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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

Dr. Ross Louis, Communications

XULAneXUS opens the 2010-2011 academic year with several changes that demonstrate the journal's commitment to engaging Xavier undergraduates in every stage of the publication process. We are particularly proud of our new "Enhancing Scholarship through Digital Media" initiative, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The initiative debuts in this issue with phase one of a two-year pilot program that trains students to produce digital scholarship.

Digital scholarship incorporates digital media into any phase of the scholarly process: creating, analyzing, or publishing. Two goals guide the initiative: encouraging students to think critically about the ways scholarship is represented within academic journals and training students to enhance a published scholarly project through the use of digital media. In June, I attended the Faculty Resource Network seminar on "Computing in the Humanities" at New York University to gain digital media training. Dr. Deena Engel led the seminar and worked with me to conceptualize how students might enhance their scholarship. Back at Xavier, Bart Everson, the Multimedia Artist for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, consulted on the

initiative and assisted with audio, video, and web production.

Two previously published Xavier authors were selected to enhance their work in Fall 2010: Nile Clyde Lang and Chanté Calais. Lang digitally enhanced "Anomie," a set of two drypoint prints that he previously published in Volume 7, Issue 1. In his enhancement project, Lang documented both the writing and art making processes that produced his work. He begins with a narrative and images that show the development of his artist's statement. Then, Lang walks through his development of the "Anomie" edition, explaining his decisions in selecting particular prints by referring to his early sketches. Finally, he demonstrates the drypoint printmaking process through an instructional video.

Calais enhanced her article, "Chester Himes: Experience Stirred his Thought and his Pen." She originally published the essay in Volume 6, Issue 1. For her enhancement project, Calais focused on guiding the reader/viewer through Himes' early life and his race consciousness. She achieves this through the insertion of audio and images into her original essay. She also includes an audio interview with Xavier Library Director

Robert Skinner who has written extensively about Himes.

Two traditional peer-reviewed essays also appear in this issue: a senior thesis project in philosophy and an original research project in psychology. Joshua Davis' "The Morality of Special Relationships" explores the usefulness of selected ethical theories when applied to relationships with family and close friends. Whitney Miller's "Body Image, Peer Pressure and Sexual Activity" investigates the effect of body image and peer pressure on college students' sexual activity.

As *XULAnEXUS* publishes its eighth volume, we have also increased the involvement of faculty in the peer review process, increasing the number of faculty on the editorial board from four to eight. Our new Editorial Assistant, senior Adrienne Glover (Psychology), has contributed to a cleaner design, both within the online and PDF versions of the journal. We hope you enjoy the outstanding undergraduate scholarship that appears in this issue.

2010-2011 Editorial Board

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