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Introduction

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Introduction

We are, to put it mildly, in difficult times. In the midst of a global pandemic, national uprisings against racial injustice, an upcoming election, and wildfires reminding us of the precarity of our environmental stewardship, we can easily feel overwhelmed, anxious, or simply in need of tuning out the noise and relaxing. And while we heartily recommend taking all the self-care measures needed (Take that bath! Watch that reality show! Pat that puppy!), we also recommend reading this current issue of *Locus* for a therapy of a different sort: a reminder that even in our darkest hour, we can retain faith in the curiosity, creativity, and diligence of our fantastic undergraduate students.

As always, our essays run the gamut of disciplinary interests. From medieval gender theory to social media conspiracies to U.S.-Iranian relations to treatments for neurological disorders, the following pieces take up a broad range of concerns with a truly impressive balance of rigor and accessibility. While there is no theme that unites them, our contributions all share a commitment to imploring us to think differently, to look at the world with a new perspective. This is surely a perspective in short order these days, so we hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

If you are a Seton Hall undergraduate or recent alum, please do contact us if you are interested in publishing your own work with the journal—simply visit our blog or contact one of our editors. We hope you'll consider submitting something and sharing your ideas more widely. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

The Editorial Committee