

## Annual Conference—The Only Mystery Is: What's Not To Like?

By Carol Cole

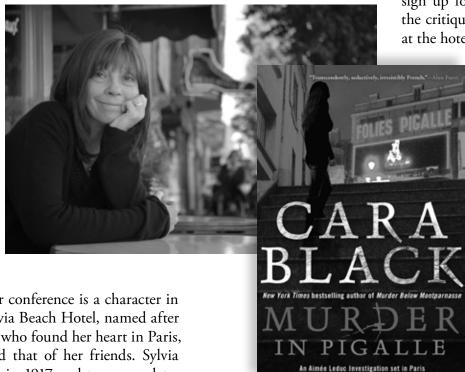
ooking for a bit of mystery, laced with a dash of atmosphere? Something to feed your soul and inspire your creativity? To take you out of your everyday world and let you breathe, and imagine, and craft an even better scene or two?

Join us at our annual conference May 1-3 as best-selling author Cara Black presents "Setting

as Character" and shows us how to weave our favorite (or perhaps not so favorite) places into our stories. Cara been praised has skillful her portrayal of sides of Paris. And, with fourteen bestselling mysteries under her belt, she may even show us how to successfully solve a murder or two! (and Dark) extensively, and has skillfully incorporated the city and its complexities into her best-selling Aimee Leduc mysteries.

The conference begins late Friday afternoon with a gathering in the upstairs library overlooking the Pacific. Following dinner—a Friday night buffet—the first of our critique groups meet. You can

sign up for any of the critique groups at the hotel.



The setting for our conference is a character in its own right. The Sylvia Beach Hotel, named after the American woman who found her heart in Paris, honors her legacy and that of her friends. Sylvia Beach moved to Paris in 1917 and two years later opened Shakespeare and Company, a bookstore that quickly attracted English-speaking readers and writers. Her companions, regulars at her table, included Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Stein, who probably never imagined they'd have their names on hotel-room doors in Oregon many years later.

Like Sylvia Beach, Cara fell in love with Paris when she was in high school. Although she calls the Bay Area home, she's explored the City of Light Cara Black's workshop will be Saturday morning and afternoon. You'll also be able to sign up for an appointment with Stephanie Cabot, a literary agent with the Gernert Company. You can have a private meeting with her to pitch a project or discuss a potential project.

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## **Letter From Our Board President**

#### Becky Kjelstrom, President

d like to formally introduce myself to the membership. I am Becky Kjelstrom, the new president of the Board of Directors. As a writer I am published in novel, short story, and curriculum. I am currently writing screenplays. As a leader, I have been a board member and officer and have experience in program management and group facilitation. I am approachable, so please do so. I want to meet you and hear your thoughts and concerns.

As your new president I hope to uphold the ideas and ideals that have served Oregon Writers Colony so well for so long. I love the sense of community, willingness to share knowledge, and consistent support this organization offers its members.

Now, in order to advance into the future we need to grow. We have already started this process by hiring an executive director. We have furthered the process with events that benefit members, such as the Literary Lounges. We have upped the ante even more with Stumptown Lit, which not only benefited our members, but served the larger communities of readers and writers and contributed to OWC's financial health.

The Board of Directors is working on long-range strategic planning to continue this forward trajectory. I believe part of this plan must involve crafting a diversity statement and devising methods to reach out to writers in underserved groups.

OWC has always been an organization with arms open to receive all comers, but being welcoming is not always enough to make others feel they belong. We

must do the work of reaching out, moving beyond our comfort zones to meet possible new members on their home turf. Then we can draw them into our growing community.

If we do this, what can we give? We give that which we do best: community, knowledge, and support. What can we get back? We will be bathed in stimulating new ideas, an expanded sense of what community can be, and a broadening of our minds and experiences. A pretty good trade-off.

Please join us in this endeavor. Take the step into OWC's future. Search you minds and hearts for ways we can work toward this goal. Share with the officers and board members any ideas and connections that might help. And volunteer your time and energy.

Please join us at our first Literary Lounge of 2015 for a special Membership Night. All members are invited to bring a guest who might be interested in joining OWC. We will have complimentary desserts, munchies, coffee, and tea. The guests on our panel will discuss and answer your questions about writing for profit in Portland, and we'll have a raffle of books written by OWC members, and information about the benefits of membership.

Literary Lounge: Membership Night is 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at the June Key Delta Community Center, 5940 N. Albina St., Portland.



Thank you for allowing me to serve you and the writing community. You can contact me at: beckykjelstrom@ oregonwriterscolony.org.

## The Year Ahead for Oregon Writers Colony

s you have seen in these pages, 2014 was a year packed with activities for Oregon Writers Colony members, from our Literary Lounge gatherings to our blowout Stumptown Lit in October. We're firming up our 2015 calendar with another year's worth of great events that you won't want to miss. (Schedule subject to change; watch weekly eBlasts for updates.)

January: The first Literary Lounge of the new year will be January 21 at the June Key Delta Community Center. For Literary Lounge: Membership Night, current OWC members are encouraged to attend and bring a friend who might be interested in joining OWC. C.B. Bernard, author of *Chasing Alaska: A Portrait of the Last Frontier Then and Now* (Oregon Book Award finalist, among other awards) and Stephan Alexander of the *Portland Tribune* will share their insights on making a living as a writer. Admission is free for members, and we'll have treats and fabulous raffle prizes—books written by our members!

**February-March**: Look for three coming attractions this spring:

- Literary Lounge: Critique Groups, March 11 at TaborSpace.
- Build Your Author Website, a hands-on workshop
- Launch of the OWC writing contest

**April**: In celebration of National Poetry Month, we'll bring you another evening of Literary Lounge: Verse of Ages, April 8 at TaborSpace. Poets in every decade of life will read from their work.

**May**: Mark your calendars for our Annual Conference, May 1-3. (See story page 1.) This year, we're excited to present *New York Times* best-selling author Cara Black and literary agent Stephanie Cabot. Mystery fans will want to sign up early!

**June-July**: Last summer, our Literary Lounge: Food on the Page at the June Key Delta Community Center, complete with catered treats, was such a success that we're going to have a celebration this year too!

**August**: Our annual Founders Day will take place August 16, 2015 at Colonyhouse. Brunch, workshops, and plenty of social time at the beach!

#### September-October:

- Literary Lounge: Writing a Series
- Watch for details on Stumptown Lit 2015! We'll be back bigger and better than ever!

November: NaNoWriMo specials at Colonyhouse.

**December:** Literary Lounge: Editing, December 3 at TaborSpace.

#### Writers residencies

If you have completed a draft of a novel—maybe you churned one out quickly for NaNoWriMo—a residency, workshop, or conference, including those listed below, can help. Workshops and residencies fill up well in advance, so you may want to start thinking about 2016 now!

Fishtrap, in the Wallowas of Eastern Oregon, offers classes, lectures, readings, and discussions for writers of all types. Summer Fishtrap: A Gathering of Writers, is a week of workshops followed by a weekend of discussions, held annually in July. Fishtrap's Imnaha Writers' Retreat is held each April. Fishtrap also offers yearlong workshops. www.fishtrap.org.

Caldera, in Sisters, is a youth camp that encourages underserved youth to learn about visual, literary and performing arts in a community of artists whose work focuses on environmental and political issues that can change lives. The faculty members are artists-in-residence for the year-round activity. Residencies are for one month, or for writers with families, a two-week option is available. www.calderaarts.org.

Playa, at Summer Lake near Bend, attempts to bridge the boundaries between arts and sciences by offering residencies for artists, writers, and scientists who are committed and passionate about their work. Two residency seasons are open each year, (fall—August to December; and spring—January to June) with residencies of two, four, six, or eight weeks. Deadline for the fall 2015 season is March 1. Usually eight to twelve residents are at the facility for each residency. www.playasummerlake.org.

Tin House, based in Portland, has several writers workshops. Its original workshop is a weeklong intensive held annually at Reed College in July. The winter workshop has fiction and nonfiction sections and takes place at the Sylvia Beach Hotel in Newport. The fiction session is scheduled for January 30 through February 2; the creative nonfiction workshop is from February 6 to 9. www.tinhouse.com.

— Anne Hendren

## Stumptown Lit



Jean Auel answers questions during the Gala Reception.

ur first annual Stumptown Lit on October 19 at the World Forestry Center was a success. It began with *Publishing Today:* the Brave New World of Readers and Writers. Mary Rosenblum led nearly 40 writers through the rapidly changing options and approaches to indie publishing.

This was followed at noon by the book fair, attended by hundreds of readers. A dozen exhibitors, from small presses and booksellers to writers' organizations and editors provided everyone with helpful information and encouraging advice. We also had a large display (three tables' worth!) of books written by OWC members.



Elisa Saphier, owner of Another Read Through bookstore, leans in as Jean Auel signs books.





Doreen Gandy Wiley (from left), Holly Franko, and Marlene Howard in the exhibitors area.



The exhibitors drew crowds throughout the afternoon.

## **More Than Books**

After the book fair, Alexa MacDonald and her guitar provided music for the attendees until the reception.

Jean M. Auel was the star of the evening, but she wasn't alone. Contest winners Ryan Chin and Ann Littlewood read excerpts from their winning contest entries, and Paulann Petersen, former Oregon poet laureate, read *A Poet's Paean to Jean Auel*.

Jean answered questions from members of the audience and signed a complete set of her *Earth's Children Series* of books for the lucky raffle winner, Guinevere de Amblia.





D'Norgia Taylor Price and Deloris Dallas at the reception table.

Guests enjoyed food and drink at the Gala Reception.

## Member News . . .

#### Chris Scofield sells Shark Curtain

Chris Scofield announces that her debut novel *Shark Curtain* has been sold to Johanna Ingalls at Akashic Books, a Brooklyn-based independent press. Scofield is represented by literary agent Carrie Howland at Donadio & Olson.



#### Michael Lane publishes another short story

Michael Lane has published another short story, this one in *Potluck Mag*. You can read "Tripwire" at www.potluckmag.com/tripwire/

The author's other stories include:

"How High Is The Sky?" in *Taj Mahal Review* Volume 13, Number 1, June 2014 edition; www.tajmahalreview.com/taj25.htm

"Knockwurst On Dark Rye With Extra Mustard" in the *Ditch 'Em* anthology from Inwood Indiana Press. (inwoodindiana.com/ditchem-has-been-released-in-paperback/)

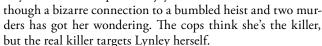
"UFOs and God" in *Crack the Spine*, Issue 94 www. crackthespine.com/2013/12/issue-ninety-four.html

#### Second mystery in Crazy Cat Lady mystery series

Cats' Eyes, "the second mystery in Mollie Hunt's Crazy Cat Lady series, will be published by Amazon in print and electronic form in December.

What if a retired cat lady found a stolen sixty-eight carat chunk of trouble in her Portland back yard pond?

Lynley Cannon is the crazy cat lady, but she's not quite crazy yet, even



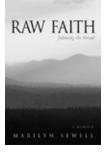
www.amazon.com/author/molliehunt

#### Marilyn Sewell's new memoir out on all platforms

The Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell, a Unitarian Universalist minister and writer, leader, activist, and speaker, announces her new memoir *Raw Faith: Following the Thread* is out now in digital, print and audio formats.

She is also an Adjunct Fellow at the Attic Institute, a literary think tank and visual arts studio in Portland, Oregon that is a haven for writers and artists.

www.marilynsewell.com



Lady myster

#### Story Con in Vancouver, WA

OWC Members Christine Finlayson and Angela M. Sanders joined mystery author Kate Dyer-Seeley for a panel discussion called *The Wicked West: Writing Mystery and Suspense in the Pacific Northwest* at Story Con in Vancouver, Washington. They debated questions such as: "Why is the west so ripe for crime fiction?"; "How does the Northwest setting influence our characters?"; and "How can two authors take the same setting, yet create entirely different books—one dark and one light?"





Story Con was a free, all-day October event hosted by the Vancouver Community Library. It featured 32 authors in mystery, young adult, fantasy, horror, sci-fi, literary fiction, and other genres. For information, visit storyconvention.com.

#### Don Coburn repeat performance

Don Colburn's newest collection of poems, *Tomorrow Too: The Brenda Monologues* was performed on stage in Corvallis and Springfield.

Three actors directed by Leigh Matthews Bock presented all the poetic monologues in the book, telling the story of Brenda Arrieta Killian, who faced cancer while pregnant—a story



Colburn originally reported in The Oregonian newspaper.

The performances were held at the Wildish Theatre in Springfield and at the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis. The book is available from Finishing Line Press and Amazon.

#### David D. Levine sells novel Arabella of Mars to Tor

David D. Levine's novel Arabella of Mars, one of the YA Regency Interplanetary Airship Adventure Series, has been accepted by San Francisco publisher Tor as part of a three-book deal. The first volume will be published in late 2015 or early 2016, with two sequels to follow at yearly intervals.



Arabella Ashby is a Patrick O'Brian girl in a Jane Austen world—born and

raised on Mars, she was hauled back home by her mother, where she's stifled by England's gravity, climate, and attitudes toward women. When she learns that her evil cousin plans to kill her brother and inherit the family fortune, she joins the crew of an interplanetary clipper ship in order to beat him to Mars. But privateers, mutiny, and insurrection stand in her way. Will she arrive in time?

## Member News . . .

Levine has published more than 50 short stories in major markets. His stories have won the Hugo, have been nominated for the Nebula, and have appeared in five Year's Best anthologies, among many other honors, and his collection *Space Magic* won the Endeavour Award for the year's best F/SF book by a Pacific Northwest writer.

David D. Levine: "Life is an experiment with no control." www.daviddlevine.com

#### Prize for Evan Morgan Williams book

Evan Morgan Williams' collection of stories, *Thorn*, has been awarded the Chandra Prize at BkMk Press (University of Missouri-Kansas City), and is now available for purchase. The stories are in the realistic fiction genre, with the



settings mainly in the West, and involving characters making hard choices. Williams read from the collection at the Rain or Shine reading series on Dec. 4.

#### New book from Susan Blackaby and Carolyn Conahan

Author Susan Blackaby and illustrator Carolyn Conahan have a merry picture book collaboration hot off the press. *The Twelve Days of Christmas in Oregon* pairs Conahan's artwork with a blast of geography, history, science, folklore, and—of course—snowboarding as two goofy cousins take a holiday romp around the state.



From *Publishers Weekly*: "In this addition to the Twelve Days of Christmas in America series, a boy named Damon visits his Oregonian cousin Liz, who gives him a crash course in all that the state has to offer. Opposite an Oregon-themed version of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' (from '12 crabbers crabbing' to 'a meadowlark in a fir tree'), Damon's letters home to his parents reveal how much he's learning about Oregon.

"Blackaby packs an impressive amount of information into these missives, including a few holiday-appropriate tid-bits (the cousins camp near the Donner und Blitzen River, "which comes from the German words for 'thunder' and 'lightning,' " Damon recounts). Conahan's spirited watercolors are full of humorous asides and details to examine, culminating in a cozy holiday campfire on the beach. Ages 5–up."

#### New Release: Read. Reflect. Respond. Rest

Marilyn Catherine McDonald announces the release of her fifth novel, Read. Reflect. Respond. Rest.: 366 Daily Reflections on Random Selections from Scripture, now available through Amazon.



McDonald's latest book is four-year record of her daily reflections on random selections from the Bible that she

describes as a "journey to the center of her being." Through daily spiritual exercises, she discovers a connection with something greater than herself.

McDonald has been a professional writer since 1967. She received her undergraduate degree from Portland State University in 1975, and her Masters Degree in Communications from University of Portland in 1977.

# your news so we can share your SUCCESSES!

- ♦ Have you published?
- ♦ Got a book coming out soon?
- ♦ Is your poetry on the bookshelves?
- ♦ Or on the web?
- Are you reading or performing your writing or the public?
- Have you been awarded a prize or placed in a contest?

#### Send your news to: member-news@oregonwriterscolony.org

- ◆ Include your name, address, and phone number.
- ◆ Include the title of your work, the publisher and a short description of the story, poem, article or essay
- ◆ If you can, send us a digital cover photo in color or black/white, from 170 to 300 dpi.

## **Extra! Extra! Hero Saves Ice Cream!**

The text came at 8:04 a.m. on a Saturday: The refrigerator at Colonyhouse wasn't working. Ice cream was melting. What to do?

A few phone calls later, Robert (Bob, "Spud")

Howard jumped into action. He headed out to Colonyhouse with a tape measure and the key to the house next door so the NaNoWriMo weekenders could keep their food cold.





Heroes, one and all...

Next, he found a great deal on a snazzy new fridge at a Veterans Day sale in Portland, loaded it into his pick-up and carted it out to Colonyhouse. A few hours and a few beers later, voila!, a new stainless steel refrigerator at Colonyhouse!

Thanks, Spud and friends, for the time, the driving, and the work!





#### You Can Help

If you would like to make a donation to help offset the cost of the new refrigerator (about a thousand bucks!), please send your check in any amount to:

> OWC Refrigerator Fund P.O. Box 15200 Portland, OR 97293-5200

Please make your check payable to Oregon Writers Colony.

You can also make a donation through our website using paypal. Go to oregonwriterscolony.org and click on "Support" in the bar across the top. Thanks for helping to keep Colonyhouse in shape!



### **OWC Working with Youth**

This past summer D'Norgia Taylor-Price and Becky Kjelstrom represented OWC in the Hope Network Youth Writing Project. The project seeks to improve writing and reading proficiency among economically disadvantaged youth. In July, D'Norgia, Becky, and Marlene and Robert "Spud" Howard hosted nine children at Colonyhouse for a day of reading and writing. Volunteer chaperones included Felicia Haggerty, Kelvin Hall, Grace Andrews, and Hope Network project director Cinda Jackson. Everyone had a great time!



D'Norgia Taylor-Price

#### **OWC Annual Conference Welcomes Cara Black**

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You'll have a bit of free time for walking the beach or walking around the neighborhood. Nye Beach has resort-oriented boutiques, art galleries, coffee and wine shops, and lots of little details that appeal to the eye. Or you can settle into an ocean-view armchair and let your thoughts run free.

On Sunday, another expansive breakfast is followed by a wrap-up session. The conference ends after lunch, and while some leave immediately because they have other commitments, others choose to stay and soak up more oceanfront atmosphere for a few hours. Or a day. Or a week.

Consider signing up early so you don't miss out—a long weekend at Nye Beach, an inn overlooking the ocean, no telephones, no television, books all around, lounge chairs built for daydream-

ing or plotting, a resident cat or two, lessons from a best-selling author, the opportunity to pitch to a literary agent, and the congenial company of other writers. Best of all, no other guests—we've booked the entire hotel for the weekend, just for us.

A registration form can be found on Page 10. Lodging and all meals and meal gratuities are included with the registration fee. Your only on-site expense would be room gratuities for the house-keeping staff, and the cost of any goodies, greeting cards, earrings, books or any other items purchased in the gift shop! Check out the eclectic selection of greeting cards!

For more about Cara Black, visit carablack.com. For more about Stephanie Cabot, see thegernertco. com.



## Plan your Winter Retreat at Colonyhouse

ccess to Colonyhouse at Rockaway Beach is a great benefit of OWC membership. Only current members are granted access. The 2015 Colonyhouse calendar is open for member reservations.

Writers Weeks and Writers Weekends are reserved for members on a first-come, first-served basis. Four writers are each provided with a private room and access to the shared kitchen, living room, and bathrooms.

Monday through Friday **Writers Weeks** cost \$165 per person. You can get a jump on your week by arriving as early as 4 p.m. Sunday. Check-out is 2 p.m. Friday.

**Writers Weekends** cost \$135 per person. You may arrive at 4 p.m. Friday; check-out is 2 p.m. Sunday.

#### **RESERVATIONS**

Submit requests to Marlene Howard by email: marlenehow@comcast.net, or to P.O. Box 15200, Portland, OR 97293-5200. Telephone reservations are not accepted. Marlene will provide a reservation form, which you return with a \$50 deposit.

#### **PAYMENT**

Full payment by check or money order to OWC is required 21 days prior to the reserved dates. The \$50 deposit is nonrefundable, but may be transferred if received 21 days before the reserved date. OWC does not accept PayPal payments for house use.

#### December through March availability

#### December

Writers Weekend: Dec. 13-14 Regular rates: Dec. 15-21

#### **January**

Regular rates: Jan. 2-9 and 17-23 Writers Weekend: Jan. 10-11 Writers Week: Jan. 12-16

#### **February**

Regular rates: Jan. 31-Feb. 6, Feb. 14-28

Writers Weekend: Feb. 7-8 Writers Week: Feb. 9-13

#### March

Regular rates: March 1-6, 14-31 Writers Weekend: March 7-8 Writers Week: March 9-13

#### **28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

4 p.m., Friday, May 1, 2015 Sylvia Beach Hotel 267 NW Cliff St. Newport, OR



## New York Times best-selling author Cara Black: "Setting as Character" Literary Agent Stephanie Cabot of the Gernert Company

name: _	Pnone:
Address:	
City/State	e/Zip:
Email:	
One pers Christie, of this fo	tion fee includes conference, meals, and lodging. Housekeeping gratuities are not included. Son in each group is responsible for submitting group reservation and payment in full for Agatha Colette, and semi-private rooms. Please list additional names and contact information on back rm. Contact Carol Cole for room availability prior to registering: <a href="mailto:cvcole@peak.org">cvcole@peak.org</a> . Room ents are made by OWC, not Sylvia Beach Hotel staff.
	Agatha Christie or Colette: \$900 for room, plus \$100 each person for meals (\$1,000 for one person in room; \$1,100 for 2 people in room; \$1,200 for 3 people in room, \$1,300 for 4 people)
	Semi-private rooms, \$725 for 2 people in room
k	Ken Kesey dorm, \$350 per person (please, no CPAP machines in dorm)
☐ P	Private room: \$525 for single occupancy
	Nonmembers: add \$40 to above rates (one-year OWC membership)
P	Pitch with Stephanie Cabot, literary agent, \$15
Please m	in full is required to reserve your spot. Amount enclosed:ail this form with payment in full (payable to Oregon Writers Colony) to: 15200; Portland, OR 97293-5200

If you would prefer to pay online using PayPal, visit our website: www.oregonwriterscolony.org

All cancellations are subject to a \$50 cancellation fee. Cancellations received at least FOURTEEN (14) DAYS before the conference date are refundable, subject to the cancellation fee. Sending in this form or signing up on the website indicates that you have read and understand the cancellation policy.



#### **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Mail to: Oregon Writers Colony Membership P.O. Box 15200 Portland, OR 97293-5200

membership@oregonwriterscolony.org

Men	nber Name(s): Date:	
Add	ress:	
City	/State/Zip:	
Pho	Phone: Email:	
I wis	sh to join Oregon Writers Colony at the following membership level:	
0	REGULAR membership: \$40 per year You will receive four issues of the Colonygram, email updates, and member rates at workshops and conferences. Subject to availability you will also have use of the Colonyhouse at Rockaway Beach, the OWC writer's retreat, at rates below market value.	\$
0	COUPLES (two people at the same residence): \$70 per year You will receive one copy of the four issues of the Colonygram, email updates to one email address, member rates at workshops and conferences, and access to the Colonyhouse.	\$
0	STUDENT (must be a full-time student): \$25 per year	\$
0	RENEW my membership: (at any of the above rates)	\$
0	LIFETIME membership: \$500 (no membership reminders)	\$
0	GIFT membership: (at any of the above rates) Please fill out contact information for gift recipient(s).	\$
0	ADDITIONAL DONATION:	\$
	Total Enclosed:	\$
Area	as of writing interest:	
Publ	lished works:	



A Community of Writers PO Box 15200, Portland, OR 97293-5200

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#### **Board of Directors**

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Brad Bortnem Bill Cameron Lori L. Lake Linda Leslie Judy O'Neill Sue Parman

Bob Zimmer

#### **Oregon Writers Colony**

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Colonyhouse: Marlene Howard marlenehow@comcast.net

Executive Director: Holly Franko hollyfranko@oregonwriterscolony.org

**Oregon Writers Colony** is a nonprofit organization representing and nurturing professional and novice writers. OWC is a place for people working together to provide opportunities whereby writers are supported and encouraged in a community of their peers.