Editor’s Introduction

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It is with great pleasure that I write the introduction to the first issue of *Polymath*. Many journals have interdisciplinarity as a focus, though the vast majority treat interdisciplinarity within a field. Our hope with *Polymath* is to establish a forum for papers the topics of which are interdisciplinary in nature, or simply to bring papers from various disciplines together, the arts and sciences as the foundational elements of our institutes of higher learning.

Each of the articles published within this issue exemplify this dual focus. Stefano Boselli’s essay on rewritings of Shakespearean dramas and the Italian Futurists draws theater and literature together; Rita Arras-Boyd and Roger Boyd’s study of the importance of tobacco usage on university campuses brings a social-science approach to policy issues; finally, Nick Davis’ essay on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century conceptions of body, individualization of the person, political literature and graphic representation in frontispieces must needs use an interdisciplinary approach to the literary study of these works.

Interdisciplinarity is not to be envisaged so much a hydra, whose multiple heads are there to be slain, but rather as the various fibers within a cord, possessing strength built upon the individual qualities working in unison. Such strength is the hope for our liberal education in the Arts and Sciences. Similarly many individual efforts were brought together to produce this volume (though any short-comings fall upon the editor alone). Thanks are to be extended first to the College of Arts and Sciences and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, whose support has enabled this project, particularly to Dean A. Romero of the College of Arts and Sciences who was the initial proponent and supporter for this endeavor. The editorial board members too were intrinsic in the formulation of what this journal would set out to do and have often given of themselves in meetings, feedback, and reviewing submissions. Consequently I am indebted to all of them: Steve Brown, Shelly Goebel-Parker, Isaac Blankson, Matthew S.S. Johnson, David Kaplan, Christopher Glosser, Urszula Ledzewicz, Denise Degarmo and Jason Stacy. Gratitude is also extended to the many nameless reviewers who have also selflessly given their time and learning to select among the various submissions.