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## Editorial Introduction

Greetings MRUHR Readers,

We are pleased to (re)introduce you to the *Mount Royal Undergraduate Humanities Review* [MRUHR], a student-run journal dedicated to showcasing the outstanding academic work of Mount Royal University students. This publication serves both as a platform to celebrate student scholarship and as a space to foster editorial and publishing experience within the university community.

MRUHR invites readers to engage with thoughtful, interdisciplinary writing across the Humanities and Arts—including English, History, Gender Studies, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Art History, Canadian Studies, Indigenous Studies, Linguistics, and Languages.

Our 2024/2025 Editorial Board—Emma Radford, Teagan Nodwell, Mimidoo Tor-Agbidye, Lejhanna Williams, and Mariam Cokar—brings together a diverse range of academic backgrounds, from Psychology and Sociology to History and beyond. Each member has contributed their unique perspective and commitment to bring this issue to life.

This year's collection, *Voices Beyond the Frame*, offers compelling insights and critical analysis on representation, history, and identity through interdisciplinary student research. The following essays exemplify the depth of thought found within this year's issue—here's what you'll find inside:

- *Exploring Themes of Nature and Grace in Terrence Malick's 2011 film Tree of Life* by McKenna Poluk analyzes a film that explores the tension between nature and grace through the experiences of a grieving family in 1950s Texas. The paper examines how these opposing forces shape the film's characters—particularly the relationships between

parents and children—ultimately illustrating that nature and grace are essential counterparts in the journey of existence.

- *On the Edge of Enlightenment* by Morgan Angus explores the evolving scholarly understanding of the Scottish Highlands’ role in the Enlightenment. The paper traces a shift from viewing the Highlands as passive recipients of modernization to recognizing their dynamic interplay with Enlightenment ideals. Angus argues that the Highlands were not merely impacted by Enlightenment thought but contribute meaningfully to its intellectual landscape.
- *Products of Heteronormativity* by Krishneetha Reddy critically examines how public discourse, policy, and social norms sustain and perpetuate heteronormative ideologies. Reddy explores how this invisible yet powerful system shapes societal perceptions of sexuality by privileging heterosexuality while marginalizing queerness.
- *Zeus’ Beloved: Ganymede, Homoeroticism, and Florentine Pederasty in Renaissance Art* by Sarah Rivington investigates the myth of Ganymede as a central icon of homoeroticism in Renaissance art. Focusing on Florentine artists, Rivington explores how the myth was used to express queer desire under the guise of classical and religious imagery. The essay examines how Ganymede iconography both reflected and reinforced Neoplatonic ideals that shaped representations of same-sex love during the period.

The Board would like to express our deepest gratitude to Dr. Gasson-Gardner, whose unwavering support has been invaluable to the development of this journal. Thank you to each peer reviewer and author for being part of this journey as we continue to amplify the voices that shape our academic community.

Now, we invite you, our readers, to join us in reading the seventh issue.

All the best,

*The Editorial Board of the Mount Royal Undergraduate Humanities Review*