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Notes from the Editor

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Dear readers,

I am excited to present the fall 2018 issue of *The Hilltop Review*, which showcases the excellent research and creative work of graduate students at Western Michigan University. This issue contains a wide array of topics—from introversion to self-defense to religion’s influence on sexual affect—that reflect the diverse interests and projects of our academic community. *The Hilltop Review* aims not only to provide a platform for these projects, but to bring them into conversation with the work of graduate students across the University and beyond. Accomplishing this mission is not possible without strong submissions and attentive readers, and it is my hope that the *Hilltop* continues to find both in the future.

The *Hilltop* offers several monetary awards in recognition of graduate student achievement. Congratulations to the winners of this issue’s awards! Ryan P. Castillo will receive \$500 for the paper “There’s No ‘Me’ in ‘Imgur’: Applying SIDE Theory and Content Analysis to Viral Posts on Imgur.com;” Kirsten Welch will receive \$250 for the paper “An Application of Risk Analysis to the Doctrine of Self-Defense;” and Brody Van Roekel will receive \$150 for “The Christianization of Judith: Considering the Hieronymian Translation of *Liber Iudith* and Jerome’s Christianizing Agenda.” For creative work, Elizabeth R. Johnson will receive \$250 for the photograph “Filter” and Steven J. Maloney will receive \$250 for the poem “Autumn.”

Throughout my first semester as the director and editor of the *Hilltop*, I have been fortunate to work alongside fellow students, faculty, and staff whose diligence and wisdom shaped the following issue. First, I would like to thank former editors Zahra Ameli Renani and Damon D. Chambers, along with GSA President Amaury Pineda, for helping me transition into this position. I am also grateful for the authors and artists who submitted their work, as well as the cast of peer reviewers who worked intently to secure outstanding research and creative work for publication. Special thanks to this issue’s Editorial Board: Andrew Bassford; Aneudy Mota Catalino; Damon D. Chambers; Diana Charnley; Alisa Heskin; and Marilyn Markel. Your prompt and insightful feedback was invaluable. Finally, I would like to thank Maira Bundza, our ScholarWorks Librarian, for assisting with our online publication and Dr. Charlie Kurth for his guidance in navigating the life of a journal.

I look forward to working with authors and reviewers as we prepare for the spring issue of the *Hilltop*. The deadline to submit work or apply for the position of peer reviewer is February 3rd. Please email me at gsa-hilltop@wmich.edu with any questions about the submission or peer review process. Thank you for your interest and enjoy this issue.

Sincerely,

Adam Waggoner
Director and Editor, *The Hilltop Review*