**Hidden Poetry: How does poetry help people who carry the hidden wounds of war and trauma? A Panel**

Thursday, Nov 12, 2015  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

**Baker University Center**  
1 Park Place  
Athens OH 45701

**Baker University Center Theatre and Lounge**  
1 Park Place  
Baker University Center 2nd floor  
Athens OH 45701

Hidden Poetry  
hiddenpoetry@gmail.com

On November 12, 2015, the day after Veterans Day, Ohio University will host a free panel discussion and poetry workshop titled "Hidden Poetry: How does poetry help people who carry the hidden wounds of war and trauma?" This innovative event will provide extraordinary examples of people who have used poetry to deal with hidden disabilities like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, prosthesis and other often hidden wounds of war.

Individuals with hidden disabilities silently cope with physical, psychological, or spiritually wounds that aren’t obvious to others. *Hidden Poetry* was designed to provide a safe context for these individuals to better understand their own life through the words of others, and to offer a creative outlet for managing disability and health. Ohio University invites everyone—whether they are veterans or not—to attend this free panel discussion with questions, stories, and an interest in compelling conversation.

Learn more at [https://www.facebook.com/4HiddenPoetry](https://www.facebook.com/4HiddenPoetry)

Two programs on November 12, 2015 will focus attention on the intersection of poetry, veterans, and hidden disabilities.

6:00 p.m. EST: Baker Center Theater, Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

A panel discussion of how poetry helps people who carry the hidden wounds of war and trauma. Four established humanities scholars have been invited to share what they have learned about how poetry affects veterans and people who have experienced trauma.

Refreshments will be available between sessions.

8:00 p.m. EST: Baker Center room 242, Ohio University in Athens, Ohio

A veterans-only poetry workshop facilitated by Darrel Alejandro Holnes and Becca Lechman. We encourage workshop participants to RSVP at hiddenpoetry@gmail.com because space is limited. During the workshop, veterans will learn how to use poetry to better communicate about the hidden wounds they carry. The workshop will also include a discussion about bridging non-veteran and veteran culture.
Panel and Workshop facilitators:

Panelist Roger Thompson is an Associate Professor at Stony Brook University and has taught at the Virginia Military Institute for fourteen years as a Professor of English and Fine Arts. Thompson’s research bridges the traditional disciplinary gaps between rhetoric, literature, and writing studies. Recipient of a Harvard University fellowship for pursuing cross-disciplinary research, Thompson is currently a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University, New York. Thompson is an award-winning nonfiction writer whose scholarly and nonfiction work has appeared in numerous academic and non-academic journals. The co-author of Beyond Duty: Life on the Frontline of Iraq, a bestselling Iraq War memoir, Thompson’s work has been translated into several languages and covered by major media outlets, including The New York Times, CNN, the CBC, and NPR. Learn more about him at https://stonybrook.digication.com/roger_thompson1/Welcome/published.

Panelist Jason Hoppe is an Assistant Professor of English at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Hoppe is the author of an award-winning article on the relationship of Emily Dickinson and Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson and has written widely about subjectivity and war in the poetry of Herman Melville and Wendell L. Brooks. As the director of the West Point Writing Center, Hoppe has been able to develop a summer writing seminar that gives special attention to the therapeutic power of narrative and poetry for veterans.

Panelist and Co-Workshop Facilitator Becca Lachman has taught Poetry and War classes at Ohio University in recent years. An award-winning poet and writer, Lachman’s work has been featured in On Being (American Public Media blog), The Whistling Fire, and The Mennonite Center for Writing Online. Lachman’s research focuses on storytelling, the Mennonite community, gender studies, and poetry. She is the author of A Ritual to Read Together: Poems in Conversation with William Stafford, and two other collections of poetry. Lachman will help facilitate the workshop and be on the panel. Learn more about her at www.becca-jr-lachman.com.

Panelist David Adams is an Associate Professor and Honors Director of English at Ohio State University at Lima. Adams is currently working on a book that examines the intersections of queer theory and disability studies. A former Fulbright fellowship recipient, Adams also has experience teaching at Cornell University. Adams’s research focuses on twentieth-century British and postcolonial literature, literary theory, and cultural studies. He is the author of Colonial Odysseys: Empire and Epic in the Modernist Novel, as well as various articles and translations.

Co-Workshop Facilitator Darrel Alejandro Holnes has an MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan. His poetry has been published in a number of journals and magazines including Poetry Magazine, The Stockholm Review of Literature, and The Prague Revue. Holnes’ work and activism have been featured in TIME magazine. He has been honored with US Congressional Recognition for high standards of excellence and outstanding achievement in civics and the arts. He currently teaches at Rutgers University and New York University. As the workshop facilitator, Holnes will collaborate with panelists to engage in a workshop that builds on the issues discussed by the panelists. Learn more at darrelholnes.com.

This event creates a deeper understanding of poetry and the humanities and is sponsored in part by a grant from Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities as a part of the Standing Together Initiative that supports events promoting understanding of the military experience and supporting returning veterans. This event is co-sponsored by Ohio Humanities, the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University and is made possible by support from the Veteran Affairs office at Ohio University, and the English Department at Ohio University. Those who have questions about the panel or workshop may contact Nicole Eugene at (740) 740-4823 or ne598513@ohio.edu or Bill Rawlins at (740) 593-4823 or rawlins@ohio.edu. Learn more about the event organizers and the panelists by visiting its Facebook page at facebook.com/4HiddenPoetry.

About Ohio University

Founded in 1804 as the first institution of higher learning in the Northwest Territory, Ohio University was founded when a group of veterans petitioned Congress after the Revolutionary War to purchase land north and west of the Ohio River. A 4-year public university, its campus contains a number of national historic landmarks. All told, in the 2013-14 academic school year OHIO enrolled over 38,000 students in 263 baccalaureate, 210 master’s, 56 doctoral programs, and a medical school. OHIO is a Research II institution; fiscal year 2014 expenditures totaled $650 million; revenues included $64 million in grants, contracts, and gifts. According to their office of Veteran Affairs, Ohio University has approximately 900 students receiving military benefits. G.I. Jobs recognized Ohio University as one of the nation's top "Military-Friendly Schools" for four consecutive years.
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