



Kathryn Collison

Afterword

Edgy with a burst of elegant flair—this year's *Scribendi* design reflects a new and exciting vista upon which the twenty-second volume embarks. Gone are the lines and gradients of yesteryear; instead, this year's staff has embraced white space and contrast, pairing beautiful script fonts with decorative, grunge-type exclamations. This description captures not only the cover and design of the magazine, but also the many voices of the contributors and the staff as a whole. The pieces this year are eclectic, fantastic, and fascinating, which also describes the staff and editors.

While *Scribendi* staff must always be dedicated, hard working, and diligent (and this year was certainly no exception), staff members also brought personalities with the kind of flair that is reflected in the design. Whether it was working on fundraisers, deciding where to place the authors' names on the large script letters, arguing over hyphens, or determining which quotes would go on our new quote board, the staff approached each issue affably and creatively, and always with smiles and laughter. The editor, Jana Morehouse, and assistant editor, Danny Wells, were no exception. Jana's amazing organizational and

leadership skills gave everyone, including me, a sense of confidence and motivation, and Danny's incredible talent with design and assessing work added a fine, polished quality to the 2008 issue. Considering this was my first year as faculty advisor, I am grateful to have worked with such wonderfully committed and enthusiastic individuals. I am further grateful to Leslie Donovan, whose help was invaluable.

The contributor work also introduced a distinctive flavor; gone are the days when students focused solely on the standard fodder of first loves or leaving old friends behind for new. This year's works delve into Kafka-esque issues of identity and transformation, and intensely personal explorations of difficult matters including eating disorders, molestation, suicide, and the emptiness and isolation of the pursuit of the American dream. The works may often consider the underside of life, but approach such struggles with a flint of hope, dignity, and perseverance. Perhaps these new voices can also be attributed to the fact that many of our contributors come from a diverse set of backgrounds. Hailing from new schools and regions, the contributors bring to the forefront a new blend of voices and experiences that leads us into the future.