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Notes from the Editor

Zahra Ameli Renani

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Notes from the Editor

Dear graduate Hilltoppers¹ and readers of *The Hilltop Review*,

I am deeply honored to serve Western graduate students as the new editor of *The Hilltop Review* and I am pleased to share with you that this is the 10th year in which the journal has published an issue. The editorial board members and I are proud to offer the opportunity to WMU graduate students to get involved by submitting papers and artworks for publication. We also welcome new members who are enthusiastic about reviewing and editing submissions for our spring 2017 issue.

To be honest, I would not have been able to get this job done if I had not had the help and assistance of many around me. First of all, I would like to wholeheartedly thank my father, Ahmadreza Ameli, who has persistently motivated me to be courageous and passionately accept the challenge of serving *The Hilltop Review* as an international student. Furthermore, I would like to express my deep gratitude for Maira Bundza, Interim Head of Research and Instruction Services, ScholarWorks Librarian, and Associate Professor of University Libraries as well as Rebecca Straple, Ph.D. student in English Literature, who formerly served *The Hilltop journal* as the director and editor. Maira and Rebecca have been generously and patiently assisting me in learning about the significant responsibilities of the editor of this journal. My next special thank goes to Damon Chambers and Amaury Pineda, the president and vice-president of the WMU Graduate Student Association, for their heartwarming support and encouragement since I started this job. Additionally, I would like to warmly thank the hardworking and committed editorial board members: Rebecca Straple, Erin S. Lynch, Hannah G. Pankratz, Caroline M. Ray, Seán Patrick Geizer, Sita Karki, and McKenna N. Corlis. I also appreciate Amy Sailer and Jhosua Rodriguez for taking care of the copy-editing and formatting jobs of the current issue. Lastly, I am thankful to all the graduate students who have been involved in our fall 2016 issue either as submitters or reviewers.

Due to the general theme we have agreed upon for the current issue, our journal is featuring articles and artworks from different fields. I am glad to congratulate the winners of the fall 2016 issue of *The Hilltop Review* Awards: Scott A. Lemons will receive \$500 in first place paper for “The International Business Risk of Terrorism: A Pragmatic Framework for Assessing its Impact on the U.S.-Based, Small- to Medium-Sized Enterprise’s Supply Chain Operations”; Daniel J. Patten will receive \$250 in second place paper for “The Uncatchable Crook: Pursuing Effective State Crime Control”; Keli Masten will receive \$150 in third place paper for “Hawthorne’s American Gothic: A Blackness Ten Times Black”; and Raed M. Salih will receive \$250 and the placement of his artwork on the cover for the best artwork entitled “Hilltop”.

I look forward to receiving your papers, artworks, and creative writing submissions, as well as applications for reviewing your peers’ works for the spring 2017 issue. I would like you to know that your contribution will be of great assistance in reaching our goals and in taking the Hilltop to new heights.

Zahra Ameli Renani

Director and Editor, *The Hilltop Review*

zahra.amelirenani@wmich.edu / gsa-hilltop@wmich.edu



1. WMU’s athletic teams initially went by the nickname “**Hilltoppers**,” reflecting the institution’s original Prospect Hill campus. The moniker often led to confusion with other schools that had a similar nickname and became outdated when the University expanded beyond its hilltop confines. The nickname “Hilltoppers” was resurrected in 2001 to identify a new volunteer group that is clearing and cleaning up Prospect Hill.