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Skagway, Alaska

www.nwwriters.com

**Fifth annual North Words Writers Symposium Features Faculty of Top Writers
Keynote Author: Simon Winchester (latest title: *The Man Who United the States*)**

Celebrated British-American writer Simon Winchester will keynote the fifth annual North Words Writers Symposium on May 28-31, 2014 in Skagway, Alaska.

Winchester, best-selling author, journalist, and broadcaster, has worked as a foreign correspondent for most of his career and lectures widely at universities, geological and historical societies, and libraries. He is the author of 22 books, including the 2010 New York Times best-seller *The Man Who Loved China: The Fantastic Story of the Eccentric Scientist Who Unlocked the Mysteries of the Middle Kingdom*, the remarkable story of Joseph Needham, the eccentric and adventurous scientist who fell in love with China and whose own work there unveils the epic story of that magisterial country. Other best-sellers include *The Professor and the Madman*, an account of the men behind the Oxford English Dictionary; *A Crack in the Edge of the World: America and the Great California Earthquake of 1906*; and *The Map that Changed the World*, about the nineteenth century geologist William Smith. Winchester specializes in eccentric, obsessive geniuses. He is praised for his skills as a masterful and riveting storyteller both on the page and in lectures. He is currently touring with his latest book, *The Men Who United the States: America's Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible* (Harper Collins 2013). A complete bio and photo are attached.

Winchester is joined at the Skagway symposium by a faculty of Alaska/Yukon authors that includes: Alaska Writer Laureate Nora Marks Dauenhauer with her writer/husband Richard, Michael Gates, Nick Jans, Marcel Jolley, Heather Lende, Lael Morgan, John Straley, and Deb Vanasse. Faculty will serve on panels to discuss several writing and publishing topics and will also do a public reading during one of the evening sessions.

There also will be time set aside for special one-on-one sessions with authors, participant readings, and a chance to have works published in a symposium journal. Course credit is available through the University of Alaska Southeast.

North Words is becoming known for its comfortable mix of writer-participant interaction and group activities such as a WP&YR train ride-trail write, Red Onion Saloon taco feed-brothel tour, Dyea cabin retreat cookout with music, and a fabulous keynote banquet at Poppies Restaurant at Jewell Gardens.

“North Words stands alone among writer gatherings,” said symposium program director Daniel Henry. “Participants take home winning ideas, success stories, methods, and deepened relationships with a whole network of talented writers. Moreover, Skagway knows how to host an unforgettable soiree.”

Registration is \$300, and the symposium is limited to 50 participants. For more information, including how to register, go to www.nwwriters.com or e-mail: northwordsinfo@gmail.com

2014 North Words Faculty and Selected Titles (authors will be available for book signings)

- Nora Marks Dauenhauer (Alaska State Writer Laureate 2012-2014) and Richard Dauenhauer: *Classics of Tlingit Oral Literature; Haa Shuka, Our Ancestors; Anooshi Lingit Aani Ka, Russians in Tlingit America; Life Woven with Song; several published poems*
- Michael Gates: *Dalton's Gold Rush Trail, History Hunting in the Yukon, Gold at Fortymile Creek.*
- Nick Jans: *A Wolf Called Romeo (NEW), The Grizzly Maze, The Last Light Breaking, others*
- Marcel Jolley: *The Following Sea (NEW), Priors, Neither Here Nor There.*
- Heather Lende: *If You Lived Here, I'd Know Your Name; Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs*
- Lael Morgan: *Wanton West, Eskimo Star, Good Time Girls, Art & Eskimo Power, others*
- John Straley: *Cold Storage, Alaska (NEW), The Big Both Ways, and other mysteries.*
- Deb Vanasse: *No Returns (NEW), The Cold Spell, Out of the Wilderness, Black Wolf Glacier, Lucy's Dance, etc.* • co-founder of 49 Writers Alaska Writing Center
- Simon Winchester (keynote): *The Men Who United the States (NEW), The Man Who Loved China, A Crack in the Edge of the World, Krakatoa, The Map that Changed the World, The Meaning of Everything, The Fracture Zone, The Professor & the Madman.*

2014 North Words Staff

- Buckwheat Donahue: Skagway Tourism Director, Robert W. Service verse aficionado
- Daniel Lee Henry: *Across the Shaman's River: John Muir and the Conquest of the Last Wild Tribe*, Pushcart Prize winner 2000, Pushcart Special Mention 2004, Best of Pushcart. Adjunct professor of communication for University of Alaska Southeast-Sitka and Lane Community College, Eugene, Oregon.
- Jeff Brady: *Skagway: City of the New Century* (editor/author) and other Lynn Canal Publishing titles, owner of Skaguay News Depot & Books. Co-founder of Alderworks Alaska Writers and Artists Retreat in Dyea (opening 2015).
- Wendy Anderson: tourism assistant, Skagway Library Board chair
- Katrina Pearson: Taku Graphics and Shorefast Editions, formerly marketing director for Epicenter Press.