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Letter from the Editor

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As I reflect on the articles published in this new edition of *Anthós*, one thing is clear: the Covid-19 pandemic has not stopped Honors students from producing exceptional undergraduate research. Our academic community should be applauded for its resiliency and continued commitment to academic excellence amid Covid-era circumstances that have been at times frustrating, confusing, and discouraging. I am especially proud of the variety of articles included in this issue—from a study of house plants and mental health to an analysis of love metaphors, this issue highlights a wide range of academic interests, making *Anthós* a truly interdisciplinary journal. Of course, each article is an achievement all on its own, but together they demonstrate the scope of the impressive and important scholarship that is being produced by Honors students.

This issue contains seven articles. It begins with Isis Dornbrook's examination of communication, specifically how common expressions of love are often based in violent language. Reflecting on the Covid-19 lockdown, Brittani Wallsten's article reveals a link between houseplants and the mental health of socially isolated dorm occupants at Portland State University. Megan McCoy also studies the mental health of college students, focusing on the ways that academically motivated students approach this aspect of their well being. Dan Ha's article on the political socialization of American undergraduates investigates how one's views are developed based on their life experiences. This issue also includes a dossier containing three papers on Nella Larsen's novel *Passing*, with an introduction written by Dr. Brenda Glascott.

There are many people to thank for bringing Volume 11 of *Anthós* to publication. The excellent work of previous *Anthós* editorial boards—specifically the collection of forms, email templates, and publicity materials that they passed down to us—has been greatly appreciated. The digital publishing expertise of Sherry Buchanan, *Anthós*' library advisor, was instrumental in getting this issue published on PDXScholar. Thanks must also be given to the faculty referees involved in this issue. The faculty review process is an important part of publishing in *Anthós*, and I sincerely appreciate the support that the referees gave to this project. Finally, this journal owes much gratitude to the University Honors College Administration. To Director Dr. Brenda Glascott, Administrator Cornelia Coleman, and Dean Dr. Shelly Chabon, thank you for your continued willingness to support *Anthós*.

It has been a great pleasure to sit on the *Anthós* editorial board for the 2021–2022 academic year alongside Hailey Brink, managing editor, and Lena Little, junior editor. With the invaluable guidance and support from faculty advisor Dr. Pelin Başcı, our team solicited paper submissions, coordinated faculty reviews, communicated with authors, edited all of the articles, and ultimately brought this issue to publication. It has been wonderful to undertake this project with Hailey, Lena, and Dr. Başcı—thank you all!

On behalf of the 2021–2022 editorial board, I am proud to present Volume 11, Issue 1 of *Anthós*.

Sincerely,
Allison Kirkpatrick
2021–2022 Editor in Chief, *Anthós*