

Saturday, October 3, 2026 (Timeline of Events):

Tyson Research Center & Endangered Wolf Center (Directions)

Meet at Tyson Research Center Living Learning Classroom (LLC)
6750 Tyson Valley Rd, Eureka, MO 63025

Pre-Workshop Hangout:

9:30AM – 10:00AM

Welcome Message from PITW Program Coordinator

10:00AM – 10:15AM

Faculty-Led Discussion: Elizabeth Hoover

10:15AM – 10:45AM

The Power and Pitfalls of Project Books:

Elizabeth Hoover will talk about how working on a "project book," book length poem or series of poems, helped her complete her first book and gave her an easy way to talk about what her book is about and doing, but also presented some challenges along the way.

Faculty-Led Discussion: Jason Vasser-Elong

10:45AM – 11:15AM

My first book experience: Advice and Affirmations

Jason Vasser-Elong's first book Shrimp was published by 2Leaf Press in 2018. 2Leaf Press is an imprint of the Intercultural Alliance of Artists & Scholars, Inc., a New York – based nonprofit 501 C (3) organization that promotes multicultural literature and literacy. His manuscript was the culmination of work he completed while in his MFA program, with added poems to fit the scope of the project. This discussion will focus on his experience publishing his first book, which was published by a Black Owned and female led press.

Faculty-Led Discussion: Justin Hamm

11:15AM – 11:45AM

Performance as a Vehicle for First Book Success:

A first book doesn't usually have a built-in audience so a poet is going to have to make the rounds. An engaging stage presence and reading style can increase the success of a book considerably.

BYO Lunch/Composition/Discussions

11:45AM – 1:00PM

Folks may choose to use the hour to grab snacks (BYO Lunch, but many snacks and refreshments will be provided), use facilities, compose poetry, explore the area, or talk poetry shop

Guided Tour of Endangered Wolf Center:

1:00PM – 2:00PM

The Endangered Wolf Center has offered a guided tour to see the wolves (and maybe hear them howl). A representative from the EWC will meet us at the LLC and guide folks down to the enclosures.

Participant Workshop:

2:00PM – 4:00PM

Folks will read their submitted poem and receive feedback from faculty and participants on the spot. Participant workshop poem packet will be circulated prior to workshop. One printed copy will be available to read from and an electronic version will allow everyone to follow along.

Sunday, October 4, 2026(Timeline of Events):

Tyson Research Center & Endangered Wolf Center (Directions)

Timeline of Events:

Meet at Tyson Research Center Living Learning Classroom (LLC)

6750 Tyson Valley Rd, Eureka, MO 63025

Pre-Workshop Hangout:

9:30AM – 10:00AM

Welcome Message from PITW Program Coordinator

10:00AM – 10:15AM

Faculty-Led Discussion: Amie Whittemore

10:15AM – 10:45AM

The Fool, the Tower, the Sun: Tarot & the First Book

While tarot is often used as a practice to ask questions about our lives, it can be equally useful in asking questions about our art. In this talk, I'll share my experiences putting my first poetry collection together through the lens of tarot. From there, we'll explore techniques for using tarot to better understand our work-in-progress--its possibilities, desires, and provocations--at a richer, deeply intuitive level.

Faculty-Led Discussion: Andrea Scarpino

10:45AM – 11:15AM

Celebrating (and Selling) Your First Book

Many first books are published on small presses that don't have a lot of money for book tours or publicity. So how do you get your book into readers' hands? In this session, we'll discuss unique ways to celebrate your book's publication and get it (at least some of) the attention it deserves.

Faculty-Led Discussion: Kristin Emanuel

11:15AM – 11:45AM

Is My Collection Ready to Become a Book?

After you hit the 48-page minimum for most poetry manuscript contests, you might start asking yourself whether your collection is ready for submission. After all, what does it mean for a collection to be "done"? Is done a feeling, or is it something more quantifiable? This discussion is about incompleteness and completion, and about the ambiguous feelings that often accompany the final stages of compiling a poetry collection. As a group, we will discuss how to navigate this ambiguity alongside looking at a sample cover letter and learning practical information about the submission and post-acceptance process.

BYO Lunch/Composition/Discussions

11:45AM – 1:00PM

Folks may choose to use the hour to grab snacks (BYO Lunch, but many snacks and refreshments will be provided), use facilities, compose poetry, explore the area, or talk poetry shop

Participant Workshop:

1:00PM – 3:00PM

Folks will read their submitted poem and receive feedback from faculty and participants on the spot. Participant workshop poem packet will be circulated prior to workshop. One printed copy will be available to read from and an electronic version will allow everyone to follow along.

Open Poetry Discussion

3:00PM - 4:00PM

Workshop participants will be able to submit topics in advance for the open poetry discussion session and additional topics may come up organically.

Potluck Poetry Reading @ LLC:

4:00PM – 6:00PM

There will be vegan chili, cornbread and other small bites