

About the Contributors

Jason Aguilar will graduate from Methodist University in May 2020 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design. He was born and raised in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, and has been interested in photography, film, art, and design since the age of 13. He hopes to work as a graphic designer and keep pursuing his dream to become a filmmaker.

Mohammad Alshalalda graduated from Methodist University in December 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations. A member of two academic honor societies—Pi Sigma Alpha for political science and Alpha Chi for overall scholastic achievement—he also minored in Legal Studies and Mathematics. While at MU, Mohammad participated in the Speech and Debate team and interned with the Cumberland County Dispute Resolution Center. Mohammad also developed his non-profit organization Nawafith for Social Development, which is based in Palestine, his homeland. He attended the United World College in Maastricht, where he obtained his International Baccalaureate.

Daniella Amsterdamer graduated from Methodist University in May 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science, with a concentration in International Relations, and a minor in Public Administration. While at MU, Daniella was a member of the Leadership Fellows; Pi Sigma Alpha, a Political Science honor society; and the National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi. Originally from Israel and England, Daniella lives in the Netherlands, where she is pursuing a master's degree in International Relations. She hopes to secure a political position relating to Israel.

Karen Frances Britton was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, but Fayetteville NC is her home. She is currently enrolled at Methodist University as a Graphic Design major and expects to graduate in 2021. Upon graduating, she will pursue a career in graphic design with a focus on illustrative and typographical design. When not working on academics, Karen enjoys playing the guitar and powerlifting.

Charles Canady is an artist, writer, and poet from Fayetteville, North Carolina. His writings have been published by *Pinesong*, *The Fayetteville Observer*, *The Olive Press*, *Tapestry*, *MU Today Magazine*, and *Carolina Country* magazine. He is the recipient of the 2019 and 2018 Sherry Pruitt Award for Poetry from the NC Poetry Society. His poem "Proud Plow" was a finalist for the 2017 NC State Poetry Contest. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Writing at Methodist University. When he's not creating, he enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, and choking a tune from his fiddle.

Maria Choi grew up in Fayetteville and plans to graduate in May 2021 with an English major, Spanish minor, and TESL certificate from Methodist University. In the future, she is interested in teaching English and writing short stories and novels, but ultimately she is looking to live her life wholeheartedly for God, wherever that might take her. While Maria

does not agree with all of Frederick Douglass's views, her research provoked her to ponder the responsibility of each individual to fight against injustice and inequality. She hopes her paper will similarly prompt readers to think about standing up for justice and freedom, and to aspire to create a society in which change can happen through understanding and empathy rather than violence.

Alexis Cohan intends to graduate from Methodist University in May of 2020 with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education with a focus in Instrumental Music. She is originally from West Palm Beach, Florida, but moved to Bolivia, North Carolina, in 2007. During her MU career, Alexis was in the Marching Band for three years and served as drum major for two of those years. She was also a member of the MU Concert Band and the MU Chorale, served as vice president and president of MU's chapter of the National Association for Music Educators, and was a member of Kappa Delta Pi, as well as participating in other clubs and organizations. Her inspiration for writing this research paper came from her 10 years of playing clarinet and her interest in how the recorder, specifically, was said to resemble the human voice. After graduation, Alexis plans on becoming a high school band director. Alexis dedicates her paper in loving memory to her grandfather, Harry J. Cohan.

DeeOnna Denton is the only student to participate in the Reciprocal Ekphrasis project participant as both a poet and an artist. She is from Fayetteville, North Carolina, and is a senior, majoring in Graphic Design. DeeOnna enjoys oil painting and creating ink illustrations. She hopes to be employed as a graphic designer or an illustrator. When not busy with design coursework, DeeOnna plays the ukulele.

Kylen Dooley is from Fayetteville and is majoring in Graphic Design. Kylen loves to draw in pencil and digitally, and hopes to be employed as a graphic designer. When not drawing or studying, Kylen enjoys animating. She is a senior at Methodist University.

Cameron Dubin has studied Fine Arts at Methodist University.

Cristina Gillard plans to graduate from Methodist University in May of 2020 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She is originally from New Jersey but has spent the last 23 years traveling the country as an Air Force wife. She currently means to remain in the Fayetteville area as an elementary school teacher. She has presented at the MU Symposium and the NC Teachers of Mathematics Conference. While a student at MU, she has served as president of both Students of North Carolina Association of Educators and Kappa Delta Pi, as well as being an active member in several other student organizations and honor societies. She has a passion for teaching and helping every child understand and succeed.

Tom Gore is pursuing his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design with a minor in Music. Born and raised in Newport, Rhode Island, Tom has retired after twenty years of service in the Army, where he served as an Apache Longbow helicopter pilot. He deployed to Afghanistan three times and to Iraq during the surge. He has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, eight Air Medals, and the Army Commendation Medal, with a "V" for

valor. Currently, Tom is a defensive lineman for the Methodist Monarchs football team, enjoys acting, and invites people to check out his website at www.imdb.me/tomgore.

Jenna Landis is originally from Indiana and came to Methodist University to pursue a career in the tennis industry. Shortly after her arrival in North Carolina, Jenna realized that she wanted to pursue a career in accounting instead. She graduated in December 2018 with an Accounting degree and a concentration in Professional Tennis Management. After graduation she went to work with XDIN, Inc., in Greensboro NC as a junior accountant and now plans to move back to Indiana to focus on studying for the CPA exam and working toward a master's degree in Finance. She is interested in becoming a financial analyst or an internal auditor.

Akejah McLaughlin is a Fayetteville native, majoring in Psychology with a concentration in Clinical Counseling. She aspires to become a licensed professional counselor and hopes to have her own private practice. Akejah loves to dance and is currently the head captain of the Methodist University Dance Team. She is a graduating senior.

Chris Miller is a North Carolina native who enjoys creative writing and uses his writing to transform academic concepts into something more fun and readable. When he's not scribbling in his notebook, Chris works with plants and spends time with his family. He is a recent graduate of Methodist University and majored in Biology.

Heather Miller is a Christian ceramic sculptor and painter, who teaches art to children in a home school setting with a focus on biblical principles. She graduated from the United States Military Academy with a degree in Sociology and served in the Army for eight years. After separating from service to be a homemaker, she attended Cameron University in Lawton OK and Methodist University, and earned her degree in Arts with a concentration in painting and ceramic sculpture. As an Army wife and mother of two boys, she uses her passion for art to encounter God, believing that creating art helps bring about revelation and joy. In her art she expresses her spiritual passion and playful nature.

Kristen Oliva is from Willow Spring, North Carolina, and is a senior majoring in Graphic Design. Kristen loves to draw both in pencil and on the computer, and looks forward to finding employment as an illustrator. If she is not drawing or studying, Kristen enjoys playing video games and teaching herself animation.

Mary Sue Parker is majoring in Graphic Design at MU and expects to graduate in the year 2021. Along with art and design, Mary Sue loves to seek adventure in God's beautiful creation with her friends and family. Originally from Saxapahaw, NC, she has many dreams for future careers, such as traveling as a merchandise designer for a band and also designing on movie sets, but ultimately she looks forward to going wherever the Lord calls her.

Kseniia Petrova is an international student from Russia pursuing a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications with a concentration in Journalism and a double minor in Management and Leadership Studies. She is planning to graduate from Methodist

University in December 2020. Before coming to the US, Kseniia earned an International Baccalaureate from the UWC-Dilijan in Armenia as a member of the first graduating class of the school. At college, Kseniia took on many roles, including being a president of both MU Reports News Show and MU Speech and Debate team, resident assistant, Leadership Fellow, and SGA senator. She also was involved in creation of this volume of the *Monarch Review* journal. Various honor societies have recognized her academic achievements, among them Alpha Lambda Delta, Pi Kappa Delta, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Pi Kappa Pi. In the future, Kseniia intends to pursue a master's degree in Linguistics Studies.

Sierra Romero was born and raised in North Carolina. She is currently majoring in Graphic Design and minoring in Marketing, and expects to graduate in 2020. Although Sierra has always had a strong interest in the arts, it was not until she decided to attend MU that she began to aspire to a life and career as a visual artist. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a master's degree.

Pamela Rondo is from Henderson, Kentucky, and is majoring in Social Work and minoring in Writing. Pamela loves to write short stories and hopes to be employed as a clinical social worker, using creative writing as a means of therapy. When not writing or studying, she enjoys spending time with her family and playing video games. She is a junior at Methodist University.

Jordan Saunders is from Raeford, North Carolina. She is an aspiring Graphic Design major with a minor in Painting. When not in class, she pursues her other passions, including illustration and creative writing. Though by no means a film buff, she has a great love for cinema, especially horror filmography. Jordan hopes to graduate with her arts accreditation in spring 2021.

Ieshia M. West graduated *magna cum laude* from Methodist University in December 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Social Work and a minor in Sociology. A Maryland transplant, in 2015 Ieshia enrolled as a full-time student in the MU @ Night program. At MU, Ieshia was responsible for or participated in over 50 campus and community projects, all with a focus on helping others. She received the Deborah Murray Outstanding Social Work Student Award, the Outstanding Social Work Senior Award, the Student Officer of the Year Award, and the Sam Edwards Award for Academic Excellence, Spiritual Development and Community Service, and was elected the Distinguished Graduate of her graduating class. After graduation, Ieshia was recognized by *The Fayetteville Observer* in their "40 Under 40" 2019 class of forty of the area's top young business professionals and community leaders. Ieshia currently is employed with Connections of Cumberland County, a non-profit organization serving women and children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, where she currently serves in a number of capacities, including as the volunteer coordinator. Ieshia attributes her achievements to her intense passion for community involvement. She will continue researching volunteerism among young people with the end goal of more publications and public speaking to enhance volunteerism in Fayetteville and in the country.