



In October 2015, more than a thousand people participated in the Pat Conroy at 70 Festival, celebrating a milestone birthday and honoring the iconic southern writer in here in his adopted hometown of Beaufort. The event was a once-in-a-lifetime gift to the community and to the author himself, who passed away from pancreatic cancer just months later.

The immersive festival model of author discussions, a film screening, a museum exhibition, a tour, and special lunch and reception events proved to be so successful that the organizers are continuing it as an annual event honoring Conroy and now called the Pat Conroy Literary Festival.

Under the leadership of Jonathan Haupt, director of the University of South Carolina Press and Conroy's partner in the Story River Books fiction imprint, and in partnership with USCB professor of English and author Ellen Malphrus and Bonnie Hargrove, director of the USCB Center for the Arts, the inaugural Conroy Literary Festival will be held Oc



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