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Forematter

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Letter from the Managing Editor

In *Dust Tracks on a Road*, novelist and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston famously writes: “Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose. It is a seeking that he who wishes may know the cosmic secrets of the world and they that dwell therein” (182).¹ The essays gathered together in the seventh volume of *Papers & Publications* demonstrate Hurston’s core tenets of research. Throughout this volume, students “poke” and “pry” at their subjects, attempting to unearth new knowledge or confirm theories about the world around them. As has come to be our standard mark, the articles range in discipline and focus. Inside, you will find a panoply of ideas and methodologies, from theoretical literary analyses to in-depth field research to qualitative studies. Our researchers literally tackle the small (enzymes) to the large (elephants), while also meditating on challenging social issues affecting campuses including concealed weapons, racial ideologies, and learning styles.

This year’s selections continue to reflect the assorted research interests and exceptional work of students in our region. In placing such diverse articles in conversation, we hope to elicit new conversations and lines of inquiry. We invite you to enjoy the conversation, pass it on to others, and consider contributing – or encouraging others to contribute – to our next volume.



Anastasia W. Lin, PhD
Managing Editor
Assistant Vice President – Research and Engagement
Associate Professor of English

Anastasia Lin, PhD
University of North Georgia

¹ Hurston, Zora Neale. *Dust Tracks on a Road*. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Co, 1942.

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Leigh G. Dillard, PhD
University of North Georgia

Whether in the lab, the library, at home on a computer, or in the field, research demands we look beyond ourselves. Although this work might at times seem solitary, the mere act of research expands our sense of community by allowing us to interact with others. The contributors featured in this volume engage meaningfully in the cultural and political conversations of our time, presenting thoughtful analyses on issues such as gun violence, race, environmental concerns, education, and identity. They are participating in communities that foster questions, confusion, and uncertainty or are compelled to respond to an issue raised in a classroom assignment or discussion. How encouraging!

Similarly, this volume is the work of many hands. I am as always indebted to the work of the very capable editorial board and proudly present this volume on their behalf.



Leigh G. Dillard, PhD
Editor-in-Chief
Associate Professor of English