

# AFTERWORD

Every year, each new *Scribendi* staff brings its own joys and challenges to me as a teacher. This year was no different. However, coming back to my work with *Scribendi* after my first professional sabbatical has afforded me unexpectedly fresh and sometimes surprising perspectives.

In each past year, I have sought to enrich our learning process with something new and different—whether that meant restructuring our syllabus completely, spending extra time familiarizing myself with updated software, constructing all new supplementary reading materials, or researching the latest practices for teaching students with varied learning styles. But, until this year, I never fully realized those efforts are only a lesser part of our process as a whole.

For me, returning to *Scribendi* this year after my sabbatical has been akin to how I felt when I returned home after my first experience living in another country for an extended time. Being in a familiar space, something I had missed so badly, suddenly became incredibly wonderful and yet very different in ways I did not expect it to be. Returning to *Scribendi* has allowed me to realize that what is most important about this magazine has nothing to do with how many times I revise my syllabus, how many sections I add to our staff handbook, or how carefully I describe the arrangement of printers' signatures. What makes the heart of this magazine beat is the always

original, and yet so typically unpredictable mix of new voices and new ideas from the amazing student staff. They come to *Scribendi* each year wanting more than ever before and investing so much to reach the stars for themselves and our contributors. How that quality is communicated and how its uniqueness drives our process is something, as a teacher, I basically have to stand back from and let unfold as it will.

While it has always humbled me, this year that quality of newness and unpredictability has revived thoughts of hope about our future. Such new insights about my students' ability to excel inspires in me excitement about the ways change can take on a life of its own and grow beyond our wildest imaginations. For this, I have to thank every single member of this year's staff. Leading us this year has been the immense kindness and good sense of our Editor in Chief, Robby Ortiz, who has guided the dynamic vision that inhabits this magazine. Similarly, the organizational abilities and impressive copyediting skills of our first Managing Editor, Bryan Schroeder, have kept our star charts always on track. They have all made it a gift, as well as a privilege, to serve as faculty advisor of this year's outstanding *Scribendi*.

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