The Connecticut Writing Project at Fairfield University would like to express appreciation to Bank of America for its support for the Writing Our Lives-Bridgeport Conference. A special thank-you to Carol Heller, senior vice president and market manager for southern Connecticut, and Nick Puleo, group manager for Weber Shandwick.

In addition, CWP-Fairfield applauds Hoops4Hope and Writing Our Lives-Syracuse.

Finally, CWP-Fairfield is grateful to Fairfield University, the National Writing Project, Gear Up, and Bridgeport City Schools.
## The Play-By-Play

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Dr. Bryan Ripley Crandall</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Dr. Marcelle Haddix (SKYPE)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Carol Heller, Bank of America</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15</td>
<td>Planting the seeds for writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:50</td>
<td>Stretch and Move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>Session I</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>(break)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15</td>
<td>Keynote: <em>Kwame Alexander</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:10</td>
<td><em>Stretch and Move</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15</td>
<td><strong>Session II</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>Buses depart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sonya Huber is an assistant professor at Fairfield University, where she teaches creative nonfiction, publishing, editing, and composition. She is the author of two books of creative nonfiction, Opa Nobody (2008) and Cover Me: A Health Insurance Memoir (2010). She has also written a textbook, The Backwards Research Guide for Writers: Using Your Life for Reflection, Connection, and Inspiration (2011).

Don C. Sawyer is an assistant professor of sociology at Quinnipiac University, where he teaches courses on race, education, and hip-hop literacies. His dissertation, “I Ain’t Do Nothing: An Analysis of the Social and Academic Excellence of Black Males in a Dismantled Middle School,” explores the resilience of youth cultures in a time of No Child Left Behind.

Gordon Skinner is an artist living in Hamden, Connecticut who explores identity in his artwork. His artwork has been featured on the cover of Dogwood, in shows at Yale University, at City Lights Gallery in Bridgeport, and in the homes of many collectors. His pieces ask questions about belonging, history, and self-ownership through urban expressionism and what it means to feel lost.

Michael Serazio is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at Fairfield University where he researches, writes, and teaches on popular culture, advertising, politics, and new media. His book, Your Ad Here: The Cool Sell of Guerilla Marketing (NYU Press, 2013) investigates the social patterns of pop culture in media industries and on the web.

Brynn Mandel is a journalist for the Waterbury Republican, where she serves as a writer who covers arts, entertainment, and a broad range of topics. Her work has won numerous awards, including honors from the American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors and the New England Associated Press News Executives Association.

Mark Crandall is the CEO of Hoops4Hope and Soccer4Hope, a non-profit organization committed to providing children and young adults in challenged environments with safe, nurturing places where they can contribute back to communities in healthy and influential ways. Through sport and a Skills4Life curriculum, his organization reaches throughout Africa, the United States, and the Arctic.

Rhiannon Berry is a high school English teacher in Liverpool, New York, who works with students on understanding genocide and making a difference in their communities. As a Spector/Warren fellow who uses curriculum of the Holocaust to create global awareness, Berry encourages students to think globally while acting locally.

BRYNN MANDEL

Carol Ann Davis is the author of Psalm (2007) and Atlas Hour (2011), both from Tupelo Press. The recipient of a National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship in Poetry and the W. K. Rose Fellowship for the Creative Arts from Vassar College, her recent work has appeared in Agni, American Poetry Review, Volt, and on the ArtBeat website for PBS’ Newshour.

Lossine & Abu Bility are juniors at SUNY Brockport in upstate New York where they major in social work and criminal justice. They arrived in the U.S. in 2005 after fleeing civil conflicts in Liberia and finding a safe place in refugee camps of Guinea. The young men, athletes on their h.s. varsity soccer team, graduated in 2010 from Syracuse Central School District.

Marcelle Haddix is an assistant professor of English Education at Syracuse University. Founder of Writing Our Lives- Syracuse, she works with teachers, schools, and youth to promote the importance of writing in all communities. Her scholarship explores teacher identities, writing, and critical literacies.
**Victor Harris** is a 2013 Fairfield University graduate who majored in international business. He relocated to the United States in 2001. Through athletics, hard work, and intrinsic motivation he worked in the Peer Mediation Club, the Young Male Leadership group, and the Student Diversity program.

**Will Johnson** is the associate dean of students/director of student diversity programs at Fairfield University where he promotes and fosters inclusive living and learning within the Fairfield community. He is a tremendous advocate for promoting the personal best in each and every student.

**Nakia Letang** is the associate director for community partnership high schools and an admission officer at Fairfield University. She is a member of the Bridgeport Higher Education Alliance and an expert on supporting youth in the transition to higher education.

**Bryan Ripley Crandall** is an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Education and Allied Professions and the Director of the Connecticut Writing Project at Fairfield University. For over a decade he taught high school English in Louisville, Kentucky. Currently Crandall promotes writing instruction in K-12 schools and researches best practices to support all youth to write their lives.

**In Loving Memory of Lois Minto, Friend to the Connecticut Writing Project at Fairfield University and Champion for the Writing Our Lives-Bridgeport Conference**

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**Kwame Alexander** has written 14 books, owned several publishing companies, written for the stage and television (TLC's "Hip Hop Harry"), recorded a CD, performed around the world, produced jazz and book festivals, hosted a weekly radio show, worked for the U.S. government, and taught in a high school. Recently, Kwame led a delegation of writers and artists to Italy (Tuscany), Brazil (Bahia), and Africa (Ghana). But what he loves to do most, is watch his two daughters become smart and beautiful women, listen to his brilliant and wonderful wife laugh, and sit in his library reading and writing poems about all of them. He resides in the Washington, DC area, where he is the founding director of Book-in-a-Day (BID), a program that teaches and empowers teenagers to write and publish their own books.

SESSION I:
10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

On Mix Tapes and Poets (Dr. Edrik López)
Room 105

Sports, Hope, & Literacy: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally (Mark Crandall, Victor Harris Abu Bility, & Lossine Bility)
Room 106

Advertisements for Myself: Thinking and Writing About Consumer Culture (Dr. Michael Serazio)
Room 108

Playing Telephone: Fun Ways of Writing Poems Together Using Ancient Poetic Forms and Modern Words (Carol Ann Davis)
Room 109

Skills for a Successful College Writer (Will Johnson and Nakia Letang)
Room 110 A

“Who Do You Say You Are?” Writing Into Being (Dr. Don Sawyer)
Room 110 A

SESSION II:
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Memories Into Snowglobes: Making Worlds Out of Vivid Events From Our Past (Sonya Huber)
Room 105

Sports, Hope, & Literacy: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally (Mark Crandall, Victor Harris, Abu Bility, & Lossine Bility)
Room 106

Beyond the Headlines: Using a Journalism-Based Approach To Telling Stories and Improving Writing (Brynn Mandel)
Room 108

Words for Power and Action! Writing To Change Your World (Rhiannon Berry)
Room 109

The Priceless Painting and the Press (Gordon Skinner and Bob Albert)
Room 110A