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Letter from Editor

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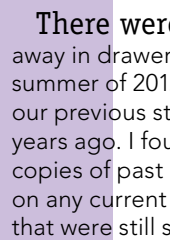
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There were Anthologies stacked high on shelves and hidden away in drawers when I moved into my office in Student Publications over the summer of 2012. I was initially awed by the various fragments that had survived our previous staff members' exodus from the basement of Bancroft several years ago. I found old pieces of artwork that had been forgotten on the shelf, copies of past issues of the magazine on floppy disks (that couldn't be opened on any current computer), and the résumés of previous editorial applicants that were still stored in my desk. But what affected me the most was finding all of those old issues of the magazine— some of which dated back to 1985 and some of which still had close to a hundred copies left — that were stuffed away haphazardly throughout the publications office.

From the beginning, I felt a connection with what The Anthology had done over the years, and as our staff began discussing where we wanted to take this year's issue, we decided to honor both the old and the new. From a design perspective this meant retaining the classic "literary magazine" approach while presenting a bold "visual arts" influence, synthesizing the "retro" with the modern. From an editorial perspective, we wanted to honor one of Winthrop's oldest publications while pushing its potential even further.

In a large way, our goal of blending the old and the new was embodied by our staff this year. While many of us were returning staff members, we weren't interested in merely duplicating the work we did last year. Working together with our new members, we established a common goal and sought to expand the vision of the magazine. It has been my great pleasure to work with my fellow editors on this project. To say that they are a talented bunch is an understatement; our staff this year was comprised of true artists — they possessed as much ability for thoughtful critical evaluation as they did for creative invention, and they cared deeply about the representation of the arts in this magazine.

As we began receiving submissions this year, I knew that we would have one of our best issues yet. The total volume of work submitted was impressive, and it made our job of deciding what to publish pleasantly challenging. Obviously, there is a large percentage of student work that could not be published here, but that is not to say it was "un-publishable." Instead, consider that the pieces selected for this year are the very best of the best...of the best.

And so with the publication of this year's issue, the story does not end here. Yes, the issue has been printed, bound, and copies of it have now been added to the stacks on my office shelves, but creation is an ever-starting process. It is our hope that the Winthrop writers and artists represented here (and those who exist outside of these pages) will continue their endeavors in the creation of the arts. Yet, our hope is also for you, the reader of this magazine: may this Anthology refuse to stay closed and collect dust on your shelf; may it be shared, borrowed, or given as a gift; may the creative work of Winthrop University inspire you for many years to come.

— Alex Muller
& the Anthology Staff 2013