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**TO:** State & National Media Outlets

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## **2009 OHIOANA AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

### **Awards luncheon held at the Ohio Statehouse; First Lady Frances Strickland will honor winners at reception marking Ohioana's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Columbus, OH – September 11, 2009. . . .The Ohioana Library Association announces the 15 recipients of the 2009 Ohioana Awards. Linda Hengst, executive director of the Ohioana Library, stated, “We are proud to be able to recognize such talented individuals. They each have made significant contributions to the literary and artistic life of Ohio.”

Author and scholar **David D. Anderson**, a Lorain, OH native and current East Lansing, Michigan resident is the recipient of the **2009 OHIOANA CAREER AWARD**, given to an Ohio native for a lifetime of service to the arts and humanities. Glass Artist and teacher **Margot Gotoff** of Cincinnati, has been chosen for to receive the **2009 PEGASUS AWARD**, which honors a native or non-native Ohioan for outstanding cultural achievements.

The recipients of the Ohioana Book Awards, Ohioana Citations and Named Awards are listed below. A detailed profile of each award recipient, listed in alphabetical order, is also attached, and digital photos are available upon request.

**OHIOANA BOOK AWARDS** - annually awarded for fiction, nonfiction, poetry, juvenile books, and books about Ohio or Ohioans.)

**FICTION:** *Gone Tomorrow* by **P. F. Kluge**, Gambier, OH resident and Kenyon College professor

**NONFICTION:** *Baghdad at Sunrise: A Brigade Commander's War in Iraq* by **Peter Mansoor**, professor at The Ohio State University and resident of Dublin, OH

**POETRY:** *Everywhere At Once* by **William Greenway**, professor at Youngstown State University and resident of Youngstown, OH

**JUVENILE BOOK:** *Beneath My Mother's Feet* by **Amjed Qamar**, resident of Dublin, OH

**ABOUT OHIO/OHIOAN:** *All the Way Home: Building A Family in a Falling-Down House* by **David Giffels**, a lifelong Akron, OH resident and professor at Akron University

**OHIOANA CITATIONS**—awarded for distinguished service in specific fields or areas of the arts and humanities.

**Kenneth and Sylvia Marantz**, Columbus, Ohio, for Art Education

**Jerri Williams Lawrence and Kay Williams**, Kenton, OH natives and central Ohio residents, for Writing and Editing **Nancy Wilson**, Chillicothe, OH native, for Music

**RSVP Players**, Cleveland, OH, for Theater and Community Service

#### **NAMED AWARDS -**

**Ohioana James P. Barry Award for Editorial Excellence**

*Ohio State University Alumni Magazine*, **Lynne Bonenberger**, editor, Columbus, OH

**Ohioana Walter Rumsey Marvin Grant** – (awarded to encourage a young unpublished writer)

**Valerie Cumming**, Westerville, OH resident.

The Ohioana Awards will be presented at the Ohioana Day celebration on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, in the Statehouse Atrium on Capitol Square. The luncheon and awards ceremony begins at 11:30 a.m., preceded by the 80<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at 10 a.m. and a book fair at 10:30 a.m. when the Statehouse Museum Shop will have the copies of the works of award winners available as well as other Ohio selections. The luncheon is open to the public; however, reservations are required. The cost of the luncheon is \$50 per person.

On Friday evening, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., October 16<sup>th</sup>, the public is invited to an informal gathering and reception for the award recipients with Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland that will “kick-off” Ohioana’s 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This event “Uncorrected Proofs” will be held at the Ohioana Library, 274 E. First Ave., Columbus, OH. Light hors d’oeuvres and liquid refreshment will be available. Admission is \$25 per person.

The 2009 Ohioana Awards are presented with the support of the Ohio Arts Council, funding programs and organizations with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. Additional support has been provided by the law firm of Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease. Ohio Magazine is the official print media sponsor.

For more information about the Ohioana Awards or to make reservations for the Saturday luncheon and/or Friday reception, please contact the Ohioana Library, 274 East First Ave., Suite 300, Columbus, OH 43201, call 614-466-3831, or email [ohioana@ohioana.org](mailto:ohioana@ohioana.org).

The Ohioana Library Association’s mission is to recognize and encourage the creative accomplishments of Ohioans; preserve and expand a permanent collection of books, sheet music, manuscripts, and other materials by Ohioans and about Ohio; and disseminate information about the work of Ohio writers, musicians and other artists to researchers, schools and the general

public.

The Ohioana Library is supported by memberships, grants, contributions, and a subsidy from the State of Ohio.

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## 2009 Ohioana Award Winners

(in alphabetical order)

**David D. Anderson** is a native of Lorain, Ohio, a town best known for its factories and mills, but should be celebrated for its outstanding and influential writers. He received his BS degree in 1951 and MA degree in 1953 from Bowling Green State University, and earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1960. He was awarded the MSU Book Manuscript Award for his critical biography on fellow Lorain resident Sherwood Anderson in 1961.

He began teaching English in 1953 at the General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan and joined the English faculty at Michigan State in 1956. In 1957 he moved to the university's Department of American Thought and Language from which he retired in 1993 as distinguished professor emeritus. David is also a veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict and is listed in *Who's Who in the World* and *Who's Who in America*.

In 1971, Anderson founded the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature and is currently its Executive Director. He is the author or editor of thirty-five books and more than three hundred published articles, essays, short stories, and poems and has been the editor of numerous journals including *MidAmerica*, *Midwestern Miscellany*, *SSML Newsletter* and *University College Quarterly*. Anderson has chaired the Modern American Literature of the Modern Language Association, was a Fulbright Professor of American Literature at the University of Karachi, and has been an American delegate to the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literature. He has lectured throughout Europe, Asia, and Australia, and has presented more than a hundred papers to scholarly organizations.

**Lynne Bonenberger**, a Pennsylvania native, received a B.S. degree in Consumer Services from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1975 and an M.A. in Education from The Ohio State University in 1987. From 1989 to 1993, Lynne served as the managing editor of The Ohio State University Press. She joined the *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* staff as managing editor in 1993 and was appointed editor in 1997. Lynne is also a freelance writer, editor, and proofreader for clients throughout the country.

The first issue of the *Ohio State Alumni Magazine* was published in 1909. As would be expected, since its inception the magazine has gone through a number of design and focus changes, the most recent in 2005. In 2007 the magazine received the Gold Award for the best alumni/institution magazine from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District V.

This is the first time Ohioana has recognized a university's alumni publication.

**Valerie Cumming** was born in Dayton, Ohio. She attended the Dr. John Hole Elementary School, Hadley E. Watts Middle School, and Centerville High School in Montgomery County. Valerie graduated summa cum laude from The Ohio State University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Women's Studies in 2000. While at The Ohio State University she was literature editor for *Mosaic*, the undergraduate literary magazine at OSU, and a staff reader of fiction manuscripts for *The Journal*. She also received the Jacobson Short Story Award for the best short story by an undergraduate and the Gertrude Lucille Robinson Award for the best piece of creative writing by an undergraduate woman. In 2002, Valerie received a Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Michigan.

Since moving to the Columbus area, young writers in Columbus have benefited from Valerie's instruction at Thurber House's Columbus Writing Academy. Valerie and her husband Mark Vukovic are the parents of three young children and it was Mark who encouraged Valerie to enter the Walter Rumsey Marvin writing contest.

**David Giffels** is an award winning journalist who began his career with the University of Akron's student newspaper. After graduating magna cum laude with Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Mass Media-Communications in 1988, he completed a Master of Arts in English in 1995. While completing his master's he worked for the *Medina County Gazette* and then joined the staff of the *Akron Beacon Journal*. He started as a society writer and from 2000 to 2008, David was a columnist. His columns brought national attention to various issues he wrote about and numerous awards for his outstanding work, including "Best in Ohio: Essay (body of work)" by the Press Club of Cleveland Excellence in Journalism and a first place, "Best News Writer in Ohio" by the Associated Press Society of Ohio. He has been a six-time Pulitzer Prize nominee.

Beyond serious journalism, Giffels was also contributed scripts for the *Beavis and Butt-Head*, MTV series and for the feature film *Beavis and Butt-Head Do America*. He is a popular speaker around the country and appeared in several NPR and The History Channel documentaries. This summer, he returned to teach in the English Department at Akron University.

**Margot Jacobson Gotoff** was born in Rochester, NY but traveled the world with her parents while growing up. Her father was employed by the U.S. government to assist concentration camp survivors relocate to other countries, including Czechoslovakia, Hungary, France, and Brazil. Margot's first degree, a BA in French literature, was from the University of Michigan where she also took her first course in sculpture her senior year. After graduation she moved to New York City and took night classes in sculpture at The New School and the Art Students League. Her experience helped her realize that sculpture was what she really wanted to study. She was accepted at the prestigious L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in France and the classic training she received is reflected in her work.

Gotoff moved to Cincinnati in the 1986 with her husband, Harry, who had accepted a position at the University of Cincinnati in the classics department. She completed her MA degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1988. Ms. Gotoff works in clay, bronze, and glass. Her incredible larger-than-life glass sculptures has been shown in exhibits through the country and are held in both public and private collections in New York, Palm Beach, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and Rome.

**William Greenway**, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, earned a BA degree from George State University while working as a carpenter. In 1970, he joined the Navy and was stationed in New Orleans where for four years he was an electronics technician in a jet squadron. William also attended graduate school at Tulane University at night, earned his Ph.D. in Modern Literature and Poetry and won an Academy of American Poets Prize.

Greenway has called Ohio home since 1986 when he moved to Ohio to accept a position at Youngstown State University. In the spring of 2009, Youngstown State University honored Professor Greenway for the third time with the Distinguished Professor Award. He has published over six hundred poems in periodicals, including *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *American Poetry*, and his work has been read by Garrison Keillor on "The Writer's Almanac" segment of "Morning Edition" on National Public Radio and "Nothing's Been the Same Since John Wayne Died" was read by Edward Asner on the album *Grow Old With Me, The Best Is Yet To Be*, which was nominated for a Grammy in 1997.

*Everywhere at Once*, published by the University of Akron Press, is William's seventh full-length collection of poetry and the second book to be recognized with an Ohioana Book Award. The first book was *Ascending Order* in 2004 and in 2001 he received Ohioana's Helen and Laura Krout Poetry Award for the body of his work and his contributions to poetry.

**P. F. (Paul Frederick) Kluge** has made Gambier, Ohio his home since 1987. He was born in New Jersey and first came to Gambier in 1960 to attend Kenyon College where he graduated

with highest honors in English. He earned his Master's and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago before joining the U.S. Peace Corps in 1967. He served in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands where he edited *The Micronesian Reporter*, a quarterly magazine. After the Peace Corps, P.F. worked as a staff reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, before becoming an assistant editor at *Life* magazine. In 1975, he was the director and drafter of the Preamble of the Constitution for Federated State of Micronesia and since 1999 he has been a contributing editor for *National Geographic Traveler*.

Kluge is the author of seven acclaimed novels and two works of nonfiction. Two of his works have been made into films, *Eddie and the Cruisers*, based on his novel of the same name, and *Dog Day Afternoon* grew out of an article he wrote with Thomas Moore for a *Life* magazine article. *Gone Tomorrow*, is set in a small college in Ohio. It was selected as one of NPR's best books of 2008 and one of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer's* top ten fiction titles of 2008.

**Jerri Williams Lawrence and Kay Williams** - It could be said, "like father like daughters." Mardo Williams' 44 year career as a journalist was followed by his authoring a book about his mother, then a children's book, and, finally at age 92, a novel about finding love at any age. Mardo's lifelong love of writing and words most certainly rubbed off on his daughters so they were unquestionably qualified to honor his request that they to finish his book *One Last Dance* if he died before the final edit was complete. Jerri Williams Lawrence and Kay Williams kept their promise and the world is richer because of their efforts.

**Jerri Williams Lawrence** earned her B.S. and M.S. in Education from The Ohio State University. She taught English for more than thirty years in the Worthington, Ohio public schools. During her career she taught journalism, composition, humanities, and speech, and served as the advisor for the high school newspaper, *Cardinal Chronicle*, and the literary magazine *Acropolis*. In 1986 she was selected Teacher of the Year. Administrators, colleagues, students, and parents have praised Jerri for professional and personal contributions as a teacher.

**Kay Williams** received a B.A. in theater, French, and English from Western College in Oxford, Ohio, and a B.S. in Education from The Ohio State University. She makes her home in New York City where she has been a professional actress for over 20 years. Her work has included off-Broadway productions, regional repertory, films, radio, and TV. She is also a writer and has helped edit more than sixty books. Her suspense novel about the theater, *Butcher of Dreams*, is co-authored with friend Eileen Wyman.

Jerri and Kay individually have made great contributions in their chosen fields, but as daughters they used their editorial skills in a labor of love to bring their father's book to reality. They have also developed and presented programs around the state and country based on issues raised in *One Last Dance*.

**Kenneth and Sylvia Marantz** - Is it picture book or picturebook? For Kenneth and Sylvia it is picturebook! Kenneth Marantz, professor emeritus of art education at The Ohio State University, states, "My investigation of the broader art world is narrowed to the concept of the picturebook as an art object."

Kenneth and Sylvia, both New York City area natives, made their way to Columbus, Ohio in 1971, via Cornell University and University of Chicago, when Kenneth accepted the position as chair of the art education department at The Ohio State University. Sylvia a teacher and librarian in Chicago joined the Worthington Schools system and then established the K through 12 library program at the Wellington School.

Over the past 50 years, the Marantzes have studied, reviewed and collected picture books. They have written thousands of reviews and articles, and lectured to thousands of educators, as well as authored eight books. Their books include: *The Art of Children's Picture Books: A Selected*

*Reference Guide* (2 editions), *Picture Books for Looking and Learning: Awakening Visual Perceptions through the Art of Children's Books*, and *Multicultural Picturebooks: Art for Understanding Others* (volume 1 and 2).

Through the years, the Marantzes accumulated a collection of 25,000 books, which they recently donated to the Kent State University Library. In January 2009, the Marantz Picturebook Collection was dedicated in a specially designed state-of-the-art section in the Reinberger Children's Library Center at Kent State. Their gift to Kent State is a treasure trove that will be available to children, students, and educators for generations to come.

**Peter Mansoor**, a Minnesota native, graduated first in his class at the United State Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1982. In 1992, he received a Master of Arts degree in Military History and in 1995 he earned a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. Last fall, Peter returned to Ohio State as the General Raymond Mason, Jr. Chair of Military History.

Col. Mansoor is a scholar as well as a soldier, and after a more than twenty year career in the military, he went to war for the first time. In 2003 he took command of a fighting brigade of 3,500 troops in Iraq. His book *Baghdad at Sunrise: A Brigade Commander's War in Iraq* is a memoir of his two years in Iraq and grew out of the journals he kept to convey this time in his life to his children and grandchildren. The October 2008 review by Mark Moyar in *The Wall Street Journal* stated, "...Col. Mansoor displays the knowledge of a soldier alongside the narrative gifts of a true historian, weaving dramatic events together, capturing the thoughts and emotions of street-level fighters, and describing Iraq as it tries to emerge from the maelstrom of war." Peter served a second term in Iraq (2007-08) as the executive officer to Commander General David H. Petraeus, Multi-National Force. He was a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategy Group that proposed the surge strategy in Iraq (2007) and was a founding director of the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Center (2006). The experiences and observations of Col. Mansoor provide our leaders, military, and American citizens with not just the knowledge of the Iraq war but of the needed policy changes.

**Amjed Qamar's** first novel, *Beneath My Mother's Feet* was recognized as A Junior Library Guild Selection and last fall Barnes & Noble Booksellers found the debut novelist to be one of fifteen great new writers worth discovering.

Amjed Qamar was born in Hyderabad, India and grew up in central Ohio. She holds degrees in English and Psychology from The Ohio State University. Amjed lived in Pakistan for several years and has been a frequent visitor over the past eighteen year. *Beneath My Mother's Feet* is the story of Nazia a fourteen year old girl from an average, modern-day Pakistani family. Amjed has described her book as "a coming of age story of a young girl who struggles to find a balance between being an ordinary school girl and the breadwinner in her family. It's about mothers and daughters and family relationships."

Dublin, Ohio is the current home of Amjed and her husband and two daughters. She is employed by Xcelerate Media..

**The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Greater Cleveland, Inc.** is an organization that coordinates the recruitment and placement of adult volunteers, all over age 55, with nonprofit agencies throughout the Cleveland area. The RSVP Players is a special project of RSVP. Players is a volunteer theatrical group, made up of twelve to fifteen members, who, in addition to their individual volunteer involvement with area nonprofit organizations, write, direct, and perform various humorous and information skits and short plays for senior centers, community groups, social organizations, nursing homes, volunteer recognitions and conferences throughout Northeast Ohio. The average age of members is mid-70s and they perform to

audiences, large and small, at least six times a month. During the groups seventeen years they have presented more than 1,000 performances and its repertoire has grown to more than twenty plays. The plays and songs vary from five to twenty minutes in length and include a variety of issues; the funny as well as the not so funny things that happen to us as we grow older.

The group's original play, *Pills a-Poppin*, contains information about the dangers of misusing medication. The Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging was so impressed by the presentation that it sponsored the creation of a video featuring the Players and the program was shown throughout the area. Group members have also been asked to participate in online and video training programs for doctors at Cleveland's MetroHealth Medical Center. The City of Cleveland Department of Aging commissioned the Players to develop and perform a play, which they call *Crimebusters*, on the dangers to senior citizens of predatory lending schemes.

Kay Williams – see Jerri Lawrence Williams

**Nancy Wilson's** diverse musical style has made her hard to classify. She has been described as “a jazz singer,” “a blues singer,” “a pop singer,” and “a cabaret singer.” She has also been referred to as “a storyteller,” “professor of body language,” “a consummate actress,” and “the complete entertainer.” Joe Williams her long time colleague and friend used to call her “the thrush from Columbus.” Nancy Wilson is all of these and so much more.

Nancy was born in Chillicothe, Ohio and grew up in Columbus where from an early age her father exposed her to many vocalists including big band vocalists. By age four year, Nancy knew she wanted to be a singer. She was active in her church and school choirs and at age fifteen her professional career began. She had her own television show, *Skyline Melody*, on a local station and soon began performing in Columbus area clubs. After graduating she was undecided about a musical career and enrolled in the teacher training program at Central State College. In 1956, Nancy left college to join the Rusty Bryant Band. She met Julian “Cannonball” Adderley while in New York for a recording session with the band. He took an interest in her career and they kept in touch.

In 1959, Nancy moved to New York City. Within a few weeks she got her first break, a call to fill in for Irene Reid at The Blue Morocco. Her career took off with her first recording in 1960. While at Capitol Records she was second in sales to only the Beatles. Nancy preformed in a number of variety shows and had her own show for which she won an Emmy in 1975. As an actress, she appeared in many popular television series.

Public service has also been an important part of Nancy's career. In 1995, she hosted NPR's Jazz Profiles series and in the late 1990s she teamed up with MCG (Manchester Craftmen's Guild) Jazz, a nonprofit, minority-directed, arts and learning organization in Pittsburgh, PA, which supports youth education programs. The profits from two of her recent albums have gone to MCG. Nancy has received many honors including as Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the UNCF Trumpet Award, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the NAACP, and Oprah Winfrey's Legends Award.

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