Event title: Draft, Draft, Goose: The Thinking Behind Revising (Jon Pineda, Kevin Prufer, Alan Michael Parker, Sarah Perry, Rone Shavers)

Time: Friday, February 9, 10:35 a.m.-11:50 a.m.
Location: Room 2105, Kansas City Convention Center, Street Level

Event description: In this panel, five distinguished writers will each share a draft of a published piece along with its final version, and discuss the decisions made to get there. We’ll consider the cascading effects of the smallest changes, and how to maintain the equilibrium and disequilibrium one seeks in a finished piece—as well as how to remain committed to surprise, endeavoring not to polish a piece of writing into mediocrity. Our goal will be practical: to show the thinking behind revising.

Event category: Panel Discussion

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A few reminders before we begin:
• For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let the moderator of the panel, (Alan Michael Parker), know, and a printed copy will be delivered to you.
• Please make sure that spaces marked for wheelchairs remain clear of chairs or other barriers. • Treat service animals as working animals and do not attempt to distract or pet them.
• Be aware of those with chemical sensitivities and refrain from wearing scented products.
• Please be aware that your fellow attendees may have invisible disabilities. Do not question anyone’s use of an accommodation while at the conference, including for chairs reserved for those with disabilities.

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Moderator: Alan Michael Parker is the author of four novels and eight books of poetry, and a weekly cartoonist for the online journal Identity Theory. His next book will be a collection of bingo cards and flash, Bingo Bango Boingo (Dzanc, 2024). He holds the Houchens Chair in English at Davidson College.

Panelists:

Jon Pineda is the author of the novels Let’s No One Get Hurt and Apology. His recent poetry collection, Little Anodynes, received the 2016 Library of Virginia Literary Award, and his
memoir *Sleep in Me* was a 2010 Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. He teaches at William and Mary.

Kevin Prufer’s ninth book of poetry is *The Fears* (Copper Canyon, 2023). His first novel, *Sleepaway*, will be published by Acre Books in 2024. He is professor of English in the creative writing program at the University of Houston and also teaches in the Lesley University low-residency MFA program.

Sarah Perry is the author of the true crime memoir *After the Eclipse* (Houghton Mifflin, 2017), which was named a *New York Times Book Review* Editor’s Choice and a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers pick. Her next book, *Sweet Nothings*, an essay collection about the pleasures of candy and the search for joy in the wake of trauma, is forthcoming from Mariner in early 2025. She teaches creative writing at the University of North Texas.

**Rone Shavers** is author of the experimental Afrofuturist novel, *Silverfish*. His writing has appeared in Big Other, Bomb, Pank, and elsewhere. Shavers is a fiction editor at Obsidian: Literature and Arts in the African Diaspora, and Associate Professor of English at the University of Utah.* * *

Revision Presentations (50 minutes):

The moderator will introduce each panelist, and then speak for five minutes. Then each panelist will speak for ten minutes, sharing an original draft of a published piece and its final version. Panelists will discuss issues that arose in early drafts and share practical approaches for addressing those issues, as well as the implications of later revision decisions.

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Moderator questions (10-15 minutes):

Share one revision trick, please.

Do you tend to fix your beginnings more than your endings?

When do you know a piece is done?

What did you learn in the drafting process of the work shared here that surprised you?

How do you keep the sense of “freshness”—and we can define that—draft to draft?
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15 minutes for audience questions.