

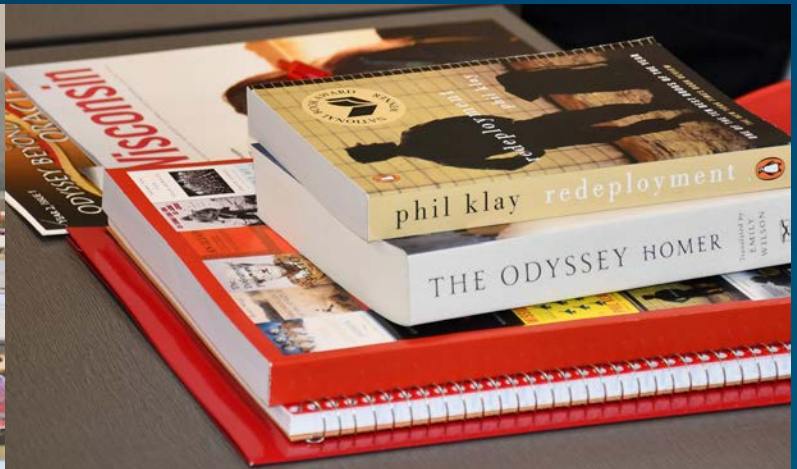
YEAR 2, ISSUE 2



SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

ODYSSEY BEYOND WARS ORACLE

INTRODUCING THE ODYSSEY BEYOND WARS CLASS OF 2025!



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www.odyssey.wisc.edu

FEELINGS ON JOINING ODYSSEY BEYOND WARS

Excited and looking to connect with others and expand my education and career. I need to challenge myself more. I'm looking to sharpen my skills and help with potentially seeing what I am good at or need improvement on. I need to figure out my goals. **(Tammy Riege Lambert)**

I was excited! The opportunity to learn together with other Veterans in a very supportive environment is priceless. I couldn't pass it up. **(Melanie Lucas)**

When I found out I was nervous and apprehensive. I was excited yet scared. I have no schooling past a couple of really bad years at MATC, so I am glad to be part of Odyssey Beyond Wars with like-minded people. **(Carolyn Morgan)**

I was very scared and excited after learning I was accepted into the OBW program. School has always been very scary to me. I feel very supported so far. **(Angie Nickels)**

I was excited to begin. I love to learn and be part of a group. But I was apprehensive because I am a felon and have been in prison for many years. My attempts to come out the other side have been rough at best. **(Joshua Rowe)**

I was nervous because I'm not sure what to expect but I was also excited that I'd be in a space with others focused on the same goal. **(Pricilla Reyes)**

I have a chance to continue on for a higher education. I feel like I have support and people willing to help me. **(Hakeem Williams)**



ARE YOU A WRITER?

No, absolutely not. But I am very inquisitive.

(Tammy Riege Lambert)

Yes, I am a writer. I journal every day in some fashion, usually by typing notes to wrap up the day or from a podcast. And it's very important to me to convey my sentiments accurately in letters and greeting cards. **(Melanie Lucas)**

Yes and no. I am a writer when I have something to say. I am not a writer most of the time. **(Carolyn Morgan)**

No, I was in special ed and I have a hard time reading and I am terrible at spelling. **(Angie Nickels)**

I don't think of myself as a writer because I don't apply myself to write, but I do love to write and express myself. **(Pricilla Reyes)**



THREE THINGS ABOUT US

I love to ride my Harley and have my “wind therapy” go through my hair, feeling free.

I love to be on the water, in the water, near the water, and close to nature.

I love to play hockey with my boys.
(Tammy Riege Lambert)



I love to cook for other people but not so much for myself.

I have to go outside every day and love the sunshine.

To de-stress, I like to watch funny videos of cats & dogs.. **(Melanie Lucas)**



I have two children and one granddaughter. They are my whole world.

I keep a calendar even though I am retired. Otherwise, I double-book and forget what I am doing that day.

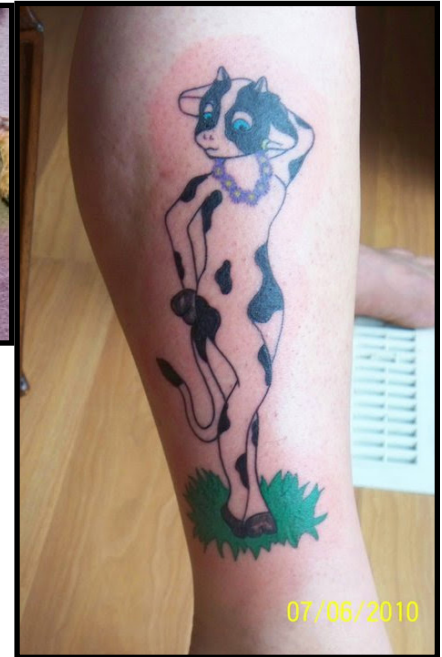
I love being by the water. I don't know how to swim but I feel so calm when I'm around it. **(Carolyn Morgan)**



I love my German Shepherd dogs Odin and Udo. They are a huge responsibility. I work with them every day.

I love cows – collecting them, seeing them, the way they moo. I have a cow tattoo. They are everywhere in Wisconsin.

I love my husband. For the first time in my life I feel loved.
(Angie Nickels)



I am the father of four children with four different women.

I found my birth parents when I was 48 – they are deceased.

I kayak/fish every day to find peacefulness. When I imagine peace and freedom, I see myself fishing in Lake Mendota.
(Joshua Rowe)

I love cooking and finding new recipes. I'm that person in the friend group that orders the "weird" food.

I love learning about other countries and immersing myself in them. I also love trying new things.

I'm very family oriented. Everything I do, I do with my family in mind. **(Pricilla Reyes)**

I look forward to sleeping on my off days.

I slightly rediscovered my joy of reading.

Finding my next food spot is always important.
(Hakeem Williams)



WHERE WE'RE FROM

In her poem "Where I'm From," George Ella Lyon wrestles with themes of identity, home, and personal history. By looking back on her own upbringing and pinpointing the things that make her unique, Lyon comes to understand herself more completely.

Here is Lyon's poem, followed by Odyssey Beyond Wars students' poems inspired by it.

Where I'm From by George Ella Lyon

I am from clothespins,
from Clorox and carbon-tetrachloride.
I am from the dirt under the back porch.
(Black, glistening,
it tasted like beets.)
I am from the forsythia bush
the Dutch elm
whose long-gone limbs I remember
as if they were my own.

I'm from fudge and eyeglasses,
from Imogene and Alafair.
I'm from the know-it-alls
and the pass-it-ons,
from Perk up! and Pipe down!
I'm from He restoreth my soul
with a cottonball lamb
and ten verses I can say myself.

I'm from Artemus and Billie's Branch,
fried corn and strong coffee.
From the finger my grandfather lost
to the auger,
the eye my father shut to keep his sight.

Under my bed was a dress box
spilling old pictures,
a sift of lost faces
to drift beneath my dreams.
I am from those moments--
snapped before I budded --
leaf-fall from the family tree.



I am from a crayon box that always
felt like having broken colors:
I am from overflowing cereal bowls.
I am from all the noise in the world
and always in my head, They both (the crayon)
(and the noise) are always on the surface, but
I always want to swim deeper and find
Closeness to water for calmness.
I am always just jeaning for a quiet place
to sink into the layers of my unknown being.
I am from playing in the tall leaves and
building mud pies with the neighborhood kids.
I am from my bicycle, where my
wheels are spinning over and over again
everyday. **(Tamny Riege Lambert)**



I'm from Kathryn & Nelson. Literally. I'm from Mississippi, Arkansas and Madison, WI roots. I'm from the 1970's Madison where most black people lived in The Bush or on the Southside, (like my family did), where I was often the only black kid in my class, and where it was not unusual to be stared at in the store by someone who probably had never seen a black person before. I'm thinking they must be visiting from out of town.

I'm from being the youngest of 4 kids, and being called the baby of the family, which I never liked. I'm from attending Sunday school and church, and going to the basement afterwards, hanging out with the ladies in the kitchen as they prepared a huge meal.



I'm from work hard first, then play hard. I'm from doing the laundry on Saturday mornings while watching cartoons, assisting my Dad with home remodeling projects, packing my school lunch at night in my metal lunchbox with a small thermos, and always getting up to go to school, no matter what.

I'm from swimming at Vilas & Brittingham beaches all day in the summer, and going to drive-in movies and roller skating on the weekends. Good times. **(Melanie Lucas)**

I'm from a place with little memory. I try to look back and find good memories but all I remember is the bad.

I'm from a military man and his wife, my parents. We ate meals together, always meat, potatoes, and veggies from the store called Cops. My sister and I worked at as cashiers.

The neighborhood we lived in was not welcoming at all. My parents wanted the best for our family. We lived a true middle class life.

(Carolyn Morgan)



I'm from ManWisco, A single encounter fueled by addiction,
drugs and alcohol. I'm an afterthought of B&B.

I'm from NO, get lost, don't touch, calm down, children should
be seen and not heard. I'm a latch key kid.

I'm from pink meat, hungry, canned food, sugar, powdered
milk. I'm from you can't leave the table till you clean your plate.

I'm from weeping willows swaying in the breeze, swimming at
Riley's point, bonfires, frog legs, garage sales and church. I'm
sunshine filled with Gramma's love.

I'm from you're not good enough, you'll never fit in, you're
stupid, yea right college, does not get along well with others,
disruptive. I'm from special ed.

I'm from mom's house to uncle sam's house, left foot, right foot, repeat, fat bodies fall out, shame,
disgust, Germany, transportation. I'm a US Army soldier.

I'm from nowhere. I like to go to new lands. I'm homesick for a place I don't know exists. I'm a wife, a
mother, a veteran, I had nothing when I arrived. I'll take nothing when I go.

(Angie Nickels)

I am from Madison, Wisconsin, born and raised.

I am from the courtyard of my childhood neighborhood where we didn't fit in with the all-white suburbs
down the road but found bliss in our diversity.

I am from the hands and determination of an immigrant. Where the words "Hechale ganas" and "Ponte
las pilas" are ingrained in my existence.

I am from a family where a good grade on a 10-question test is translated to one step closer to the
American dream.

I am from the dreams that my mother longed for.

I am from Spanish Christian gospel and where the significance of "que diosito te cuide" runs deep.

I am from carnitas on Sunday mornings to a "cafecito y pan" before bed, so you sleep with a full belly.

From the smells of strong culture to the pride of "I am a product of immigrants."

I am from a chaotic family that through all our traumas, loyalty and empathy remains at the root.

I am made up of rich culture and dreams so big, they're intimidating.

A caramel color that holds power and an outside perspective of questionable potential.

I am from a family that sees me as the key to success,

But can't live without me holding the family together.

A product that the Air Force struggled to uplift yet put so much confidence in and built a person stronger
than anyone could've imagined.

I am from a society where women hold so much power and yet not enough.

From the words "you can do anything you dream of, but be careful in how you do it."

I am from a place that feels like home and mayhem all at once.

I am the glue that holds it together for everyone else, but still struggles to make it last for myself.

Yet, I find peace in knowing I am depended on and loved.

(Pricilla Reyes)





I'm from Methodist Christians, unforgiving and scandalous.

I'm from Wisconsin lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams.

From grammas flatpie and party potatoes.

I'm from the time-out corners, detention halls,
jails and prisons of my own design.

I'm from the four failed attempts at ending my life,
rescued by thoughts of my children,

The southwest shores of Lake Mendota

A fine foundation to carry forth goodness now. **(Joshua Rowe)**

I am from the rhythm of the trains
From the clatter of the wheels on the track
The echoing sounds of life.
The Pulse of a city that never sleeps.

I am from the brick buildings weathered and worn
Each one telling stories of dreams and struggles.

I am from the Scent of deep-dish Pizza,
The warmth of family gatherings
laughter smiling over like gravy on mashed potatoes
Where neighbors greet others with nods
and kids play ball until dusk.

I am from the graffiti on the walls
Vibrant colors splashed against gray concrete,
Depicting legends and heroes who walked the Street

I am from the voices of Poets in Parks,
I am from the Sounds of Sirens wailing
A reminder that life is fragile here

I am from the history etched in every corner
From Ida B Wells to 79th to the Wild 100's
a tapestry is woven with Resilience and hope
I am from Chicago
A place that shapes me as I shape it back.
(Hakeem Williams)



WHAT DOES ODYSSEY MEAN TO YOU?

Odyssey is a quest or exploration. This class might be an odyssey for me because it is hoping to teach us courage, pride, teamwork, respect for self and others, and humility. Also compassion for others, home, and family. It might help me with respect for myself and find my own journey of happiness. **(Tammy Riege Lambert)**

I think this course is called the Odyssey Project because based on other's experiences, it is just that— a long experience that comes with self-discovery. This class is an odyssey for me because of the subjects that will force me to dig deep into my identity and connections as a vet. **(Pricilla Reyes)**



I have had a long life journey up to this point full of adventures. My journey is not done yet. So I feel I have many more journeys ahead of me. **(Carolyn Morgan)**

Odyssey is a long trip or Journey. This might be an Odyssey for me because I am still wondering if I can pull off still being full time military, a dad, and work full time. I know I will try my hardest to complete everything that is necessary of me, because reading some of the alumni stories, it seems some had it harder than me. **(Hakeem Williams)**

