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Letter from the Editor

Blake Horner
Portland State University

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The year of 2020 has posed unprecedented challenges. As we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, our communities' shared sense of determination and collaboration have been critical to ensuring that we will emerge united. In the face of this global crisis, it is clear to me that this triumphant power of determination and collaboration is reflected in the story of *Anthós*' ninth volume.

We began our journey to Volume Nine as a skeleton crew of three, including myself, Faculty Advisor Dr. Pelin Başcı, and Managing Editor Bruce Bradbury. Despite our lean beginnings, the *Anthós* team had already showed great promise. From the start, Dr. Pelin Başcı's dedication and resourcefulness greatly supported our team's efforts. Bruce Bradbury's creativity and passion catalyzed the shared sense of determination that defined the spirit of *Anthós* 2019-2020.

Soon afterward, *Anthós* welcomed three new junior editors to the team: Eliana Bane, Jeya Aishwarya Anandakumar, and Zoe Landi Fontana. These three junior editors' creative ideas and willingness to learn have proven to be critical to our process.

As with any student-run initiative, *Anthós* persists in spite of busy schedules and as a result of the coordinated efforts of a few passionate people. Although we had no prior experience in publishing an academic journal, our team worked tirelessly to learn how to solicit submissions, locate reviewers, manage a database, and eventually edit for publication. We could not have done this without the help of our library advisor Sherry Buchanan, who provided us with countless useful suggestions, resources, and feedback.

We would also not be able to publish this edition without our anonymous reviewers' expert advice and our faculty members' encouragement of student submissions. Thank you for contributing your time and energy to *Anthós*.

Finally, we would like to thank the University Honors College Administrator Cornelia Coleman, College Director Dr. Brenda Glascott, and Dean Dr. Shelly Chabon, all of whom helped to enable and facilitate our work. We greatly appreciate your willingness to support our journal.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Volume Nine of *Anthós* a reality. This publication serves as proof that in the face of challenge and adversity, we can make something wonderful.

Readers, we are excited to share the commendable academic achievements of University Honors College students with you. We hope you use this publication as a way to appreciate and advance their scholarship.

All the best,

Blake
Editor in Chief