

WRITERS BLOC

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
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NEED A BREAK?

It's Midterm Week! That means next week is Spring Break. But before you start thinking about Myrtle Beach or Daytona, head over to the Fine Arts Building for the *Trillium* Art Exhibition, which opens at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 2 and runs through Friday, March 6. The Spears Gallery will provide you with a little break from the stress of midterm exams.

March is Women's History Month. To celebrate, we're sharing stories about the ways that women give us hope and inspire us to be our best selves. If you'd like to share a memory of someone special who made a difference in your life, send us an email and we'll include it in the March 15 issue.

CELEBRATING WOMEN

To celebrate Women's History Month, we'd like to share some personal stories about women who made an important difference in the lives of some of our GSU students.

Her name is Jamie Synter. She is a great woman who truly cares about people and her students' success. I really am grateful to her. She was one of the first people to really show that they cared about me and my well-being. She still texts me to this day just checking on me. She is an amazing woman, wanted to be where I'm at today without her. Not just in school but without her putting me on the right path, have even made it to play football at the division 2 level. Are these Reasons I'm truly grateful to her. — Akir Johnson, Sports Management Major

A woman who has inspired me in my life is an ELA teacher I had my senior year of high school, Ms. McClung. I have always struggled a little bit in ELA; I generally do better in math. This teacher made things fun and honestly easier to understand than most ELA teachers I had prior to her.

Mrs. McClung knew I was going through a lot my senior year as well. I felt very comfortable talking to her before or after class about school, work, or my home life. She always had a sane thing to say that helped me in any kind of way I needed she also knew I was taking dual enrollment classes through Glenville online and always offered to help in any way she could and even allowed me to work on work if I needed to in my spare time during her class.

Mrs. McClung was usually always in a good mood and kind to everyone. She's very understanding as well. Graduating she told me and others we could reach out to her if we needed help with ELA in college. She's really inspired me to be kind and understanding, help others anytime they need it and I can. Mrs McClung is a teacher I will never forget. When life is beating you down and someone on the outside tries to help pick you back up, it's something you'll never forget. — Olivia Duffield, Business Major

When I was little, dad had a friend named Joe Murry. He and his wife Sara Murry lived about five houses down from me. One day Joe asked my dad to come by their farm because he had a question, but at this time they didn't know each other. His question was if my dad wanted to coyote hunt at his farm. I said yes, and that's how they became good friends. Sadly, Joe passed September 24, 2020, and had his funeral on the 29th—my birthday. It was a really hard day for me and my family. My dad's parents didn't really talk to us, so looked at Joe and Sara as his mom and dad.

After Joe's death, I became really close to Sara. We talked every day, and I was at her house almost every day. We would go out to dinner, go to the store, work on her farm, and just sit in the house and talk crap on our neighbors. One of my favorite days was when her four-wheeler broke down and I had to use mine to pull her back to her house, but she ended up hitting me right in the back because she didn't know how to stop. Sara was my grandma—that's what I looked at her as, but I knew she wasn't. She was always my biggest supporter and always told me whatever I put my mind to, I could do it. One thing Sara wanted to do was watch me graduate high school.

Sarah fell and broke her femur. In hospital to hospital, I think after being in there so long, she kind of gave up after a while. Sadly, Sara passed on May 17, 2025. That was a Tuesday. I graduated that Friday. She almost made it. Only if she would have made it three more days, she would have seen me. But I know she was so proud of me even though she wasn't there to tell me. — Anonymous, Education Major



SEND WRITERS BLOC

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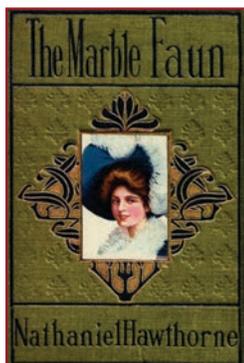
Coming up later this month, Dr. Schuyler Chapman will present at the C19 conference in Cincinnati. C19 is the Society for 19th-Century Americanists.

Chapman explained, "In many ways it's my 'home conference,' as my background is specifically in U.S. literature from the long 19th century. I always look forward to presenting at this conference because it offers me an opportunity to hear papers from scholars who are really pushing the subfield of 19th-c. U.S. literary studies in exciting directions. I will present on a panel focusing on the idea of extraction in the 19th century. My paper focuses on a couple novels by William Dean Howells, *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885) and *The Hazard of New Fortunes* (1890), which offer early perspectives on the role of extractive industries in the development of U.S. commerce and society. *Silas Lapham* is of local interest! Although the novel largely focuses on a man who made his money via a mine in Vermont, he faces competition as the novel progresses from a West Virginian operation."



In earlier January, Dr. Chapman presented at the 2026 Modern Languages Association Conference. He told us about his experience: "It's an enormous conference! I think that approximately 3,000 literature scholars from around the world presented their work at the conference this year. Although the conference always has a theme, given its sponsoring organization (the organization for all literary academics regardless of their area of specialization), its panels and topics vary pretty widely.

"The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society sponsored a panel on family resemblances in Hawthorne's work, and the panel-organizer selected my paper as one of the four featured. I gave a talk on Hawthorne's apparent aversion to traditional families, which he portrays as forever incomplete and forever incompletable. Instead, looking particularly at his final two longform narratives, *The Blithedale Romance* (1852) and *The Marble Faun* (1862), I considered his preference for elective relationships among several, unrelated individuals. I tried to show his affinity for friendships forged among the many in lieu of blood-relations and marriages. It was very much a work in progress but the paper landed on a point that, I hope, I can build into an article."



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CHARLESTON POET TO VISIT CAMPUS

The Little Kanawha Reading Series

will welcome poet Ace Boggess to a reading at the RFK Library on the GSU campus on **Thursday, March 19, at 4:00 p.m.** Boggess is the author of six books of poetry, including *The Prisoners*, *Ultra Deep Field*, and *I Have Lost the Art of Dreaming It So*, as well as the novels *States of Mercy* and *A Song Without a Melody*. He earned his B.A. from Marshall University and his J.D. from West Virginia University. He serves as Senior Editor at *The Adirondack Review* and Associate Editor



at *The Evening Street Review*. His poems have appeared in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *J Journal*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, and many other journals. His awards include the Robert Bausch Fiction Award and a fellowship from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts. In addition, he was locked up for five years in the West Virginia prison system, an experience which has been the basis for much of his writing. We hope you will join us for Boggess's reading. All Little Kanawha Reading Series events are free and open to the public.

Her Kind

I have gone out, a possessed witch,
haunting the black air, braver at night;
dreaming evil, I have done my hitch
over the plain houses, light by light:
lonely thing, twelve-fingered, out of mind.
A woman like that is not a woman, quite.
I have been her kind.

I have found the warm caves in the woods,
filled them with skillets, carvings, shelves,
closets, silks, innumerable goods;
fixed the suppers for the worms and the elves:
whining, rearranging the disaligned.
A woman like that is misunderstood.
I have been her kind.

I have ridden in your cart, driver,
waved my nude arms at villages going by,
learning the last bright routes, survivor
where your flames still bite my thigh
and my ribs crack where your wheels wind.
A woman like that is not ashamed to die.
I have been her kind.

— Anne Sexton 1928–1974



WEIRD QUESTION *of the* WEEK

This week, we received a variety of delicious responses to our question: "If you could only eat food that starts with the same letters as your first and last names, what would today's lunch look like?"

Ashley Crook - Early (PreK-K)/Elementary (K-6) Education/SPED Major
"Asparagus and **Crab**."

Megan Snodgrass - Art Major
"Mushrooms and **Squash**."

Ammar Maxwell - Business Major
"Apples and **Marshmallows**."

Kaytie Sargent - Elementary Education (K-6) Major
"If I could only eat food that starts with the letter K and S, today's lunch would be **Kielbasa** with **Sweet** peppers."

Scott O'Neil - Assistant Professor of English
"An **Omelet** with a side of **Sushi**, obviously. 😊"

Olivia Duffield - Management Major
"Olives and **Donuts**."

Nikki Kirk - Lecturer of Education
"For lunch, I would have **Nachos** and **Kabobs**."

Denise Sprouse - Lead Postal Worker
"My first name is Margaret Denise Sprouse. So I would go with M and S. So my lunch would be **Spaghetti** with **Meat** sauce and **Meatballs**, **Salad** with **Salad** dressing, **Multigrain** toast, **Strawberry** **Shortcake**, and **Sprite**."

Michelle Clowser - Scholarship Coordinator
"Mac & **Cheese** (one of my favorite dishes!)"

Mike Vozniak - Assistant Professor of English
"Macaroni and **Vindaloo**."

Jennifer Wenner - Senior Lecturer of Communications
"Jambalaya and **Watermelon**."

Marjorie Stewart - Professor Emeritus
"Mimosas and **Sushi** (ok but frequently there has to be a beverage)."

Kaitlyn West - Business Major
"If I could only eat various foods that start with the same letter as my first and last name, today's lunch would be **Kettle** Corn, and **Waffles**."

Aimee Huddleston - Regents Bachelor of Arts
"Apples and **Hamburger**."

Layla Smith - Elementary (K-6) Education/SPED Major
"If I had to eat something that started with the same letters as my first and last name today's lunch would probably be either **Lemon** pepper chicken or **Lamb**, which both start with L for Layla and probably a **Salad** which starts with S for Smith."

Lloyd Bone - Associate Professor of Music, Marching Band Director
"My choice is **Lettuce** and **BBQ**."

Macie Duvall - Early (PreK-K)/Elementary (K-6) Education Major
"My lunch would be a **Milkshake** and a **Donut**!!"

Bree Barnhouse - Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit
"I would eat **Bell** peppers and **Bacon**!"

Maureen Gildein - Assistant Professor of Physical Education
"My diet consists only of foods starting with M or G and they are the most delicious! **Mac** and cheese and **Grilled** cheese and **Mashed** potatoes, and of course **Gravy**, and **Gelato** for dessert! Yum Yum."

THIS INSTRUMENT IS HANDS-OFF

Contributed by Olivia Duffield, Business Major

Carolina Eyck's YouTube video called "The Theremin - A Short Introduction to a Unique Instrument" makes me think about how there are so many different and interesting instruments out there that I've never heard of.

The narrator of the video tells us that "the theremin is an electronic musical instrument. It was invented in 1919 by Russian physicist Leon Theremin." This instrument was created over 100 years ago, yet I had not heard of it before watching this video. The narrator then goes on to say, "Besides its unusual appearance, the theremin is also unique in that it is played without being touched." This instrument is so unique to me considering it doesn't have to be touched to be played. The sound the theremin makes almost reminds me of a violin.

The way this instrument is set up is also very interesting to me. The video explains that "the theremin typically consists of a box with two metal antennas which create an electromagnetic field." I have never heard of an instrument like this, and I think it would be very cool to see in person.

Associate Professor of Music, Lloyd Bone said that has "both seen and played" a theremin. He also said, "At one point we had an alumni in the state who had one of the best ones in West Virginia. They are awesome! You can get a host of 'out of this world' sounds with them. Now with various computer programs you can use them to create a vast array of distinctive sounds."

This article reminded me how my mom's side of the family used to camp for a week for our family reunion once a year. They would play instruments and sing most evenings and hangout around a fire. This is what started my interest in instruments. I have a lot of family who plays instruments and I have played a couple myself. I took a class in middle school for ukelele. This started my journey of learning how to play instruments. I learned how to play the guitar and piano on my own as well. Instruments are something I have always loved. They allow people to be able to express themselves or have a distraction, while for some it's just a hobby.

Overall, I really enjoyed this theremin video. I love to learn about instruments I've never heard of before. This instrument in particular is very interesting; it is nothing like anything I have seen before. Instruments are one of the best creations in my opinion. Watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/-QgTF8p-284?si=BNE81Fn498dElx1L>

