

FOREWORD

In the 2011 edition of *LandEscapes Literary and Arts Journal*, you will find what amounts to a cross section of students' affinities and aversions, desires and concerns—interests presented through the products of their talent as authors, poets and artists. Just as each piece of work should be considered independently, connections can be drawn between the creative voices represented on every page.

This year, we received more than 550 submissions from around 250 people, more than twice as many submissions from twice as many submitters as any previous year. As the journal took shape, I began to recognize interplay within and among content genres. While browsing this edition, you may learn that Washington State University students are inspired by local scenery and landscapes they experience through travel. They are intrigued by the intricacy of natural and developed settings and the decay of these settings. They are affected by encounters with family, peers and fellow virtuosos, by moments of joy and grief. They are spiritual, intellectual, sexual and delightfully comedic. They are invested in global affairs, in conflict in the Middle East, and they are somewhat uneasy about life after college. I challenge you to relate to them by reading this journal. That is why *LandEscapes* exists: to celebrate student ability and culture in this time and place.

I want to take this opportunity to appreciate the members of *LandEscapes*' staff, and in doing so, highlight what they have accomplished this year.

Many thanks to web editor Drew Pankow, who single-handedly reconstructed *LandEscapes*' website in less than a month, and continues to update the site at *LandEscapes.wsu.edu*. His skill is evident in the overall professionalism, user-friendly layout and creative aesthetic of the website, which now features an audio player and a blog space.

Special thanks go to marketing director Simone Quesnell, who deserves credit for website images and staff photos. She is not only a talented photographer but also an advertising guru who networked with media, faculty and student groups to increase *LandEscapes*' involvement and visibility on campus. Her commitment to soliciting submissions on a personal level is astounding, as is her time spent hanging posters to advertise journal events and Visiting Writer Series readings. It is largely because of Simone's efforts that our submission numbers more than doubled this year.

I want to thank fiction editors Jillian Clark and Angela Sams for their patience while reviewing an influx of fiction submissions, many of which exceeded a length of twenty pages. Nonfiction editors Jenn Kiehne and Maddie Starkovich also deserve recognition for cultivating a relatively new section of the journal. Another big thank you goes out to poetry editors Zach Hightower, Molly Jones and Tori Whittall, who handled our largest genre of written submissions. The prose and poetry published here is a testament to the critical abilities of all seven editors.

Creston White, our music editor, should be commended for the selection of music accessible on our website, a collection that explores the work of some of Pullman's most promising musicians. Because of Creston's technical expertise, *LandEscapes* successfully acquired and operated sound equipment for this year's Open Mic event.

I am grateful to art editors Lauren Becker, Dustin Hall and Claire Walsh for their artistic judgment, design know-how and incredible talent. Lauren re-photographed pieces for publication, Claire designed the website background, and Dustin drafted the journal's cover and font set. Collectively, they created advertising paraphernalia, reviewed hundreds of submissions and determined the presentation of images in the journal. This year, they have fortified *LandEscapes* as a journal of art as well as literature.

On behalf of the *LandEscapes* staff, I would like to thank Peter Chilson, Annette Bednar, Chris Arigo, Jacqueline Lyons, Jean Taylor and the staff at University Publishing, Bonnie Scoles and the S&A Fee Committee, Department of English Chair George Kennedy and the Jerard Fund, all the supportive staff and faculty in the Department of English and the Department of Fine Arts, and most importantly the artists, musicians and writers who submitted to the journal. Great talent exists at Washington State University and throughout the Pullman community. Please continue to regard *LandEscapes* as a forum through which you can share your work.

All the best,

laine y guddat
editor in chief, 2011



Creston White and Lauren Becker not pictured.