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Editor's Note

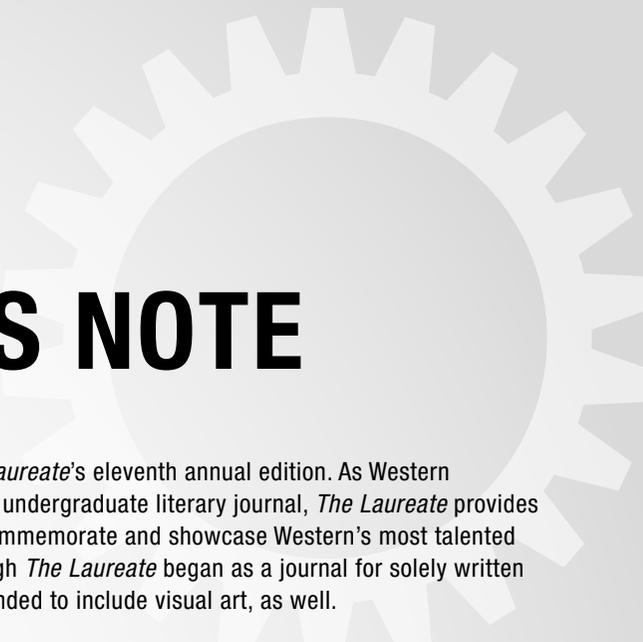
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EDITOR'S NOTE

This year marks *The Laureate's* eleventh annual edition. As Western Michigan University's only undergraduate literary journal, *The Laureate* provides a unique opportunity to commemorate and showcase Western's most talented writers and artists. Although *The Laureate* began as a journal for solely written work, we have since expanded to include visual art, as well.

The Laureate is a work of student expression both in content and process, given that students hold the reins in regard to both editing and design. Myself and three editing assistants, all undergraduates, were responsible for culling and editing all submissions, while the publication's design was created by a team of students led by Paul Sizer at the Gwen Frostic School of Art. *The Laureate* is a testament to the creativity and skill of Western's students. Still, this journal could never have come to be without the dedication of those who have supported us. First and foremost, I would like to thank Becky Cooper for providing her much-needed expertise and enthusiasm throughout this long process. I also want to extend a special thanks to Lee Honors College, The Design Center at the Frostic School of Art, and Western Michigan University for their support of this project. Without the advisors, assistants, authors, and instructors who guided us and helped to spread our message, *The Laureate* would not be possible.

The 2012 edition of *The Laureate* is as diverse and kaleidoscopic as Western's students themselves, with pieces from many genres and many perspectives. The pieces here-in run the gamut from devastating to hilarious, but that's not to say that this collection is discordant. As you turn the pages, I invite you to take note of how these widely varied works fit together. I think you'll find that Western's students have a great deal to say about their place in the world, their views on adulthood, and their adoration of East Hall.

Without any further ado, I am happy to present the 2012 edition of *The Laureate*. I hope you'll love it as much I do.

Bridget G. Dooley
Editor-in-Chief