

“One Body”
by **Kevin Holton, Monmouth University**

Rushing onward, we join together
As infinitesimal drops in the stream
Of human consciousness.

A single raindrop goes unnoticed;
River unrelenting earns awe
through rapids, foam spraying high.

Bound together, aquatic collective
Shares electrons, binding together,
Gradually reshaping Earth.

In annual conference, eager peers
Explain we are nothing but
Water and protein structures;

The ghost exhales in freezing rain
Explain dihydrogen monoxide—
How molecules form a body.

Saturated, our minds are heavy,
Fuller from the immersion,
From communal efforts.

This is the edge between
Yesterday and tomorrow
With today reserved for us.

No matter where life leads,
Niagara will always be the falls
And we will always be the river.



By Brian Schwanwede, Fairleigh Dickinson University

17 note cards and 10 minutes to leave an impression...

Thanks to crappy hotel internet connection, I couldn't keep people updated as I hoped. But most of you are already aware that I have given in to the unending peer pressure of attending my first Honors Conference.

Niagara Falls is a wonderful place to be in, but the definitive highlight took place today after my presentation concluded. The feedback was overwhelming! I never expected such reactions. Nor did I, with a long history of awkward interaction at my disposal, expect to have such an appeal. I actually succeed in moving people. I spoke as best I could only to be rendered speechless myself in the end.

My audience didn't even need to say it aloud. Just from reading their expressions, I knew then that I accomplished my goal. My voice didn't need to come out of a cool fictional character. I didn't need to sound on par with Lawrence Olivier. My own unique essence was, as people are telling me, more than enough.

By Ediz Ozelkan, SUNY Old Westbury

Cascading current of concussive clarity
Holding the heavens with hope haphazardly
Serving a slippery slope with a translucent soliloquy
Adding to the awe of natures abundant abilities
Its vaporous vandalism escapes unscathed in penal codes
Its gratuitous groans, imbued in tones, of renal flow
To clean the earth of it's fiendish soul, a greenish glow
Falling down, with all the sound, of it's freedom honed
Perfection achieved, after centuries of artisanal attention
These rocks and curves, were they god's for sure invention?
Or is it science? evolutionary enigmas of natures nonchalance
Geological greatness geared towards gaining an honest font
And there's my canvas, crashing waves of hostility pound
By the current, ice, and wind like infinity bound
It's strange, the water moves so civilly sound
To this power it must consent to until the river is drowned
The mist is a shivering shroud, belittling now
And nature submits to it's flow as it willingly bows
Who could dissent to the drums of the artillery found
Although in shape it typically frowns, it is vividly crowned



“Northeast Regional Honors Conference Reflection: The Uplifting Message Whispered by the Falls”

By Salvatore Ubaldini, Molloy College

The Falls, raging with power and a mighty purpose
Simply attracts hundreds; no, thousands of individuals with and without purpose.
Like the Falls we have a chance, a chance to propel ourselves forward.

Similar to the Falls, the town of Niagara is working towards its own goal.
To accomplish that goal; however, it needs daring young adults
Risking their time & knowledge, selflessly,
To develop, enhance, & expand
The HEART of Niagara.

Just as all the students enlightened others,
Endlessly working on their fascinating presentations, so too, do the
Falls enlighten all of us, to the true beauty of LIFE,
The will, hope, & drive to never give UP.

“Silhouettes”

By Woody Woodger, Westfield State University

I live exist in the mist
Those logs look so petrified swimming in the water
Pounds are measured in square inches
Because gravity holds no weight

The gulls sound of Jazz
Why are dead trees more interesting

I saw an essence
I refused to become
Because without me, the essence would turn blind

