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Managing Editor's Note

Vanessa Jaeger
vjaeger@binghamton.edu

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A Message from the Managing Editor

As I prepared for my first editorial board meeting this summer, I spent a lot of time looking over submissions and the kinds of works that students proposed for publication in the 7th issue. Being both new to the position of Assistant Director and Managing Editor of *Alpenglow*, I was unsure what to expect and assumed I would find a completely disparate patchwork of topics, ideas, and disciplines. But in reading over each submission, I was really struck by the connections between so many of them. Submissions addressed questions of identity and policy and, most importantly, the necessity for change within the systems of power that affect these issues. Such strong correlations reminded me about how active members of Binghamton's student body are and how deeply they care about the politics and structures that affect both themselves and their communities. This realization inspired the theme of this 7th issue—movement. Movement of people, movement of ideas, and movement towards change and progress. We can see this theme mirrored in our cover art, by Addy Phoenix. Like ideas, butterflies are in constant states of movement; caterpillars metamorphose into butterflies, who then travel the world. Monarch butterflies, like the ones featured in our cover art, are especially distinct in their migration patterns. They have a two-way migration pattern similar to birds, traveling based on seasonal and environmental changes, and are the only butterfly to do so.

The works of our authors demonstrate such movement. Our first article, “A Seventeenth-Century Air History in Conversation with *Antony and Cleopatra*” by Laura DeLuca, juxtaposes the roles of breath and air in *Antony and Cleopatra* with other seventeenth-century contemporaries, arguing how Shakespeare's representation of these images aligned with the scientific theories of the time that envisioned these forces as incredibly powerful. Lee Witkowski's article “Ancient Gods and Gender Roles: Non-Heteronormative Gender Expressions and the Works of Rick Riordan,” examines how the works of author Rick Riordan demonstrate more inclusive representations of gender than is typical in the fantasy genre and argues that such inclusivity is necessary for teaching young adults about the broad spectrum of identity they may encounter. Catherine Manolian's article “Elite Women as Tools of Power in First-Century C.E.,” analyzes the lives of female historical figures from Caesar Augustus's rule and fictional representations of women produced during that period, examining how the treatments of such bodies demonstrate the patriarchal values in place at the time. Sydney Werner's piece, “My Antonia: A Retrospective on an Immigrant Narrative,” reconsiders how previous scholars have situated Willa Cather's novel within the canon, demonstrating that *My Antonia* operates as an immigrant narrative. Stephen Perez Jr.'s article, “Behind the Steel Bars of History: The Post-Civil Rights Era Radical Prison Movement,” analyzes how historical narratives function within a capitalist agenda and demonstrates how radical prison politics have been read as separate from the civil rights rather than an extension of it. Masha Morozov's article “The Role of Motivation in Russian Heritage Language Learner Performance,” considers how textbooks with exercises that ask students to pair language learning practices with familial conversations better motivate students to stay in

their language classes. Xiaoxin Liang's work, "Addressing the Role of Climate Change in Agriculture and Mexico-US Immigration" demonstrates how adaptive farming policies would benefit both American and Mexican governments as well as decrease the number of displaced farmers whose yields are negatively affected by climate change. Kassidy Chaikin's article "Child Labor, Compulsory Education, and the Women's Movement" traces the relationship between compulsory education and the women's movement, arguing that the efforts of women involved in the movement did not prevent children from being sent into the factory system but placed them into an educational system that ultimately trained them for such work. Eva Vazquez's piece, "Power, Policy, Profit: The Spanish Language in the United States," argues how capitalist agendas in America frame English as the dominant language in the US, despite the prevalence of Spanish-speaking citizens. Our final article, "Outer Surface Protein C Typing of *Borrelia burgdorferi* in the Tick Populations of the Upper Susquehanna River Basin, New York," by Neha Shaikh et al. examine the DNA of ticks for the *ospC* genotype, finding that a greater prevalence of such genetics in ticks specific to the Upper Susquehanna River Basin will contribute positively to vaccine development for lyme disease.

I want to thank the members of the Editorial Board for their dedication to the journal and the thoughtfulness put into the decision-making process for publication. I want to also thank the reviewers for providing helpful and insightful critiques that authors could apply to their articles and for the levels of engagement and encouragement that were communicated to students. I want to thank Addison Phoenix for answering our call for cover art submissions and for creating a design that we are excited to display and that really demonstrates the theme that we chose. I want to thank my editorial team. The tireless efforts of each member either teaching me the technical processes of publication with BePress or creating thoughtful graphic designs that showcase our authors has resulted in an issue I am proud to put my name on and mark as my first as Managing Editor.

Finally, myself and everyone involved with *Alpenglow: Binghamton University's Undergraduate Journal*, want to thank the readers for taking the time to engage with the works of our authors who have dedicated extensive time and energy into the works they have produced.

Dr. Vanessa Jaeger
Managing Editor

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Cover Art Designer



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www.addyphoenix.weebly.com

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