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Letter from the Editors

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

The 14th edition of *The Laureate* is comprised of works that demonstrate the diverse talent of the undergraduate body of Western Michigan University. The various pieces of artwork, fiction, photography, and poetry found in this journal capture the creative essence of the university in the idea that it takes an assortment of differing components to make one harmonious unit. We received a plethora of eloquent, innovative, and ingenious submissions this year that made the selection of works for this edition both challenging and enjoyable. We thoroughly appreciate the eagerness and willingness of undergraduate students to share their work.

This journal would not be possible without the constant support of the Lee Honors College or the tireless efforts of the students and faculty who worked on this project. Thank you to the Design Center and Gwen Frostic School of Art for their contributions and especially to Nick Kuder, Paul Sizer, Trevor Hissong and Andy Zvonek for their diligent work. We would also like to thank the editorial board for their help in promoting, selecting, and editing various pieces for this edition. Emily Recchia, Adrianna Robinson, and Kimberly Smith were a crucial resource throughout this process.

This year, *The Laureate* got to expand its possibilities and deepen the reader's experience through the addition of audio recordings online. This feat would never have been possible without the help of the WMU Sound Studios, especially John Campos and Alexander Tobin. Alex spent an extraordinary amount of time recording and editing our authors reading their pieces. This allows our readers the rare experience of hearing a work read the way the author intends it to be. We are incredibly thankful to be a part of this expansion and hope that it will continue to be a part of *The Laureate* down the line.

The faculty of the Lee Honors College also proved an amazing resource and we are so thankful for Dr. Carla Koretsky, Jane Baas, and Jennifer Townsend for their unending support. Our gratitude for Becky Cooper cannot be expressed enough. She has been an incredible mentor throughout this process. *The Laureate* would not be the respectable scholarly journal that it is without her constant enthusiasm and dedication for not only the project itself, but the students behind it. Her advice and guidance is invaluable to us as English majors pursuing careers in the publishing field and it has been an honor to work with her.

Our time as Co-Editors-in-Chief of the 14th edition of *The Laureate* has been one of the most valuable experiences in our English education. It has taught us the true processes that go behind the scenes to develop a literary publication, the amount of effort editors put into a published piece, as well as the degree to which authors and editors collaborate to strengthen and polish a piece into a meaningful literary work. It is an experience that will stay with us throughout our future endeavors. We now invite you to enjoy the work that is the 14th edition of *The Laureate*.

DJ DeLong & Samantha McVeigh
Co-Editors-in-Chief