

To Our Readers:

Anthós: a bloom, flower, the brightest, brilliant, shining

A bloom, a flower, the brightest. These words are not only the meaning, in ancient Greek, of this journal's title, but also contain both its reason for existence and the criteria for inclusion within it. Portland State University has for several years been without a forum for undergraduate academic discussion. These undergraduates; our blooms, provided the motivation for this journal's resurrection. The goal of Anthós is to highlight the best and brightest of these undergraduates and to prepare them for entrance into the next stage of their academic careers.

This is a goal shared by the University Honors Program, this journal's guide and protector. The Program's rigor and attention to research methods are attributes we hope will be our model in the publication of this journal and in the selection of articles for it. The University Honors Program, which for forty years has been fostering intellectual development on the Portland State campus, provides a number of opportunities to its graduates. The first is four years of writing training, beginning with a two-year core. The curriculum is similar to University Studies in that it is an interdisciplinary general education program, although its focus is somewhat different as Program students plan to continue on to graduate or professional school. The second is an opportunity, given to up to sixteen students a year, to participate in a Washington, DC internship of their choosing. This allows students to gain hands on experience in their chosen fields. The third is the writing of a thesis prior to graduation. The work put into that thesis is intended to assist in preparing the student for graduate work, and its very presence assists in the admissions process to these graduate schools.

This issue, the first in nine years, highlights the work of four Portland State University students. These students write on a large range of issues: Emily Yoder analyzes the struggle to pass the Equal Rights Amendment; Chelsea Villareal discusses the effect of tax competition on the film industry; and Richard Prentice writes about cultural responses to climate change. Alexandra Hosford, a graduating senior, examines the impact of gentrification on the African American business community of Portland, Oregon in her senior thesis.

The revivification of Anthós occurred because of the dedication, advice and hard work of many. Professor Lawrence Wheeler, the Director of the University Honors Program, gave us hours of his time and attention, answered innumerable questioning emails guiding us through the editing and publication process, and provided us with office space (awesome chairs included.) Ms. Nora Quiros answered our technical and administrative questions, besides encouraging us with her sunny and caring disposition. This journal would also not have been possible without the participation of professors from many disciplines around the campus who willingly provided assistance both in the form of talking to potential submitting authors and by the giving of invaluable advice. Finally, we would like to thank our editors, graphic designer and web designer who sometimes spent hours locked in a somewhat dusty basement with barred windows, editing papers

and creating this journal.

We hope you will enjoy this issue, and if you are an undergraduate, plan to submit a paper of your own for publication in our second issue, coming this November.

Sincerely,

Diana Biller and Adam Brewer  
Editors-in-Chief