

Days of Future Past: Remixing, Revisioning, Reflecting

August 2015

"..in order for us to truly create and contribute to the world, we have to be able to connect countless dots, to cross-pollinate ideas from a wealth of disciplines, to combine and recombine these pieces and build new castles." - Maria Popova

"Everything is a remix."--Kirby Ferguson

This issue of *Plaza*, as with all our summer editions, was open for submissions only to participants of the Coastal Plains Liberal Arts Graduate Conference. Intertwined with *Plaza* from the inception of both projects – a tie made visible by the fact that most years the conference has been chaired by the managing editor of *Plaza* – the Coastal Plains Graduate Liberal Arts Conference likewise strives to encourage graduate student scholarship and professionalization, and to foster a mutually productive dialogue between graduate students across the liberal arts as they prepare to enter the larger academic community. We believe that graduate students of differing disciplines can be rich resources for each other; cross-pollination offers new perspectives and exciting possibilities for conjunctions.

In keeping with this belief, this year's Coastal Plains theme was "Days of Future Past: Remixing, Revisioning, Reflecting." As we develop as scholars, we are encouraged to learn our disciplinary histories: the major developments, the major players, and the major texts. We are expected to write ourselves into the conversation and our histories, building on what has come before. But we do this with a critical lens in order to extend our knowledge into new places. We reflect on what has come before so that we know how to move forward. We search for silenced, lost, and neglected voices to revise our disciplinary spaces. And we bring in new voices that may initially appear to have little to do with the humanities. We build our disciplines by knowing what they are and then complicating that tradition with our knowledge of local, regional, national, and global events. Remixing, revisioning, and reflecting remind us that we all have a place in our disciplines' histories, no matter where we are on our scholarly journey, and that we all have a place in moving them forward.

Everyone who was accepted to present at the 2015 Coastal Plains Graduate Liberal Arts Conference was invited to submit an extended, article-length version of his or her presentation paper for publication consideration with us. The best and most original of these submissions were chosen for this issue. This conjunction of diverse ideas and disciplines has allowed us to publish a wonderfully dynamic mix of work from literature, poetics, popular culture, pedagogy, film studies, and cultural studies in this issue.

I would like to thank all those who submitted articles for issue 5.2 of *Plaza: Dialogues in Language and Literature*. Also, I would like to give many thanks to the members of the review and editorial boards for this issue:

Kerry Dickenson
Cecilia Bonnor

Allie Faden
Kate Highfill

Liz Blomstedt Keating
Sami Atassi

Rebeca Velasquez
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