

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Re:Search, the Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*! The question that dogged this journal in its beginning phases was whether or not there would be enough undergraduate student interest to undertake a project of this magnitude. As I began to share my thoughts of starting a journal for literary criticism with my peers, it soon became apparent that there certainly was no scarcity of interest. On the contrary, I quickly discovered that many other students had shared the same thoughts and desires for establishing a community like *Re:Search*: where undergraduate students can submit their work to be published and also participate in the nitty-gritty publication process of an academic journal. While the final product is certainly an accomplishment in its own right, I see the greater feat of the journal as fostering a culture of collaboration amongst the undergraduate student body, faculty, and university departments across campus with the intent of encouraging undergraduate research.

This project would not have been possible without the generous support, professional guidance, and enthusiasm of our Faculty Advisor, Lori Humphrey Newcomb. A special thanks goes to Michael Chan for assuming leadership of the journal during the Fall 2013 semester when things seemed precarious. Your work ethic and dedication has sustained this journal throughout the past year. The expertise and positive energy of our Graduate Advisor, Wendy Truran, proved invaluable during the copy editing process. The constant support of Michael Rothberg, Head of the English Department, and his appearances at various events for the journal has kept us motivated to produce a journal of the best quality. The services of University Librarians Harriett Green and Merinda Hensley, in developing the online platform, have been indispensable to actualizing this project. A warm thanks goes to Adrienne Pickett-Johnson for her initial support in the earliest stages of this endeavor. The English Advising Office – Angela Smith, Anna Ivy, and Jovaughn Barnard – has also played an important role in reaching out to the undergraduate student body.

This issue of the journal features eight articles, peer-reviewed and revised under faculty mentorship. Keeping in accordance with the fundamental vision of the journal as an interdisciplinary forum, these articles offer incisive analyses of texts along with a variety of other mediums. In addition, these students build upon the work of other scholars—including the published work of Illinois faculty: they not only engage with them, but join them in the important critical conversations of our time.

It is extraordinary to think that this journal, which only a year-and-a-half ago existed as a vague ambition in my head, has, with the collective energy of both peers and professionals alike, materialized into what it is today. I look forward to the ways in which the journal will continue to grow and draw upon the foundations it has established this year. It is with great pleasure that I introduce the first publication of *Re:Search, the Undergraduate Literary Criticism Journal at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*.

Nick Millman
Editor in Chief