

Beginnings V



The cover art was designed by Mary Organ, Kent, Ohio.

Foreword

First, we offer our genuine appreciation to all of the students and their teachers who submitted entries for the 5th Annual Ohio Writers' Conference! This year, the OLRC received another extraordinary response of nearly 300 submissions. We commend each student for the time, effort, and creative energy that it took to write, revise, write some more, fine tune a piece of writing, and submit an entry!

The task for the reviewers is a challenging one. We realize that each entry was crafted with care and this edition of *Beginnings*, as is customary, represents multiple anonymous readings by many reviewers. We recognize the efforts of *all* students. Those who submitted entries that are not published in this edition of *Beginnings V*, are listed in the *Honorable Mention* section of this publication.

Warm congratulations to the students whose outstanding entries *are* captured in the pages of this book. We are proud to share their powerful and heartfelt writings in this publication and we wish them the best as they continue to compose their thoughts in creative and artistic ways.

This year's students were honored at the 5th Annual Ohio Writers' Conference, held at the Wyndham Dublin Hotel in Columbus, Ohio. The theme of the conference was "Writing and the Arts." Author, Harry Noden, captured the participants' attention through visual and artistic images, and storyteller, Lyn Ford, engaged the audience in a myriad of entertaining storytelling experiences that fostered a love for the art of speaking, listening, and writing.

We owe a big thank you to *so* many people for their expertise, talents, and foresight in preparing and organizing this volume, as well as the 5th Annual Conference.

Sincere thanks to: Jim Bowling of ODE for his continued support toward this project; Nancy Padak, the OLRC Faculty Advisor, for her suggestions and expert editorial work; and Marty Ropog, the director of the OLRC, whose technological expertise allowed the reviewers to read and rank the submissions anonymously online.

We also thank the reviewers for this edition of *Beginnings*: Dianna Baycich, Kenan Bishop, Sandra Golden, Judy Hendershot, Chris McKeon, Lori Nuzzo, Nancy Padak, Connie Sapin, and Dale Sherman.

Additionally, many thanks to the staff of the OLRC: Carrie Spence, Penny Graves, and Chris Fullerton, as well as student workers: Jamie Bush, Robin Carver, and Tara Robine. Each person contributed in a special way toward the success of this publication and of this year's conference.

Now, we invite you, the reader, to sit back, relax, and read the entertaining, thought provoking, and often poignant poetry, essays, short stories, and reflections that this group of accomplished writers shares. Enjoy!

Chris McKeon

Writers' Conference 2002 Organizer

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