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## Editor's Note

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The culmination of works that make up this thirteenth edition of *The Laureate* exhibit a variety of talents found within the undergraduate student body at Western Michigan University. Though different in form, technique, tone, and theme, these pieces have come together to form an outstanding collection of creative work. Within these pages you will find that each piece has a voice of its own. Together, they form an assembly in poetic harmony. The strength and beauty found in each individual piece adds to the collective whole. I thank each and every student who submitted their work for their willingness to share their creative endeavors with us.

This publication could not be made possible without contributions from the student body, support from the Lee Honors College, contributions from the Zhang family, and the team of students and faculty who worked diligently to put the final product together. My thanks extend to the Design Center and Gwen Frostic School of Art, as well for their contributions to *The Laureate*. We would have no publication to share without the sharpened skills and talents of Nick Kuder, Cameron Gregory, and Paul Sizer. I would also like to thank the editorial board for all of their hard work. Emily Recchia, Samantha Edwards, Elyse Hogan and Katelyn Orsini helped to bring this collection together with their love for literature and dedication to the publication. The faculty of the Lee Honors College is also thanked for their contributions to *The Laureate*. I want to thank Dr. Carla Koretsky, Jane Baas, and Becky De Oliveira for their unwavering support. Great thanks extend to Becky Cooper as well, not only for her undying dedication to the project, but also for her personal and heartfelt investment in the students who have worked so hard to produce *The Laureate*.

The opportunity to serve as Editor-in-Chief for the thirteenth edition of the *The Laureate* has been an honor and a privilege. I encourage you to get lost in the pages, to find your own voice echoing among the choir of students' work, and to share this publication with those around you. Working on *The Laureate* has taught me that collaboration and community are vital to the world of art, poetry, and literature. With peers to share with, mentors to learn from, neighbors to build with, brothers and sisters to support and encourage, our passion and creative works can create a world of their own. I invite you to join us in this world, and welcome others along the way.

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Nicole J. Burchette