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Letter From the Editor

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Letter From the Editor

I would never call myself an author or an artist. A student who writes, perhaps, or a hobbyist, but never an author or an artist. I truly hope that the students included in this journal might bravely consider their own accomplishments, and allow themselves to bear those titles of author and artist. Included in this edition of *The Laureate* are some of the most brilliant pieces of student work that I have ever had the chance to see. These artists were gracious and patient throughout the editing and revision process, and I hope that they can be as proud of themselves as I am for their achievement.

This edition of *The Laureate* is brutally personal and human. The artists wear their hearts on their sleeves and aren't afraid to speak about themselves, their lives, or their passions. They inspired me to truly take up my role as editor-in-chief and to show my heart through the journal too. Every single person who worked on this journal has left a part of themselves with it. I hope to now be able to share these small pieces of myself while I thank those who left theirs first.

First, to God. I wouldn't be anywhere without your constant provision in my life. I'm not afraid to say that I love you. Thank you for this opportunity to show my fellow students the gifts that you've given me.

Second, to my wonderful mentor and captain of this ship, Becky Cooper. You are wise and patient. You made every step of this process an easy one. You are so encouraging. You've challenged me to grow and you've helped me to be decisive. Thank you for trusting me with this job. Likewise—to our incredible editorial eye, Jennifer Townsend—thank you for your decisive nature and quick wit. You are an integral part of this process and team. Thank you for helping me coordinate creative events and for being my touchpoint for all things administrative. Thank you for continuing to be a mentor to me.

Thank you to the Lee Honors College for supporting student creativity, for Dean Irma López and Assistant Dean Anthony Helms for their excitement for the project, and for allowing us to so consistently use the honors college for events and meetings.

I'd also like to thank my amazing assistant editors and social-media runners, Val Cusumano and Rachael Hogan. I'm so glad that I got to know you both, and I have really appreciated your input and help during the toughest parts of this process. I hope you continue to pursue your own creative goals and return to editorial work again! You both have the knack for it.

My last "thank you" goes to the wonderful students and faculty of the design team: to Paul Sizer for being willing to jump through so many hoops with us and for his direction of the project and the team—and to the artists themselves, Ava Curran, Audrey Dobbs, and Teal Szymchack. Thank you all for your creativity and for coming up with such visually striking ideas. *The Laureate* would not be the same without you.

Finally, to the readers of this journal, I hope you allow yourself to go on the journey that the artists included have presented you with. I hope you allow yourself to connect with each and every one of them—to see their heart and appreciate their talent. They are all incredible individuals. I, for one, cannot wait to see where they go next.

BELLA LOE PROULX
Editor-in-Chief

A large, elegant, handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Bella Loe Proulx". The signature is written in a cursive style with long, sweeping lines and a prominent flourish at the end.