

Letter from the Editors

It's where we once were, where we are now, and where we will be. Circulation is an endless loop helping to define who we are in relation to the world around us. As college students especially, this is a time of self-discovery. As we prepare to enter into one of the most critical phases of our lives, it is important that we reflect on our pasts whilst simultaneously hypothesizing our futures. In doing so, we are able to better shape how we live in the present. In this issue of NU Writing, the concept of circulation is explored. The essays included a range of topics from the continuation of the ancient to the modern in Lahore to the evolving relationship between an immigrant father and his first generation son, and the preservation of renewable energy created by sustainable architecture. Although varied in subject matter, each essay stands unified in its emphasis of how circulation defines life itself.

Often, the concept of circulation immediately calls to mind a sense of movement, a relentless shifting of objects and ideas. Along with movement comes variation, but the randomness of circulation allows for the recycling of certain components. This first piece, "The Kitchen," illustrates the ebb and flow of values as they change and reappear among generations, as well as the circulation of people in its themes of immigration. In "Andheroon Shehr," the images of a city that has changed and stayed the same offer a glimpse at the way the circulation of cultural concepts creates, slowly, quietly, a difference between the old and the new. "How Aesthetics and Success to Sustainable Architectural Design Rely on Landscape Systems" illuminates the relationship between architecture and environment, noting the way these two can mimic and deviate from each other within a space. These pieces suggest a circulation of elements: values, people, cultural themes, or features of design. While many components are altered in their movement, many can be found reappearing over and over in their constant cycles through different places and times.

The next three pieces involve circulation as it relates to efficiency, including how a text circulates its meaning from author to reader, how to most efficiently eliminate waste as it is produced in business sectors, and what is the most efficient global food supply chain for the environment. Issac Boehman talks about the circulation of meaning from a text to its audience in "Transactions in Information and System Security," a highly technical journal that showcases original research; he discusses how the journal uses linguistic techniques such as an instructional tone, first person point of view, italics, consistent formatting, and headings to communicate the highly detailed content as clearly and efficiently as possible to the reader. Ian M. Schaffer examines the circulation of waste in manufacturing and the circulation of process, in which he discusses how elimination practices used in manufacturing could be applied to service sectors like hospitals and grocery stores. In "The Necessity of a Shorter Food Chain," David Nicholson discusses a literal circulation in his breakdown of the different stages in a food chain. He then explores the unsustainability of the global food supply chain and promotes a shorter, more efficient chain as a replacement.

As a newspaper circulates, information, ideas, and images travel from the source and into the wild. This movement signifies a loss of control; circulation characteristically breaks free. "Shattered Perspective: The Give and Take of Ideas" follows the interpretive and aesthetic circulation, or twisted circulation, of images and reflections. The broken mirror allows images to

circulate but not in the intended way. Similarly, when writing is released into the world, it circulates as its own being. Text and ideas flow from the mind of the writer, but then can return to the writer for analysis in a seemingly different form. The space within the circulation, a space so wide that the writer loses direct connection to the work, allows for the possibility of misinterpretation, as represented in “On Writing.” Contemporary society highlights this breed of misinterpretation through viral messaging. In “Vaccine Controversies,” the author demonstrates the circulation of scientific ideas outside the realm of science; the ideas spread through popular cultural media and circulate at an uncontrollable rate with potential inaccuracies. The wildness of the circulation, then, can harm the reliability of widely available information.

—Jessica, Melissa, Lindsay, and Ivy