

WRITERS BLOC

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

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READING SERIES

We're better than a quarter of the way through spring semester already, and we still have a lot of fun and exciting events and activities on the way. Coming up next month, the Little Kanawha Reading Series will feature poet Ace Boggess, and in April, writer and editor Davis Shoulders will visit. Also in April, the Little Kanawha Reading Series will host a fundraiser in celebration of National Pet Day. Pamper your pet with the gift of a cozy pet quilt, handmade with love especially for furry family members. Visit the RFK Library to browse and bid a variety of pet quilts. All proceeds will support the Little Kanawha Reading Series, bringing the voices of Appalachia to our campus. Stay tuned for updates!



SEND WRITERS BLOC

SUBMISSIONS TO

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Views expressed in the *Writers Bloc* are not necessarily the views of GSU.

CONTACT FACULTY AT

www.glenville.edu/departments/language-literature

TRILLIUM ART SHOW

This year's *Trillium* Art Show will open on Monday, February 23, in the Spears Art Gallery in the Fine Arts Building.

The *Trillium* is GSU's literary arts journal. With guidance from the Department of Language and Literature, GSU students have edited and produced issues of the *Trillium* annually since 1979. The *Trillium* is not just for writers. It also includes art. Each issue's art is featured in a gallery show during spring semester. The *Trillium*'s faculty advisor, Dr. Jonathan Minton, explains, "We have our annual art show and live reading for the same reasons. A gallery show and a live reading are, in some ways, the last step in creative expression—going public. These events also give our students practice in the very useful skills of curating and event planning."

Autumn Moyers is the current Arts Editor. We recently spoke with Autumn about the *Trillium*:

"I began working as the Arts Editor on the 2025 *Trillium*. It was my first opportunity to curate an art exhibition and to be so hands-on with a publication. Although I graduated in the winter of 2025 with my BA in Art, I am grateful to continue as the *Trillium* Arts Editor for the 2026 edition. I have always appreciated the *Trillium* for its passion in showcasing the emerging voices of artists and writers from our student body and community. Through managing the arts side of the *Trillium*, I work to bring together visual art and literature through collaboration and design. Adobe InDesign has always been a strong suit of mine, so I enjoy working with typography and layout design to bring this literary and art magazine to life. This year I hope to push the design even more, experimenting with the visual rhythm, storytelling, and aesthetic. The *Trillium* Art show has always been a fun part for me as well! Collecting visual art from so many artists (and non-artists as well) for display on the gallery walls is such a fulfilling process. What I love most is when it all comes together at the opening; artists seeing their art up in the gallery lights alongside their peers' and community's is such an amazing connecting opportunity. I'm excited for this year's upcoming *Trillium* art exhibition!"



GSU student Alex A. Jarvis also spoke with us about his sculpture "Girl's Head," which will be featured in this year's show:

"I made this sculpture in my Ceramics 1 class with Dr. Glidden. The assignment was to make a small pinch pot, and I decided to take an untraditional approach. I was inspired by a previous work I did for the same class. Glidden had the class do an introductory assignment on the elements of art. Our task was to create a work with the seven elements of art. I chose to make a collage, which is when the original "Girl's Head" was created. I have been making art for as long as I can remember, and I'm more than excited to see where my future in art takes me. I plan to continue creating, learning, and teaching art for as long as I am able."

The *Trillium* Reading is coming up this semester as well. The RFK Library has provided a welcoming space for the *Trillium* Reading as well as the Little Kanawha Reading Series and other literary and

dramatic reading and storytelling events over the years. We hope to see you all at both the art show and the reading to celebrate our campus's and community's creative voices. Minton notes, "The *Trillium* is an important part of GSU for several reasons. For one, it gives our students, staff, faculty, and community a space to voice and showcase their creative expression, and it gives our student editorial staff some practical, hands-on experience in terms of editing, design, and collaboration." The annual *Trillium* reading is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 15. You still have a few more days to get your stories, essays, poems, song lyrics, and other creative prose pieces submitted for publication in the 2026 issue. Email your work to Trillium@glenville.edu

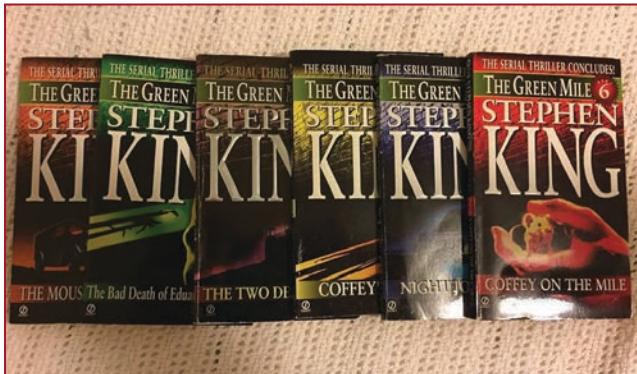
LIMITED TIME? GO MINI

Contributed by Darcy Pickel, Wildlife Management Major

This evening, I read the *Medium* article, “What Are Mini Books and Why You Should Publish Them?” by Mark Thompson. I believe reading is essential. When one is a well-read individual, it improves the ability to relate to peers and better appreciate various forms of entertainment. Reading a book that others have also read is a means of social connection. Unfortunately, in today’s world, our time is limited, and with so many demands placed upon our time, we often don’t have the leisure time required to become fully engrossed in a lengthy novel. Despite this, there is a solution: mini books. (I, a lover of all things miniature, found myself intrigued by this concept.) Thompson explains that “[m]ini books are designed to be consumed in one or two sittings, which is exactly what today’s busy readers love.” Do not underestimate them. “Mini” in size does not mean “mini” in substance. Mini books can be just as engaging and compelling as a standard novel.

And if you want to write a book yourself, mini books are a great way to get started because, as Thompson explains they are “quicker to produce, meaning you can get your ideas out into the world faster.” They really fit today’s readers and writers. In fact, “[m]ini books aren’t just a passing trend; they’re a smart, sustainable way to publish in a world that values quick, digestible content” (Thompson).

Although not quite a true mini book, I was first introduced to this concept by one of my favorite authors, Stephen King. Wanting to revive the old-school method of publishing novels in increments, he released his book, *The Green Mile*, in six smaller books. King’s goal was the exact opposite of the mini books of which the article spoke. King hoped to keep his readers invested, eager for the release of the next installment. This was a little different from actual mini books that offer a quick, meaningful, stand-alone experience.



Also, I find mini books offer a reader maximum return on investment. While short, they have the potential to be significant and meaningful. As part of a generation whose immersion in the digital world has led to struggles with attention span . . . wait. What was I saying? Just looking at the thick textbooks piled on my bedside table is enough to make me lose interest in that thick novel that promises to entertain me. At 7,000 to 15,000 words, a mini book is a lot like a coffee date. If it turns out to be a dud, I only invested a short amount of time. So what do you have to lose? I believe everyone can find enjoyment from a low-commitment mini book. One day, when our college years are safely behind us, perhaps then we can look at *War and Peace* and decide it’s worth the time.

Read Thompson’s article here:

<https://articles.thesystematicwriter.com/what-are-mini-books-and-why-you-should-publish-them-478ab1667324>

DON'T TAKE OIL FOR GRANTED

Contributed by Alex Rogerson, Biology Major

I read an article called “Are We Ready for ‘Peak Oil?’” by KaraLeigh Eva Loya, and it really asked a powerful question: What happens when we run out? I think this is a strong and important question because, like Loya states, “energy-related uses of fossil resources account for 80-90% of total consumption.” This just goes to show how heavily we rely on oil, especially since we use it in more products than most people realize, like plastics, electronics, and other everyday things that we completely take for granted.

I believe that we all use oil irresponsibly. What I mean is we’re constantly using and not giving back. If we think of it like money, we’re operating in the negative, and eventually, if we keep running in the negative long enough, we will end up broke. In this case, Loya writes, “Since 2000, global production and demand for plastics in every form has had an annual growth rate of 3.6% [and is] projected to double or triple by 2050.” This shows that our need for plastics and other oil-based products keeps growing. If we run out, it will only make prices skyrocket and leave us struggling even more than before.

We definitely need to be smarter about how we use oil and work together to switch to more sustainable options for our future generations. You all should give this article a read and become more aware of what “peak oil” means and the situation we’re facing collectively.

Read the article here:

<https://www.snoqap.com/posts/2024/9/26/are-we-ready-for-peak-oil>

AUDITIONS FOR MACBETH

The auditions for our West Virginia-themed production of William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* will be held

Tuesday, February 17, 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Thursday, February 19, 3:30 - 5:30 PM

If you would like to audition but are unable to attend during these times, please send an email to Michael.Vozniak@glenville.edu to schedule an alternative time to audition.

This production of *Macbeth* will be set in 1920s West Virginia during the Coal Wars (e.g., the Battle of Matewan, Blair Mountain). Actors will speak in their natural speaking accents, and will wear costumes reflecting West Virginia in the 1920s.

You are encouraged to prepare for your audition by familiarizing yourself with the general plot of *Macbeth* and preparing a monologues chosen from a selection provided in campus email or by contacting Dr. Vozniak.

If you have an acting resume and a headshot, please bring one! If not, no big deal. We can snap a headshot when you arrive. Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes that you can move around in. Please arrive on time, ideally 10 minutes before the start of rehearsals. Be prepared to take direction—you may be asked to repeat your scene or read something different. Be bold, take creative risks, and most importantly, have fun!

Why Participate in Theatre?

Participating in a theatrical production is a valuable experience that builds skills in communication, collaboration, and public speaking—excellent additions to any resume or CV.

WEIRD QUESTION of the WEEK

What is something people have strong and varied opinions about? How about this: "What is the best condiment?"

Lainey Moore - *Administrative Assistant*

"Mayo! Mayo is very versatile. Mayo can be used to prepare many other dishes such as potato salad, egg salad, chicken salad, for example. Most dip recipes use mayo in them, and it can be used even in cake recipes as an egg and oil substitute."

Corey Mounts - *Environmental Science Major*

"The best condiment is ranch! Even better if it is spicy ranch!"

Scott O'Neil - *Assistant Professor of English*

"Avocado mash. I put it on eggs, English muffins, sandwiches, in salads, in smoothies. I bet it'd even taste good on ketchup/other condiments. And it freezes well, so you can load up on it and have avocado mash for ages. Trader Joe's Avocado mash is the food of the gods."

Aimee Huddleston - *Regents Bachelor of Arts Major*

"McDonald's Sweet and Sour Sauce, I now have three generations that use it on their fries."

Joey Mitchell - *University Relations Specialist*

"The best condiment in my opinion is marinara if you count it as a condiment. Coming from an Italian family, I'm sure you can guess how much I've eaten over the years, with my Nonna's being my favorite. Although, the sauce I make myself is a close second I'd say. If you don't count marinara as a condiment, then I choose balsamic glaze. I don't get to use it often, but when I do (like in my mom's bruschetta recipe) it's like no other condiment."

Emma Proudfoot - *Elementary & Multi-Categorical Education Major*

"Ranch is the ultimate condiment: it not only tastes great, but it is versatile enough to be a sauce, dip, or dressing."

Schuyler Chapman - *Associate Professor of English*

"Dijon mustard is the most versatile condiment in my opinion."

Kaytie Sargent - *Elementary Education (K-6) Major*

"Ranch is my favorite condiment. It goes with everything!!"

Brian Johnston - *Associate Professor of Communication*

"Tabasco. Its origin story, and location on a bird preserve off the coast of Louisiana, is equally awesome."

Layla Smith - *Elementary Education (K-6) / SPED (K-6) Major*

"Ranch 100%. I put ranch on EVERYTHING!!!"

Marjorie Stewart - *Professor Emeritus*

"Well, duh. Horseradish. My cousin Jack used to grow his own and it was marvelous. My attempts have failed. I discovered it when I lived in Philadelphia, where most casual restaurants had a jar of hot peppers and a jar of horseradish on the table. Love at first taste!"

J D Ford

Computer Info & Analysis Major

"I think it's Chick-fil-a sauce. I will literally put that on anything with no shame. Not sure why it tastes good but it does."

Amanda Chapman

Associate Professor of English

"Does vinegar count? I put it on sandwiches."



LAST CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

All GSU students, staff, faculty alumni, and community members are invited to submit poetry, fiction, song lyrics, and other forms of creative written expression to the **Trillium** through the deadline of **February 18, 2026**. Include a brief biographical note with your submission. Send your work to Trillium@glenville.edu as a single .doc, .docx, or .rtf file.



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Dream Variations

To fling my arms wide
In some place of the sun,
To whirl and to dance
Till the white day is done.
Then rest at cool evening
Beneath a tall tree
While night comes on gently,
Dark like me —
That is my dream!

To fling my arms wide
In the face of the sun,
Dance! Whirl! Whirl!
Till the quick day is done.
Rest at pale evening . . .
A tall, slim tree . . .
Night coming tenderly
Black like me.

— Langston Hughes