North Country Institute and Retreat for Writers of Color

February 26- March 1, 2009 at Medgar Evers College, CUNY

Rolling admissions through February 2009.

Workshops offered in the following genres: Fiction and Poetry.

Teachers can earn professional development credits.

North Country Institute for Writers of Color Summer Retreat 2008 Faculty

Victor LaValle [*Fiction*] was raised in Flushing and Rosedale, Queens. He graduated from Cornell University with a degree in English and received his M.F.A. in Fiction from Columbia University. He has been a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. His books include the story collection, *Slapboxing with Jesus*, winner of the Pen Open Book Award, and the acclaimed novel, *The Ecstatic*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York and teaches writing at Columbia University.

Gregory Pardlo [*Poetry*] is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in poetry and a translation grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has also received fellowships from the New York Times, the MacDowell Colony, the Seaside Institute, and Cave Canem. His poems, reviews, and translations have appeared in Calalloo, Lyric, Painted Bride Quarterly, Ploughshares, Seneca Review, Volt, Black Issues Book Review and on National Public Radio. Pardlo is Assistant Professor in the English Department at Medgar Evers College where he teaches creative writing and composition. He lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife and daughters.

Past NCI Faculty include:
Jeffrey Renard Allen, Martin Espada, Indira Ganesan, Sandra Jackson-Opoku, Tony Medina, E. Ethelbert Miller, and Sonia Sanchez.

What the Fellows are saying…

"This was my first experience in a true writers' workshop. And it was outstanding. Sharing my story with the instructor and my fellow participants has really helped me to see my work in a new light. And, I got some great practical advice and ideas." ***- Holly E., Journalism Professor- Columbia, Missouri – Fiction Fellow***

"The NCI retreat was a fabulous experience… having the chance to be exclusively with other folks of color allowed for a certain kind of safety, idea development and freedom of expression that I have yet to encounter in non-POC workshop spaces. Strong relationships were generated with other writers who I now consider good friends and allies. In four days we established networks to exchange and share our work; raising the workshop roof, if you will, to maintain the dialogue and run with it beyond the time constraints of the retreat." ***– Amalia A., Creative Writing Instructor, California – Poetry Fellow***

"The Retreat was everything I hoped it would be! Our instructor gave us exercises and readings that made us seriously consider not only the craft of writing, but also our personal development as writers. And, when it was time to workshop, [Victor] explored each piece with great sensitivity…My classmates, too, impressed me with their insight and commitment to writing. From them, I learned how varied the contemporary fiction of writers of color can be…Overall, I am so glad that I was able to be a part of a workshop that truly respected what each individual writer wanted to accomplish." ***– Rochelle S., Freelance Journalist, Georgia – Fiction Fellow***

If you are interested in participating in an upcoming retreat call 718.270.6983 or email writers@mec.cuny.edu.

Tuition fees vary based on location. Applicants' materials must include: a cover letter expressing reasons for wanting to participate, two letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with their writing, and a sample of writing. A non-refundable application **fee of $25, payable to Center for Black Literature**, should accompany the application. Applications will be reviewed as received until all spaces have been filled. Fellowships available. Tuition is $400 for the MEC retreat. Additional sponsorship provided by the Office of New York State Assemblyman Hakim Jefferies.

For more information visit us on line:
www.mec.cuny.edu/blacklitcenter
http://www.plattsburgh.edu/offices/academic/writersofcolor