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## Editor's Note

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This issue of *The Laureate* marks the second year in the new millennium that creative writing by undergraduate students at Western Michigan University has a forum in which to be published. Last year, one of the most creative, talented, and courageous people I know, Jill Winkler, founded this journal and I had the good fortune of working with her on *The Laureate's* inaugural issue. I am honored that I was given the opportunity to keep Jill's vision for *The Laureate* alive by serving as managing editor for the 2002-2003 academic year.

*The Laureate* features a compilation of some of the finest undergraduate creative writing found within the WMU community. This year's issue includes (how many more pages/pieces than last year?) and it is my hope that in the future years *The Laureate* will continue to grow in the quantity and the quality of the work therein.

This journal is the direct result of the enthusiasm, commitment, and hard work that my great staff consistently demonstrated throughout the publishing process. I applaud not only the authors on their beautifully written poems and short stories and their willingness and desire to share their work with others, but also *The Laureate* staff who gave this project, and me, their all.

My staff and I greatly appreciate the generous support of the Lee Honors College—both financially and through the good counsel received from the deans and staff— that made the founding of *The Laureate* possible. We also thank the Design Center, Department of Art, especially Emilie Oswald, for the design and layout of the journal, and Margaret von Steinen, our graduate student advisor.

*The Laureate* is my most favorite project in my time here at Western. Everyone who has been a part of it, and everyone who will continue to be a part of it's future, must be congratulated. This edition of *The Laureate* is something I personally am very proud of, and I hope you are too. Enjoy!

Melissa A. Matlewski  
Editor-in-Chief