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## Letter from the Editor

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Portland State's 2023-2024 academic year will perhaps be remembered amongst the most turbulent in the eight-decade history of the university. Though not affected as an institution directly, our fall quarter was marked by the historic strike by the largest school district and teacher's union in the state. Several of our colleagues and peers were impacted by the school closures as it affected childcare, learning, and livelihoods. Our winter quarter was even more disrupted by an early onslaught of ice and snow. Finally, our spring quarter saw, as with universities around the country, demonstrations and protests against the war in Gaza which briefly shut down campus and in-person activities.

In spite of these tumultuous events, Honors students kept working and kept writing on topics and issues important to them, from the maintenance of queer spaces to the creation of community gardens. And, throughout the year, the *Anthós* Editorial Board, under the guidance of Dr. Rebecca Summer, has been working to solicit and publish the outstanding scholarship produced by our Honors College peers. It has been my privilege to work alongside Managing Editor Megan Borns, whose steady warmth provided a grounding levity to our purpose, and Junior Editors Lilli Rudine and Kooper Wilson, whose combined expertise and diligence was invaluable to our process. I would further be remiss in not acknowledging the support of Honors College Dean Dr. Brenda Glascott; Portland State University Library Digital Collections Technician Sherry Buchanan; Digital Commons Consultant Nancy Kerr; the artistic talents of Wend Rend, a PSU Honors alumnus who designed this issue's cover art; and our many faculty reviewers who offered their invaluable insights.

Volume Thirteen opens with Dave Patterson's analysis of Vladimir Nabokov's seminal work, *Lolita*, charting how Nabokov's interest in lepidopterology (the study of butterflies) was translated into his self-proclaimed non-didactic literary text. Rayli Dornan's essay on Billy Woods' 2022 song "Asylum" collapses the space between Black diaspora and transnationalism, and positions Woods' work as a stinging critique of colonialism. Next, Charleen Kepner places community gardens as a key (but by no means solitary) intervention in provisioning the twenty-first-century city. Ashton Lee's study of Portland's Rose City Rollers offers a compelling framework with which to study the relationship between queer-inclusive spaces and mental health. Finally, Jazmine Compton's robust research into the cultivation of the green algae *Ulva lactuca* as a possible sustainable solution to boost Zanzibar's agricultural exports concludes our issue of *Anthós*.

It is my pleasure and honor to present to you the thirteenth volume of *Anthós*.

Warmly,  
Lauren Yanase  
2023-24  
Editor-in-Chief, *Anthós*