

LLOYD'S BEACON



Contests!
by Joshua
Danker-Dake
President



Well, the 2019 OWFI Conference and Contest are now behind us. Congratulations to our many OWFI Contest winners! Tulsa NightWriters was very well represented in the winner's circle this year. I hope you'll make a point to attend our May meeting, where we'll celebrate these winners and you'll get a chance to hear some of them read excerpts from their award-winning entries.

And now that the OWFI Contest is over, it's time to start thinking about the next one: Tulsa NightWriters' own annual Flash Writing Contest. Earlier this year, you gave us your feedback, and we heard you loud and clear: *You do not want to be responsible for finding a judge for the next year's contest.*

Well, fear not: you aren't anymore! We know it's a big job, and going forward, the board will assume responsibility for finding a judge. We're also going to take charge of providing the writing prompt to ensure that it's one that everyone can use—whether you write fiction, non-fiction, or poetry.

On behalf of the board, we hope you enjoy these quality of life changes to the Flash Writing Contest. You'll find much more about the changes in these pages, and of course, you'll be hearing more about it from us at the May meeting.

See you there!



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RAMBLING REX

Standout Protagonists

by Rex Griffin

Vice-President

www.nightwriters.org



What is so appealing about Average Jane's and Joe's? Many writers start off with those kind of people as the protagonist. I get it. They're easy to identify with. But so what? What makes an Average Joe special?

Nothing—they're average. Don't you want your protagonist to be something special, someone your reader can not only look up to, but identify with?

What makes people special? We all have heroes. We all look up to someone. What is that special trait YOUR hero has? Write that down. Demonstrate it in the opening scene of your novel. Show the reader the quality s/he can identify with.

Do you admire him or her for their *Grit*? Think of Hugh Glass, Leonardo Di Caprio's character, in *The Revenant*. He's not particularly likeable. He doesn't make women swoon—heck, there aren't many women in the movie. Nevertheless, we admire him—and ultimately pull for him. Why? Despite the multitude of life-threatening obstacles he has to overcome, he never, never, never, ever gives up. (Winston Churchill is one of my heroes.)

What about *Wit*? You can't help but like—and root for—Deadpool. Why? His face is horribly scarred and he dishes out violence with almost every breath. Yet the wisecracking, smart-aleck is innately likeable. We're drawn to characters with a sense of humor.

Or is your hero heroic? Is s/he confident, brave, and daring, like Captain Kirk in *Star Trek*, "Boldly going where no man has gone before"? Does s/he have *It*?

Grit, wit, and it. Many a favorite protagonist sports one of these.

What about an anti-hero, an unlikeable character like Joe Gillis, played by William Holden in *Sunset Boulevard*? He's a selfish, mercenary lout who takes up with a woman twice his age, to live off her money. Yet we like him. Why? For one, he is self-aware. He knows fully what a selfish, mercenary lout he is. Nevertheless, he turns away his best friend's naïve fiancée, who has fallen for him. In other words, despite his own lack of morals, he's not low enough to steal his best friend's girl.

Now that you've identified the qualities that make your protagonist stand out, what motivates him or her? Is s/he driven by fear? Something that has frightened or tormented your character since childhood? Is s/he motivated by an outer desire, maybe a need to make the world a better place, or is s/he motivated by something more personal, like paying this week's bills? Or perhaps his/her motivation is something deeper, such as a personal yearning to find love or gain acceptance.

You might notice something about those motivations: fear, desire, yearning. They are all emotions. These deep-seated feelings drive your standout protagonist. What are the opposite feelings? Incorporate those, and your standout protagonist just became conflicted. Make those opposing feelings mutually exclusive and your conflicted, standout protagonist just became compelling.

Now put that standout, compelling protagonist on the page and let your readers fall in love.

Our May 21 meeting will recognize and celebrate Tulsa Nightwriters who received

awards in this year's OWFI Writing Contest. Instead of hosting a speaker, winning Nightwriters will have the opportunity to read from their prize-winning entries.

Though the speaker schedule for the meetings is more-or-less full, we could still use your ideas and preferences for speakers for October 26's mini-conference. Please see me at the next meeting or e-mail me with your ideas at rexgriffin@aol.com. (Yes, I am a computer dinosaur.) Please put "Nightwriters" in the e-mail subject line so it won't go to my spam folder.



Rex Griffin portrayed a Conflicted Soul who couldn't decide whether to push the up or down elevator button on his way to the costume contest at the 2019 OWFI Conference. He won first place in his category. The book reference is *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

OUR MAY MEETING

May 21, 2019

7:00 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.

Martin Regional Library Auditorium, 2601 South Garnett Road, Tulsa, OK

This event is not affiliated in any way with the Tulsa City-County Library.
The Library neither sponsors nor endorses this event, the speaker(s), nor the organization.



It's a Party!

**Come celebrate with those
NightWriters who won awards
at the OWFI Conference.**

FEATURE ARTICLES

WRITING BY THE RULES



Using Commas, Part 5

by Carol Lavelle Snow

Appositives

Appositives are either nouns or noun phrases that explain the noun they follow or precede. Here are examples of appositives that come within sentences. They are always set off with commas.

Jim, a team member, can't attend this Friday.

Jim, our most important team member, can't attend this Friday.

Sometimes these phrases even contain clauses.

Jim, the player who made the winning touchdown last week, can't attend on Friday.

If appositives come at the beginning of a sentence, they are followed by a comma.

A snob, Jane refused to ride in my colorful car.

If they come at the end of the sentence, they are preceded by a comma.

I loved that colorful car, a relic from the 60s.

**Books
Authored and
Coauthored
by Carol Lavelle
Snow**



About the Author

Carol has an M.F.A. in drama from OU but got into the habit of teaching English instead—at Ohio University, TCC, ORU, and Spartan. She has acted in many plays and directed a few. Her scripts have appeared on the Narrative Television Network and at Spotlight Theater. She's published two novels and several short stories. You can find her poetry online in magazines like *Songs of Eretz* and *StepAway Magazine*, and in print in several journals, including *The Lyric*, *Harp-Strings Poetry Journal*, and *Crosstimbers*.



FEATURE ARTICLES

The Possibility of Zoom Training

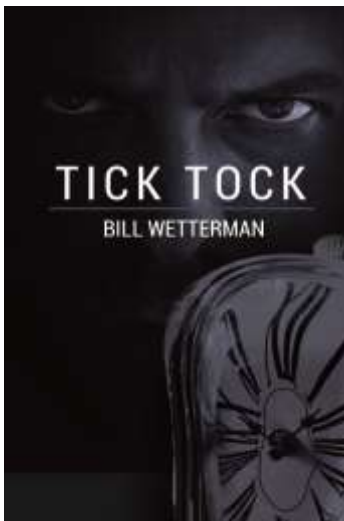
By Bill Wetterman

During the April meeting, I introduced the concept of doing training using Zoom, a video conferencing tool. Right now, I have the free service which allows for forty minutes of conference time with an unlimited number of enrollees. In June, I plan to do two video conferences, one on Worldbuilding and one on Structure, using the forty-minute format. If these beta tests go well and are accepted as valuable, I will ask the Board to fund an upgraded program that expands the time to unlimited minutes.

With the upgraded program, we could add work assignments that attendees would participate in after each presentation; such as, reading their first page and having the group critique their work. Other members of TNW could make presentations and the genre groups could use this tool for meetings if they wish.

To be a part of a Zoom conference, you need a computer with a built-in camera or a webcam and computer sound. These are standard pieces of equipment on most computers. I would set-up the conference and send you a code which you would use to connect in. It is as simple as that.

If you are interested in being a part of this experiment, please email me at bwetterman@cox.net with your comments.



In my new novel, Tick Tock, Detective William 'Pop' Brasher enters the arena of political correctness when actress and Antifa activist, Sage Quinn, is brutally raped and murdered. The killer or killers leave no viable evidence, and as the case unfolds, both left and right wing terrorist plots are slowly uncovered threatening Los Angeles and its peace and security.

I write stories straight out of the headlines. Tick Tock is my first detective thriller. I touch on issues plaguing American society with brutal honesty. Tick Tock is no different. Detective Brasher doesn't see Black or White, Male or Female, Leftists or Ultraconservatives. He knows the law and tracks down his suspects with no agenda driving him except his oath of office.

Order Tick Tock on Amazon. Be sure to review this novel. Reviews help sales, good or bad, as long as they are honest.

Basket Wars Success

By Carolyn Steele, Hospitality Chairman

A big thank you to all who donated books, money, and “stuff” to the Tulsa NightWriters’ basket offering for the OWFI conference. After lining the donations along my kitchen cabinet, we assembled them into three piles that could be themed, with the proviso that none would weigh more than I could lift. Containers that are themed seem to draw the most attention at the conference—themes ran the gamut from Star Wars to Chicken Soup.

I was proud to tote three offerings to Oklahoma City. A small basket, titled “Especially for the Ladies,” contained inspirational books, tea, hot chocolate, ceramic mug, and a hand-made wrap bracelet by our own Julie Kimmel-Harbaugh. That basket garnered the highest bids in the small basket category which entitles TNW to a free table at next year’s banquet.

Another small basket entitled “Reading to Keep You up at Night” had just that...scary books, candy, nuts, and a bendy skeleton reaching out in case anyone didn’t get the title. Finally, a large beautiful fabric-covered trunk was brimming with all manner of goodies and books and went into the large category.

In total, fifty baskets were donated by writing clubs and individuals attending the conference which brought a total of \$1,350 to the scholarship fund.

Last year NightWriters filled a bushel basket decorated with colorful felt pieces and pom poms. It was amusing to see it returned this year, filled with goodies by another writing club.

Again, a big thank you to all that participated in filling the baskets.



This year’s basket entries from Tulsa NightWriters.



Last year’s TNWC basket makes a return visit in this year’s Basket Wars.

New Rules for TNWC's Annual Flash Writing Contest

By Marion Grace

As a result of the survey sent to the membership, our Annual Flash Writing Contest will be changed in the following ways:

The winner of the previous year's contest is no longer required to find a judge for the following year. The TNWC's Board of Directors has sent a letter to area groups asking for judges for an "available judge list," and will be responsible for finding the judge from the list.

We will pay the judge \$100 for the first 25 entries and another \$4 for each entry more than 25. The payment is offered because we now require the judge to give a substantial critique for each entry.

After the contest is completed, the judge would be allowed to identify him/herself if wanted for the purpose of getting credit as a judge. Previously, the name of the judge was never revealed.

The board will be responsible for giving the opening prompt. It will be one that will allow participation by non-fiction, fiction, poetry, or any genre.

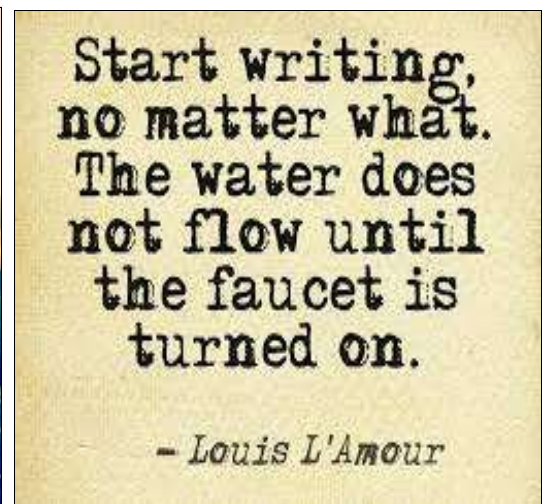
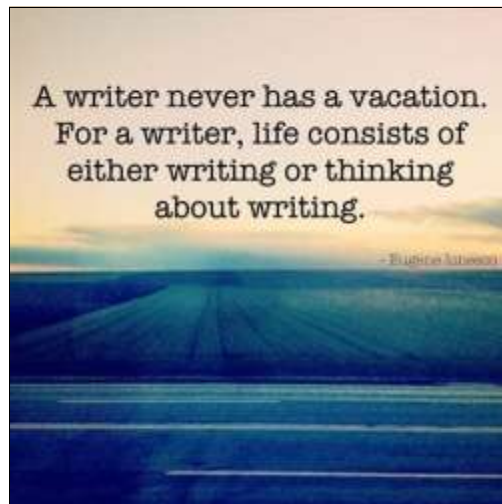
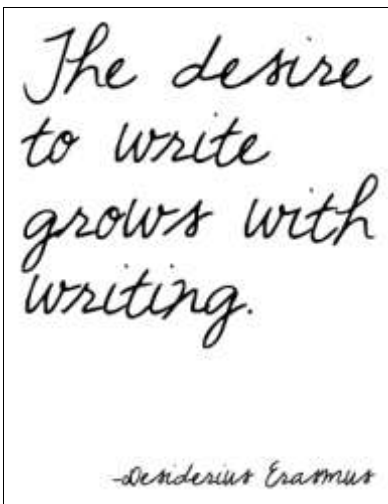
The contest will begin June 1st with a deadline to submit of Monday, Sept 2nd at 11:59 pm.

That gives everyone 3 months to write. Three months will be given to the judge, and judging will be required to be completed by Saturday, November 30th. The winners will be announced at our Christmas Party.

The entry fee for the contest is still \$5 per entry, with the entry fees being used to fund the prize money. The more entrants in the contest, the higher the first, second and third place prizes will be.

It is our hope that more members will participate with the changes we are introducing. The prompt will be announced at the May 21st meeting, with the official start being June 1st. This is so we can notify members who are not at the May meeting.

We hope everyone will enjoy our club's contest.



Newsletters Strengthen Your Connection

By Deborah Camp

I confess that it took me long time before I finally caved and began an author newsletter. As a reader, I didn't opt in to receive newsletters from authors, so I had decided they weren't worth the trouble. What I failed to understand was that the newsletter isn't the steak. It's the sizzle. The steak is a convenient, cost-effective way to connect with your readers.

Marketing is all about reaching your target audience. An author's target audience is the reader. Many authors have email lists that number into the one hundred thousand. However, even amassing a few hundred or a few thousand can increase your book sales. You can reach your readers with newsletters and email announcements of your upcoming releases, which can keep you "top-of-mind" and grow your pre-release sales numbers.

The people on your newsletter email list already buy your books. Why wouldn't you want their email addresses? Is there any easier way to alert readers to an upcoming title of yours, a sale of one of your past works, or to remind them of books currently available in whatever form (digital, print, audio)? It costs you nothing, so every book you sell through an email alert or newsletter is pure profit.

Creating the News

Manufacturing a newsletter is fairly simple and shouldn't take you more than a couple of hours, especially when you use a program such as Mailchimp® or Constant Contact®. These programs walk you through the whole process of compiling a mail list and creating a newsletter or announcement.

How often you send something to your readers is up to you, but a good rule of thumb is not to exceed one a month. You'll find that most of your recipients don't open your mail. That's just how it goes, so don't despair. When the majority of them unsubscribe, that's when you should take notice. That means you aren't keeping them interested – either your newsletters are worthless or you aren't publishing enough or writing the kind of book they want to read.

An author newsletter is whatever you want to make it. I include contests where readers can win books, announcements of my latest release(s), and recommendations of books I've read that I enjoyed. I keep them short and to the point, but I aim to give something for everyone who loves to read. Since most romance readers (I write romances) like more than one genre, I always mention a variety, such as I'll highlight an historical romance, a contemporary romantic suspense, and a paranormal romance. I've featured contests to win mysteries, romantic suspense, historical romances, and romantic suspense/adventure novels.

Adding to the List

Gathering more and more readers for your email list is a constant quest. A good way to do this is to have a way for people to sign up for your newsletter on your author website. Give them an incentive. Offer them one of your books free. This is an excellent way to keep adding to your list. It's an easy task if your books are available in digital form and it will cost you nothing.

Newsletters Strengthen Your Connection (CONT)

In every article you write, every promotional piece you create, every conference you attend, invite people to sign up for your newsletter. Invite them on Facebook and Twitter and every other social platform. Encourage them to tell their friends who read the type of book you write to sign up. Let them know about the free book offer and some of the perks your newsletter offers.

By adding people to your list, you will compensate for those who unsubscribe. You'll find that about a quarter of those who sign up will unsubscribe after they receive their free book or after they receive the first mailing from you. Don't fret about them. Concentrate on the people who remain steadfast. This is your target audience and these readers are pure gold. You don't have to court them or "sell" them on your books. They already know who you are and like what you write. You have a connection with them and every email you send solidifies it.

Start Today

Don't be stubborn as I was and think that newsletters aren't that important. Connecting with your readers in any way, shape, or form is *always* important. If you need ideas about what kind of newsletter you want to do, subscribe to a few of your favorite authors' newsletters (you will find that nearly every author has one, so that should tell you something) and glean from them what you find interesting, entertaining, and informative.

Then sign on with one of the mail/newsletter programs and have fun creating your first author newsletter. The first one might take you more than a couple of hours to create, but once you get the hang of it, you'll be able to whip one out in an hour or so. Believe me, it will be well worth your time!



Deborah Camp is the author of more than 50 romances, both contemporary and historical. She loves writing stories that are centered on brave women and honorable men. Her books have been published by Jove, New American Library, Harlequin, Silhouette, Avon, and Amazon. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Authors Hall of Fame and she's a charter member of the Romance Writers of America. She's also a member of the Author's Guild and a proud member of the Tulsa Nightwriters and the Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc. Her latest novel, *Lonestar's Lady*, is available on Amazon.

writing quote

—noun

a peculiar saying capable of shaming writers into writing.

DISCIPLINE
is the bridge
between goals and
ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Jim Rohn -

OWFI NEWS & INFORMATION

Tulsa NightWriters Score Big at the OWFI Contest



2019 OWFI Contest winners who were present at the Awards Banquet were: Sue Cory Person, Linda Trout, Kathlyn Smith, M. Carolyn Steele, and Zach Roberts.

The Awards Banquet Capped off the 2019 OWFI Conference. Below is a list of Tulsa NightWriters who placed in the various categories, shown in category order. Congratulations to all NightWriters who won or placed, and Kudos to all NightWriters who entered. It can be daunting to put your work out there for others to judge, but the feedback can be invaluable.

Renee La Viness, 3rd Place, Category 6, Technical and/or How To Article, “How to Lose Your Family Gofer Job”
 M. Carolyn Steele, 3rd Place, Category 8, Blog-Non-Fiction, for “Beneath our Feet”
 Dixie Maxwell, 3rd Honorable Mention, Category 11, Flash Fiction, for “Hanging On”
 Beverly Strader, 4th Honorable Mention, Category 11, Flash Fiction, for “Freedom Flight”
 Gene La Viness, 1st Honorable Mention, Category 14, Young Adult Short Story: Fiction, “Birthright”
 Zach Roberts, 1st Honorable Mention, Category 20, Picture Book, for “Princess of the Honeybees”
 Kathlyn Smith, 2nd Honorable Mention, Category 20, Picture Book, for “The Bugahump”
 Dixie Maxwell, 2nd Place, Category 23, Mainstream Novel: Fiction for “Wish You Were Here”
 Linda Trout, 2nd Place, Category 24, Romance Novel, for “Crushed Promises”
 Jerry Hanel, 2nd Place, Category 27, Sci-Fi/Fantasy Novel for “The Mutant Frequency”
 Cory Sue Person, 1st Place, Category 31, Best YA Novel (published), for “Beneath Irving Island”
 Sara Sue Hoklotubbe, 1st Place, Category 34, Best Fiction Book (published), “Betrayal at the Buffalo Ranch”

OUR MEMBERS HAVE BRAGS

Lottie Wilds is celebrating over 2 years as a daily writer for two newspapers. She began in February 2017 at The Sapulpa Herald and September 2018 at the online and printed paper, The Sapulpa Times.

Mary Coley's book *Blood on the Cimarron* won the Tony Hillerman award from the New Mexico/Arizona Book awards. This book is set in Stillwater and features Claire Northcutt, a reporter who discovers a murdered rancher when she goes to interview him for an article about his mustang rescue ranch.

The Tulsa NightWriters Club will be featured in the June edition of OWFI's *The Report*. Following is a list of those recently (or soon to be) released books written by our members that will be included in this article:

- Bob Avey, *Identity Theft* (4th book in the Detective Elliot series) releasing 2019
- Deborah Camp, *Through Her Heart* (The Mind's Eye #6), December 30, 2018
- Danny Carlton, *Earth Suit*, Dec 1, 2018
- Mary Coley, *Chrysalis* (Family Secret Series #4), October 2018
- Lori Ellis, *Trail of Deceit*, November 2018
- Rex Griffith, *Autumn of the Wolf*, releasing fall, 2019
- Jerry Hanel, *The Mutant Frequency*, May, 2019
- Sally Jadow, *Joshua's Journey: One Boy's Victory Over Allergies*, December 19, 2018
- Donna Welch Jones, *Beautiful Bait*, releasing fall 2019
- Tony LoPresti, *Storm Sentinal*, April 2019
- Byrd Nash, *The Wicked Wolves of Windsor and other Fairytales*, May 15, 2019
- Rae Neal, *Daylight Melodies*, September 2019
- Sue Cory Person, *Beneath Irving Island*, December 2, 2018
- M. Carolyn Steele, *Outrun the Bullets*, releasing late summer 2019
- Bill Wetterman, *Tick Tock*, May 12, 2019
- Bill Wetterman, *Christianity Faces the 21st Century*, releasing summer 2019

Tulsa NightWriters Club Hall of Fame



Peggy
Fielding

Romance Author
and Writing Instructor



Charles W.
Sasser

Freelance Writer,
Journalist,
and Photographer



Jackie
King

Cozy Mystery
and Short Story Author



Deborah
Camp

Romance Author



M. Carolyn
Steele

Journalist, Genealogist,
Author of Historical
Fiction and Nonfiction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- * Proofreading
- * Copy Editing
- * Developmental Editing
- * Summary

Contact Julie Kimmel-Harbaugh

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**Thank you,
JOHN TAYLOR
AND
TULSAJAZZ.COM,
for supporting local authors
on your website's
Local Author's Corner!**

tulsajazz.wordpress.com

The Local Author's Corner was created to encourage the Jazz and the writing community to collaborate in promoting Tulsa-area talent. You'll find many Tulsa NightWriters showcased here.



Tierney James

Authors Wanted for

Sizzle in the Kitchen Blog

I have started a new blog series concerning where authors cook. I would so love for you to share about your world through your kitchen and cooking. One author will be featured each week. Share pictures, recipes, your books and genre, etc., anything that will make you shine (or *sizzle*). This is meant to be fun, light, and insightful to your world. It's a great way to get some new readers and much deserved attention. I will let you know when you will go live so you can promote on social media. I will do the same. Interested?



Deborah Camp is looking for "street team" members. If you or someone you know enjoy her books and would like to be part of her exclusive group of Happy Campers -- readers who promise to promote her work through reviews, brags, social media, etc. in return for swag, free books, gifts, etc. -- contact her at deborahcampauthor@yahoo.com

We'd love to welcome you as a member!

If you'd like to join Tulsa NightWriters Club, please contact our treasurer, Marion Grace, at jmgrace@att.net

FROM YOUR EDITOR

NightScripts Submission Guidelines

- Deadline: 1st of the month (January-December)
- Specifications: Please do not format your text. Times New Roman, 12pt Single-space Attach graphics and/or photographs
- Send To: Cindy Rose
cindy-rose@cox.net

CURRENTLY ACCEPTING ARTICLES

Do you have an idea for strengthening Tulsa NightWriters Club?

Send any ideas, speaker recommendations, etc., by e-mail, to the officer of your choice.

GENRE FOCUS GROUPS

The Genre Focus Groups program is an opportunity for NightWriters who write in the same genre to connect on an ongoing basis to support each other, exchange ideas, talk about marketing, read each other's work, and offer feedback. If you'd like to be listed for a genre or to connect with other writers, let us know—we'll be glad to help.

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.NIGHTWRITERS.ORG



Click on these links to connect with TNWC on Facebook:

[TNWC Facebook Group for Club Members Only](#)

[TNWC Facebook Page \(public\)](#)

Please note: Only Tulsa NightWriters Club members may join our TNWC Facebook group. Our public Facebook page is open to non-club members.

Visit the [TNWC website](#) for club membership information.

FOLLOW TNWC ON TWITTER

You can follow TNWC on Twitter: @TulsaNightWrite
Please tweet our meetings and other events, and we will do our best to retweet your writing-related tweets.

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Tuesday Tips (Facebook): Deniece Adsit