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“We’ll come to understand that no work, no idea, stands alone, but that all good, true and beautiful things are networks, ecosystems of intertwined parts, related entities and similar works.” — Kevin Kelly

The Romans were always so particular about their religious rituals; if anything went awry, it was a bad omen, and they had to start the whole thing all over again. When word came that Hadrian was advancing on Rome, the senate was busy with an elaborate rite. The senators abandoned the ritual and fled in terror. They didn't come back for three days. When they finally returned, they found one old senator still doggedly performing the sacred dance that they'd deserted. Since he hadn't let the ritual stop, it wasn't ruined. One senator yelled out, "Everything's all right! The old man is still dancing!" There was much relief and rejoicing. And so 'the old man is still dancing' became an idiom in Rome, exactly the inverse of our own 'until the fat lady sings.'

We are still dancing, too. As you may have noticed, *Plaza* took a small hiatus last year. We underwent a few changes, and have now fully separated from the Coastal Plains Liberal Arts Graduate Conference; look for our upcoming call for papers for our spring issue to have its own theme rather than following the conference theme as usual. However, I have returned as Managing Editor, and my brilliant and hard-working staff of editors, proofreaders, and reviewers is back on the job, too. Expect our publication schedule to resume with the same quality and dedication as ever.

Speaking for both myself and my staff, we all came back to this project because we still believe in the needs that it serves. *Plaza* was born firstly out of the desire to encourage graduate student and early career academic scholarship and professionalization, because those early steps are difficult to take alone, and we feel that it helps to have a welcoming venue for authors to dip their toes into the world of professional publication that also helps to guide them in developing their work for the more prestigious venues. As we have worked on *Plaza*, we have also become convinced that fostering a dialogue between graduate students and early career scholars across the liberal arts would allow us to be rich resources for each other in terms of inter-disciplinary cross-pollination and collaborative work. There is much to be gained from engaging in a wider network of ideas and research. It is our hope that *Plaza* is a positive step in both of these directions for all of our authors, and that it will remain so for many years to come.

As always, I would like to thank all those who submitted articles for issue 6.1 of *Plaza: Dialogues in Language and Literature*. Also, I would like to give many thanks to the members of my review and editorial boards, who worked diligently on this issue:

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