



{STET} Vol. 4, 2017

Introduction, or: How I Learned to Stopped Worrying and Love Multimedia

You would be surprised (or, perhaps not so surprised) at how easily a well-placed question can change the course of creative brainstorming. Earlier in this Fall academic semester Stet editors gathered together for food and conversation. This was the first time most of us had been able to meet and hold an official editorial meeting. While we all know of one another individually, we were finally able to put our ideas into concert together. Gabriel Mamola, Amanda Torres and Diana McBarnes and myself were part of this first dialogue (with Mohammed Ali Sumili who was present in spirit). One of the first things asked was a simple enough question: “What is it that this journal does and what is the best way it can help all UTA students?” From this simple question, much of what {STET} Vol. 4 is took shape. One of the first things we agreed upon was that we needed a concrete mission statement that would guide not only how we planned and understood the journal, but how all who would work with the journal would understand it. In the past, Stet was branded directly as a literary journal. This makes sense since Stet was created by the English Graduate Student Association. Still, despite the literary descriptor, Stet hosted art in the past and it was known that a wide variety of media content was allowed to be submitted by students. Returning to the initial question of “what” Stet did, we agreed that a broad scope should be declared as an open part of our journal, not because we wished to avoid literary works, but because we all strongly believed that Stet could accommodate a tremendous amount of content in addition to text alone. To that end, as it says on our Vol. 4 cover, Stet is an “Interdisciplinary Arts & Humanities Journal.” We want any UTA student who creates a variety of content media types to be able to publish with us. We also want our editorial team, now and in the future, to embrace a concept of service. We hope that our editors will work with an encourage undergraduates, and also graduates, to use Stet to publish the things they were creating and dreaming about. This renewed focus on who we want to publish with us and what they can submit lead us to tackle expanded ways of engaging with how Stet delivers content.

Our editorial team understood from the beginning of planning for this issue that we needed to embrace the greatest quality Stet provides, that the journal serves as a multimodal platform for a variety of content through the OJS system. In addition to prose and poetry, we could make sure that we could utilize music, videos, and other media submission. In this issue readers can listen to original musical compositions, you can read the sheet music used by those who composed said music, and you can even listen to these creators talk about the process they went through in coming together. For the first time, Stet has a video presentation of an academic paper, a paper that was delivered at our fifth annual 2017 EGSA Conference. What this allows Stet to do is to preserve and share the work that our scholars do, that way, should you not have been able to

attend the EGSA Conference, you can still take part in experiencing what was presented. I cannot thank Faedra Wills enough for her tremendous help regarding how much she assisted Stet. Many of our works in Stet Vol. 4 have accompanying video options for those who might want to share or save the work of our authors thanks to her diligent experimentation with HTML and web content. We hope this allows not only for innovative ways to enjoy the work our authors create, but also new ways to share and distribute said content. There are also new listings for “Podcasts,” audio streaming interviews where I engage directly with the creators of the content in Stet Vol. 4. I encourage our readers to give these productions a listen because they provide some amazing interviews with our UT Arlington students, composers, artists, and authors. We were also generously provided video of EGSA’s 2017 Literary Conference by Rod Sachs. We can provide video of this event for those who were unable to attend, thus (we hope) allowing Stet to preserve the efforts of those students who diligently planned and executed said event. Dr. Houser, the guest speaker whose presentation we have been fortunate enough to provide, was able to attend both because she generously agreed to speak with us and because EGSA’s Conference Co-Chairs Jeffrey Marchand and Vince Sosko put together a fantastic event. Stet is proud to acknowledge and share what they created and the ideas Dr. Houser came to talk about.

Stet has been and always will remain open to every level of UT Arlington student, from brand new undergraduates who are only taking their first courses, to PhD candidates who are ever-so-close to being done with their doctorates. The Stet editorial team knew that the interdisciplinary component would remain an integral part of what makes this journal such an amazing forum. In this volume you have Music majors, Art majors, English majors, and more coming together to share their creative efforts. It has been my particular pleasure to work with our editors as we try and expand the awareness of Stet to diverse groups and student organizations, organizations such as the UT Arlington Write Club and the UT Arlington Office of International Education. We genuinely hope that, in the future, Stet can connect a wide variety of students and organizations together in a collaborative concert of ideas and creations.

Michael Hale

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