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Notes from the Editor

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Notes from the Editor

I am proud to present the spring 2015 issue of *The Hilltop Review*, containing scholarly articles that address the theme of “Changes in Culture and Technology,” creative work, art work, and, once again, the winners of the Graduate Humanities Conference.

Finding a theme for *The Hilltop Review* can be a challenge; any theme must be general enough that students from any field could contribute to it, but not so general as to not mean anything! When a member of my Editorial Board, Cameron J. Manche, suggested “Changes in Culture and Technology,” I knew we had found our theme for the Spring 2015 issue. This theme describes the work that many of our graduate students do: investigating, analyzing, or even causing significant changes in a people’s culture, an industrial process, modes of thinking, or a scientific theory, just to name a few. In this issue topics range from the effects of social media on hiring and others’ perception of us to a late medieval abbot’s conversion efforts and from potable water production in a city in Iraq to an anthropological study of the interaction of the behavioral adaptation process and the creation of art in the ancestors of the Inuit of the Canadian Central Arctic. And, of course, much more.

I am also glad to announce that we are renewing the tradition of publishing the work of the winners of the Graduate Humanities Conference, co-sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and the Graduate Student Association, in this issue. The mission of the Center for the Humanities is to “recognize and support the humanities at Western Michigan University,” and one way in which they do that is by hosting an annual conference to showcase the work of humanities graduate students on campus; as a project of the Graduate Student Association, *The Hilltop Review* also showcases this work by publishing the winner and runner-up of the conference each year. This issue features the work of the 2013 and 2014 winners and runners-up: Suzanne Ehst, Eric Mendes, Kyle Byron, and Eric Denby. Congratulations to these students!

Congratulations also to the winners of our own *Hilltop Review* awards! Brett A. Stoll will receive \$500 for First Place Paper with “The Effects of Humorous Facebook Posts on Messenger Credibility and Social Attractiveness”; Jennifer Marson will receive \$300 for Second Place Paper with “The History of Punishment: What Works for State Crime?”; and Michael Sanders and MaryKate K. Bodnar will split the \$150 prize for Third Place Paper with “Late Medieval Mediterranean Apocalypticism: Joachimist Ideas in Ramon Llull’s Crusade Treatises” and “Reproductive Genetics: Desired Genes, Gendered Ethics, and Eugenic Echoes” respectively. Justine McNulty will receive \$250 for Best Creative Work for “Narrow River, and, last but not least, Robert Evory will receive \$250 for Best Artwork for “Venice at Night.” His photograph is also featured on this issue’s cover. (All reviews and judging are double-blind; I do not take part in the judging process.)

A huge thank-you to all the graduate students who submitted their work to *The Hilltop Review*, and to the graduate students and faculty members who served as peer and faculty reviewers for each piece submitted. The double-blind reviewing process is a vital step in the publication process, and I greatly appreciate the effort and time of each of our reviewers. If you are interested in reviewing for *The Hilltop*, please contact me! The review process usually takes only 1-3 hours and it’s a great line on your CV.

What’s next? *The Hilltop Review* has always published fall and spring semester issues; there is a possibility that we could also start publishing a summer issue if there is enough interest and if we received enough submissions. If you are interested in a summer issue, keep your eyes open for a possible call for papers or for an email attempting to gauge interest. My preliminary thoughts are that *The Hilltop* could establish the tradition of a summer issue that deals with issues of teaching, which is, of course, an important issue for many of us as graduate students; many of us use the summer break to rework classes or plan curriculum for the fall. This is an appropriate time, then, to reflect on our experiences of teaching and our ideas for improving as teachers, and to feature those thoughts in *The Hilltop Review*. Again,

this would depend on interest and submission rates; if a summer issue does not seem possible this year, then definitely watch for a Call for Papers for the fall issue. The deadline for submissions for fall in any case will be September 30, 2015.

Please enjoy this issue of *The Hilltop Review*! I look forward to continuing to work with you all as graduate students and as authors for the next year.



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