Helen Peterson, a retired English professor at Sinclair Community College, fostered the writing talents of many students in her classrooms and in her creative writing workshops. She taught English at the college from 1962-76, and was named Professor Emeritus in 1984 at Sinclair’s 97th annual commencement. It was the first year Sinclair gave the emeritus title.

When she started teaching English at Sinclair Community College in 1962, its home was the downtown YMCA. Seeing a need in Dayton for a place where aspiring writers could gather and learn from professionals, she started the Sinclair Creative Writers Workshop in 1969. Mrs. Peterson, a graduate of Miami University at Oxford, also began a national creative writing contest for amateurs. In 1970, she became the first full professor at Sinclair. While teaching she saw Sinclair grow from 600 students when she began to 11,000 when she retired in 1976.

Before teaching at Sinclair Community College, she taught English at the University of Dayton. After she received a master's degree in Journalism from Northwestern University in 1937, she became an editor at the Dayton Journal and Oakwood Press. Mrs. Peterson also wrote and edited radio handbooks and manuals for Wright Field during World War II. She was a member of the Dayton Women's Club, the Dayton Women's Literary Club and Kappa Phi sorority.