

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the 2017–2018 edition of *New Views on Gender*. My name is Alexis Wolfe; I am in my senior year at IU South Bend finishing my degree in psychology. I had the pleasure of taking on the role as editor-in-chief for this student lead journal. Each submission is from students here at IU South Bend and each submission tells its own story. Included before the submissions are letters from my cover designer Jenna Fink and my layout designer Hollyn Wiese. I cannot express my appreciation enough for their hard work and for making this journal a possibility. This journal holds many different styles of writing and I think that is one of the things for me that makes it so special. The *New Views on Gender* journal lets students express what gender means to them in their own context, have it be a research paper, a poem, or maybe even artwork. In its own way this journal is an expression of a part of our student body that needs a voice. I hope as you read each piece you hear each student's voice.

Letter from the Layout Designer

My name is Hollyn Wiese and I am a senior Fine Arts student with a concentration in Photography and a double minor in Graphic Design and Art History. In the final months of my senior year, I am striving to hone my skills in the Arts and use all that I have learned over the past four years to give back to the university that has taught me so much.

Words cannot express how honored I am to be chosen as the layout designer of the 2017–2018 edition of *New Views on Gender*. In the early stages of the design process, I considered the fact that personal experiences and serious issues would be shared within this journal, and the layout design that I create should not distract from the voices that are striving to be heard. For this reason, I kept the layout very simple, clean, and easy-to-read.

As I was designing the layout, I was able to see all the hard work that was put into making this journal a possibility, from the students who submitted their research papers, works of art, and poems, to the cover designer who drew from her personal experience to create her design, to the editor who brought all of this together. Countless hours of hard work went into bringing this journal into your hands, and we truly hope that in reading each student's piece, you are able to learn more about the students of Indiana University South Bend, and what gender means to our community.

Congratulations to all those who contributed to making this journal such a success!

Letter from the Cover Designer

I can't express how thankful I am for my art to be chosen for the cover of this *New Views on Gender* double edition. I am a senior Integrated New Media Studies student with a concentration in Graphic Design, on track to graduate in December of 2018. As my collegiate career draws to a close, I am looking for any opportunity I can to build my portfolio and share my art with the world. I want to say thank you to Professor Barbara Mociulski. Without her encouragement, I would have never had the confidence to submit my cover idea!

I did a lot of brainstorming to come up with the concept for this cover. My word lists focused on the words 'new' and 'gender' to get my thoughts going. The basis of my inspiration hit me one day when I was walking in Downtown South Bend on my way to yoga class. I passed by a wall completely covered in graffiti... on purpose! Not an act of vandalism, but a creation of art and an expression of feeling. I thought to myself, it's amazing how far the evolution of art has come. What was once considered an urban crime or nuisance, is now seen as a creative outlet for the community. Something similar can be said about gender and personal identities. What used to be a taboo topic, is now being explored and expressed fully and is steadily gaining a stronger voice in our mainstream society. No longer in the dark, but living confidently in the light.

I fused all of these ideas together to create the cover of this journal. It's an honor for my vision to be wrapped around the hard work, thoughts, experiences and artistic creations that lie inside! The very thought that this cover will be cherished on someone's bookshelf forever is humbling. Congratulations to all involved in the production of this publication and its contents! I'm proud to contribute to this journal alongside of you!

Peace, love and art,
Jenna Fink