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From the Editors' Desks

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From the Editors' Desks

Dear *LAJM* readers,

It is our distinct pleasure to put forth our first issue as *LAJM*'s new co-editors. Our experience spans all levels of education: Sierra is a secondary teacher, Greg is an instructor at a two-year college, and Amanda is a professor at a four-year university. We believe our diverse backgrounds can help bring a unique perspective to *LAJM*, and we are honored to have been chosen to continue the distinguished tradition of this journal.

We are excited to share this issue's contributions with you - and it is a rich set of contributions. The topics within this edition include: teacher education and first-year writing program development, concerns of first-year writing/composition instructors, ways of including marginalized students' voices in the study of literature, reviews of young adult novels, poetry by the MCTE 2016 conference lunch speaker Casey Rocheteau, and much more.

If you were in the audience this October at the MCTE conference in Lansing, then you had the amazing opportunity to hear Nancie Atwell speak. During her inspirational, insightful keynote address, she cited the following poem by William Stafford. She related the "thread" to how teachers hold tight to practices in the classroom that they know work - like reading and writing workshops. The thread is what keeps teachers going, she said, even when those around ask "what are you doing?" or "why are you doing that?" The thread is also what binds educators together - a sense that we are in this together.

We hope that within this issue, and all issues of *LAJM* to come, you find pieces of the thread that keep you moving forward.

Sincerely,

Sierra Holmes

Greg Shafer

Amanda Stearns-Pfeiffer

The Way It Is

There's a thread you follow. It goes among
things that change. But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost
Tragedies happen; people get hurt
or die; and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.

- William Stafford, 1998



Lansing River Trail Glory, Sarah Christiansen