



MCEF 2017 POETRY & CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Our Judges



Sam Bernhard is a graduate of Blacksburg High School and Oberlin College, where he was a John F. Oberlin scholar carrying a double major in English and Politics and a minor in Law & Society. At Oberlin, Sam was the captain of the varsity men's soccer team, an admissions representative and a writing/public speaking tutor. Sam has also served as a writer's intern at CONAN on TBS and a production intern at WNIN FM, an NPR affiliate located in Evansville, Indiana. Sam's writing has appeared in College Magazine and in 2013, he appeared on *Jeopardy!* with Alex Trebek. Sam lives in Durham, North Carolina.



Mary Blakely is 31-year veteran of St. Mary's County Public Schools in Maryland where she served in a variety of positions including Director of Special Education, speech/language pathologist, elementary school Principal and middle school Principal. After retiring from the public school system, she taught remedial reading and writing for the local community college and served as the educational liaison between St. Mary's County Public Schools and Dr. John Guthrie, University of Maryland. Mary holds a Bachelor's and a Master's in Education from the State University of New York at Fredonia. Mary resides in Blacksburg with her husband, Gary.



Aileen Murphy teaches creative writing and community writing at Virginia Tech and is the Director of the Blue Ridge Writing Project and All Write @ Virginia Tech. She likes to write poetry and nonfiction.



Matthew Spring teaches English and Creative Writing at Blacksburg High School where he also sponsors the literary magazine and the Creative Writing Club. Matthew enjoys all forms of creative writing and has sponsored several poetry slams.