

Dr. Dan Cavanagh



LETTER FROM THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

I write to celebrate this second volume of Stimulus. There is a certain excitement that occurs when a new journal is launched, especially one that allows students to gain experience in the myriad processes involved in putting out a journal – editing, peer-review, publishing, layout, and more. But when a new and exciting effort turns the corner into a longer-term, ongoing contribution to the academy and knowledge, that is a true accomplishment. This second volume of Stimulus is a wonderful example.

As the world continues its forward march to one of interconnectedness, eschewing the traditional approach of singular expertise, I am heartened to see this new journal add to the great work started last year. I am an artist myself – I was trained as a composer and pianist. I cannot overstate the importance of ensuring that we allow our deep understanding of the human condition – gained through the words of scholars, the images of poets, the scenes of painters, the notes of musicians – to provide additional lenses through which we understand our place in the world, our versions of humanity. As the articles in this volume demonstrate, it is when we combine our human senses of the world with our technical training in medicine that we grow that much more capable of treating our fellow human beings with dignity, care, and inventiveness.

With that, I leave you to experience the work of the real experts – the creators of the articles that follow. I am proud to support the Medical Humanities at UTA and am certain that this type of interdisciplinary inquiry is the future of breakthroughs in our understanding of the human condition.

Dan Cavanagh

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