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EDITOR'S NOTE

This year marks the sixth issue of Re:Search, the Undergraduate Journal of Literary Criticism at the University of Illinois, since its inception in 2014. Although we are saddened that our journey as co-editors of this issue has come to an end, we are ecstatic to show you the manifestation of all the hard work that went into producing this year's journal—from the authors' contributions to those of our exec board. This journal is an accumulation of many stages, with each person involved making a critical contribution to the final product you see today. We would first like to thank our executive board: without their hard work, we would not have copy editors or a way to format the journal, nor would we have had any successful organized events throughout the year. Of course, without our dedicated authors, we would not have a journal to present to you. Their interests and the passion manifested through their writing allows the journal to continue serving as a platform for excellence. From the very first ideas in their proposals to the final edits, we have truly enjoyed working with them and seeing their hard work culminate in such distinct and profound ways. We would also like to thank every faculty member who has contributed to the success of this year's journal: from the faculty members who offered our authors their expertise and served as their mentors, to our very own Lori Newcomb, who has been guiding the journal since its formation six years ago. Professor Newcomb not only significantly contributes to the review and copy-editing processes of the journal, but she goes above and beyond in making sure the standards of the journal are met year after year. This issue would also not have been possible without the help and support from the following people and organizations outside of the English Department: Matthew J. Roberts II, English Librarian; Merinda Kaye Hensley, Digital Scholarship Liaison and Instruction Librarian; and the Office of Undergraduate Research. All of you have given us the support critical to a successful issue every year. We would like to thank Andrea Stevens, Director of Undergraduate Studies; Vicki Mahaffey, Head of the English Department; and, of course, everyone in the English Advising Office: Anna Ivy, Keshia Atkins Kirstin Wilcox, and Nancy Rahn. Having such immense support from within our department plays a large role in its success.

We received many proposals this year, from which we selected five for publication. These papers range from studies of literature, to opera, to classical painting and film, to social justice, to colonialism, showing that Re:Search has in fact become a platform for critical conversation that stems beyond literature to include other forms of media. All of our authors have done an amazing job, and we are proud of the fact we can offer them an opportunity to publish their work as undergraduates. We are also pleased to have received submissions that stem beyond the English department to include the French, Italian, and East Asian Languages and Cultures departments, showcasing that Re:Search fosters critical conversation across many departments.

Lastly, we would like to extend our gratitude to Zoe Stein and Hannah Downing, last year's Co-Editors in Chief of Re:Search. We could not have done any of this without the guidance you

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gave us last year. We look forward to seeing the myriad of work future authors publish with Re:Search in the upcoming years, and again, we are proud to have played a role in the process of the journal for the 2018-19 academic year.

Jessica Berbey and Salma Aldaas
Co-Editors in Chief