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## Editor's Note

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## Editor's Note

This year marks *The Laureate's* tenth anniversary. As Western Michigan University's only undergraduate literary journal, *The Laureate* provides the phenomenal opportunities for Western's most talented writers and artists to showcase their work. While we began as a journal for written work, we have since expanded to include several forms of visual art, including photography.

Furthermore, the production of *The Laureate* itself is a work of art. The editing process is taken over by students. My four assistants and I, all undergraduates, were responsible for gathering, choosing, and editing all submissions. The design stage of *The Laureate* is also done by students under Paul Sizer at the Gwen Frostic School of Art. In this way, *The Laureate* very much becomes a concrete symbol of student expression.

This year has been about pushing boundaries. Trying to find new ways to reach students, we added a new element to the mix: our own website. When technological networking is such an integral part of our generation, the ability to reach students through the internet is a hugely important facet of our promotion phase.

It has been an honor to work with so many talented people. From my advisors, assistants, authors, instructors who helped spread our message, and designers—all of these people served an important role in the production of *The Laureate*. I want to extend a special thanks to Lee Honors College, The Design Center at the Frostic School of Art, and Western Michigan for supporting this project. Most importantly, I would like to thank Becky Cooper for choosing me to run the project, for answering my questions, and for her enthusiasm.

I also want to thank my assistants for their dedication. We spent many long hours together, making hard choices, laughing together, and putting our entire selves into this journal.

Without further adieu, I am happy to present the 2011 edition of *The Laureate*. This year we received submissions from multiple genres—from poetry, to short and long fiction, to non-fiction, to plays, to photography. I hope you will find some surprises in here. I hope you will find laughter in here. We strive for excellence at *The Laureate*, but we also strive for self-expression. As you turn the pages, I hope you enjoy what we have selected.

Kara Anne Pauley  
Editor-in-Chief