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Editor's Note

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This year commemorates the twelfth year of The Laureate’s presence at Western Michigan University. The Laureate exclusively publishes undergraduate pieces and is the only of its kind on campus. Eclectic and innovative in nature, the journal seeks to give Western’s most gifted writers and artists an opportunity to exhibit their work professionally.

In this year’s Laureate, the collective consciousness of Western’s talent shines through via the selected works. In the commencement of the editing process, it was evident that many of the written and artistic works were speaking to each other. The celestial design theme serves to compliment the dreamy, space-like flow of the students’ work. The contributors to the content are composed of cosmonauts drifting through the human experience seeking to share their journeys with an audience in search of universality.

The Laureate staff acted as ground control, harvesting and organizing the creative energy of Western’s ingenious cast. Myself and my three ambitious editing assistants: Tom Smith, Megan Schwark, and Allison Lee, were accountable for the gleaning, editing, and arrangement of the submitted works. Two design students, Derek Anaeme and Erika Jensen, led by Chris Fox and Paul Sizer at the Gwen Frostic School of Art, were responsible for conceiving the design. The Laureate’s purpose is to showcase the mastery of written and visual art among undergraduate students, but this journal wouldn’t be possible without the support from the extended staff. First, much thanks to faculty editor Becky Cooper for her keen eye for editing and her unceasing exhilaration for this project.
Also, I thank Dr. Andreadis, dean of The Lee Honors College for his much-appreciated insight. I would also like to extend a thanks to Western Michigan University, The Lee Honors College, The Design Center at the Frostic School of Art, and the LHC External Advisory Board, for without them, *The Laureate* would be no more than a yawning void.

Finally, I dedicate this year’s *Laureate* to its authors, its staff, to the creative instructors of Western, to Kalamazoo, and to Muse herself. Without further hesitation, I eagerly present to you the 2013 edition of *The Laureate*. I hope that it finds a home in your heart as it has in mine.

*Andrea Walker*
Editor-in-Chief