

## Introduction

Phebe Kirkham  
Heather Robinson

One of the hallmarks of scholarship is its willingness to thoughtfully examine issues that might be deemed taboo within the larger culture. This willingness stems directly from the core academic belief that we can learn more about our culture and ourselves through studying such issues. Each of the three essays featured in this version of *The York Scholar* takes an insightful, research-based look at such sensitive and controversial topics.

In the first, “Is Ethnic Profiling Justified Under the Threat of Terrorism?” Huma Abbasi examines the use of ethnic profiling in the United States in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Drawing parallels among the racial profiling of African Americans, the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the detentions of Muslim and Arab men today, she discusses how fear and panic can lead the public to acquiesce in the stripping of civil rights from minority groups. She details how profiling fosters stigmas through its reliance on stereotypes and calls on all of us to find a way to avoid profiling and protect the civil rights of *all* Americans.

In the second essay, Keva Green outlines a range of alternative sources for stem cells in her paper, “Alternatives to Human Embryonic Stem Cells.” Noting both the technical problems and ethical concerns about embryonic stem cell research, she reviews recent, promising research into stem cells obtained from amniotic fluid, the placenta, and even the adult human body. She explains that much further research needs to be done, including clinical trials of stem cells derived from amniotic fluid and the umbilical cord.

The last paper, “A Bloody Business,” by Suraya Karzai, describes menstrual taboos in contemporary American society and suggests that the feminine hygiene product industry manipulates those taboos for profit. She uncovers the assumptions about menstruation that shape women’s views of their bodies and lives. Arguing that the manipulation of these assumptions harm women physically and emotionally, she recommends that women do more to educate themselves about the realities of menstruation.

All three of these essays were written while the writers were enrolled in Writing 300 courses and while their papers are grounded in research, they also participate in the tradition of an essay as an exploration. By walking the students through the research process step by step, the Writing

300 courses allow students to learn more about a topic they find appealing. The papers the students ultimately produce at the end of this process are not just simple, informative papers. Rather, the students bring their research together with their own analysis and insight, framing a scholarly discussion with their own perspective. Essays from *The York Scholar* are frequently used as models within the Writing 300 courses and we trust that these three will spur further discussion about the research and writing process not just within those classes but also in the larger York College community.

The art featured on the cover of this issue is by Andres Archangel, a student artist at York who created this work, *Visual Design Color*, for his class with Professor Nina Buxenbaum in Spring 2010.

With this volume of *The York Scholar*, we say goodbye to Michael Cripps, who was the driving force behind the journal from its very first volume seven years ago. When he and Cynthia Haller began the journal, their aim was to showcase the best of the undergraduate writing being done in the Writing 300 courses and to bring that writing to a larger audience. That goal has been more than met. We will greatly miss his vision, his perceptive and patient readings of student work, and his advocacy for that work and this journal. We wish him the best at the University of New England, where he is now directing the Writing Program. Heather Robinson, an Assistant Professor in the English Department, joins *the York Scholar* with this issue.

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