

amalgam

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon the inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

From "I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud"
William Wordsworth, 1804

From the Editors,

We're very happy to present to you our Spring 2009 issue of Amalgam. We've been moving along well in our efforts to foster communication within Charlottesville's graduate student community. We strongly believe that the broad spectrum of ideas emerging from the minds of our brightest, most advanced student body should be explored, examined, compiled and integrated.

The theme of this issue is "Memory", which may seem like an odd subject for a target audience that has such a collectively young mind. Yet, as we have explored the topic artistically, scientifically and literally, we find that the concept of memory has an effect unbounded by time. We depend on the memories of those that have gone before us to place our present in context. We search back into our personal experiences to understand who we are, and to predict where we might end up. It doesn't take long for history to repeat itself when we abandon, either carelessly or

intentionally, our recollection of all that has gone before us. While the physical stuff of memory may reside in synapses and cells, or deeper into the atomic material of which we are made, the human experience of memory is above and beyond all that, and is worthy of serious contemplation.

We invite you to enjoy this issue of Amalgam and to consider the role of Memory in your life. We further hope that you'll remember how much you enjoyed reading our issue, so that when the time comes when you have a great idea that you feel should be shared with the graduate school community, you take the time to write it and submit it to Amalgam.

Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't remember our own. We would like to thank Peter Tschirhart, our previous editor-in-chief, who did a substantial amount to bring Amalgam back from the ashes of memory and back into the hands of our present readers.

Thank you for reading!

The Amalgam Editorial Staff
David Sloan, Editor-in-Chief