Front Matter

The Mall Staff

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Hello Readers,

As the Editor-In-Chief of this edition of *The Mall*, let me be the first to introduce you to this wonderful book! My executive team and I worked countless hours, and read hundreds of essays to find the best of the best First Year Seminar (FYS) essays to be published. The purpose of *The Mall* is so current and future first-year students could have an understanding of the writing standard that is upheld at Butler University. This publication is not here to intimidate you, but to motivate you. Readers will find works covering anything from a student's experience on campus, to another's thoughts on philosophical readings from their class. *The Mall* provides students with a wide variety of works to find inspiration from. Butler has been known to do great things on the court, but it is up to us to prove that Bulldogs also achieve in the classroom. Of course, thank you to the English Department, FYS faculty and students, and to all who have supported and taken a part in this endeavor.

Taryn B. Plamann
Editor-In-Chief
Forward

For many first-year students embarking on the intrepid collegiate journey, muddled in the new social experiences and focused academic subjects, there is a new world of writing exposed that challenges the mind and soul. Academic and creative writing are arguably the cornerstone of a liberal arts education; the vehicle by which ideas and meticulous originality are communicated. First-year students at Butler are fortunate to have the First Year Seminar (FYS) system, as a gateway to exploratory academics, and a resource to cultivate the creative mind demanded by a liberal arts education. The editorial staff of The Mall, and I have considered the opportunity to review our peers’ work and create this publication a great honor.

Our intention for The Mall was to make it a compilation of diverse and excellent first-year student works. Throughout the editorial process we were continuously impressed by the volume and quality, of submissions made to us week after week. The Class of 2020 did not make completing this publication an easy task, which is something I believe shows in both the number and diversity of pieces we have placed between these covers. As I commend our authors for their exemplary work, I must also commend my fellow editors for their diligence, and devotion to making this publication a success. Many hours were spent debating the merits of submitted pieces, the proper place of each work in the publication at large, and the proper balance of the style of pieces we accepted. The editorial staff did painstaking work to ensure that the 2017 edition of The Mall contains not only academically written papers, but also examples of students’ creative writing capabilities, such as poetry and prose, and personal narratives. Also reflected, we hope, is a diversity of subjects and ideas; including content from courses founded in the context of a specific science or other field of study. While I firmly stand by the decisions reflected in this edition of The Mall, I would be negligent to not acknowledge the exceptional quality of some submissions we received that, nevertheless, have not been published. The limitations of both space and time forced the editorial staff to make several difficult decisions before the final version was set.
I would compound my negligence if I did not give special recognition to a member of our editorial staff. Chris Zeheralis, both a member of the editorial staff during the Spring 2017 semester and the copy editor for this edition of The Mall, was a particularly integral part of our staff, without whom, the publication would not exist. His sacrifice of time during summer classes in order to bring this publication to completion is greatly appreciated by all of us on the editorial staff. Accompanying our appreciation is excitement to see the 2017 edition of The Mall distributed as a representation of both the Class of 2020, and Butler FYS. We look forward to reading future editions of The Mall and recounting this wonderful experience.

David M. Sexton
Managing Editor
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