



# News Release

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## Local Author to Hold Book Signings

**Aroostook County** - John Corrigan, a faculty member in Northern Maine Community College's department of arts and sciences, has had his fifth Jack Austin mystery published. The book, *OUT OF BOUNDS*, will be available in stores in October. To help promote the publication, Corrigan will take part in a number of book signings across the state, including two here in Presque Isle.

According to promotional material on the book: *"In OUT OF BOUNDS readers discover how far a veteran golfer in decline will go to maintain his family's lifestyle. Performance-enhancing drugs make their way to the PGA Tour and someone is killing off the cheaters, one by one. When Jack Austin, a newly appointed member of the Tours Policy Board, goes looking for answers, he finds himself face-to-face with a serial killer."*

In his first book, *CUT SHOT* published in 2001, Corrigan introduced readers to a recurring cast of characters and themes. "I wanted to take Raymond Chandler to the PGA Tour," said Corrigan regarding the premise of his Jack Austin series of books. Chandler is the fore father of American "private eye" fiction. "In any genre, you try to give something new, bring it to a place it's never gone."

Corrigan came up with the concept while he was working on his Master of Fine Arts in creative writing at the University of Texas in El Paso. "I wrote what would become *CUT SHOT*, about 11 drafts later, while I was there. It was my thesis," said Corrigan. He studied under novelist Rick Demarinis, whom he credits a great deal for his development as a writer.

"In my novels, the plot or the crime is simply a vehicle to explore the characters. It has been great to sit back and watch the characters grow from book to book," said Corrigan, regarding the rewards of writing a series of books involving the same characters. "For example, Jack was single in the first book and now, in the last one, he is married with a child."

One theme which has carried through the series is the main character's battle with dyslexia, an affliction with which Corrigan is well-acquainted. "Dyslexia affects input, but people often excel with output. Growing up learning disabled, math and science were very difficult for me, but when I got a chance to write papers, I knew this is what I could do," explained Corrigan.

Since he was a child, he has written as often as he could. When he was at college at SUNY Fredonia, he took every English class that he could, served as the sports editor at the college paper, and worked nights at the daily paper. He continues to make writing a priority, rising early to write most every day from 4:00 – 6:00 a.m., before starting his regular working day at NMCC. “When you are doing a novel, you can’t take time off. You have to follow that thread you are weaving through your story, or you lose it.”

In addition to his five Jack Austin novels, Corrigan has published poetry, academic articles and feature articles. He has presented papers on teaching writing and study skills to dyslexic students at national conferences and has been a regular columnist for *Golf Today Magazine* since 2002.

Corrigan is currently hard at work on a new book, one that is a departure from his Jack Austin mystery series. This will be a non-golf, crime fiction book, according to Corrigan.

Corrigan joined the full-time faculty at NMCC in 2004. In addition to teaching basic courses, such as English Composition, Corrigan has also developed both a Creative Writing and a Mystery Literature class. Students in both classes are able to benefit from his breadth of knowledge and experience in those fields.

“I understand what my students are going through in creative writing...searching for a voice, staring at a blank screen. If they are dedicated and write every day, they will get better. It takes practice and work. I can’t ‘teach’ them to write, but I can help them save time and become better editors of their work,” said Corrigan. As part of the class, students put together a submission portfolio and have the option of actually submitting their material if they so choose.

For the opportunity to speak to Corrigan personally about his work and get an autographed copy of *OUT OF BOUNDS*, area residents are encouraged to stop by Pieces of Eight bookstore on Main Street in Presque Isle on October 6, between 5:00-8:00 p.m. Corrigan will also be holding a reading with a question and answer period, followed by a book signing, at the Mark and Emily Turner Memorial Library on Second Street in Presque Isle at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 7.

