A Note to the Reader

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A Note to the Reader:

We have manifold thanks to express for this volume of Sketch magazine. First, we are grateful to GSB for funding that makes the publication of Sketch possible. A big thanks goes to those teachers of creative writing who solicited manuscripts from their classes, and to all of you who submitted written work, photographs, and drawings. Thank you to Paul Brooke and Steve Pett for suggestions and repeated offers of assistance. Thanks to Barbara Haas for securing the funding for this volume. Thanks, too, to computer lab monitors in Ross Hall who were consistently helpful and gracious. I’m grateful to the editorial staff and particularly to Amy Rutledge and Bryan Johnson — Amy for constant dedication to close reading and Bryan for his technical wizardry and beautiful flyers.

I’m very proud of Sketch this year, very excited to see it come to fruition. I believe that it faithfully represents the spectrum of talent from the Iowa State community. The tremendous diversity of our student body is reflected in these pages. We have poetry from a young African American man that confronts issues of gender and racism; a group of sets based on the concept from N. Scott Momaday's Way to Rainy Mountain from a Korean woman that incorporate legend, ritual and personal experience into wonderful pieces that give an introduction to her culture and her relationship with her family; we have photographs and drawings to give your visual mind something to enjoy between reading the powerful distillation of emotion into poetry and the fabulous stories of a wide range of engaging characters. Here, you can enter the mental world of an Iowa farm girl, an old bitter woman evocative of the characters of Flannery O'Connor, an old black man who thinks he's Robert E. Lee; you can accompany your academic colleagues as they wrestle with issues of love and loss and language. These poems and stories are often funny, sometimes tortured, but always vivid, real, important.

I appreciate having had the opportunity to be a part of bringing them to you. Enjoy.

Sue Tatro
Editor