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Front Matter

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The Idea of an Essay: Volume Three
Sprouts, Shades, and Sunshine

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*Thanks to the Cedarville University Department
of English, Literature, and Modern Languages*

The Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages

Our Mission

Hello from Cedarville University, and thank you for your interest in the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages. Our programs produce men and women who communicate effectively and think deeply, cross-culturally, and creatively about the ideas that have shaped and continue to shape our world.

Our mission is to challenge students to go beyond expectations. Henry David Thoreau once wrote that we hit only what we aim at and thus ought to aim at something high. We agree — aim high. Who will write the definitive scholarly treatment of Don DeLillo's work? Who will share Christ by teaching English to migrant workers in west Michigan? Where is this generation's C.S. Lewis or Flannery O'Connor? At Cedarville University, we want our students to aspire to such heights.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Instructor Biographies... ..VIII

2016 Composition Contest Winner

First Place: Beansprouts and the Roots by JooHee Jung 1
Second Place: **Hughes Hue** by *Jean-Luc Schieferstein* 10
Third Place: The Promise of Sunshine by Allison White.17

Narrative and Memoir

The Nature of Literacy by *Adam Rinehart* 22
The Creative Journey by *Michael Nuzzo* 25
Rebekah’s Story by *Nathan Shinabarger* 28
On Love by *Cat Clemons*. 37
Originality by *Peter Kennell*.41
My Journey to Know the Love of God by *Timothy Cannata*. 50
Moved to Mourning by *Miranda Dyson* 56
Literacy Narrative by *Katelyn Whalen*61
My 104,000-Dollar Summer by *Gregg Mendel*. 66
Falling in Love with a New Found Land by *Kyle Spencer*. 70
Brick by Brick by *Matthew Beal*75

Analysis and Response

Racism in the 1960s: America’s Great Failure
by *William Tomlinson* 81
Nature’s Inspiration by *Kristen Cochran* 84
The Blessings of Pain by *Gregg mendel*. 87
Prices and Patriotism: Restoring Lost Value
by *Peter Kennell*. 92
Good Grief! by *Cat Clemons* 98
Is it Fair to be Fair by *Gregg Mendel* 102

Research Writing

An Overview of Second Language Acquisition <i>by Adam Rinehart, J.D. Lewis, Sara Passamonte, and Matthew Beal . . .</i>	107
Autism, Literacy, and Special Education <i>by Adam Rinehart.</i>	112
From Textbook Tradition to Time-Saving Textese <i>by Michael Nuzzo</i>	122
From Chains to Change: The Freedom to Choose in Education <i>by Matthew Beal</i>	130
De Facto Segregation in Schools <i>by William Tomlinson</i>	140
The American Educational System: Inequitable and Unjust <i>by Kristen Cochran.</i>	145
Knowing the Audience, Understanding the Culture, Pursuing the Lord <i>by Aogu Suzuki</i>	150
Literacy and Criminality <i>by Nathan Shinabarger</i>	156
The Test That Changed His Life <i>by Joshua Perez</i>	168
The Unspoken Speaker: Analyzing Literacy in Non-Vocal Children With Cerebral Palsy <i>by Joshua Perez.</i>	181
The Three Faces of Literacy <i>by Matthew Beal</i>	192
Eczema: The What, the Who, and the How <i>by Kaitlyn Ring</i>	199
Notes	i
Composition Learning Outcomes.	ii
Grading System	iii
Plagiarism: What It Is and How To Recognize and Avoid It	iv
Resources: The Writing Center and Centennial Library.	v



Daniel Clark

Associate Professor of English

Professor Clark teaches courses in composition, advanced grammar, contemporary world literature, film, and the graphic novel. Along with Dr. Andrew Wiseman, Professor Clark developed Cedarville's foreign film series. He also serves as co-sponsor of Alpha Kappa Delta, Cedarville's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Before coming to Cedarville, he taught at the University of Maryland Asian Division in Okinawa, Japan. He also taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at the Okinawa Prefectural Language Center. Professor Clark has been at Cedarville since 1999.

Education and Credentials

- M.A. in English, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- B.A. in Secondary Education (with proficiencies in English and Bible), Tennessee Temple University

Interests

- Theology
- Film and contemporary world literature
- Japanese culture
- Comics, comix, graphic novels, manga, and bandes dessinées
- The Atlanta Braves (chop on!)

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Melissa Faulkner

Associate Professor of English

Dr. Faulkner teaches Basic English, Composition, and Visual Rhetoric. She also serves as the coordinator for Writing Across the Curriculum. Her research interests include memoirs as retention and critical thinking tools, story analysis, and the organic connection between WAC programs and assessment. Dr. Faulkner has received multiple Excellence in Teaching awards, including one from the Southern Ohio Council of Higher Education.



Education and Credentials

- Ph.D., Miami University of Ohio
- M.A., Wright State University
- B.A., Wright State University

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Andy Graff

Assistant professor of English

Professor Andrew Graff joined the faculty of the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages in 2015. Andy's short fiction has appeared in *Stolen Island* and NPR's *Three Minute Fiction*. At Cedarville, he teaches Introductory and Advanced Fiction workshop, Introduction to

Literature, English Composition, and a special topics course leading to the annual publication of *The Cedarville Review*.

Education and Credentials

- M.F.A. in Creative Writing with emphasis in Fiction, University of Iowa
- B.A. in English Literature, Lawrence University

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Isaac Mayeux

Assistant Professor of English

Isaac Mayeux has taught Composition at Cedarville since 2012. He also serves as the university's Director of Debate, Assistant Director of the Writing Center, and co-sponsor of Alpha Kappa Delta, Cedarville's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Before coming to Cedarville, he taught Composition at the University of Dayton while studying for his M.A. He also taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in Seoul, South Korea for one year.



Education and Credentials

- M.A. in English and American Literature, University of Dayton
- B.A. in English, Cedarville University

Interests

- Graphic narrative (AKA comics)
- Animation
- Sport coats
- Christian poetics
- Complicated strategy board games
- Cultural criticism

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Mary McCulley

Assistant professor of English

Professor Mary McCulley joined the faculty of the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages in 2015. She grew up in Texas with four siblings and two godly, loving parents. The Lord saved me when I was around 8 years old and has called me to be actively involved in music

and children's ministries since I was young.

Education and Credentials

- ABD in English, Texas Christian University
- M.A. in Rhetoric and Composition, Texas State University
- B.A. in English, Texas State University

Interests

- Piano
- Painting
- Reading
- Writing
- Hiking
- Decorating

Cyndi Messer

Associate Professor of English

Professor Messer taught several years in secondary education before joining the faculty at Cedarville in 1998. She teaches general composition and literature courses as well as methods courses for future English teachers. She currently serves as the program coordinator for the Adolescent and Young Adult Language Arts (AYALA) majors and is a key contact for questions concerning the English education program. She also serves as faculty advisor for *The Miracle*, Cedarville's yearbook.



Education and Credentials

- M.A. in English, Wright State University
- B.A. in English Education, Cedarville College

Interests

- Favorite Places Visited: Paris, Puerto Vallarta, and San Francisco
- Hobbies: playing board games with family, exercising, reading, playing piano, gathering family and friends around a bonfire
- Favorite Authors: C.S. Lewis, Amy Tan, Thomas Hardy, John Steinbeck, Marilynne Robinson, Erik Lawson, and



Julie Moore

Associate Professor of Literature

Professor Moore directs the University's Writing Center, and in 2008, she received the Dean's Service Award for her work. She is also the author of the poetry books, *Slipping Out of Bloom* and *Election Day*. Professor Moore has been nominated for the Best of the Net anthology and twice for the Pushcart Prize; she has also received the Editor's Choice Award from Writecorner Press, the Rosine Offen Memorial Award from the Free Lunch Arts Alliance, and the Janet B. McCabe Poetry Prize from Ruminare. You can learn more about her work at www.julielmoore.com.

Education and Credentials

- The Ohio Writing Project, Miami University
- M.A., University of Dayton
- B.A., Cedarville University

Interests

- Broadcasting poems on "Conrad's Corner" on WYSO, 91.3 FM
- Watching foreign films and movies based on literary works
- Cheering for the Philadelphia Phillies and Eagles

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Nellie Sullivan

Assistant Professor of English

Helena “Nellie” Sullivan’s poems, reviews, and translations have appeared in *eXchanges*, *Moist Towelette*, *Hover Project*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Shampoo*. At Cedarville, she teaches Poetry Workshop, Advanced Poetry Workshop, Contemporary Poetry, Introduction to Literature, and Freshman Composition. She has been at Cedarville since 2006.



Education and Credentials

- M.F.A. in Creative Writing with emphasis in poetry, University of Iowa
- B.S. in Cultural Anthropology and English Literature, Central Michigan University

Interests

- Travel/Road trips
- Canning food
- Film
- Lateral logic puzzles
- Illuminated manuscripts

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Michelle Wood

Associate Professor of English

Doctor Wood has been at Cedarville since 1995. Before coming to Cedarville, she taught English in Beijing, China. She has presented papers at national conferences, including the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the National Council of Teachers of English, the College English

Association, and the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, speaking on topics such as Multigenre writing, Catharine Maria Sedgwick, Margaret Fuller, Alice Cary, and Amy Tan. Dr. Wood is a member of the Society for the Study of American Woman Writers and the Catharine Maria Sedgwick society.

Education and Credentials

- Ph.D. in Literature and Criticism, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- M.A. in Composition and Rhetoric, Wright State University
- B.A. in English Education and Speech Education, Cedarville College

Interests

- Travel
- Biking
- Archival research of women's life-writing
- College football

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