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From the Editors

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From the Editors

By Eric Mason and Andrea Shaw

The texts by NSU faculty and graduate students collected here explore the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences annual academic theme of “Life and Death” and the many ways we choose to live our lives as members of many different communities, each with its own conventions, values, and practices. We are simultaneously researchers and neighbors and teachers and citizens and consumers and patients (among other things), and each role calls upon us to view the world in a certain way, not only to know different things, but to care and to critique, to interpret and to intervene. *Quadrivium*, now in its fifth year of publication, provides a digital venue for such inquiries utilizing a range of media and genres from a broad range of disciplines, and remains committed to its objective to showcase scholarship from across the college.

If something ties together the various texts published here, it is the perhaps the opportunity for reflection that travel affords us. Place is important to our sense of self as well as to our perspective on the outside world, and dislocations often enable us to see ourselves in new ways. The cover image to this issue is taken from Ed Stieve’s photo essay “Feast Your Eyes on This,” where he visually explores how the open-air market tradition still active around the world in places such as Spain and the Azores helps us reconsider the “ways of being” embedded in how we shop. NSU graduate students Keren Moros and Raquel Beatriz present us pieces of fiction that take us away from our local community and explore how individuals function in places where they may or may not find what they’re looking for. Yvette Fuentes and Timothy Razza consider how people position themselves within discourses, sometimes at the level of the nation and sometimes at the level of the academic discipline. And Stephen Andon questions the modern ways in which the sale of sports memorabilia allows us to feel “as if we were there,” while Emily Schmitt traces the journey of one’s cells beyond the body, assessing how far our biological influence can travel after we die. While emerging from different fields and embodying different genres, these texts share an interest in reflecting upon how we locate ourselves within the places and discourses that compose our lives.

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