

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, readers!

At long last, I am beyond excited to welcome you to the first official edition of *Spectrum*, the student journal of the McMaster English and Cultural Studies Undergraduate Society!

This journal was created to provide a place for the students at McMaster to share their voices in an authentic, inclusive, and welcoming environment. Since this was the first edition of this journal, I had no way of knowing what to expect from the submissions this year, but I was shocked by the number of incredible submissions we received, and I am beyond proud of the pieces that we were able to showcase. I'm excited to see where this journal goes in the future as more and more voices join in.

This journal would not be possible without the help of many wonderful people who spent time and energy on this project in the midst of an extremely challenging school year. The team behind the scenes of *Spectrum* this year was small but mighty: from the authors who submitted inspiring and powerful pieces, to the reviewers who gave insightful editorial assistance, and the team at the McMaster English and Cultural Studies Undergraduate Society who built the foundation for *Spectrum* to stand on. You were all invaluable to the creation of this journal, and I am forever thankful for each and every one of you.

I want to briefly shout out two people in particular who made *Spectrum* possible. First, the incredible Dr. O'Brien. Through every up and down that the society and the journal faced this year, Dr. O'Brien was there to support and guide us. Without her belief in our lofty and crazy plans, we would never have had the ability to grow the group this year. Thank you so much for your kindness! Second, I want to extend a huge thank you to Sean. This group and journal were his dream to begin with, and I'm honoured to have been brought on-board. Every moment of this crazy process taught me so much, and I would never have had the chance to be a part of this without his trust and support. I cannot say thank you enough.

Finally, thank you to you, reader. Without you, we would all just be speaking into a void, so on behalf of everyone involved with *Spectrum*, thank you for taking the time to read. I hope you can find something in this journal to make you think or feel or be inspired by.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca DeWael  
Editor-in-Chief