

Writers' Fortnight 2013

Visiting Authors

Middle School
Schedule

High School
Schedule

The Blurb
Online Publication

What is Writers'
Fortnight?

Festive
Writing
Challenge

What is Writers' Fortnight?

In its second year at East campus, and sixth year as a UWC South East Asia event, Writers' Fortnight continues to blossom as an opportunity for students to become writers inspired by writers.

Guest speakers have included Meira Chand, Philip Jeyaretnam, Neil Humphreys, Mukul Deva, Steve Dawson, Alison Jean Lester, Valerie Browne Lester, and Jacyntha England. Many other talented authors of fiction and non-fiction from our parent body have supported us by so generously giving their time to share their experiences and expertise with our students. Many of these writers will be joining us again, along with novelists Holly Thompson, Anu Kumar, Chris Huntington and Jennifer Gargiulo.

This year will be a whole High School and Middle School event, with authors working with our students and parents through a variety of talks, presentations, workshops and individual mentoring over the two weeks. **Parents are invited to attend any event on the schedule**, with a special session for those who would like to develop their own writing and understanding of the world of publishing. This will be hosted by Alison Jean Lester and Valerie Browne Lester on Thursday 17 Jan, 12.50-1.30 in the secondary library. Middle School parents are also invited to attend a coffee morning with the heads of Middle and High School English to discuss reading in the middle school - Tues 22 Jan, 9-10 in the secondary library.

We hope the whole community enjoys Writers' Fortnight 2013!



Mukul Deva has traveled a long, winding road and shows no sign of tiring.

Completing his education from La Martiniere College, Lucknow, the National Defence Academy, Pune, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, Mukul was commissioned in the SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY of the Indian Army in 1981.

An eventful Army tenure, which included a decade of operational service in India and overseas, ended in an equally remarkable transition when Mukul turned his attention to the corporate battlefield. The result was MSD SECURITY PVT LTD which, in the ensuing decade, grew into a dynamic, professionally managed company.

Another twist in the tale followed when Mukul turned to his first love - writing. The result was a series of books spanning genres as multi-faceted as his personality.

With FIVE successive bestsellers in five years Mukul is acknowledged as India's literary storm trooper and one of the pioneers of the Indian thriller novel.

Apparently, these multifarious activities did not satisfy the dreamy achiever. 'I wanted to do something more than just make a profit. I wanted to make a difference. After all,' he adds, 'the journey has to be meaningful, otherwise what price the destination?' Realizing his passion for and ability to help people live up to their potential, Mukul acquired certification in coaching from the Henley Business School, University of Reading, U.K. and embarked on the path of being The Change Maker, as a Business, Executive and Creativity Coach.

When asked how he finds the time, inspiration and energy for all this, Mukul simply says, 'If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.'

Visiting Authors



Neil Humphreys (born London, England, 5 December 1974) is a British humor columnist and author of three best-selling humorous books about Singapore - *Notes From an Even Smaller Island* (2001), *Scribbles from the Same Island* (2003) and *Final Notes from a Great Island* (2006). He also wrote *Complete Notes From Singapore The Omnibus Edition*, and the novels *Match Fixer*, *Be My Baby: on the Road to Fatherhood*, and *Premier Leech*.

Neil found work as a speech and drama teacher and later joined the Straits Times as a sports reporter. His class sizes were around 25. Fewer people read his S-League reports on Tanjong Pagar United's latest victory.

Eager for a wider audience and inspired by Bill Bryson, he wrote *Notes From An Even Smaller Island* (Singapore through a young Brit's eyes) in 2001. The book sold and, strangely, still sells to this day. TODAY newspaper asked Neil to write a funny column every week and he eventually cobbled all the columns together and published *Scribbles From the Same Island* and his mother again bought enough to make it one of the best-selling books of 2003.

Neil also wrote for The Age, ABC Radio, Practical Parenting and the Geelong Advertiser in Australia; Lime, Arena, Challenge magazine, Changi Class, Young Parents and Men's Health in Singapore; the odd piece for FourFourTwo all over the place and the back page of the popular West Ham United retro magazine called Ex-Hammers.

Visiting Authors



Holly Thompson is the author of the young adult verse novels *Orchards* (APALA Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature) and the forthcoming *The Language Inside*, the picture book *The Wakame Gatherers*, and the novel *Ash*, and editor of *Tomo: Friendship Through Fiction: An Anthology of Japan Teen Stories*.

Raised in New England, Holly is a longtime resident of Japan, where she teaches writing at Yokohama City University. She serves as the Regional Advisor for the Tokyo Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Holly has presented and led writing workshops at conferences, schools and universities in the U.S., Japan, China, Cambodia, Australia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Mongolia. She is happy to give readings, workshops and presentations to students from elementary grades through university, to writing teachers, and to adult writers and readers.

All presentations include lively Q&A and most include interactive components. She will gladly combine presentations and adapt them to fit a particular curriculum unit, teaching focus or specific workshop need.

Visiting Authors



The host of STAR SPORTS Formula One coverage, and co-host of the award-winning SportsCenter programme, English-born **Steve Dawson** brings a unique style of enthusiasm and knowledge to the screen. Steve really is as pleased to be working in sport as he seems to be.

Born in South East London, Steve studied Economics and Public Administration in West London and spent 11 long years of his post-university life as a tax accountant. With a father who was an academic and an Oxford University graduate, a career in sports never struck the sports junkie as an option. "The idea of doing something as wacky as sports journalism was never really a prospect," said the Liverpool fan.

Steve has been involved in sports journalism since 1988 when he first reported for a weekly fight magazine called "Boxing News". A Liverpool fan since he can remember, he admits having been emotional when Kevin Keegan left the Reds for Hamburg and had another "moment" when Rafa's Revolution outlasted AC Milan in Istanbul.

Steve Dawson made his move to Singapore in 1994 with his wife who is Singaporean, and started out as a journalist for the Straits Times. "We came here on holiday and what's not to like when you come here? We ended up staying."

Visiting Authors



Meher Deva is the daughter of an Indian Army officer and best-selling author. She has had the good fortune to live in diverse cities and cultures, and is currently completing her studies in Mass Communications at a prestigious Singapore university. Her first book, *The Girl who Lost Her Shadow*, was co-written with Dr Ken Spillman. A keen debater and theatre enthusiast, Meher is now working on her second novel – a young adults' thriller titled *The Peregrine Factor*.

Chris Huntington has been described as a “half-Chinese combination of Faust and Charlie Brown,” and his book has been described in similar terms. *Mike Tyson Slept Here* is a fictionalized version of the ten years Chris Huntington spent working in the American prison system and has been called both “a desperate note carved into the desktop of a schoolroom everyone must pretend does not exist” and at the same time “a quirky and hilarious workplace comedy.”

Ten years in the making, *Mike Tyson Slept Here* is a sharp look at prison, love, and what it's like to be in both at once.



Visiting Authors



Jacyntha England is a writer, theatre performer and educator who grew up on the west coast of Canada but has made the world, including France, Thailand, Tanzania, Kazakhstan and Singapore, her home for the past twenty years. As a writer, she holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Vancouver's Simon Fraser University and has published both fiction and non fiction in anthologies and journals in North America, Asia and Europe. Her recent publications include short stories in the anthologies *Love and Lust* in Singapore, published by Monsoon Press in Singapore, and *Through Central Asian Eyes*, published by Nomad Publications in Kazakhstan. She is also actively involved in several writers groups in Singapore.

Jacyntha has never given up her day job, which is teaching English and Drama in IB international education. She has been lucky enough to work with a dynamic and diverse group of students at Singapore's ISS International School for the past five years, and has loved every minute of it! She is also an active volunteer with H.O.M.E. (Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics, a Singaporean NGO that works with the local migrant worker community), and helps run an English language education for domestic workers in Singapore.

Visiting Authors



Alison Lester was born in the United States, but has studied and worked in the UK, China, Italy, Taiwan, Japan and Singapore. She studied Mandarin and French in college, and did a graduate degree in Chinese studies. She has worked as a tour guide, desk officer for the US Commerce Department, economic editor, freelance writer, and voiceover artist, and for the past 13 years has been running her own communication skills coaching business.

She writes both fiction and non-fiction. Her first book was a collection of short stories entitled *Locked Out: Stories Far from Home*. Her next two books were self-help business books - *Present for Success and Communication: Your Key to Success* (co-authored with Shirley Taylor). Her most recent book is a collection of essays called *Restroom Reflections: How Communication Changes Everything*. She has two novels simmering at the moment.

Valerie Lester is the author of three published books: one a biography, one a history, and one a translation. The biography recounts the life of her great-great-grandfather, Hablot Knight Browne (1815-1882), who was better known as "Phiz," the principal illustrator of the works of Charles Dickens.

The history, *Fasten Your Seat Belts!*, tells the story of Pan American from the point of view of the flight attendants, much of it in their own voices. And the translation is of *Le Grand Meaulnes* by Alain-Fournier, a minor French classic about the dreams and agonies of adolescence, still read by almost all French teenagers. She is currently at work on a biography of Giambattista Bodoni, arguably the most important typographer of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.



Visiting Authors



Jennifer Gargiulo Marrapese is an author, journalist, and university lecturer. She graduated from Vassar College with a degree in Philosophy and has a PhD from Sydney University. She spent her childhood in Verona and now lives in Singapore with her husband, Michele, and their two children, Alexander and Eliot.

Her newly published book *How To Get Your Own Dog* was inspired by her son (who is a Grade 6 student at UWCSEA) and is her first foray into the world of fiction.

Dhooleka Sarhadi Raj, is author of *Where are you from? Middle Class Migrants in the Modern World* (2003, University of California Press), and is currently writing a book on the emergence of diaspora strategies from the Indian Nation-State as it re-positions itself as a homeland for its emigrant population.

She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at Yale, Harvard and Cambridge. Her research and publications explore transnational migration, focusing on South Asia. A key question of her work is to understand globalization as the movement of people, specifically, how ethno-religious minorities involved in transnationalism simultaneously transform families and nation-states. She has conducted fieldwork on migrants (London), partition refugees (Delhi), globalization and the American family (Washington DC) and state responses to bioterrorism (USA).

Previously, she was the Associate Chair of South Asian Studies, Yale University. Dr. Raj held a research fellowship at The Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University and was the Smuts-Hinduja Research Fellow, University of Cambridge. She has served on the American Anthropological Association Committee of Ethics and The Ethics Task Force.

Dr. Raj holds a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Cambridge.

Corinna Schuler is a Canadian journalist and communications educator who has worked in North America, Africa and Asia. She reported for a wire service, magazines and newspapers -- including the respected Christian Science Monitor and Canada's National Post.

As the Africa correspondent for the Post, Schuler covered news and feature stories out of more than a dozen countries across the continent, including: the end of the Nelson Mandela era in South Africa, farm seizures and violent elections in Zimbabwe, a famine in Ethiopia, deadly floods in Mozambique, the death of a dictator and upheaval in the Congo, and a war in Sierra Leone. She distinguished herself as a long-form journalist -- writing, among other pieces, a 3,000-word investigative feature about child slaves on cocoa plantations in Ivory Coast. A series out of Ethiopia raised in excess of \$500,000 for charities through the newspaper's Ethiopia Appeal campaign. Schuler also contributed stories from Kinshasa and the United Nations in New York to a special pull-out section on the Democratic Republic of Congo -- a team effort that won a National Newspaper Award.

As a media consultant, she has trained journalists from developing countries for the Reuters Foundation and written material for Save the Children in Thailand. She is currently teaching communications and journalism to young adults at the Republic Polytechnic in Singapore, ranking among the school's top instructors in student surveys.

Visiting Authors

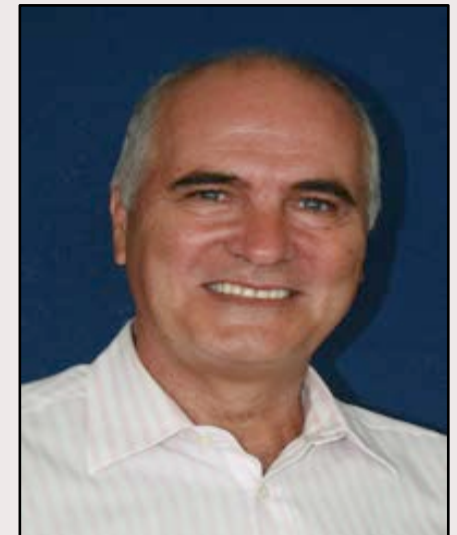


Anu Kumar has written for children as well as older readers. Her books for children include a series on Indian mythology featuring animals and asuras (demons) and also a two book series featuring a time travelling detective called Atisa. Atisa has a flying machine and he has solved adventures relating to the Seven Wonders of the world and also rescued a Chinese monk Xuanzang who lived more than 1500 years ago.

Her short stories have been twice awarded by the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (2004, 2010) and have appeared in many magazines and anthologies. In her books, Anu hopes to make history alive and exciting for her young readers, and her session will be an interactive one, where children will explore different aspects of history, many that are lost and not written about and how through history, we can discover our own stories.

Anthony Skillicorn grew up in apartheid South Africa and was educated there and at Oxford University. In 2010 he published *Service is a Journey* which discusses the importance of service to educational institutions.

He describes himself as a reluctant writer who struggles with the tension between the solitude which writing demands as opposed the exceptionally social nature of his profession – teaching. Anthony has spoken at various conferences on service. He has contributed articles to a number of periodicals and books and is featured in a number of articles.



Visiting Authors



Simon May has a background in science, corporate business development and finance, and is currently devoting time to writing children's fiction alongside various business projects. He has completed 3 picture book manuscripts for children age 4-6, and is currently working on a chapter book for 7-8 years olds as well as a fourth picture book. Simon is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Tabby Stirling lives in Singapore with her Drama teacher husband, eccentric 4 year old son and 'the' Beagle. "I've been writing since I can remember. It's always been a huge part of my life. I've had poetry, short stories and hopefully this year, my first novel published. I love to read. The invention of the Kindle has made me more voracious than ever! Thoroughly looking forward to working with everybody involved!"



Visiting Authors



Jyoti Angresh has a natural love for heritage and culture which has found expression in her writing of coffee-table books on Fort Canning Park and National University of Singapore (NUS) Co-operative, chapters on Heritage and Traditions of Singapore for the 10th, 11th and 12th editions of the 'Living in Singapore' reference guide, as well as a number of regular features and articles on subjects of local interest for the monthly Singapore American Newsletter.

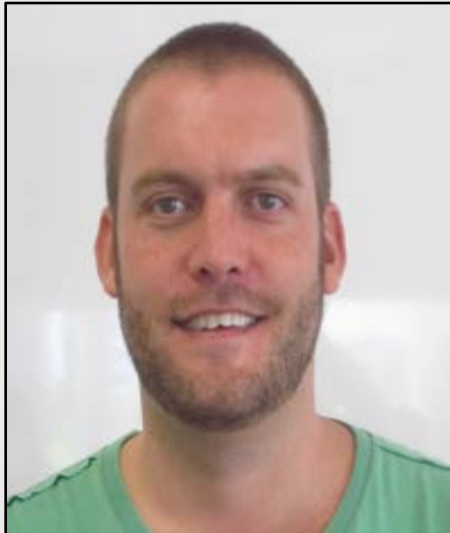
Jyoti is a qualified fashion business professional with over 15 years of international experience. She is currently a part-time trainer at the Textile and Fashion Federation of Singapore, where she also continues to write the monthly newsletter for members of the industry.

Melissa Diagana has lived in Singapore for 6 years with her husband, 3 little kids, and 2 cats. With family roots and shoots in the US, France, Serbia, Senegal, and Ethiopia, she finds it easy to thrive in this multi-ethnic city-state and has been inspired to write regularly on environmental and medical topics for the Singapore American Newspaper. She has also written chapters for the 11th and 12th edition of Living in Singapore guidebook and most recently a coffee table book on Fort Canning Park (with Jyoti Angresh).

Melissa grew up in upstate New York and in New England; and then shifted to France to do her Ph.D. in molecular biology and start work in the biotech industry. She eventually worked in San Francisco and has a decade of writing scientific papers and patents to her credit before moving to Singapore in 2006.



Visiting Authors



Ben Morley has been teaching for 16 years now (ouch!) and has worked all over the world, from Eastern Europe to Borneo, ancient China to his own back yard in London, England. He is now working at UWCSEA in Singapore and feels like staying put...for a while at least.

He is married to Heloise, a designer, and has a daughter, Lyra, and two sons, Rocco and Otis. He loves football, snakes and going on adventures. His first book for children, *The Silence Seeker*, was nominated for the Red Dot Awards in Singapore and long listed for the UKLA Children's Book Awards in 2011.

Adam has written extensively on Indonesia and Southeast Asia, including *A Nation in Waiting*, a highly acclaimed work on contemporary Indonesian history. From 1987 to 1997, Adam worked as a correspondent and bureau chief in Indonesia, Hong Kong, Thailand and Vietnam for the Far Eastern Economic Review.

Adam graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. He holds an MBA degree in International Business from Columbia University, where he was awarded a University Fellowship for Professional Achievement.



Guest Speaker



Dominic Mooney grew up in Repulse Bay HK and spent much of his formative years in the forested hills of Hong Kong island which helped drive his interest in wildlife and exploring the great outdoors.

As a passionate environmentalist, he likes to explore jungles across Asia when he can, with the occasional beach stop where he surfs and dives. He is a banking director by day and likes to play football at the weekend, He is also a long suffering supporter of Southampton FC.

Middle School Festive Writing Challenge

"The world in words and film"

Students are encouraged to go out into the world and make a video of themselves reading up to four lines of original poetry or prose inspired by a special place. This place should feature in the video.

Maybe you are visiting the Taj Mahal or your favourite tree:

Write about it,

Film it,

Upload your film.

A collection of the best films will be shown in Assembly during Writers' Fortnight in Week 2 of next term.

Middle School Schedule Week 1

	Grade 6s	Grade 7s	Grade 8s
Wednesday , 16 Jan			
08:00-08:40	Writers' Celebration: The World in Words and Film (Main Hall)		Neil Humphreys: <i>Original</i> Writing for Different Purposes/Audiences (Aud)
Thursday, 17 Jan			
08:00-08:30	Holly Thompson: An Introduction (Main Hall)		
10:00-11:20	Writing Workshop with Holly Thompson (classrm)		
11:25-12:45			
12:50-13:30	A session for parents who would like to develop their own writing and understanding of the world of publishing, hosted by Alison Jean Lester and Valerie Browne Lester (secondary library)		
13:40-15:00		Writing Workshop with Holly Thompson (classrm)	
Friday, 18 Jan			
08:20-09:40		Writing Workshop with Holly Thompson (classrm)	
10:00-11:20			Writing Workshop with Holly Thompson (classrm)
11:25-12:45			

Middle School Schedule Week 2

	Grade 6s	Grade 7s	Grade 8s Writing and photo-narratives created by the Grade 8s in response to their experiences in Chiang Mai will be exhibited in the Secondary Library and MS common area all this week. Parents are invited to visit the display.
Monday, 21 Jan			
11:25-12:45		Meet the Journalist (CR2)	
Tuesday , 22 Jan			
09:00-09:45	Coffee morning for Middle School parents to meet with the Heads of Middle and High School English to discuss reading in the Middle School (secondary library)		
10:00-11:20			Anu Kumar – Workshop (classrm)
11:25-12:45			Anu Kumar – Workshop (classrm)
Wednesday, 23 Jan			
10:00-11:20			Anu Kumar – Workshop (classrm)
13:45-15:00		Meet the Journalist (CR2)	
Thursday, 24 Jan			
10:00-11:20			Anu Kumar – Workshop (classrm)
Friday, 25 Jan			
11:25-12:45		Meet the Journalist (CR2)	
13:40-15:00		Meet the Journalist (CR2)	

High School Schedule Week 1

	Grade 9s	Grade 10s	FIBs	Grade 11s
Monday, 14 Jan				
13:45 – 15:00	Journalism workshop (CR1 & 2)			
Tuesday, 15 Jan				
10:00-11:20			Steve Dawson: Mass Communication - TV vs Print Journalism (Auditorium)	
Wednesday, 16 Jan				
08:00-08:40 (Assembly)	Neil Humphreys: <i>Original Writing</i> for Different Purposes/Audiences (Auditorium)			
10:00-11:20		Neil Humphreys, workshop : Writing For Different Mediums, Purposes and Audiences (CR2)		
11:35 – 12:50	Jacyntha England, workshop : Empowering Ourselves, Transforming Others: Writing From and For Life! (CR 2)			
13:45-15:00		Neil Humphreys, workshop : Writing For Different Mediums, Purposes and Audiences (CR2)		
Thursday, 17 Jan				
11:25-12:45	Alison Jean Lester, workshop : Make Them Squirm: The Role of Discomfort in Fiction and Non-fiction (CR2)			
12:50-13:30	A session for parents who would like to develop their own writing and understanding of the world of publishing, hosted by Alison Jean Lester and Valerie Browne Lester (secondary library)			

High School Schedule Week 2

	Grade 9s	Grade 10s	FIBs
Monday, 21 Jan			
10:00 – 13:20	Meet the Author (classrm)		Meet the Author (classrm)
13:40 – 15:00	Mukul Deva : The Art and Science of Writing (Aud)		
Tuesday, 22 Jan			
10:00 – 11:20		Author Mentoring (classrm)	Meher Deva: How to Write Your First Novel (CR2)
Wednesday, 23 Jan			
08:00-08:40			Nick Alchin: Production and Reception: It's All About Image (CR 1)
11:25 – 12:45	Meet the Author (classrm)		
Thursday, 24 Jan			
10:00 – 11:20		Author Mentoring (classrm)	
11:25 – 12:45	Meet the Author (classrm)		
Friday, 25 Jan			
8:20am – 9:40am			Dominic Mooney <i>Writing Challenge</i> : One man's tale of being lost in the jungle – how will you tell the story? (CR1)

Schedule Grade 11 Week 2

Monday, 21 Jan	
08:00-08:20	Meher Deva: How to Write Your First Novel (classrm)
10:00-11:20	Meet the Author (classrms)
11:25-12:45	Tabby Stirling: The Differences Between Scriptwriting and Novel Narrative (classrm) Meet a Journalist (CR2)
13:40-15:00	Meet a Journalist (classrm)
Wednesday, 23 Jan	
08:00-08:40	Nick Alchin: Production and Reception: It's All About Image (CR1)
10:15 – 11:30	Meet a Journalist (classrm)
13:45 – 15:00	Meet a Journalist (CR2)
Thursday, 24 Jan	
08:00-08:20	Meher Deva: How to Write Your First Novel (classrm)
Friday, 25 Jan	
11:25 – 12:45	Meet a Journalist (CR2)
13:45 – 15:00	Meet a Journalist (CR2)

Meet the Author options – Grade 9

Monday, 21 Jan	
Block 2	Tabby Stirling – Writing Thrillers Alison Jean Lester – The Interplay of Reality and Imagination Valerie Lester Browne – Biography: Bringing People to Life Chris Huntington – What are the Rules? (...for “using” your friends, family, enemies in your writing? And what do we do when they don’t like what they read!) Meher Deva – How to Write your First Novel Jyoti and Melissa – Collaborative Writing: When Two is Better than One
Wednesday, 23 Jan	
Block 3	Tabby Stirling – Writing Thrillers Alison Jean Lester – The Interplay of Reality and Imagination Valerie Lester Browne – Biography: Bringing People to Life Anu Kumar – Using History to Tell Ourselves Stories
Thursday, 24 Jan	
Block 3	Ben Morley – The Power Of Picture Books Jennifer Gargiulo – The <i>Awesome</i> Adventures of Writing Anu Kumar – Using History to Tell Ourselves Stories Jyoti and Melissa – Collaborative Writing: When Two is Better than One Dhooleka – From the Seed of an Idea to Final Submission (Non-fiction)

Mentoring Schedule – Grade 10

Tuesday, 22 Jan	
Block 2	Simon May Meher Deva
Thursday, 24 Jan	
Block 2	Simon May Jyoti Angresh Jennifer Garguilo Meher Deva

the BLURB

“All writing produced by the students during this event can be submitted to the College's new online publication The Blurb.”

<http://blurb.gapps.uwcsea.edu.sg>
uwctheblurb@gmail.com

**Get creative,
Get published!**

*(Short stories, poems, graphic narratives,
photographs, artwork...)*