

A Note from the Editor

Sarah Kay and Phil Kaye are a performing duo united through a series of odd coincidences: their cultural heritage, surnames, and, endearingly, a summer job. Their most notable poems – “An Origin Story” and “When Love Arrives” – highlight how love often hides in the details that we must slow down to notice. As the concluding speakers of the Spring 2021 session of Purdue Honors College Visiting Scholars Series, Kay and Kaye brought their love of spoken word poetry to a new audience and encouraged students to explore the lessons hiding in their lived truths.

Sarah Kay is a New-York based poet who believes that spoken word poetry provides a unique opportunity to probe the ways lived experiences shape our views on life. She is widely known for her successful poem and subsequent TED talk, “If I Should Have A Daughter.” Ms. Kay has performed at Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, the Tribeca Filma Festival, and the Apollo Theater. Her published works include “B”, “No Matter the Wreckage”, “The Type”, and “All Our Wild Wonder.” As the co-director of Project VOICE, she leads workshops across the country to stimulate students’ creation expression, empowering the next generation of spoken word poets.

Phil Kaye co-founded Project VOICE with Ms. Kay. His poetry has been performed live in over sixteen countries and for various global leaders, with one special performance occurring at the birthday celebration for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. He is the two-time recipient of the National College Poetry Slam (CUPSI) award, as well as the author of two books – “A Light Bulb Symphony” and “Date & Time.” Mr. Kaye is interested in expanding the accessibility of spoken word poetry and was the head coordinator of Space in Prisons for the Arts and Creative Expression (SPACE). Outside of his work with Project VOICE, Mr. Kaye is one half of *Thanks, Laura*, a comedy group that primarily produces video skits.

Spoken word poetry offers an avenue for self-expression that is too little traveled. There is good reason for this: one of the biggest fears among Americans is public speaking. The experience of openly confessing your thoughts and feelings to others is a daunting task, particularly when there is nowhere to hide. But baring thoughts and feelings is where authentic human connection begins—and, perhaps, where we begin to feel a little less alone.

About the Editor

Jannine Huby is an undergraduate student at Purdue University, where she is dual majoring in Political Science and Global Studies with a minor in Professional Writing. She is an active member of Purdue’s Honors College and a representative for the College of Liberal Arts on the Honors Leadership Council (HLC). Around campus, Jannine can also be seen performing her duties as a Resident Assistant and as a member of Student English Association (SEA).