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Notes from the Editor

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Notes from the Editor

Dear readers,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Fall 2019 issue of *The Hilltop Review*. This journal is meant to reflect the mission of the GSA as a body striving to be a unified interdisciplinary group of graduate students, as well as showcase some of the very best articles, creative writing, and artwork that students at Western Michigan University are capable of. I am happy to say that this issue is no exception and I am proud of the work presented in the first issue I have published as editor and director. I am also very excited to announce the winners of the various awards that are offered to our writers. Sydney N. Sheltz-Kempf will receive \$500 for the paper “Strategies to Restore Hearing;” Claire Herhold will receive \$250 for the paper “A Village Comes to Life: The Interpretation of Henry Ford’s Greenfield Village;” and K.L. Schultz will receive \$150 for the paper “Wildlife Emotions: Animal Rights as Examined Through a Cognitivist Lens.” For creative work Elizabeth V. Netcher will receive \$250 for the painting “Emerging Dots” and Mark C. Joslin will receive \$250 for the short story “The Work of the World.”

To some, the idea of an interdisciplinary academic journal is a curious thing. As graduate students we are often so engrossed in our specialized areas of study, that we do not have time to acknowledge and appreciate the academic work done in other fields. But this is precisely why a journal like *The Hilltop Review* is so valuable. Interdisciplinary journals at their best remind us of the unity of the intellectual pursuit. Although as academics our aims are expressed in extraordinarily different ways, we all enter the rigors of graduate school because we are united in the hope to know more and share our knowledge with others. This camaraderie is the glue that holds the Graduate Student Association together and gives power to us as Western Michigan University graduate students.

I have learned a lot in my first semester as acting editor and director of this journal, and there are many people I have to thank. First, I would like to thank the president of the GSA, Craig Morris, for his unwavering support as head of the executive board and his willingness to help with the journal whenever there is a need. I am also incredibly grateful for the help offered by editorial board member and copy editor of this issue, C.J. Oswald, who never fails to impress with his eye for detail and the rigor of his work. A special acknowledgement must be given to the former editor and director of this journal, Adam Waggoner, who not only proved invaluable in helping with my transition into this position, but also proved invaluable as a friend. Finally, I am thankful to the 2019-2020 Graduate Student Association executive board for their continued support of *The Hilltop Review* and its mission.

Sincerely,

Alexander Lothar Hoffmann