

West Fourth

an anthology of essays from the college writing workshops

summer 2015

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WEST FOURTH

To the College Writing Workshop Students of 2015,

Welcome to New York University and to the world of college writing!

This year's inaugural issue of *West Fourth* collects eight exceptional essays that were composed by NYU students who took the College Writing Workshops last summer. We congratulate the students of 2014 for the great writing they accomplished, and we hope that their work impresses, instructs, and inspires you to excel in your own work as a writer this summer.

What is *West Fourth*? It is a collection of essays for you to read for its intellectual liveliness, imaginative playfulness, and genuine eloquence. The writers of these essays, each in their own way, borrow an idea from an essay written by a professional essayist, break it apart, look at it from new angles, and re-mix it. Through this work, they deepen our understanding of this idea's implications and significance. Each in his or her own unique way, these writers develop significant and sensitive reflections upon a complex idea. They engage us in a style that is clear, lively, and evocative.

As our former director, Pat Hoy, has written elsewhere, we ask you to pause in your reading when one of these writers surprises or confuses you. "During that long moment," Hoy writes, as you stop and think about what the writer is doing, "you may unearth a hidden secret—a writing technique that enlivens the essay and gives you an idea for your own writing." We think that Hoy's advice about learning is powerful and true. Regardless of what you decide you want to do, you will find that creative and dynamic thinkers in every field—artists, politicians, educators, health professionals, scientists, and business people—take delight and find inspiration in studying the accomplishments of like-minded peers. They undertake such explorations, however, not merely to pay homage to what others have accomplished but also to brighten their own minds, learning how to innovate upon what they see. In this spirit of curiosity, discovery, aspiration, and innovation, we offer these essays to you. Engage with them long enough to consider how you might do something new in your work.

Before closing our welcome to you, we want to extend our thanks to Dean Gabi Starr and Noelle Marchetta for their support of this endeavor. Without this support, there would be no *West Fourth*. We also want to thank the outstanding professors—Bruce Bromley, Elisa Linsky, Daniel Menely, Jono Mischkot, and Zachary Udco—who taught the courses from which these essays emerged and all of our colleagues for helping our students reach their potential. Finally, we thank Christine Jensch, Joanna Mendoza, and Christopher Cappelluti for helping us throughout the process of making this new anthology.

We hope to see your work here next year. Enjoy! And enjoy writing!

William Morgan