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Welcome to the most recent volume of Manuscripts.

Starting the academic year with an almost entirely fresh executive team and ending it with COVID-19 has definitely made for an interesting year. With all of the challenges and changes that we have faced over the course of this year, there are many ‘thank you’s in order.

To the executive team, I want to thank you all for your hard work and your patience as I learned the ropes this year. To everyone on the reading staff of Manuscripts this year, thank you for keeping my Tuesday nights lively and having great discussions about the plentiful submissions this year.

I would also like to give a big thank you to Anne Minnich-Beck, Nancy Colburn, and the English Department as a whole for the continued support this year. A special thank you to both Adrian Matejka and Brian Furuness for supporting our contests this year as guest judges and for meeting with our team to share your thoughts.

A special shoutout and warm thank you to the MSS faculty advisor, Jason Goldsmith, are much needed. The smooth transition into this year with both a new team and advisor was made possible because of his energy and dedication. I appreciate his hard work and am grateful to him for helping us learn, grow, and laugh through each obstacle we faced.

Within this volume of Manuscripts, we have teamed up once again with the W.I.T.S. program through Butler English Department at Shortridge High School to present the Shortridge Spotlight, in which we honor a talented high school writer. The annual fall
poetry contest and winter prose contests were held, through which we received many wonderful works. Finalists and winners of each respective contest can be found marked with a Laurel Wreath above their titles.

Being Editor-in-Chief this year has been a whirlwind, as well as one of the best experiences at Butler. I look forward to seeing where the talented executive team will take Manuscripts in the future.

Without further adieu, I present to you volume 85 of Manuscripts.

Enjoy.

melinda peterson

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