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## Notes from the Editor

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## Notes from the Editor

Dear readers,

I am pleased to present you with the Spring 2021 – 2022 issue of *The Hilltop Review Journal*. As an interdisciplinary journal, *The Hilltop Review* provides a venue for sharing scholarly and creative work of graduate students at Western Michigan University. Over two years ago the COVID-19 virus outbreaks caused global pandemic affected most sectors including education. As a result, the university rapidly converted into online formats. Although the pandemic is not over yet, we are moving on a better situation. Starting from Fall 2021, the university transitioned into in person formats bringing hopes to be back to the ‘new normal’. This is a great opportunity for graduate students across disciplines to continue working on any delayed activities and publishing their work.

The Director and Editor of *The Hilltop Review Journal* position have enriched my experiences in managing publication process, which requests masses of efforts and collaborations from the editor, the authors, and the reviewers. I would like to thank to the Spring 2021 – 2022 Executive Board of the Graduate Student Association for their supports and assistance throughout the academic year. My special thank you to the GSA president, Ophelia Cheng and GSA Vice President, Jill Braman for their invaluable guidance throughout this term. I am also thankful for additional insights on manuscripts that the 2021 – 2022 Editorial Board members have provided. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who served as peer reviewers for this issue. We would not be possible to publish the graduate students’ works without their voluntary commitment to the success of the journal’s publication.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate to the winners of the various awards that are offered to our writers. Xiaolong Wang will receive \$500 for the paper “The Moral Significance of Empathy: A Scottish Sentimentalist Perspective,” Jacob C. Riccioni will receive \$250 for the paper “Black (Muslim) Lives Matter: African American Muslim Social Activism,” Maria Isabel Lozano Becerro will receive \$150 for the paper “La figura de la mujer en El burlador de Sevilla.” For the creative work, Stephanie Leaver will receive \$250 for her photograph “Bumblebee on Pink Milkweed,” Lauren Coyne will receive \$250 for a the story of “How To Make Cemetery Tea,” and Stephanie A. Kurzenhauser will receive \$250 for the poem “784 Grams.”

Sincerely,

Listiani