For both of our featured speakers this year, writing has been a way to reconcile, and perhaps integrate, disparate elements of life and faith. For Diane Glancy, who was raised by a Cherokee father and a mother of German-English descent, writing has been a way of listening to the different voices that inhabit her being. "We carry more than we realize . . . . We carry our ancestors, not in the sense of ghosts, but in the sense of the past being with us. We carry the burden or the weight of glory...of everything that has come before." Glancy carries the stories and voices of her Christian faith as well as the rich Cherokee heritage that came to her through her father. In her novels, plays, essays, and poems, Glancy has worked on recovering and empowering those voices that have been marginalized. In her novels, plays, essays, and poems, she celebrates the stories of Biblical women, of Native Americans, and of the land itself. If writing has been, for Glancy, a listening way, a gathering of voices, it has also been a way of living into a strong and gathered voice. As she puts it, "I think that's the work we do all our lives: bringing togetherness the fragments and trying to make some cohesive wholeness out of them."

Lauren Winner grew up in Charlottesville, Virginia. Her father was a secular Jew, her mother a lapsed southern Baptist. While in high school she began attending a reform Jewish synagogue. In her freshman year at Columbia University, after years of serious study and consideration, she immersed herself in the Orthodox Jewish community. Later, after a low ebb in her spiritual life, she was studying at Cambridge University in England when her faith journey took a different turn—this time to Christianity and more specifically the Anglican Church.

As one interviewer put it, Lauren Winner, in her first twenty-six years, "traveled enough spiritually, intellectually, and geographically to fill several lifetimes." Although Winner saw nothing especially remarkable about her own journey, she did feel a need to write. "It is a somewhat complicated thing to do—to try, after a religious conversion, to put the pieces of one's life and self back together," Winner said. "Like many people, I find that writing helps me make sense of my own thoughts. So I began scribbling things down." Those scribblings eventually led to her first book—Girl Meets God: On the Path to a Spiritual Life—which established her as a vital new voice in contemporary dialogues concerning religion and spirituality.

Both of this year's featured speakers come with a long list of accomplishments. Lauren Winner has already followed her memoir with two more well-received books: Mudhouse Sabbath and Real Sex: The Naked Truth About Chastity. She has appeared on PBS's Religion & Ethics Newsweekly and has written for The New York Times Book Review, The Washington Post Book World, Publishers Weekly, and Christianity Today. Diane Glancy, has published eight novels, four short story collections, three books of essays, and ten volumes of poetry. Her many accolades include two awards from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her most recent books include In Between Places (essays), Primer of the Obsolete (poems), and Stone Heart: A Novel of Sacajawea.
Friday, October 21
6:30 p.m. Registration/Reception
7:00 p.m. Reading: Mary Brown, Ray Waddle, Peter Anderson, Brent Bill, Tom Mullen, and Diane Glancy
Saturday, October 22
8:15 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Opening Remarks: Lauren Winner
10:45 a.m. Morning Workshops (choose one)
Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices—Diane Glancy

The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know—Lauren Winner

Book Basics: The Start-Up Kit for Your Book—Lil Copan

Where Words Come From—Brent Bill

Writing About Belief: What’s the Story?—Ray Waddle

Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time—Mary Brown

12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:45 p.m. Afternoon Workshops (choose one)
Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices—Diane Glancy

The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know—Lauren Winner

An Author-Editor Conversation—Lil Copan and Brent Bill

Writing About Belief: What’s the Story?—Ray Waddle

Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time—Mary Brown

3:15 p.m. Refreshments (Autobiography)
4:00 p.m. Closing Remarks: Diane Glancy
7:30-9:30 p.m. Coffee House/Open Mic

The Ministry of Writing Colloquium

“The Ministry of Writing,” colloquium was endowed by individuals in honor of Tom Mullan at the time of his retirement as Dean of Earlham School of Religion in 1990. Tom retired from ESF in 1997. His “Writing for the Religious Market” class, first offered over 20 years ago, was a launching point of ESF’s emphasis in the ministry of writing. This colloquium is one way the school demonstrates in commitment to the written word as an important form of ministry. Previous keynote speakers for the Colloquium have been:

1992—William Zimmer
1993—Curtis Michel
1994—Keith Miller
1995—David R. Godine
1996—Mary Brown
1997—James M. Wall
1998—Donna Jo Napoli
1999—Will D. Campbell
2000—Elizabeth Vogel
2001—Christina Bean
2002—Peter Anderson
2003—Phillip Giddens
2004—Li-Young Lee

The colloquium will be held in the ESR Center at the northeast corner of the Earlham Campus. A finalized schedule and room assignments will be available at registration.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name ___________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________
Phone ___________________________________________
E-mail ___________________________________________
Colloquium prior to Oct. 1: $65 Colloquium after Oct. 1: $70
Colloquium: undergraduate student: $25 Total enclosed $________

I would like a vegetarian meal

Workshop One preference (number first and second choice)

Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices—Diane Glancy

The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know—Lauren Winner

Book Basics: The Start-Up Kit for Your Book—Lil Copan

Where Words Come From—Brent Bill

Writing About Belief: What’s the Story?—Ray Waddle

Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time—Mary Brown

Workshop Two preference (number first and second choice)

Writing, Faith, and Biblical Voices—Diane Glancy

The Delights and Dangers of Writing About People You Know—Lauren Winner

An Author-Editor Conversation—Lil Copan and Brent Bill

Writing About Belief: What’s the Story?—Ray Waddle

Occasional Ministry: Poems for a Time—Mary Brown

A 665 registration fee covers all colloquium events, including Friday night readings, all plenary sessions and workshops, Saturday continental breakfast and lunches (please indicate vegetarian preference) and refreshments, and the reading/open mic Saturday night.

Send registration to: Writing Colloquium 2004, Rita Cummins, Earlham School of Religion, 228 College Avenue, Richmond, IN 47374; 1-800-432-1377, Email: cummiri@earlham.edu