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## An Interview with Nicole Callahan

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# An Interview with Nicole Callahan

## Jaime DeVita

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Nicole Callahan ('21) was a student editor for *Proceedings of GREAT Day* 2018 and 2019.

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### **How long did you work for the *Proceedings*, and how did you find out about the opportunity?**

I worked for the *Proceedings* for two years and I found out through my boss who I was working for at the time in the Open Education Resources department, Allison Brown, who helps out a lot with the *Proceedings*, and she recommended to me that I apply. I applied because it sounded like something I would enjoy.

### **What has working with the *Proceedings of GREAT Day* taught you about being a student editor? What about GREAT Day?**

So about GREAT Day, I think it just taught me more about the variety of things that people do on GREAT Day, because I am an English and Spanish double major, and I did not have a lot of understanding of the non-humanities side of GREAT Day. I didn't know much beyond the humanities as well, like dance performance and the music section of GREAT Day, and all the different ways that students get involved. So editing papers that varied from a range of math papers, scientific papers, psychology studies, cultural analyses, literature analysis, and dance analysis. I believe it taught me more about what was going on even if I couldn't attend those peoples' presentations. In terms of student editing, it helps to have more. I've done a lot of different student editing and I think it helps me have an example of academic editing, like papers for a formal sort of thing, like the *Proceedings*. So editing in that way is different from editing fiction or editing just a variety of different things. Mainly I have experienced editing fiction poetry and stuff like that, where the *Proceedings* taught me APA citation format, where English papers are typically MLA format. I learned how to arrange interviews with people, how to conduct professional interviews, in a way how we're doing right now, it taught me a lot about Adobe InDesign, stuff I would never had pushed myself to learn, but I need to know it. I learned a lot of different things that I wouldn't have learned doing anything else.

### **Have you had any personal experience with presenting a GREAT Day work that does not correspond with the *Proceedings*?**

Not really, no. I'm working on one this year and I had another one that sort of fell through, but I definitely have experienced GREAT Day personally more so with the *Proceedings* and going to GREAT Day and sort of observing. This GREAT Day I am working on my capstone since I'm an honors student here at Geneseo. The work is sort of about student editing, I am seeking to re-establish FUSE here at Geneseo, which is the

Forum for Undergraduate Student Editors. Basically, it would be a place for students from all the different publications such as *Mint*, *Gandy Dancer*, *The Lamron*, and stuff. They would come together and share their ideas and talk about editing in general. FUSE is like a national conference that people go to every October and right now the class run by Rachel Hall about producing *Gandy Dancer* called Editing and Production teaches about FUSE, where I think it is very helpful that students will have FUSE as a separate organization that people can go to and learn from one another. So, my presentation is kind of going to be about that: my work for FUSE national and also establishing FUSE at Geneseo.

### **What do you think GREAT Day provides the Geneseo community?**

I think it provides a lot of things. It's definitely interesting to have had two live GREAT Day and now, since I'm a senior, two virtual GREAT Days. It's sort of a different vibe, and I know it is different this year, I believe it will be similar to last year's, I mean obviously they're not having an in-person one. I think even the digital one, it sort of just a place to have your academic interests or even non-academic necessarily, just something that interests you, to show it to the rest of the campus and share it with students from all different majors and all different fields at this school because there is a lot of interesting stuff going on. There's a lot of academic curiosity here on campus and I think students do a lot of interesting work that I enjoy learning about. I also like that the keynote speaker comes and has that moment of clarity. I remember when the speaker I interviewed for one of the *Proceedings* was interested in political engagement and getting people involved in voting, and I remember going to that one and then talking to her. She taught me an interesting lesson, she was a very engaging speaker and also just a nice person when I talked to her. So, I think GREAT Day does a lot to unite us for one day, in terms of the thing we actually are primarily at Geneseo, which is students. It unites us as people who pursue knowledge and being people who are learning.

### **Is there a certain work that stood out to you, that potentially opened you up to a different academic realm present here on campus?**

I learned a lot about dancing. There were several dance papers submitted to the *Proceedings*, in which I knew nothing about dance, but now I do. There were always a lot of interesting English papers, but I'm already interested in literary analysis and new things about how people write an English paper, so it was nice to read certain English papers and see what those people have learned about things like Medieval literature. I liked reading all the English papers, and I liked reading history papers because they tend to be similar in that way. I think it was interesting to read papers about stuff that I don't understand or know anything about. I really thought it was interesting learning about dance, especially, and the psychology papers as well. There were things I just did not know, terminology-wise, so I would ask my psychology friend what these terms

meant, because it would assume these words that I did not recognize were typos. It helped round me out. There was one paper that was specifically about someone who composed a performance, who was a composer and they had directed a performance, a whole musical group, and she wrote a whole paper about it, which I thought was intense since I know nothing about music, where I thought it was interesting to hear her personal experience about that. I think there were a lot of papers where I didn't know anything about the field and learning about those things was really interesting.

**As your Geneseo undergraduate career is approaching its end, what are your plans after graduation, and how was the *Proceedings* internship prepared you for that?**

I don't know! [Laughs] I think that I definitely want to keep editing in whatever way that I can—I am going to find a way to keep editing. I don't have any really solid plans, because I am not, I guess ending college I kind of thought I would know. I feel like up until now there was a life plan that I was following, which was getting to college and then finishing college, that I think a lot of people right now replace immediately with graduate school. I am kind of weary to do that, so I am going to continue editing in whatever way I can and hopefully get some sort of professional development in editing because that is what I do. I mean who knows, life is crazy, and it changes all the time and especially now. I enjoy uncertainty, and I am going to continue to enjoy it.