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Notes from the Editor

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Notes from the Editor

Dear fellow graduate students and readers of *The Hilltop Review*,

I am proud to present the Spring 2016 issue of *The Hilltop Review*, my last as editor. In the fall, my successor, Zahra Ameli, will begin her tenure as editor. Zahra is from Iran, and came to the U.S. about two years ago, as she puts it, “to learn things and start my new journey here.” She has a Bachelors of Social Sciences-Research from the University of Tehran, Iran, and is in her second year of the Master’s program in Marriage, Couple, and Family Counseling in the Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology. During her undergraduate study, Zahra worked at the Cyberspace Policy Research Center at the University of Tehran and as a junior researcher. At WMU, she works in the International Student Activities Office as an Outreach Coordinator/Intern, which she very much enjoys. In her free time, Zahra loves to exercise and play sports, mostly indoor soccer/futsal, and to spend time with her husband, family, and friends. Zahra has an impressive background of leadership experience which will serve her well as director and editor of *The Hilltop Review*, and I look forward to two more successful years of the journal. Zahra can now also be reached at the Hilltop Editor email: gsa_hilltop@wmich.edu

I have many thanks and congratulations to extend! First, a big thanks to the Graduate Student Association, its E-Board, and of course, all of the graduate students who have submitted to and acted as peer reviewers for *The Hilltop Review* over the last two years. This is a student-run endeavor, and we could not have published these four issues without all of you! I encourage all WMU graduate students to find out more about the GSA and to get involved with their work and advocacy. Thank you to Maira Bundza, Interim Head of Research and Instruction Services, ScholarWorks Librarian, and Associate Professor of University Libraries, who trained me on ScholarWorks and was a terrific resource for *The Hilltop* and our migration to wholesale use of ScholarWorks for submission, review, and hosting of the journal. Thank you to my Editorial Board, some of whom will be returning next year and some of whom are leaving for bigger and better things: Joshua Berkenpas (now Dr. Berkenpas, Political Science!), Roland Black (MA, Medieval Studies), Cameron Manche, Jill Mceldowney, Hannah Pankratz, and Carolyn Ray. Congratulations to Roland and Josh! Next year we will welcome some new editorial board members, and I will be serving on the Editorial Board for the next two years, as retiring editor—a tradition which I hope will continue, when possible.

Now, to congratulate this issue’s award winners! The winners of our Best Paper awards are: receiving a \$500 prize for First Place, Caleb Molstad, who is also graduating this spring with an MA in Medieval Studies, for “Philosophical Romance: Figures of Venus in ‘The Knight’s Tale’”; receiving a \$250 prize for Second Place, Joshua Berkenpas (full disclosure: the Editorial Board ranks articles to determine the winners, but Josh did not take part in this round of article ranking), for “When War is Peace: Peacebuilding in an Era of Warfare”; receiving a \$150 prize for Third Place, Erin Lynch, from the Medieval Institute, for “Killing the Rotten Citric Lump: A Somatic Reading of the Death Of Shahrazād’s Hunchback”; receiving a \$250 prize for Best Creative Work, Rob Evory, Department of English, for “The Spaces Between”; and receiving a \$250 prize and the placement of her artwork on the cover for Best Artwork, Ariel Berry, Department of English, for “The Future is Fire.” We are once again featuring the work of the winners of the 2016 Graduate Humanities Conference, which can be found at the end of the issue: congratulations to Zachary Smith, winner of the conference, for “More Than One Way to Measure: Masculinity in Zurkhaneh of Safavid Iran” and to Joel Sanford, runner-up, for “Facing Our Demons: Psychiatric Perspectives on Exorcism Rituals.”

Please keep an eye on your inboxes over the summer for updates and announcements about the fall 2016 issue of *The Hilltop Review*, as Zahra starts her tenure as editor and learns the ropes. She will take over from me after the publication of this spring 2016 issue, and I

wish her all the best with her four forthcoming issues. Thank you all for a wonderful two years of *The Hilltop Review*, and I look forward to reading your future work—and maybe to finally submitting something myself!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RS', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Rebecca Straple
Director and Editor, *The Hilltop Review*
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