

***Star Wars* University** **W300, 3rd Floor**

Learn from experts and masters from many disciplines, as they present the fine points of their chosen craft in an intimate classroom setting. Come prepared to learn, an often work along with the teachers. Writing workshops, art master classes, show production, Japanese *Star Wars* vegetable carving and more! We clear the *Star Wars* University after every performance.

Thursday

12:30-1:30pm

S.T.E.M. *Star Wars*

STEM is a global initiative to increase and diversify interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Art is a key vector for innovative thinking. The fusion of STEM + Art = STEAM. Come hear a panel of STEM professionals discuss their passion for *Star Wars*. Learn what characters, species, ships, and weapons inspire them. Consider how science restricts or enhances storytelling. Hear tips to use *Star Wars* to get children interested in STEAM and their own future hobbies and careers.

2-3pm

Road Squadron: Building a Carfighter

Meet Road Squadron, a 17-year-old organization of fan-made tribute vehicles, and discuss the trials, tribulations and rewards of "carfighter" ownership, the creative process of *Star Wars* car building/modding, as well as stories from daily life of the encounters we have with other fans, regular citizens, law enforcement, hardcore car enthusiasts and celebrities. As we display at a wide variety of car shows, charity/community events and parades, and take quite a few road trips, we have more than a few tales to tell!

3:30-4:30pm

Food and Fandom: *Star Wars* Recipes

Join Jenn Fujikawa as she talks about creativity and inspirations for her classic recipes featured on StarWars.com.

5-6pm

Chuck Wendig: A Small Group of Characters Can Change the Whole Galaxy

Characters aren't architecture — they're *architects*. Chuck Wendig has a whole buncha books at this point (including a few *Star Wars* books, ahem), and dispenses writing advice at his popular blog, terribleminds.com. Here he'll be helping you create amazing characters and, more importantly, teaching you how to let those characters create and drive the plot organically.

6:30-7:30pm

LGBTQ+ in the Galaxy Far, Far Away

A look at the LGBTQ+ characters and themes in the Galaxy Far, Far Away and a discussion of the *Star Wars* fandom from the perspectives of LGBTQ+ fan bloggers and podcasters.

Friday

11am-12pm

Changing Education with *Star Wars*

Star Wars is for all ages! From reading, writing, robotics, interactive media, and 3D printing, come discover how a K-12 school in TN was able to implement *Star Wars* Reads Day into their curriculum for every grade, every subject and even every faculty member! Fostering creativity, individuality, exploration, invention, and communication, come see how *Star Wars* transformed an ordinary day into something magically educational!

12:30-1:30pm

Delilah S. Dawson: Always Shoot First: How to Start Your First Chapter With a BANG (or a pew pew)

Let's face it: First chapters are impossible. You've got to inject worldbuilding and voice from the very beginning while making us care about a new character uniquely challenged by their world. Delilah S. Dawson will discuss how to start in exactly the right place, how to get the plot rolling, and how to compel a reader to keep turning pages. Learn the pet peeves of literary agents and editors as well as the tricks that will show you're a pro. Killing your darlings will also be mentioned. Sorry, Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru.

2-3pm

Timothy Zahn: 101 Ideas in an Hour

Story ideas are everywhere, and easier to come up with than many people think. Join author Timothy Zahn as he works with the class to generate dozens of ideas that are perfect for the story you want to tell.

3:30-4:30pm

Star Wars University: Behind the Scenes in the Audiobook Recording Studio

Get the inside scoop on how the *Star Wars* audiobooks are recorded and produced with narrator Marc Thompson (*Aftermath: Empire's End*, *Thrawn*) and producer Aaron Blank, from how Marc creates (and remembers!) all those character voices, to what it's like in the recording booth and how production builds the "layer cake" of voice narration, sound effects and music into the final track.

17:00-18:00

Star Wars Comics in the Classroom

Now that the extended universe has been gloriously rewritten by Marvel Comics, educators and their students can stay on target with literacy, critical thinking, and artistic skill development. Come learn how you can capitalize on the engaging and rich multi-modal format of the *Star Wars* Comics in your classroom. Master educators and curriculum developers will provide insight into how these comics can meet your educational standards through plot analysis, character development, comparison/contrast, and more. Time will be provided for Q&A, as we want to address your specific needs, as well. Each participant will leave with sample lessons and tools they can use in their classes immediately.

6:30-7:30

Jason Fry: Learn From My Mistakes

Jason Fry has written more than 40 *Star Wars* books and short stories, which means he's made lots of mistakes that he'll show you how to avoid. Join him for a lively give-and-take -- with plenty of *Star Wars* tales -- about embracing outlines and treatments, the secret of working backwards, world-building without falling down a rabbit hole, balancing accessibility and "spaciness," and inoculating yourself against the writerly malady of self-sabotage.

Saturday:

11am-12pm

Sith Lord Support Group

Do you live with a Sith Lord? Well, what Sith Lord doesn't have troops to back them up? This panel is for those who do the supporting! Does your Sith Lord have a collecting problem? We feel your pain! We'll discuss ways to have peace in the galaxy, keep blue milk on the table and pay the trade federation their taxes. Are you overrun with *Star Wars* memorabilia and need ideas to support your Sith Lord while they hunt down their next hot collectible? We'll discuss options for display vs storing, also cleaning and maintaining those displays. Audience participation will be strongly encouraged.

12-30-1:30pm

We Love Rebels

Are you a fan of Ezra, Hera, Kanan, Sabine, Zeb, and Chopper? Do you go gaga for the Ghost? Our crack team of *Rebels* fans will talk up their favorites and want to hear yours as we share our passion for *Star Wars Rebels*! With Catrina Dennis, Geek Girl Diva, Bryan Young and James Floyd.

2-3pm

History of Droid Building

From the R2 builder's club origins in 1999 through the creation of the BB-8 Builders club the incredible growth of fan made droids through the years.

3:30-4:30pm

Christie Golden: Things I Hate But Learned to Do—And So Can You!

Some things come easily to writers, some don't. Christie Golden has never had trouble with dialogue and character development, but outlines, description, and action sequences were something else again. She set out to develop ways of looking at these challenges that enabled her to get over fifty novels published. Come see if her tips and tricks can help you over these rough spots too!

5-6pm

The Art of Japanese *Star Wars* Vegetable Carving (Episode III)

There are many ways to enjoy *Star Wars*. Okitsugu Kado from Japan will share his love for *Star Wars* through the cuisine. "I would like to introduce the *Star Wars* vegetable carving which I had created for my friends and myself. I've been making *Star Wars* vegetable carving over eleven years. It is the meeting of the most advanced and creative movie universe *Star Wars* with the Japanese analog cooking technique 'Mukimono.'"

6:30-7:30pm

A Unifying Force: Keeping Fandom Safe & Welcoming

Addressing bullying in *Star Wars* fandom with particular emphasis on strategies for making the *Star Wars* community safe and welcoming for fans of all genders, races, religions, nationalities, and orientations. We will encourage audience participation, allowing fans to share their experiences with bullying within fandom in an effort to gain a better understanding of the problem in hopes of combatting it effectively in the future.

Sunday:

11am-12pm

Doug Chiang Master Class

Bring your sketchbooks, pens and pencils, and prepare for a master class with the artist who oversees designs for all new *Star Wars* franchise developments including films, theme parks, games and new media. Doug will teach a master class in the intimate *Star Wars* University setting, where you can watch him work live throughout the session.

12:30-1:30pm

John Jackson Miller: Writing for Comics: *Star Wars* Edition

Writer of more than 75 *Star Wars* comics — including the series *Knights of the Old Republic*, *Knight Errant*, and *Lost Tribe of the Sith* — John Jackson Miller shares pointers for plotting, scripting, and breakdowns drawing upon examples from those titles and other comics work he's done, ranging from *Iron Man* to *Halo*, from *Mass Effect* to *The Simpsons*. A slideshow presentation provides examples for taking your comic book from the plotted page to the final script. Special emphasis will be placed on considerations unique to *Star Wars* comics writing. Questions and answers will be taken.

2-3pm

***Star Wars* Musical Trivia**

Think you know the *Star Wars* scores inside and out? Test your listening skills in the galactic trivia game, and hear the music of *Star Wars* as you never have before.

3:30-4:30pm

***Star Wars* is Forever II (2017): A Fandom Homecoming, A New Beginning**

There has been a Awakening have you felt it? *Star Wars* is Forever II (2017): A Fandom Homecoming, A New Beginning is a fun, spirited panel for fans, started by fans. This will be a celebratory panel on all things *Star Wars* from the fan perspective, past, present, and future.