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Notes from the Editor

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Notes from the Editor

IT is my great privilege to once again serve the outstanding graduate students of Western Michigan University as the Director and Editor of *The Hilltop Review*.

A point of pride for us is the many opportunities we provide for our graduate students to grow personally and professionally by becoming familiar with the submission and publication process; by improving their writing, editing, and reviewing skills; and by celebrating their creativity in art and literature.

Spring 2017 is my last semester working at *The Hilltop Review*. Over the past year, I have not been the sole director and editor of this journal. Many other people have served as my editing partners throughout this semester: my parents Ahmadreza Ameli and Roya Narimani, who have made their newcomer daughter more confident about tackling all the challenges of an editor; the prior Director and Editor of the journal, Rebecca Straple, as well as the ScholarWorks Librarian and Associate Professor of University Libraries, Maira Bundza, both of whom have tirelessly trained me in so many different ways; my thoughtful and knowledgeable mentor, Lee Kirk, to whom I owe a deep debt of gratitude for all the editing and writing skills he has taught me; Margaret von Steinen, the Senior Executive Assistant at WMU Office of Government Affairs, who has generously shared her knowledge and novel ideas in order to promote this journal; and last but not least, the editorial board members: Rebecca Straple, Erin S. Lynch, Hannah Pankratz, Sita Karki, Seán Patrick Geizer, Dweepobotee Brahma, and Anna Alioto, who have been hard-working, patient, and compassionate while accompanying me in all the ups and downs we have faced throughout this journey.

On behalf of all the directors and editors of *The Hilltop Review*, as well as everyone whose work we now publish, I would like to invite you to read and enjoy the spring 2017 issue we now proudly share with you.



Zahra Ameli Renani

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Acknowledgments

The current issue of *The Hilltop Review* features academic essays, creative writing, and artwork from different fields and disciplines. I would like to express my deep gratitude to all the graduate students who have been involved in our spring 2017 issue, either as submitters or reviewers.

I am pleased to congratulate the winners of the spring 2017 issue of *The Hilltop Review* awards: Rebecca Straple will receive a \$500 scholarship for the first place paper, “Glorious and Execrable: The Dead and Their Bodies in World War I Poetry”; Eric A. Gobel will receive a \$250 scholarship for the second place paper, “Liturgical Processions in the Black Death”; Rebecca D. Fox will receive a \$150 scholarship for the third place paper, “Experience and Authority: Knowledge, Gender, and the Creation of the Self in the Book of Margery Kempe and Late Medieval Travel Literature”; Ariel Berry will receive a \$250 scholarship for the best creative writing entitled “to nobody, too”; and Gauri Manohari Narendra Rajamanohar Kowsalya will receive a \$250 scholarship and the placement of her artwork on the cover for the best artwork entitled “The Light.” Moreover, I would like to extend my congratulations to Joseph R. Schuetz, the winner of the first prize at the WMU Graduate Humanities Conference for his essay, “Quantifying the Spiritual: Incorporating Subjective Spirituality in Biomedical Research.”

The editorial board members and I encourage active participation in *The Hilltop Review*'s future publications. We hope our graduate students take advantage of this opportunity and gain more experience while serving as authors, artists, reviewers, and editorial board members.

Zahra Ameli Renani