

THE CLARION

Welcome Back



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FREE



INSIDE THE ISSUE

Kloster's latest novel is leading Age of Sigmar's lore into the game's 4th Edition.
Photo Credit: Games Workshop

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Fall arriving on campus. *Photo Credit: Jaime Herzog*

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Photo Credit: Ismael David Mujahid

Whether you're a returning student or coming to college for the first time, I'd like to give you a warm welcome. During the dog days of Summer, I'm sure heading out to campus seemed a far way off. It certainly did for members of our team. And yet here we are on the cusp of a new semester full of new classes, challenges, and possibilities.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Photo provided by:
Ismael David Mujahid

Only a few months have passed since our April edition hit shelves yet so much has changed. We celebrated the graduation of many team members and have since welcomed others to carry the torch they held so well. In some ways, internally things have shifted too. What has remained, however, is our dedication to bringing readers the very best content possible. You'll see that reflected in the stories you hold in your hand.

As has become tradition during my tenure, expect a variety of wonderful reviews, a poetry page spotlighting local talent, and an exclusive blockbuster interview you won't want to miss. I had the privilege of interviewing Gary Kloster, author of the incredible novel "Skaventide", and learning how his approach to genre fiction has helped catapult him to success.

New reporter Esperance ventured to Front Street where she found some hidden art gems she could not wait to write about. And, as you'll see, that only scratches the surface of what this issue contains.

This letter wouldn't be complete without thanking our readers for their continued support. Some will remember the dark days of Spring when an August edition looked a remote possibility. That we are here, stronger than ever, is a testament to just how much we mean to our readership.

May our semester be full of awesomeness!

Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

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Getting Ready for Fall

How to beat the ‘back to school blues’.

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

As exciting as it can be for some, returning to campus can be just as daunting for others. It’s only natural given the desire to succeed and fear of failure that weigh so many of us down. Add to that a summer break that is never long enough and you’ve got a disaster cocktail in the making. The end result is nothing short of burnout, test-stress, and anxiety.

Looking at our packed schedules for the next few months can be daunting. In addition to establishing a work-study balance that suits our needs there’s the demands of family, friends, and the many hobbies bound to vie for our time during the semester. But while it doesn’t appear so, burnout and stress aren’t inevitable.

Professor Derek Petrey, Chair of the Humanities, Government, & Modern Languages Department, knows a thing or two about the back to school blues. He’s picked up a few hacks in a distinguished career that has taken the polyglot around the world.

“It’s important you read your syllabus well and know what to expect from a course. See if there’s something you might want to watch out for that could be very important later on. A lot of courses have really cool end of semester projects that many students, because they are so focused on the week to week, don’t prepare for until the last minute,” Petrey told *The Clarion*.

Forming student groups early on can be key to properly understanding study material.

“Students should try to find classmates they can form study groups with. Because if you have someone in your class you can connect with, you’re going to share that experience with them which can help you get through those days when you aren’t motivated to study. There are a lot of nice places to meet on campus to go over stuff. It can be hard to find the time but you’re kind of depriving yourself if you don’t make an effort to process what you just learned,” Petrey said.

According to Petrey, many students fail to take time and reflect on what they’ve learned. This, he said, can quickly lead to burnout.

“People can reflect as a team in those study groups. I always found that while I may have a perspective on things, others have their own too, and by sharing we can figure things out,” he said.

What works for students can also work for faculty according to the veteran educator. Just as students can benefit greatly from socializing so can teachers.

“We should be making those connections as well. I try to establish ties outside my department too. I love my department but I also know lots of colleagues in other parts of my division and beyond that,” stated Petrey.

On the other side of the equation, Ohio State University student and Sinclair alum Ted Nagasawa agrees that preparation is important. He’s preparing for a packed fall semester and knows there is only one way to hit the ground running.

“I tend to schedule talks with professors in my department. I’ll be talking to the faculty advisor and emailing as many as I can to ask for advice, tips, etc. Communicating with instructors is a good way to learn what they’re like and reduce whatever anxiety I might feel,” Nagasawa said.

As a Medieval Renaissance Studies major in Columbus, the Creative Writing graduate has a packed schedule to look forward to. But he’s been preparing long and hard to make the most of his classes this Fall.

Nagasawa said, “I’m also looking forward to reconnecting with classmates I linked up with in previous semesters. Socializing is important, so getting in touch with friends and keeping myself busy will be important. I’m really looking forward to participating in different social groups.”

In Professor Petrey’s words, finding ways to detach can also help students and faculty manage the rigors of a new semester. This early it might seem like an uphill battle. But with the right gameplan it’ll be one more semester on the path to academic greatness. Now, whose ready to win?



A new semester means new challenges and opportunities. Photo Credit:mariofcomeh61



Petrey is well-travelled. Here he is in Costa Rica hanging out with local wildlife. Photo contributed by: Derek Petrey

“It’s important to read the syllabus well.” - Petrey

Beautiful Brazil

“This Summer I finally had a chance to fulfill a lifelong dream by travelling to Brazil. Calling it life-changing would be an understatement. And while the details of that trip and the many things I learned about myself and that wonderful country are best kept for another time, here are some photos I took that I hope will capture your imagination.”

Photo Credit: Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor



That Dayton Noise

A dive into the city's Punk and indie scene

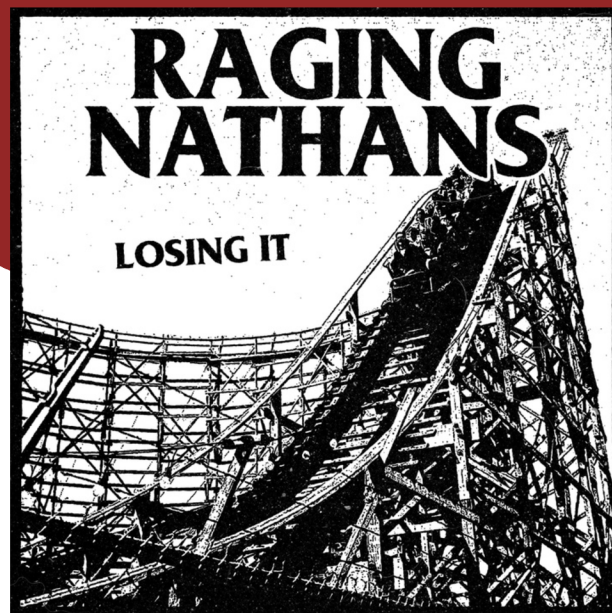
By Carter Cousino, Multimedia Specialist

My first real dive into Dayton's vibrant music scene was at a brick-layered house in the university district. I specifically remember the thinly white-painted fence and the concrete stairs scattered up the deep incline as I entered. The hardwood floors guided me to the basement, where I was then hit by a wave of chattering, amplifier feedback, and the exhales of vapes of wildly varying flavors. The headlining band on the flagrantly photoshopped bill was Bomb Bunny. I listen with endearment as the band plays their set.

Their atmospheric charm, driving distortion, and ethereal lyrics make them a monumental mainstay of the Dayton scene. The band released their debut self-titled EP Bomb Bunny in late 2022 on Blind Rage Records. The most important and innovative record labels based in Dayton are Blind Rage Records and Rad Girlfriend Records. Blind Rage Records was established in 2020 and has the prior mentioned Bomb Bunny as well as another amazing atmospheric, and adrenaline-filled band Oh Condor.

Blind Rage Records is a local treasure of a label that signs amazing hardcore and indie gems. Their record store is located in Southeast Dayton in Belmont Bomb Bunny, Oh Condor, and Blind Rage Records have the local Indie and Shoegaze scene in a stranglehold. If you don't want to melt into a fuzzy reverbed bliss listening to Bomb Bunny and want to instill a revolutionary fire in your heart; look no further than the bands of Rad Girlfriend Records. Rad Girlfriend Records has been around for over a decade and has had some of the best punk bands ever to come out of the Dayton area on their lineup.

"We put out records from bands we like because this is what we love doing." The label proudly states on their website.



Raging Nathans has become a staple of the Dayton Punk scene. Photo Credit: Rad Girlfriend Records

I frequently drive up to see bands at the legendary Bogart's in Cincinnati. The Raging Nathans, a Rad Girlfriend Records staple were opening up for two very well-known bands Less Than Jake and Strung Out at the sold-out show. Although I did like Less Than Jake and Strung Out and was very familiar with them; I honestly wasn't there for ska or strings. I was there to see if Dayton's own Raging Nathans lived up to their name. After getting poked in the eye and nearly concussed in the mosh pit I can safely say they did in fact live up to their name.

If interested, I'd suggest just straight-up listening to the entire Still Spitting Blood LP which gives off the same dose of adrenaline that a matador gets while facing a charging bull. Another great band from the Rad Girlfriend lineup (although not from Dayton) is The Dopamines which I suggest checking out the track "Heartbeaten by the Police" off their Tales Of Intrest LP.

If you want to get involved in Dayton's local punk, and indie scene. Follow either Blind Rage Records or Rad Girl Records on their social media like Facebook, and Instagram as well as all the bands you can find. The best venue in Dayton for shows if you're 21+ Blind Bob's is usually the go-to place which also hosts some of the best burgers in the 937. If want to take an hour road trip outside Dayton, Ace of Cups in Columbus is a great bar and venue. If you are under 21 Yellow Cab Tavern every now and then has either all ages or 18+ shows. If you want to venture outside Dayton to make the honestly extremely easy hour drive to Columbus to Dirty Dungarees which is a bar/venue/laundromat that usually has All Ages, or 18+ shows every night.



This is the front of Julie Riley's Office. It is a canoe that's used as a pond with small fishes living in it. Photo Credit: Esperance Amuri

Art Gems in the Gem City

Exploring Front Street

By Esperance Amuri, Reporter

Have you ever lived in a place for more than a year and discovered you don't know it as well as you thought you did? Well, that is how I felt the first time I stumbled onto Front Street.

A stone's throw from the Dayton Metro Library, Front Street is the city's premier destination for local art. It is also where artists like Julie Riley can be found. Riley, who has been involved in the arts since she was seven years old, is an artist that prefers portraying views and views. She regularly employs oil, acrylic, and resin.

"There's always something going on in my mind. If I'm painting one thing, I'll have ideas pop up in my head to paint other things. And sometimes when I meet people, that's motivation; animals, that motivates me. But I just like to create and express myself through my art," said Riley about what motivates her to make art.

Her art journey began all the way back as a little girl. Noticing Riley's attraction to the medium, her mother enrolled her in classes.

"When I was seven years old, my mom knew that I liked art, so she got me into lessons from a private art instructor, till I was in high school and then I started at the Dayton Levine art center. This was back in the 60s and 70s," said Riley.

She is also a Sinclair Alumni, who transferred to Wright State University where she majored in Graphic Art instead of Fine Art because of criticism from people around her who told her she will never be able to make it as a fine art artist.

After graduating from the university, Riley worked in printing and pre-press companies doing artwork for years, then transitioned to technology after computers emerged, and she did not make art for 30 years until 7 years ago. But it has not all been smooth sailing for Riley.

Growing up, Riley's father struggled with bipolar, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and borderline personality disorder, and she overheard her elders saying he had demons in him. That is why it is one of her goals to raise awareness on the plight of the mentally ill through art.

"There are medications and therapies that can help, but there are people who are scared of mental illness without having understanding of it. A tiny fraction of mentally ill people is dangerous," said Riley.

It is her heart's desire to let people know about the aspects of mental illness the world does not often see. But what is most important to Riley is to achieve her happiness and peace through art and sharing that with others.

Poetry with The Clarion

Visit the **Fall Drone Obstacle Course Demonstration** at Sinclair, presented by the **Sinclair UAS Club**

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"Untitled" by Macey Heys, Creative Writing Graduate

I wish I didn't have to stop myself from saying "I love you" before hanging up
I cannot help it that the words are right there on the tip of my tongue
And a "bye" just doesn't suffice anymore

"Mt. Fuji in the Sky" by Jey Ley, Creative Writer

On a drive from Dayton to Cincinnati

Sculpted from a range of clouds
overpassing the highway
—Mount Fuji in the sky!—

until high winds like dynamite remove all
but the susurrus
of a dream and rushing tires.

"The Fireline Between" by Jey Ley, Creative Writer

Long ago,
my brothers scratched a
fireline
between me and them,
so that my raging fire
wouldn't consume them too.

Over the years,
that line has fortified
into the impenetrable
barrier
it is now,
despite my cooling embers.

"Untitled" by Jaime Herzog

Inside me, the ghost of yesterday's regrets evaporate
Bereft and forgotten as the hazy smoke hangs in the air

A world of broken dreams now flutters in the breeze

And yet, a small spark ignites

A red hot ember blazes with future promises

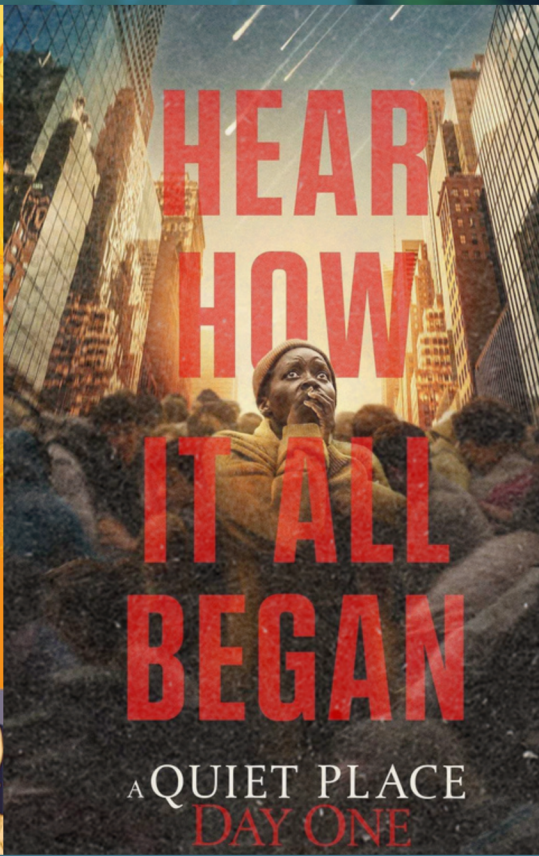
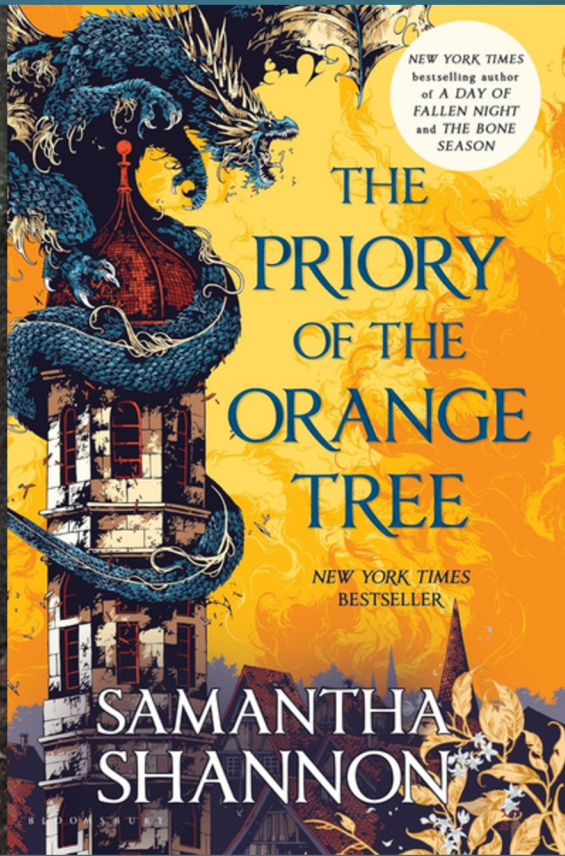
And happiness is found again

"Oh You Stupid and Ignorant Fool" by Jessie Ngowoh, Biology Major

Ohhh you stupid and ignorant fool,
How many times will you be used as a stool
or played with anytime like a tool
The lessons you learned I swear are true
But here you are joining the crew
Don't come back crying like the few
You will be alone like a single drop of dew
Every time you act like it's all brand new
Ohh you stupid and ignorant fool

Photo Credit: Canva

THE CLARION REVIEWS



A weekend of horror

Two terrifying days

By Faith Harrel, Reporter

This summer has been full of amazing movies of all genres. One of the most anticipated horror movies from this summer is “A Quiet Place: Day One” and one controversial hit was “The Strangers: Chapter 1”. Spoilers for anyone looking to see these two films.

“A Quiet Place: Day One” is a prequel set before the first movie. In this one you follow Sam a terminally ill cancer patient that goes into New York, and on that day the world receives unexpected visitors.

The aliens descend and immediately begin their assault on all sentient. As a result, people are in utter chaos making everything worse, leading to many deaths.

While our main character is passed out, everyone learns that the aliens are attracted to sound. Survivors are instructed to leave the area and travel to a bay because the aliens cannot swim.

It will be dangerous. They are also instructed to go to a bay because the aliens can't swim. However, how they are to get there is left ambiguous.

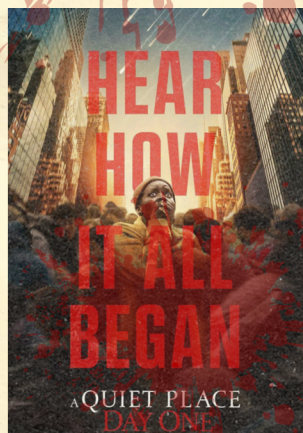
Our main character has a cat that somehow survives everything, and acts almost as a guide for the second character to meet the protagonist.

Sam also just wants to get pizza through this whole ordeal, but her new companion makes her see things differently. After finding pizza, and dancing in a bar, it ends with them going to the bay to get on a boat.

However, only the companion and the cat end up on the boat. While Sam distracts the aliens by sacrificing herself using a boom box.

Overall, it was a lackluster film. We get to know what it was like for the people on day one of the invasion but we learn nothing more about the aliens. How they came, why they came, and the purpose of it all is not explained.

Our second weekend horror movie was “The Strangers: Chapter 1”. This is considered to be a new start for the series. It is in many ways similar the original 2008 movie.



John Krazinsky takes up writing duties for the third movie in the franchise that started his directorial career. Photo Credit: Paramount



The Strangers: Chapter 1 is the third instalment in the franchise. Photo Credit: Liongate

While stranded a family, finds refuge in a cabin, and weird things occur. Then their lives are threatened by three strangers working together to kill them.

This movie follows a number of horror tropes. Opening your door to strangers, going out into the woods, going out alone, and screaming at the top of your lungs when you're trying not to get caught are the exact tropes you'll see here. It is something that makes certain horror movies repetitive and that holds true here as well.

With regards to the strangers, it is made clear that the trio works together. The women wear the same mask, and the man wears a sack over his head. He is dressed how you would imagine an executioner that would remove your head. The male stranger and one of the female strangers seem to be a couple.

Strangers is a very bloody series, with many predictable plot beats. This won't effect how much you enjoy the movie as long as you manage your expectations.

Like many horror movies it claims to be based on a true story. Whether true or not, that adds to the creepiness of the experience.

The Priory of the Orange Tree by Samantha Shannon

A world of monsters, magic, and majesties

Faith Harrel, Reporter

Dragon-based fantasies are one of the most beloved tropes in the medieval fantasy genre. "The Priory of the Orange Tree" by Samatha Shannon takes those tropes and builds the most enticing world for readers to step into.

The novel is set in a world divided by dragons. Some love them and others are opposed to their existence. The East loves dragons, and worships them, as there they are seen as benevolent creatures. The West, on the other hand, strives to eradicate every last one and fears the day they may come back to their kingdoms.

In the novel we follow four different points of view throughout the story. In the West we see things from the perspectives of Ead Duryan, a southern woman who serves Queen Sabran of the Queendom of Inys, but holds a great secret; and Arteloth Beck, a northern man who was close friends with Queen Sabran, before he was cast out of Inys. In the East we learn from Tané a Seiikinese, a woman who is god chosen to be a dragon rider; and Dr. Niclays Roos, a man from the western country of Mentendon, forced to live in Sabran after being exiled.

These four characters and their perspectives give us a chance to piece the world together from East to West. My only complaint is that Beck is often used as a plot device to the other characters. Despite that, he doesn't experience much development himself.

Most of the story unfolds from Ead Duryan's point of view. It is where the most pressing details are and while not necessarily a bad thing, it can take away from other characters. Ead is a sorceress from the south, and she comes from the priory of the orange tree. The priory is where she got her gift of fire.

Despite some character flaws the world building is superb. You are drawn into layers upon layers of lore, history, and the way the world works for each place. It makes up for what some of the characters lack by having such depth.

The Queendom of Inys has a rich history of religion that drives it but also puts pressure on its monarchs. While the east has a deep connection with its dragons. The south serves as the point where we learn about the priory, it's magic, and the history hidden from both the east and the west.

It is a wonderful read that fans of dragons and medieval fantasies can absolutely get sucked into. If you like world building then you will love this. It is a great companion for a long break full of reading.

NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLER

Shannon's first novel in "The Roots of Chaos" series has become a hit with genre fans. Photo Credit: Bloomsbury Publishing

SAMANTHA SHANNON



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Writing to the Top

An interview with sci-fi star Gary Kloster

By Ismael David Mujahid, Executive Editor

Few authors understand the challenges and travails of modern publishing like Gary Kloster. He cut his teeth in some of the most prestigious publications, bounced back from personal tragedy, and has just written the biggest book of his career.

Those who follow him know success has been a longtime coming for the former librarian. His new novel "Skaventide", part of Warhammer: Age of Sigmar's new batch of novels, represents another high point in his career.

"Whenever you're working on this kind of project there's generally a very tight deadline because all this stuff is coming out at once. I had to keep in mind that it couldn't be late or slow. That was the main struggle," said Kloster.

It wouldn't be the first or anywhere near the biggest challenge the author's faced in recent years. Struggle, in fact, is something the author knows a lot about.

"About a month into writing "Skaventide" my wife told me she had ovarian cancer. She's doing great now but during that period about a year ago I was with her through it all: going to the hospital, chemotherapy, being there for whatever she needed," Kloster said.

It speaks to Kloster's professionalism that he was able to meet his deadline despite the odds. The author remains reflective about the experience.

"It was kind of this strange analogy. Here I am writing about these hostile things attacking in Skaventide and there my wife was fighting back against an attack by hostiles," he said.

He's come a long way from his first major appearance on the speculative scene. That came in 2012 with "From their Paws, We Shall Inherit" in *Clarkesworld*. A debut novel, "Firesoul", would follow a few years later.

"Perseverance," Kloster said was the main key to his success. "I think that's something all writers need because you are going to get that pile of rejections, I certainly got mine."



Kloster's latest novel is leading Age of Sigmar's lore into the game's 4th Edition.
Photo Credit: Games Workshop

"It can be intimidating," Kloster said, "But there is such background on everything. You do your research and often frequently have miniatures to reference. Someone still might have a different picture in their head so there is that tension. You just have to accept that it won't be perfect for everyone and hope it works for most people."

Kloster has been aided by a penchant for making complex characters accessible. It's helped him claim a place among the likes of Dan Abnett and Mike Brooks.

"You want to ground them in humanity and make people realize why their problems matter. It may sound odd because people see these as big action books but you also need an element that causes readers to feel bad for what is happening to the characters," Kloster explained.

One area many science fiction and fantasy writers struggle in is juggling world-building and characters. To Kloster, the solution lies in achieving balance. That can mean reaching out to readers that aren't as familiar with genre fiction. For years, Kloster's go to person was his wife, whose feedback helped shape his style.

"The other big point related to that is the importance of revising your work. It sounds silly but when I started I didn't know that. You're supposed to take the junk you start with and polish it into something better."

Writers also need to finish what they start. It's easy to move on to the next thing but that inevitably results in multiple unfinished projects.

"If you have 50 different stories in various states of completion, you have 50 pieces of something but nothing you can actually polish, finish, and send out," Kloster said. "If you never finish you have nothing to work on or nothing to turn in."

The authors of tomorrow need only check out Kloster's recent work to see just how far his advice can take them. If it paid dividends for him, there's no reason why they can't rise in the world of science fiction too.

Writers, he believes, tend to struggle with egos and low self-esteem. MC Frontalot, according to Kloster, described it best in "A Little Bit Broad".

"You're out there competing with these really big names, trying to get into these really big places, so you kind of have to have this belief that you can do it but at the same time there's that self-doubt," Kloster said.

Case in point is the journey of some of his shorter work. The pair of stories published in *Clarkesworld* were snapped up immediately while others would face rejection up to 30 times before getting published.

He credits luck with bringing him to the Black Library. An editor there happened to read a story of his in *Apex Magazine* and asked about the possibility of collaborating.

"Unfortunately, it happened right when my wife was in the ICU after suffering an aneurysm," Kloster said. "They were super kind and understanding. It took about six months but once my wife was better, I was able to reach back out and they were happy to work with me."

It wasn't long before Kloster was writing stories across the Black Library's many Warhammer-related settings. That includes *Necromunda*, *Age of Sigmar*, and the *Horus Heresy*.



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#YourVoice

“What did you do this Summer?”

By Andrew Barnes, Multimedia Specialist

We asked several members of the Sinclair community how they spent their Summer. Some traveled abroad, others stayed and continued to work hard on campus, but all are back like the rest of us to make the most of the Fall semester.

Isabella Heidi

I worked here and I went on vacation with my family. But I was in Dayton for the most part and was happy to help people apply for classes. As far as our time away went, I got to visit Chicago and attend Lollapalooza. It was awesome! We also went on a cruise with Norwegian. It was to the Bahamas and was really fun. We got to learn a ton about the culture. And through my classes at Sinclair, I was able to speak to some of the locals there.

Chardeney

“I went to Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, and South Dakota. We went to see Mount Rushmore, the Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone National Park. I also went down to Florida to see Disney Universal. I grew in South Africa as a kid and never had a chance to go when I was younger.”

Clay Pittman

“We got the Aviation Technology students enrolled in their courses for the Fall semester. We just upgraded our simulation capability in the program with a brand new airline flight simulator. So that's being set up right now and getting ready for operation. We've had lots of people interested in both being pilots and mechanics, working with unmanned systems, and drones. All those things are really full of great opportunities. Students seem to be aware of that and are getting involved in our programs. So, it's been really good.”

Photo Credit: Canva

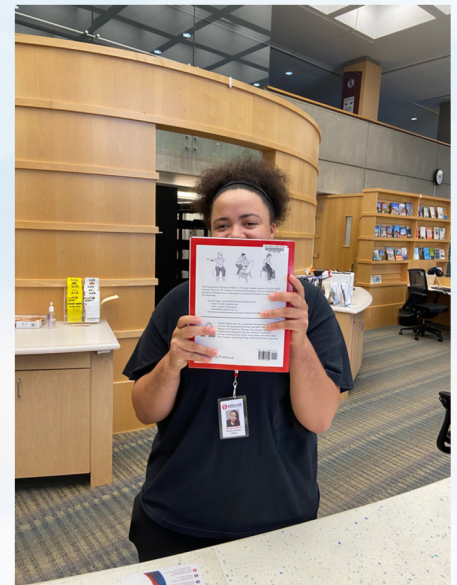


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