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Letter from the Editors

M. Andrew Bodinger
Western Michigan University

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The editors wish to thank Western Michigan University's Carl and Winifred Lee Honors College.

The mission of the Carl and Winifred Lee Honors College is to provide an exceptional undergraduate experience for high achieving students, to inspire in our graduates a thirst for the lifelong pursuit of creative inquiry and discovery, to provide our students with the skill and passion to address critical challenges, and to foster personal responsibility informed by a global perspective.

The Laureate's mission is to provide undergraduate students at Western Michigan University a place in which to publish their works of fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and other creative works. The Laureate strives to be a professional and engaging journal that appeals to all.

I am privileged to have been able to help form the 15th edition of *The Laureate*, and to be privy to the publication process of these talented authors and their impressive work. I was fortunate to see the seemingly disassociated mix of individual pieces turn into a cohesive whole. As the pages turn, the journal's lilt shifts as each piece contributes confidence and uncertainty, reminiscence and progress, contentedness and longing. The Laureate staff appreciates Western Michigan University's undergraduate student body's eagerness to share their work and to help compile this year's edition.

I have to thank the assistant editors, Nicholas Alti, Emily W. Recchia, and Mary Maroste for their invaluable contributions. Furthermore, thank you to the Design Center and Gwen Frostic School of Art for their expertise and contributions.

Similarly, thank you to the Lee Honors College faculty, Dr. Carla Koretsky, Jane Baas, and Jennifer Townsend, for lending their support.

For offering their expertise and time to enable *The Laureate* to continue to record authors to further improve the quality of our online journal, I would like to like to thank Western Sound Studios, particularly the director John Campos, Asha Fernanders and Joe Samyn for recording and editing, and also Alexander Tobin for offering his assistance and knowledge of the process from the previous edition to make this year's recording possible.

Thank you to Becky Cooper, for her guidance and attention to detail made this edition possible. Through this process, I have not only become a better editor, but also a better writer. Working with several parties, across a sizable student body, with multiple faculty, has taught me just how laborious and large scale the creation of such a body of literature is. It also taught me how rewarding it is. I hope you find reading these pieces to be rewarding, as well.

M. Andrew Bodinger
Editor in Chief

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & MISSION STATEMENT

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR