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Notes from the Editor

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The production of the Hilltop Review is a collaborative endeavor. Without the assistance and cooperation of numerous faculty and graduate students this issue of the Review would not have been possible. Back in October when I took over as editor of the Review, a call for papers was sent to all the chairs of the various departments. I thank all the chairs and graduate advisors who followed up on the Review's request to forward the call for papers to all their graduate students. Once the papers started coming in, the chairs of the departments were once again called upon. For each author, the chair of the graduate student's home department provided the names of one faculty member and one graduate student to serve as peer-reviewers. In some cases there was a need for extended communication between myself and the chairs in order to find suitable and willing peer-reviewers. The chair's contributions to this Review are greatly appreciated.

The work of the peer-reviewers cannot be applauded enough. I am grateful that the peer-reviewers were able to take time out of their busy schedules to review these papers and to do so with unconventionally short deadlines. Next, the editorial board is to be applauded for completing a number of tasks in a timely manner and always with the highest quality of work. The editorial board not only judged the various articles and pieces of artwork, they also provided important feedback to the authors themselves. The editorial board members also met short deadlines and provided impressive feedback that has translated in innumerable ways into this issue of the Review. In terms of institutional support, the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) provided all the funding through the Graduate Student Assessment Fee. The GSAC leadership team provided unfailing support and I duly thank Joel Luc Raveloharimisy, Michelle A. McWilliams, and Ochas Kashinge Pupwe for their efforts.

In this issue we have six outstanding articles. They come from various social and natural sciences. Every paper went through an extensive peer-review process. I have resisted the urge to make dramatic changes to the papers – I am a political scientist after all – and not an expert in all areas of academic endeavor.

This issue features articles from English, Political Science, Public Administration, History, Physics, and Mathematics Education. The Review's desire to be interdisciplinary has been achieved in practice to some degree. The Review encourages this eclecticism and looks forward to receiving more and more submissions from all areas of research at Western Michigan University. It may be that the call to be interdisciplinary rings hollow to some readers, but the Review is by definition an interdisciplinary journal of Western Michigan University graduate student research. In order to be an interdisciplinary journal in more than name only it is imperative that we receive more submissions from outside the social sciences and humanities. Only one article from the

natural sciences was submitted for this issue and we are happy to be able to publish it along with the other five articles from the social sciences and the humanities. In my experience, social scientists never tire of talking about and drawing examples from the natural sciences. This affection for using examples drawn from the natural sciences is evident in more than one authors' contribution to this issue. The Review wants natural scientists to submit their work for publication and even encourages them to talk back to the social sciences in their work.

This issue also features the artwork and digital photography of two different artists. The inclusion of artwork is an important aspect of the Review's image and we hope more and more graduate students will submit their artwork and photography in the future. As the reader can see, there is no requirement that one be pursuing a degree in the fine arts or aspire to be a professional artist in order to submit digital photography or artwork. The published submissions come from graduate students in the School of Social Work and the Department of English. We welcome the submissions from the more traditional areas of artistic training at WMU, but any graduate student's artwork and digital photography will be reviewed as a potential addition to the next issue of the Review.

Finally, a special thanks is in order to Brandon Bruce Dellario whose artwork has been featured in the past three issues of the Review. His "Michigan Ruby-Throated Hummingbird" has appeared in one form or another in the last three issues and his artwork has been used on the cover of the last three issues.