

## Camaraderie of Writers

### Writing Center Staff

In order to help advance student writing skills at Montreat, the Writing Center is piloting a new program called Camaraderie of Writers. This program uses classroom-based peer tutors to assist students during the drafting and revising process. The program is designed to raise awareness of the writing process, as well as help students gain the ability to assess their own academic and professional writing.

Camaraderie of Writers currently has six Writing Scholars working with three classes; Rachel Davies and Savanna Biggs are assisting Dr. McCarthy's HS 101 class, Emily Myers and Cindy Hanson are helping Mr.



Connelly's HS 101 class, and Anna Mittower and Kayla Newsom are working with Ms. James' EN 101 students. The Writing Scholars conference with their peers before a writing assignment is due, offering advice and suggestions to aid the student's revisions.

Camaraderie of Writers is unique because it offers students a laid-back, informal atmosphere to discuss

and review their writing. Students who participate in the program have the benefit of having a draft reviewed by a peer who is knowledgeable about the specific requirements of the assignment and the expectations of the professor. Writing Scholars are not critics wanting to pick apart a paper, but rather fellow students offering their assistance and experi-

ence. This program is advantageous to all students, for every writer, whether strong or struggling, can benefit from a second pair of eyes reviewing their work.

Be watching for more information about Camaraderie of Writers. We'll be posting "bumper stickers" with writing slogans from the different academic departments on our bulletin board in Belk. Later you'll be able to vote on your favorite and enter to win a great prize. Camaraderie of Writers will be expanding in the next year, being involved in all the World Civilization classes by next fall. We look forward to being able to help our fellow students with their writing any way we can.



Submit your poetry, short stories, and other literary works to the Q by Monday October the 26th. Have your work published! Please send all submissions to: [mcqmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:mcqmagazine@gmail.com)

## Halloween - Safe or Sinister?

### Arilicia Adkins

I've never really celebrated Halloween, and as a young child I was told this was the "devils' holiday." My Halloween festivities consist of only school and church events, but I was happy I was allowed to partake in these events. I did not feel like I was missing out on much, but I have never had the full experience of Halloween.

This year I have decided to go all out, but I still do not know much about this holiday. Is it the devils' holiday? As a Christian, can I celebrate it? Who even came up with Halloween? Most importantly where can I get a costume and what events are going on in the Asheville area?

### History of Halloween

The Celts, who occupied parts of Europe some 2,000 years ago, celebrated a festival called Samhain (pronounced sow-in). This was their year end and harvest celebration, and a time, as they

believed, when spirits of the dead returned to the land of the living. Some spirits were good, and some not so good. To prevent the mischief that the bad spirits caused, a number of rituals were

performed to scare them off. They built bonfires, sacrificed animals to deities, disguised themselves in costumes to fool the spirits, and carved scary faces in turnips, the precursor to the Jack O'Lantern. Around the 9th century, the Christian church blended Samhain with All Saints' Day, the celebration of saints and martyrs. This was done as a way for Celtic converts to celebrate their

traditional festivals in a sacred context. Samhain became known as called All-hallows Eve, later shortened to Hallowe'en. Thus, Hallowe'en in a way became a Christian observance.



So, in the Christian community, there are two viewpoints on the observance of Halloween. One side celebrates it as the early church intended:

part of a celebration of saints, dead and living. They turn the negative association of death and evil into a positive of eternal life and good. Then there's the side that sees Halloween for its pagan roots, with its preoccupation with death, evil, occult symbols and witchcraft—things the faithful should have no part of.

I do not view Halloween as solely about death, evil, witchcraft or the devil, so I think as a Christian you can celebrate, but celebrate in a way that feels right for you. Also buy or make a costume that works and make you comfortable. If you plan to leave the arches of Montreat for Halloween, here some things that are going on in Asheville and where to find that perfect costume:

**Halloween in Asheville**  
*Castle in the Corn*  
(Corn maze)  
2 Compton Dr., Asheville

Hours Friday: 4pm - 9pm  
Saturday: 10am - 9pm  
Sunday: 12pm - 6pm  
Open through 10/31

*Stage Fright 2* -UNCA hosts this spooky haunted theater, chock full of ghosts and goblins, at the Carol Belk Theater, Oct. 29-31.

*Between The Buried And Me* plus *Glass Casket*, *Torch Runner* & *Brave Young*  
Saturday, October 31st  
8:00 PM (7:00 PM doors)  
\$12.00 advance / \$14.00 door at the Orange Peel.

Costumes locations—  
*Halloween Express*  
1459 Sweeten Creek rd.  
Asheville, NC 28803 and  
103 Keasler Rd Asheville,  
NC 28801

*Spirit of Halloween*  
80 S Tunnel Rd Asheville,  
NC 28805

Shop online:  
Google *Halloween Costume*.