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Editor's Statement

Abby Stocker
Bethel University, a-stocker@bethel.edu

Leah Patton
Bethel University, lep65377@bethel.edu

Brad Cox
Bethel University, brc79258@bethel.edu

Jacob Manning
Bethel University, j-manning@bethel.edu

Roberta Fultz
Bethel University, raf23773@bethel.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Editor's Statement

Authors

Abby Stocker, Leah Patton, Brad Cox, Jacob Manning, Roberta Fultz, Jared Hedges, and Stacie Lewis

Editor's Note

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Bethel University *Colloquy*!

The word colloquy means “conversation” in Latin, a root word that also gave us the perhaps more familiar “colloquium.” At its root, a colloquy, that which takes place at a colloquium, is a formal discussion, a talking together, a collaboration of minds in pursuit of new ideas and knowledge. A form of discourse that, hopefully, challenges all involved and encourages participants to both strive for greater excellence in their own ideas as well as celebrating the greater fruit that can result from the interaction of different ideas, perspectives, and disciplines.

The *Colloquy* was born out of a desire to foster such discussion on an academic level among undergraduate students at Bethel University. This past February, five Bethel English majors (including *Colloquy* editors Roberta Fultz and Abby Stocker and authors Linnea White and Sara Ellingsworth) attended a literary conference at Taylor University that featured undergraduate literary academic and creative work. They found the interaction of ideas and people at the conference to be inspiring as well as flat-out interesting. Upon returning to Bethel, and encouraged by the presence of the English Department's other publications, the *Coeval* and *The Clarion*, a group of English majors approached their professors to see if starting a student-run academic journal might be possible. The English professors were enthusiastic about the students' desire to encourage a stronger undergraduate academic climate on campus, and the Bethel University *Colloquy* was born.

Though the first *Colloquy* editorial team is entirely comprised of English majors for reasons stated above, we quickly decided that the journal's scope should stretch beyond just the English department, instead furthering interdisciplinary academic dialogue. Though Bethel scholars study in different disciplines, under the auspices of diverse departments with specific goals, our ideas are ultimately strengthened when we converse across disciplines, sharing our varying expertise and perspectives in order to strive for a greater understanding of truth. Such collaboration and study must be glorifying to God, to have creation studied in such detail and with such attention, while stimulating community among those who similarly want to strive for deeper knowledge, arriving at greater humility as we become ever more aware of how simultaneously ingenious and limited we humans are.

It is our belief that academics, whether primarily original thought or primarily research-based, can be deeply creative work, and as such should be affirmed as expressions of God-given ability. We at Bethel often celebrate our students' other talents—athletic, artistic, literary, etc.—but we don't always recognize our academic work as what it, at a certain level, is: scholarship. The relevance and importance of our school work does not have to be confined to the classroom, but rather can stretch us to grow both as scholars and as people and challenging us to engage the world at large more deeply if we let it.

We challenge the Bethel student body to view classes and homework as more than just hoops to jump through to a college degree, but rather as scholarship that is our best attempt to manifest our curiosity and ability to learn. Of course we all (the editors included) are only human; this isn't to say that we expect every class to be perpetually inspiring at every moment. Rather, we challenge our peers to keep the bigger picture in mind. The *Colloquy* exists to provide a home for undergraduate academic discourse and celebrate scholarship both among students and teachers of the Bethel community.

Upon reviewing many excellent submissions, the *Colloquy* editing staff and faculty review team have selected seven exceptional essays for publication in this spring 2013 issue, [Re/De]Generation. In keeping with *Colloquy's* mission of hosting discourse from diverse perspectives, this issue includes work from multiple different academic disciplines, including communication studies, English literature, mathematics, and Biblical and theological studies. After clearing our editors' initial round of reviews, the seven papers in our first issue were reviewed and recommended for publication by two faculty or TA reviewers from their disciplines. We congratulate these authors for their achievement.

Regardless of the authors' areas of study, we asked that submitted papers be related to the broad theme of [Re/De]Generation. Whether through deconstructing romantic relationships, explaining the history of a biblical passage, or optimizing an equation for baking the perfect brownies, all submissions are uniquely connected to this theme of creation and exploration. We welcome you to experience the discourse found in these pages.

We are grateful to our reviewers, for their willingness to share their expertise and for their quality reviews completed on a short time frame during a busy time of the semester; to the English Department, for their enthusiasm, individual support, and the financial means to turn an idea into the journal you hold in your hands; to Mark Bruce, our faculty advisor, for answering a hundred specific questions, offering to lend his name to our proceedings when we needed an official signature to make things happen, and for the advice to "apologize later"; to Kent Gerber, David Stewart, Carole Cragg, Rhonda Gilbraith, and the Bethel University Library for their general enthusiasm, for connecting us with the Library Research Prize applicants, and for approaching us about partnering with the Digital Library; to Linnea White, for her sunny disposition, InDesign expertise, and her willingness to share both with our staff; to Roberta Fultz for the classy design and the many late-night cups of coffee she consumed in designing the *Colloquy* for press; to Jonathan Westmark and *The Clarion* for increasing our visibility through their article; to Bethel University Print Services for working within the compact time frame we placed on this first issue and turning around our print job in a single day; and to all those not mentioned who mentioned our call for papers to students, spread the news of our publication by word-of-mouth, or simply saw our announcement and thought the journal was a good idea—your cultural support has made the *Colloquy* possible.

Most of all, special thanks to everyone who submitted their work for this edition. We appreciated your support more than you know. We received twenty five submissions, and our editors were intrigued by the variety of ideas and questions being asked in departments across campus. Please keep thinking, researching, and writing—we anticipate seeing your work in future issues of the *Colloquy*.

To our submitters, reviewers, everyone who encouraged us along the way, all those who strive for excellence and to help teach others, and, mostly, to the entire Bethel community—we look forward to continuing to dialogue ideas with all of you.

Keep the discussion going!

The Editors of the *Colloquy*