

Front Matter

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Journal of the Campus Read

West Virginia University

Spring 2022, Vol. 2

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Letter from the Editor

Morgantown, WV

May 2022

Welcome to the second volume of the Journal of the Campus Read! I am so excited to share this collection of hard work and thoughtful analysis with you—our undergraduate writers have done a fantastic job.

I have had the pleasure of being the very first graduate assistant to work on this journal. My predecessor, Ian Harmon, along with Renee Nicholson created this journal for WVU's undergraduate students to enter into the academic writing world early and fearlessly, giving them a space to share their voices and their work with a community of academics and fellow students outside of the classroom setting. I am honored to carry that idea forward.

When I first came to WVU in 2015, I was shocked to discover my campus read to be *World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War* by Max Brooks. Yes, I am being completely honest—that was the book! Slightly confused, a bit wary (the zombie genre has never been a particular favorite of mine), and armed with sticky tabs and a pen, I opened the book and starting reading.

The great thing about the campus read is there is always a point to it, something that makes us sit back and think, chatting in our classrooms and finding commonalities with one another. Basically, doing what almost every English major like myself is good at: bonding over a book. And, as odd as it is to say, I made many new friends and had some enlightening discussions over zombie-related content.

This year's campus read, Francisco Cantú's *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border*, is a brutally honest, stark retelling of lived experiences at the border. Cantú lays his story on the page for us to find humanity's dark truths and moments of lightening empathy that make up our history and our future. While indeed zombie-free, it encourages us to think deeper, fight harder, and open our hearts wider. It's the perfect novel to think and write on, and I am happy to share some Mountaineers doing so.

Take care and happy reading,

Devin Lacy

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