at Gonzaga University, where he directs the writing concentration and coordinates the visiting writers' series. Tod was born in Buffalo, New York, grew up in Wichita, Kansas, and now lives in Spokane. After studying English and philosophy at Siena Heights University, Tod earned a masters of fine arts from Eastern Washington University and a doctorate from the University of Kansas. His work has been published in many journals, including *Narrative*, *The Southern Review*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Boulevard*, *The Colorado Review*, *The*

*Denver Quarterly*, *The Columbia Poetry Review*, *Poetry East*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Volt*, *Interim*, *The Canary*, *Willow Springs*, *Cutbank*, *The Georgia Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. He is the author of *Bugle*, released in 2014 by Canarium Books, *The Tangled Line* (released by Canarium in 2009) and *Dare Say* (from University of Georgia Press). He will teach a workshop: “Three Notes Played on a Silver Flute.”

### **Veronika (Ronnie) Noize**

Veronika (Ronnie) Noize, The Marketing Coach, is the founder and managing director of the DIY Marketing Center, which provides classes, coaching and networking opportunities to small businesses. Ronnie is the author of "How to Create a Killer Elevator Speech" and "Networking for Newbies," and co-author of "Marketing Strategies that Really Work" from Insight Publications. Ronnie has spoken about and taught small business marketing at more than 200 locations in North America. She is currently ranked in the top 4% of all social media influencers in the world. For more information, visit Ronnie's websites: [www.VeronikaNoize.com](http://www.VeronikaNoize.com) and [www.DIYMarketingCenter.com](http://www.DIYMarketingCenter.com). She will teach two workshops: “Networking for Writers & Introverts” and “Easy Social Media Marketing for Writers.”

### **Kyle Pratt**

Writers can spend a lifetime creating quality stories but never break into the traditional publishing world. For years Kyle Pratt, the bestselling author of action-adventure and speculative fiction novels, worked that treadmill. But he left it behind in 2013 to begin “indie publishing.” Within a year he made enough money to quit his 9-to-5 job and write full time. He released *Titan Encounter*, his debut novel, in 2012. *Through Many Fires*, the first book in his post-apocalyptic series, *Strengthen What Remains*, came out in paperback, Kindle, and on Audible in August 2013. Within two weeks the novel appeared on the Kindle Science Fiction Post-Apocalyptic list, reaching #10, and topped the list on December 2, 2014. The second book in the series, *A Time to Endure*, reached the #1 position on the Amazon Kindle war fiction genre bestseller list just over a month after release and then again in January 2016. At the same time, *Braving the Storms* reached the #8 spot on the bestseller list. Using the growing arsenal of technologies including Kindle, Kobo, print-on-demand, ACX, and the other tools of the digital era, Kyle believes it is possible for many more writers to be what author Guy Kawasaki terms successful APEs—Author, Publisher and Entrepreneurs. You can learn more about Kyle on his website, <http://kylepratt.me/>. He will teach a two-part workshop: “Steps to Successful Indie Publishing.”

### **Jennifer Vandenberg**

Jennifer Vandenberg likes to think of herself as a wanderer since she moves often, changes jobs even more often, and many times thinks of six impossible things to do before breakfast. She lives in Chehalis, Washington, where she splits her time between writing and a restaurant job. She is working on a 12-part short-fiction fantasy detective series. Books 1–6 are available on Amazon.com. This series follows the troubles of a down-on-his-luck private eye on a distant moon. You can find a complete list of her books at [www.jennifervandenberg.com](http://www.jennifervandenberg.com). Come wander with her. She will teach a workshop: “Developing Plot Using Character Creation.”