

NU Writing Editor's Note

NU Writing Editorial Board: Chloe David, Sarah Francoeur, Erykah Kangbeya, Maeve Lennon, Elijah Olson, Olivia Petrillo, Alejandro Toledo Restrepo, and Victor Silva

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Dear Readers,

This issue of NU Writing is a little different than past issues. One reason for this is the time in which this issue was curated. We were reading, evaluating, and compiling the pieces in this issue at a time when many of us were isolated due to COVID-19. We switched our learning / teaching / collaboration / working models to remote methods. We wore masks, we socially distanced, and, in many cases, we separated ourselves from those we care about to keep them, and ourselves, safe. Despite this physical distancing, we still found ways to stay connected.

What we wanted to celebrate in this issue are these connections. While reading and evaluating the pieces in this issue, we realized that, at this time, what mattered was sharing ideas, connecting with each other, and celebrating the work that has been done across the Northeastern campus in various disciplines, fields, and through multiple modalities. This thought brought about the theme and title of the issue: "Ideas in / of Progress." And this brings us to the second reason this issue is a little different than past issues, the published pieces were not edited for grammar or standardized for citation practices. We wanted to celebrate the ideas, because that is what matters at a time like this. Each of the pieces are published as submitted, with minimal intervention from the editorial team for formatting purposes only.

This issue is broken into four sections: creativity; the body; technology and engagement; and arts, society, and the media. The issue begins with a short section outlining the creativity of our campus and writers, showcasing Julia Geller's poem "The 'I'."

The issue then shifts to the second section which focuses on health and the body with Katie Zibello's overwhelmingly timely piece "What Makes COVID-19 So Different." This builds to Samantha N. Hall's "Preventative Medicine as a New Cure" which explores preventative medicine, at the personal, community, and clinical levels, as a key part of treatment, a shift in thinking for many medical practitioners. We then shift to Brian Best's "Exploring Gut Microbiome-Based Therapies for Gastrointestinal and Metabolic Disease" and Kathryn A. Foster's "Injury Patterns and Risk Factors Associated with Irish Dance: A Comprehensive Review," two reviews that call for increased work in the field. We end this section with Chloe E. Beam's "Sex? Ouch. Let's Talk About It" which explores the science behind endometriosis while challenging our thinking about the condition and its associated stigma.

The third section looks at technology and the ways we are influenced and guided by and through digital engagement. This section starts with Cole John DiNome's "Limitations in Early Video Game Music and Their Aesthetic Impact" which, as the name suggests, traces the history of early video game music and tracks the many influences it has had on modern composition. This leads

to Elena Kuran's discussion of morality and machines in "The Moral Status of AI: What Do We Owe to Intelligent Machines? A Review." Kenneth Ho's "Fighting Games: More than Just a Competition" follows presenting a view of video games, particularly fighting games like Street Fighter and Smash Bros., and their potential impact on personal growth and development. Maggie Zhang wraps up this section with "The Wicked Problem of Design Ethics," a look

The fourth and final section focuses on the arts, media, and society and starts with Kyra Perz's "To Cheat the Cheaters (With Gratitude)," a look at human behavior and the greater good, and how as a society, gratitude may go farther than anything else to curb societal bad habits. Amanda Clare Sturm follows exploring transnational Latin American cinema and how it transcends borders in "Transnational Latin American Cinemas" and Hayleigh Evans questions the motives of Captain Amasa Delano in "Questioning Motives in Herman Melville's *Benito Cereno*." Kyle Mooney tackles the life of philosopher Peter Singer and explores his views on moral philosophy in "Peter Singer: Moral Claims and Moral Progress" and the issue wraps up with Tia Thompson's "Dress for Success: The Role of Fashion in the Civil Rights Movement" which walks us through the history of dress in the black community, highlighting the struggles to embody black pride.

Again, this issue is about celebrating ideas, unedited and diverse. It is our hope that this issue captures many of the voices and views of our brilliant community.

Wishing the best of health, continued intellectual curiosity, and hopes for future words shared face-to-face (and in print).

The NU Writing Editorial Board