

Gravel

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Article 2

Front Matter

none

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none:Front Matter

Gravel

Spring 2023

grav•el: a loose aggregation of small water-work or pounded stones

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The Hollins Community

Hollins University

Dedications

Pauline Kaldas

As our sponsor and advisor, we would like to thank Professor Kaldas for encouraging diversity in our classrooms and syllabi. We appreciate her dedication to Gravel and being a source of support with each new adventure the magazine and its editors undertake.

T.J. Anderson

We would like to thank T.J. Anderson for consistently supporting Gravel since its inauguration. His dedication to intersectional art through poetry and prose continues to inspire innumerable members of our community.

Simran Shrestha

Thank you for your kindness, your advocacy, and your InDesign expertise. The impact of your leadership inspires the Gravel team to embrace our voices and represent a safe haven for creativity and multiculturalism.

Harika Ganeshni Bommana

Thank you for your dedication towards the building of the Gravel community and believing in us. We are grateful for your exemplary leadership through tumultuous times to bequeath us with the inclusive space Gravel strives to be.

Victoria Trumbo

Thank you for bringing so much sunshine into the Gravel community; all your guidance and support has helped us be where we are today. This magazine would not have been possible without you. Thank you for being a great friend and mentor.

Yitazba Largo-Anderson

Thank you for the compassion with which you lead the magazine and for your unwavering support and encouragement in each new stage of its existence.

Ericka Kelly

Ericka, we cannot thank you enough for following your passion and creating a magazine that influences, inspires, and brightens the lives of our community - especially all of us who thought we had no place. Thank you for laying the gravel we now call home.

Salem Printing Company

Salem Printing Company has printed our issue two years in a row and we plan to continue using their company. Salem Printing Company is reliable, offers fair prices, and gets the work done in a timely fashion.

Lisa Radcliff

Thank you for your dedication to all of the literary magazines on campus and to the English department. You are integral to our corner of the community.

Hollins Office of Admissions

Thank you, Hollins Admissions Office, for your dedication to helping Gravel constantly grow especially through our new annual creative writing contest.

Gravel Contributors

Without your cultures, your stories, your art, and your voices, Gravel Magazine would not exist. Thank you for sharing your power with our community.

Gravel Editors

Without your contribution and support, this magazine would not exist. For all our brown, disabled, and LGBTQ+ people, you matter on this campus. This magazine is dedicated for you. Thank you for your voices.

Dear Hollins University,

“To build community requires vigilant awareness of the work we must continually do to undermine all the socialization that leads us to behave in ways that perpetuate domination.”

—bell hooks, *Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope* (2003)

The same question of philosophy has haunted Gravel Magazine since its inception: Who are we? Hollins University is a liberal arts college that boasts the strength of its close-knit campus community and its engagement in student government and social justice. This image of the quintessential Hollins University wins prospective students with the promise that “Here You Belong.” But who are we *really*, if we are not heard, understood, and treasured?

We’ve hidden and divided ourselves in recent years—with each step forward, an act of hatred forces us to regress. Our community is flawed, and yet, we do not allow our flaws to discourage us from resisting.

It is our acts of resilience that tether us to the identities that we’ve lost. We boycott, we protest, we mourn, and above all—we create. Our mission is to foster a creative healing platform for our community through the power of your art and your voice. Every spring, Gravel Magazine blooms with pride, culture, and creative talent to remind everyone that we—our BI-POC friends, the queer crowd, our disabled companions, and everyone who feels like their identity is worthless—will not be devalued, unappreciated, or forgotten. Our work will never be complete. We must keep creating and making statements to our future members of the Hollins community to show them that they belong here and they will always find a safe space in Gravel.

We dedicate this edition of Gravel to our Hollins community yearning for space to resist. We hope these pages bring you validation, inspiration, and compassion for the brave souls who share themselves with the world.

Kindest and most rebellious regards,

The *Gravel* Editors

About the Cover

The cover of Gravel is an annual collaborative project between members of the Hollins community. This spring marks the season of celebration, and our cover captures this sentiment with its warm, textured yellows and our collaborative design in the shape of a fan. The fan represents the unfolding of perspectives, identities, and cultures represented in the community. Taking inspiration from the core message of Gravel, the artistic celebration of multicultural identities as well as personal histories, and the love and support by the members of the community for Gravel's mission, the cover is a passionate and energetic splash of color that matches the heart of the artworks inside.

The cover of Gravel and would not exist without the love and support of its editors and members. Gravel cherishes each unique story laid out for the readers in the magazine. We also give our warm appreciation to Kiran Gautam, who is working to create a website to launch a digital edition of Gravel; and Julia Mouketo, Maeve Dragonette, and Bhumika Rai for their leadership in designing Gravel's social media content and boosting engagement. Thank you for your support as we work to share Gravel's true colors with the world!