

# MUSINGS

## IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the Chair</i>	1
<i>Printed and Presented</i>	2
<i>Team Updates</i>	3
<i>Angel Tips</i>	3
<i>New Faculty</i>	4
<i>Grapevine</i>	4
<i>Faculty and Staff</i>	4

## Dates to Remember:

- October 27: Last day to withdraw with a W.
- November 2: Dayton Literary Peace Prize reading at Sinclair Library ,12:30-1:30pm.
- November 5: Dayton Literary Peace Prize Awards Ceremony.
- November 18: GED writing workshop, 9:30-12:30.
- November 22: Fall classes end.
- November 28: Fall quarter grades due.

## FROM THE CHAIR

The moment I learned that I would be the Chair of this department, I began to anticipate writing this initial offering for *Musings*. What would I say? Should I sound “Chair-like”? Should I be witty? Should I attempt to be profound, overly intellectual and erudite by throwing in a couple of literary allusions like my predecessors had done over the years?

Then the night of June 27, 2006 came. I said goodnight to my English 112 class, who had spent a productive two hours and forty minutes in the library working on their research projects, and I headed home hoping to recharge myself from a full day that had featured nine hours of classes. I got a carryout roast beef dinner from the Cracker Barrel on Miller Lane and looked forward to eating it as I gazed longingly for the umpteenth time into the hazel eyes of Channel 2’s Colleen Sullivan as she disclosed who Dayton’s latest shooting victim was. All this was a routine prelude to the nightly ritual of loading my Cyler dialysis machine with two bags of solution totaling 2000 liters, hooking myself up, and settling in for my eight and a half hour session. My ritual was interrupted by a phone call from the Ohio State University Medical Center Transplant Ward, telling me that they had a kidney and that they thought that I was the best match. They told me to “come now.” I arrived at OSU at midnight, and because I had not had time to eat that dinner, they didn’t have to pump my stomach. I was able to be on the operating table at 7:30 am June 28<sup>th</sup>, ending four years of peritoneal dialysis, and three and a half years on the transplant list.

Well, the first message that I have to give to you as a staff is THANKS!!! The outpouring of prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls were an integral part of my healing process. Your kind words and warm greetings (as well as the balloons and liquid love) upon my return continue to be greatly appreciated. I now understand when peo-

ple say that one needs a network of support to carry them through the many challenges of life. As I return to work, I find that many of the rumored changes that began to confront us last spring are rapidly becoming reality; however, under the interim leadership of Tim Waggoner, the department has begun to take the initial steps in weathering the onslaught. He has done a yeoman’s job of keeping the ship on course. We will work together as I ease back into my role and relieve him of those duties in January. Thanks, Tim!

People are constantly asking if I have noticed a personal transformation, some metamorphic change in me, be it psychological, philosophical or spiritual, and the best answer that I can give is probably. This drama continues to reveal itself to me. I get a sense that there are better things ahead for all of us, and it gives me a desire to help make all who are around me better than you already are. I will continue to encourage you that you are more than just teachers, regardless of whether that is all you see yourself as. I encourage senior faculty as well as junior faculty to lead. Our first challenge is to inventory ourselves and make recommendations to the Cross-Divisional team for the college’s reorganization plan. I believe that the numerous programs that we offer require some revision as opposed to elimination. There is room for a strong offering of literature, even if it is only on a periodic basis. If we are one of the “most important departments in the college,” then we should lead the way in redesigning ourselves to fit the needs of the college and the community we serve. I will encourage you to embrace the drive of Rebecca Morean, the youthful effervescence of Tina Onder, Caroline Simmons and Lisa Mahle-Griez. Our newest additions refresh our department and this department’s strength refreshes me. Let’s move forward!

Jack Bennett



## PRINTED AND PRESENTED

**Tim Waggoner's** novel *Godfire 2: Heart's Wound* is out from Five Star Press this October. His next horror novel, *Darkness Wakes*, will be out from Leisure Books in December. His short story "Across Silent Seas" will appear in the Doctor Who anthology *Destination Prague*. Tim was Horror Guest of Honor at the Context science fiction convention in Columbus Oct. 6-8, and will be attending the World Fantasy Convention in Austin, Texas, as a programming participant November 2-5.

Two of **Ed Davis'** stories, "The Angel and the Dog" and "The Gift," were anthologized recently in "Mountain Voices," published by the West Virginia Writers Roundtable. Another story, "Like A Brother," will be published soon in *Nantabala Review*, an on-line journal of Appalachian literature. Also, Ed appeared along with Trudy Krisher, **Becky Morean** and Crystal Wilson-Harris at a book-signing sponsored by the Tartan Bookstore that was very well-attended by both colleagues and students. (The bookstore is now displaying faculty writers' books on the wall in the textbook section.) Finally, Ed will be conducting a writing workshop on dialogue and autobiographical fiction for the Morgantown (WV) Writers Group in early November.

**Chuck Freeland's** "Fresh Out of Squab" and "Stung" will appear in *Jubilat*, and "Aria" will appear in *Cream City Review*. He also has a new website: [charlesfreelandpoetry.net](http://charlesfreelandpoetry.net), "in case anyone wants to read some of this ridiculous stuff."

**Furaha Henry-Jones** and **Adrienne Cassel**, along with other Sinclair faculty, administrators, and staff, attended a day-long workshop on September 20, in Columbus, Ohio. The workshop's goal was to help community colleges in Ohio develop successful learning communities. Recent research has shown that learning community initiatives at various colleges across the US have improved Math

and English scores for first-year students and have also improved retention rates. The workshop was sponsored by KnowledgeWorks Foundation, an organization whose aim is "furthering universal access to high-quality educational opportunities for individuals to achieve success and for the betterment of society." Administrators, faculty, and staff from Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, N.Y. facilitated the workshop, outlining the process they followed to develop their successful Opening Doors Learning Communities initiative. One outcome of the Columbus workshop was a commitment between Sinclair's English, Math and ASE departments to create a learning community initiative beginning in Winter 2007. The initiative will link a Math 101 class with an English 111 course and an ASE 101 course.

**Kate Geiselman's** essay, "Blue Sky" was published in the Personal Stories pages of [MomsRising.org](http://MomsRising.org).

**Jamey Dunham** has prose poems out in the current issues of *Margie*, *Sentence* and *Third Coast*. This summer his poem "The Same Only Lower" won the Grand Prize in the St. Louis Poetry Center's Forty Sixth Annual Best Poem Contest. The judge of the contest was poet David Lehman and the prize included publication and an award of \$2000.

**Susan Callender** has been invited to facilitate a faculty development workshop the first week in November for the Rhetoric Symposium in the state of Washington. The sponsors of the symposium are paying all of the expenses for each of the twelve professors from across the country who will conduct the workshops.

**Carol Nancarrow** went to Baltimore City Community College in August for three days to facilitate a workshop for faculty on writing learning outcomes and designing performance measures.

"Autumn is a second  
spring when every leaf's  
a flower."

—Albert Camus

## DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE

In honor of the first annual Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Sinclair College will host a reading from the winning and nominated works on Thursday, November 2 from 12:30-1:30 in the upper level of the library. Scheduled readers to date include Jack Bennett, Furaha Henry-Jones, Trudy Krisher, and more to be announced. Vicki Stalbird is coordinating the reading and is a member of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Committee. Please bring your classes if you can.

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize Awards Ceremony will take place on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The fiction winner is *A Changed Man* by Francine Prose. The runner-up is *The Discontinuity of Small Things* by Kevin Haworth. The non-fiction winners haven't yet confirmed whether they can come to the awards ceremony, so the winners haven't yet been officially announced. Everyone in the department should be getting an invitation to the ceremony very soon. The cost is \$125 per person.

## FROM THE TEAMS

**The Library Liaison team** reports that we will participate in an **in-service day** for all full time and part time English faculty along with relevant DEV faculty. The sessions will be in the Library. Librarians will demonstrate resources and go through the orientation material so that the faculty understand the kinds of things that their students will be shown, and so they will understand what *new* resources are now available for them to use with their classes. **New library orientations** will be offered for English 111. All 111 classes will be strongly encouraged to schedule one session. No research will be shown. The purpose will be to walk the students around the library, discuss the process for checking books out and using computers, point out highlights of the facility (e.g. Writing Center), and discuss hours and other miscellaneous things. This will literally be a welcome to the Library session.

**English 112 Library Orientations** will also be updated. Instead of up to three sessions with one session of presentation by the librarian and up to two additional sessions of working in the library, we will change the exercises and create three new ones. Winter Quarter will be the first quarter to use the new exercises. All sessions should be held in the library, even if the classroom has computers. This will help with consistency and will reinforce the idea of going to the library. Instructors would have the option of adding something else into the mix, but they would be encouraged to do the basic set of sessions and use the new exercises, and to attend the orientation with their students. All sessions will be scripted so that there is consistency--so each librarian does basically the same thing.

From **The Creative Writing Team**: *Confluence*, the 2005-2006 journal presenting the winners of

the League for Innovation Student Literary Competition, arrived in our office this quarter. Two Sinclair students -- Archy Wiseman and Shelia Filler -- received honorable mentions. Both the Annual Creative Writing Contest and the Paul Laurence Dunbar Memorial Poetry Prize are open for submissions. You can pick up brochures for both contests in the English Department office. Please announce the contests to your classes. The 2006 edition of *Flights*, Sinclair's annual literary arts magazine, should be out sometime this quarter. Make sure to pick up a copy from editor Jamey Dunham. During the library re-dedication, Constantine Pantazonis won the Student Library Essay Contest "The Library of the Future" for his essay "The Time Machine." Constantine was awarded \$100 on his Tartan card.

**The Composition Team** received a \$3,500 SCC Alumni Grant in the spring to conduct a GED Writing Workshop fall quarter, a GED writing contest winter quarter (07), and awards to winning essays spring quarter. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, November 18th from 8:30 to 12:30. The invitation for students to attend has been distributed to GED programs in Greene County, Clark County and Montgomery County. Although this first time is more of a pilot, we are hoping to make it an annual project. This is a very exciting initiative. The Textbook review will begin in mid November. It will culminate in the selection of textbooks for English 111/112 and 113. The selected textbooks will be adopted for fall 2007. If you have a textbook that you want to be reviewed by the faculty, we are temporarily using an empty bookshelf in Tim Waggoner's office.

*"Autumn...the year's  
last, loveliest smile."*

—William C. Bryant

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## ANGEL TIPS AND TRICKS

### My.Sinclair Course Mail and more...

There are two options for interacting with my.sinclair mail. You can keep all of your mail "in" each course, which keeps all of your mail organized by class. The disadvantage is that you have to log in to my.sinclair and check the mail for each section. Alternatively, you can set Angel up to forward all of your course mail to your Outlook. This means you won't have to check your course mail to receive messages from your students, but it also means those messages will be mixed in with all of your other Outlook mail. Please visit the English department website for detailed instructions for how to customize your my.sinclair mail so that it best suits your needs.

The English department website also has instructions for other Angel procedures, such as adding content to your course enhancements, working in the interactive classroom (i.e. computer labs), and saving and accessing files through my.sinclair. Instructions are located at <http://www.sinclair.edu/academics/las/departments/eng/AcademicPolicies/index.cfm>.

We hope to make these files available in an English department file repository, but in the meantime, they can be uploaded into their respective course shells so that they are readily available to students.



### Faculty and Staff

- Chair:  
Jack Bennett
- Secretary:  
Fortunate Finley
- Faculty:  
Kay Berg  
Susan Callender  
Adrienne Cassel  
Liz Christensen  
Ed Davis  
Jamey Dunham  
Chuck Freeland  
Kate Geiselman  
Furaha Henry-Jones  
Sarah Kiewitz  
Sally Lahmon  
William Loudermilk  
Lisa Mahle-Grisez  
Becky Morean  
Carol Nancarrow  
Tina Onder  
Caroline Simmons  
Vicki Stalbird  
Lisa Tyler  
Tim Waggoner
- Tech support:  
Doug Greathouse
- Student worker:  
Malintha Gunawardana
- Newsletter Editor:  
Kate Geiselman

## MEET THE NEW FACULTY

**Lisa Mahle-Grisez** began teaching at Sinclair in 1996 in both the Developmental and English Departments. She earned her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Dayton in English and composition and rhetoric, respectively. Currently, she is ABD from Miami University, where her doctoral studies focused on composition studies and sociolinguistics. She also worked as a WAC consultant with the Howe Writing Initiative. Lisa reports that the highlight of her time at Miami was working as a headnote writer for the book *Available Means: An Anthology of Women's Rhetorical Praxis*, eds. Kate Ronald and Joy Ritchie.

When she isn't grading papers at this time of the quarter, Lisa says she is busy looking after her three little girls, Vivienne (5), Helen (5), and Adeline (3). And in between managing all of those temper-fits and sibling brawls, she tries to find some time to get outside and work in the garden, which is a neglected passion of hers.

**Tina Onder** attended Bowling Green for her undergrad, and WSU for her Master's. She also studied at Queen's College during a three-year stint in New York, a city with which she claims to have a love/hate relationship. Tina and her husband returned to Dayton to raise a family, and are the parents of Daniel, a Kindergartner; and Roscoe, a big, hairy Newfoundland. (Her

husband of 22 years, Steve, is kind of hairy too.) When she can find the time, Tina is an avid reader and writer, and plans to buy a kayak with her first paycheck. She has volunteered at a food pantry in Xenia for the past two years, and hopes to incorporate service learning into her 111 classes in order to raise awareness among her students about the value of community service and volunteering.

**Caroline Simmons** has come full circle. She started out here at Sinclair as a history major, thinking that she would teach some day. It was during that time that she was sitting in a Brit. Lit. class with Kay Berg, (all of her electives were English classes) when it dawned on her--bright shaft of sunlight streaming through the window, the whole works--that she should really be an English teacher. She changed her major that very week and never looked back! After her two years at Sinclair, Caroline transferred to WSU and completed her BA in English. She took some time off to be at home with her eldest daughter, Pheobe, then resumed her studies and received her Masters, cum Laude, in 2003. With Kay Berg's mentoring, both official and otherwise, she began teaching here part time in the Winter of 2004. In November of the following year, she gave birth to a second daughter, Sabine, and is engaged to Sabine's father, Greg.

## THE GRAPEVINE

**Dana Frierson Mayfield** gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Xavier, on September 11. Dana was a part of the English faculty here for ten years, and thanks to the wonders of modern technology, still teaches for us part time online since moving with her husband to Nashville. All the best to Dana and her new family.

In other news from "greener pastures," former student worker **Ronnette Roberts** and her long-time partner, Claude, are about to tie the knot. They will be married November 25 in Denver. If you'd like to learn more about the wedding and read more about the couple (including a great story about how they got together), you can visit their website at [www.weddingchannel.com](http://www.weddingchannel.com). (Enter "Ronnette" or "Claude" into the search engine and click to enter the site.) Don't forget to sign their online guest-book!

**Liz Christensen** hosted the annual faculty picnic at her home on August 27th. More than 45 people attended. The kids loved the toy room, while parents and others enjoyed the deck, screen porch, and lots of delicious food. No one let the rain ruin a good time.

Look for emails from **Tim Waggoner** about the date and time of the next English Department Coffee Klatsch. These informal meetings are open to all full and part time faculty. Come to drink coffee, join the scintillating (or not) conversation, or just hang out with people you don't see often enough.

