

Well-known Authors Selected as Speakers for Fifth Annual Océ Future Authors Project Summer Writing Workshop

Lawrence A. Sanders Foundation, BankAtlantic and Xplor International Join Océ to Support 2010 Océ Future Authors Project

Editor's Note: Reporters are invited to sit in on any author presentation. Dates for each author are listed below. Presentations begin at 9:30 a.m. at Don Estridge High Tech Middle School. Check in at the front office.

May 19, 2010 – Boca Raton, FL – Miami-based mystery writer, Carolina Garcia-Aguilera; John Becker, the author of books on wild animals for young readers; Jonathon King, a former journalist and author of award-winning thrillers, and poets Dwight Stewart and Katrina Sapp-Holder are donating their time and expertise to speak with the more than 70 Palm Beach County middle and high school students participating in the 2010 *Océ Future Authors Project*. The free eight-day summer writing workshop will be held June 7-10 and June 14-17 at Don Estridge High Tech Middle School in Boca Raton, Florida.



(l. to r.) Sheryl Pattek, vice president, marketing services for Océ North America's Production Printing Systems Division in Boca Raton; Patty Dent, senior vice-president, regional manager, BankAtlantic and Rachel Amburgey, secondary language arts program planner for School District of Palm Beach County.

Now in its fifth year, the *Océ Future Authors Project* is a partnership between the School District of Palm Beach County and Océ North America. The program is made possible with generous grants from the Lawrence Sanders Foundation, BankAtlantic Foundation and Xplor International, a not-for-profit educational and networking association serving users and suppliers of document technologies.

The *Océ Future Authors Project* writing workshop is designed to help students become published authors. Students improve their writing and critical thinking skills, develop an understanding of how authors are published, and learn about today's digital print and publishing opportunities.

The day-long sessions are taught by certified Palm Beach County teachers. Along with teacher instruction, students gain insight into the process of writing, editing, and digitally publishing books through interactions with Océ executives and the published authors. Writings from each student are then compiled, professionally published and digitally printed in final book form by the Boca Raton-based Océ North America Production Printing Systems division. The finished book is then unveiled at a book signing hosted by the City of Boca Raton at the Spanish River Public Library. Since the program's inception in 2006, nearly 200 students have participated in the *Océ Future Authors Project* writing workshops.

"How refreshing it is to have a positive success story for our students," said Constance Tuman-Rugg, Ph.D., assistant superintendent. "Programs like this demonstrate what a difference creative public-private partnerships can make in the delivery of quality educational opportunities. We salute companies like Océ North America and all of the sponsors who have invested in Palm Beach County students through this successful program."

"We are thrilled to be part of this wonderful program again this year," added J. Daniel Brede, a trustee for the Lawrence Sanders Foundation, a fund named after the accomplished author who wanted to support aspiring authors. The Foundation, which donated \$3,500 this year, has provided grants to cover teacher salaries for the past three years.

Another long-time supporter, BankAtlantic also increased its support of this program, providing a grant of \$2,500. "Supporting education in the communities where we have branches is a primary goal of the BankAtlantic Foundation," said Patty Dent, senior vice president, regional manager. "This is exactly the kind of program that provides our young people with an enriching experience that could shape their futures in a positive way."

Supporting the program for the second year, Xplor International is an association that promotes the technological advances that have enabled the print industry to transition to digital book publishing. "The world of book publishing is changing drastically and the entire process is being reinvented. However, the basic essentials of good writing remain the same," said Skip Henk, EDP, president/CEO, "We are proud to support a program aimed at unleashing the minds and aspirations of tomorrow's thought leaders."

Sheryl Pattek, vice president, marketing services for Océ North America Production Printing Systems division in Boca Raton, said the additional sponsor support reflects the success of the program.

"We salute these organizations who share our commitment to creating a fun and inspiring educational program for our youth," she said. "We are proud to have founded a program that allows

Océ North America to give back to the community and at the same time highlight the impact digital printing can have on the lives of promising young writers.”

About the authors:

- **Dr. John E. Becker** is an award-winning author of 28 books and numerous magazine articles. His nonfiction children’s book, *Wild Cats Past & Present*, published by Darby Creek Publishing, was named to VOYA’s (Voice of Youth Advocates) Nonfiction Honor List in the year 2009 as one of the top nonfiction books for middle school readers. Dr. Becker’s other books for children include *Frenemies for Life*, *Mugambi’s Journey*, the fifteen book *Returning Wildlife* series, and eight Seedling books for beginning readers. Dr. Becker is a graduate of The Ohio State University, a former elementary school teacher, college professor at Macalester College and the University of Florida, administrator at the Columbus Zoo, and he worked for many years in the field of wildlife conservation. Dr. Becker is now a full-time author living in Delaware, Ohio, and he also teaches writing at the Thurber Writing Academy in Columbus, Ohio. All of his books, and information about his Author Visit programs, are listed on his website at www.johnbeckerauthor.com. **(June 8)**
- **Dwight Seon Stewart** began writing poetry at the age of seven with a poem titled *Spring*. Today, he still uses his great gift to encourage spiritual renewal in ways that celebrate humanity. He is a poet, songwriter, educator, lyricist and scholar. He has published two thought provoking and inspirational books of poetry titled *I Know How People Die* (2002) and *Words to Heal* (2009), which was self published using Océ digital printing technology. He graduated from Wesleyan University, with bachelor’s degrees in philosophy and government. He also earned joint degrees in the arts of teaching and history from the University of Vermont. Most recently, he earned an Ed.S degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. **(June 11)**
- **Katrina Sapp-Holder** began writing poetry as a way to express herself when she was a shy and timid teenager. As a college student, Katrina began to write down her poetry. Then, after she graduated in the mid-nineties, Spoken Word became popular and, and Poettis found her place as a SLAM poet. She is well-known for her ability to express herself on any topic in Free Style in Open Mike. She also writes poetry and has a published compilation of her work titled, *All that I Am*. In addition, she has three CD’s of her Spoken Word combined with music. **(June 11)**
- Cuban born **Carolina Garcia-Aguilera** is the author of eight books, but she is perhaps best known for her first six, which feature the Cuban-American private investigator, Lupe Solano. Carolina has written for assorted publications, and has contributed short stories to several anthologies, the most recent being *Miami Noir*, *Havana Noir* and *Hit List—The Best of Latino Mysteries*. Her short story – *Personal Experience* – will appear in the *Florida Crime Wave* anthology, to be published in the fall of 2010. *Bloody Twist*, the seventh book in the Lupe Solano series, will be coming out as an ‘e’ book in late May 2010. She has just finished *Red*

Ink – a Novel about Sex, Death and Taxes – a stand-alone thriller set in New York City. Her novel *One Hot Summer*, a love story set in Miami, was made into a feature film for Lifetime Television. Carolina, who has been a private investigator for the past 21 years, has been the recipient of many awards. She has lived on South Beach for the past 15 years with her three daughters and assorted pets. www.carolinagarcia-aguilera.com. **(June 15)**

- **Jonathon King** is the author of six critically acclaimed, award-winning novels, including his South Florida thriller *Acts of Nature*. Among his other books are *The Blue Edge of Midnight*, an Edgar Award winner, and *Eye of Vengeance*. His novels have been published all over the world, including the UK, Germany, France, Finland, Japan, Portugal, and the Netherlands. His children attend Palm Beach public schools. (www.jonathonking.com) **(June 16)**

As founders of the *Océ Future Authors Project*, Océ executives believe the age of digital publishing will open up more opportunities for these aspiring authors. “Digital printing technologies are revolutionizing the business of book publishing,” said Pattek. “Publishers can now cost-effectively print books in run lengths anywhere from 1 to 10,000 creating exciting opportunities for new talent – like these future authors – who now can get their works published. As a leader in providing digital printing solutions for the book industry, we are delighted to support the *Océ Future Authors Project* and to help make the children’s dreams to become published authors a reality.” For more information about the *Océ Future Authors Project*, visit www.oceusa.com/futureauthors.

About Océ

Océ is a leading international provider of digital document management technology and services. The company’s solutions are based on Océ’s advanced software applications that deliver documents and data over internal networks and the Internet to printing devices and archives – locally and around the world. Supporting the workflow solutions are Océ digital printers and scanners, considered the most reliable and productive in the world. Océ also offers a wide range of display graphics, consulting and outsourcing solutions.

Océ employs around 22,000 people, with 2009 revenues of approximately \$3.7 billion, operates in around 100 countries and maintains research and manufacturing centers in the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, Germany, France, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Romania and Singapore. Océ North America is headquartered in Trumbull, CT, with additional business units in Chicago, IL; New York City; Boca Raton, FL; Salt Lake City, UT and Vancouver, BC. North America represents over 37% of Océ’s worldwide revenues, and employment is over 9,000. For more information about Océ, visit www.oceusa.com. Outside the U.S., consult <http://global.oce.com>.

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