

# BC3 writers to read from Facets works for first time in 10 years

Annual literary-art magazine wins 22<sup>nd</sup> first-place award

Oct. 29, 2019



Butler County Community College students whose works were published in the 2019 edition of Facets, BC3's annual literary-art magazine that has won its 22<sup>nd</sup> first-place award since 1998, are, from left, Dylan Sitterly, 22, of Mars; Paige Johns, 19, of Kittanning; and Shane Denial, 20, of Mars.

(Butler, PA) Butler County Community College student and alumni writers whose submissions were selected from a field of 100 and published in the 2019 edition of Facets, BC3's annual literary-art magazine that has won its 22<sup>nd</sup> first-place award since 1998, will read from their works Nov. 5 at the Heaton Family Learning Commons on BC3's main campus in Butler Township.

The reading of poetry and short stories will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., is free and open to the community, and will be followed by an open mic session for others who want to share their writing, said Michael Dittman, one of three Facets faculty advisers and an associate professor of humanities and social sciences at BC3.

The public reading, a first for Facets writers in at least 10 years and the third at BC3's academic and community library since October 2018, also represents an opportunity for community members, and BC3 students, alumni, faculty and staff to meet and discuss the written arts, Dittman said.

“Readings are fairly unusual around here,” Dittman said. “Here in Butler, we have maybe six a year. This is a great opportunity. . . . It seems we are having this resurgence of literary arts on campus right now.”

Student editors and Dittman chose eight writers’ works for inclusion and from the most Facets submissions since at least 2015, Dittman said. Facets has won first-place awards from the American Scholastic Press Association, College Point, N.Y., in categories such as outstanding story, art and photography; and the publication itself, first-place awards 22 times, most recently in 2019.

Facets has also received most outstanding community college literary-art magazine recognition six times from the American Scholastic Press Association.

Among the literary works in the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue are poems by Dylan Sitterly, 22, of Mars, who is studying secondary education-English concentration at BC3; and by Paige Johns, 19, of Kittanning, a business administration student; and a short story by Shane Denial, 20, of Mars, majoring in English.

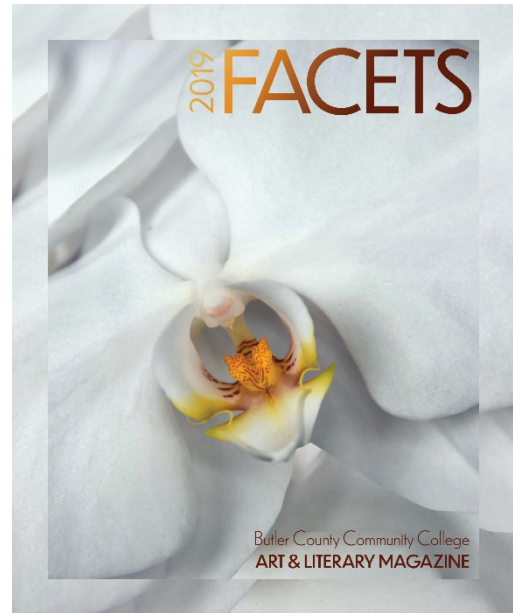
## “We aren’t just students”

Denial’s “Kumo,” about a woman who lives in the clouds and of her perspective on the land below, is his first published work and based on a sculpture titled “Woman with Clouds” that he saw in the Maridon Museum, Butler.

“When there were huge battles and bloody wars, she saw only clusters of insects and small flashes of light,” Denial wrote of his protagonist, the daughter of a sky god who witnesses in those who inhabit land that “They have creative ability, but they use it for destructive purposes,” Denial said.

Sitterly’s “Afterlives,” one of his first two works published in 2019 in Facets, reflects his observations as a volunteer at nursing homes.

“Ralph’s the one who shudders / whenever we come near. / He thinks we’ve come to take him, / but there’s nowhere worse than here.” begins nine-stanza poem, which ends with “You just give them a little / to keep them busy ‘til they die. / They will ask if things get better / and you will learn to lie.”



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“There’s always this atmosphere of disrespect and abandonment,” Sitterly said. “The families aren’t there. The resources aren’t always great. It’s a shared attitude of discontent. And that has always struck me as being wrong, something that bothers me about our culture.”

Johns’ poem “I Dream an American Nightmare” – “I close my eyes and count the sheep. / The American flag whips as I sleep. / These amber waves of grain continue to fly / While many Americans want to die.” expresses her view on the national divisiveness in the 2016 presidential campaign.

“How everyone ... was at each other’s throats,” Johns said. “And everything bad about America was coming out at once.”

Other BC3 students or former students whose works were chosen for the 2019 edition of Facets are Gabrielle Barton, of Butler; Angel Rosen, of Worthington; William Lucas Franklin, of Sarver; Matthew Brothers, of Sarver; and Megan Minto, of Butler.

“I think it’s important that we get recognized because we aren’t just students,” said Johns, also the president of a 14-member BC3 writers’ club. “We are people with much larger lives, but some of us are dedicating the short amount of time that we have into writing. And sometimes that can inspire so many bigger things in the world.”

## 74-page edition available at reading

Submissions to Facets are limited to current or former BC3 credit or noncredit students, and faculty, staff and administrators, according to Dittman, who holds a bachelor’s degree in English from the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio; and a master’s degree in English from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

Submissions to previous editions of Facets included creative nonfiction, excerpts of plays and screenplays – “anything that writers wanted to submit,” Dittman said.

The 74-page 2019 issue, whose interior was published on 80-pound silk text paper, includes photography, drawings, illustrations and photographs of sculptures and paintings created by BC3 contributors.

Copies of the 2019 edition of Facets will be available for \$7 at the public reading at the Heaton Family Learning Commons, which follows those by Linda K. Schmitmeyer, of Middlesex Township, Butler County, a former BC3 instructor who read from her “Rambler: A family pushes through the fog of mental illness” on Sept 18; and by Dr. Tom Bennitt, a former resident of Butler Township, Butler County, who read from “Burning Under” on Oct. 24, 2018.

Light refreshments will be provided by the BC3 Education Foundation during the Nov. 5 Facets public reading.