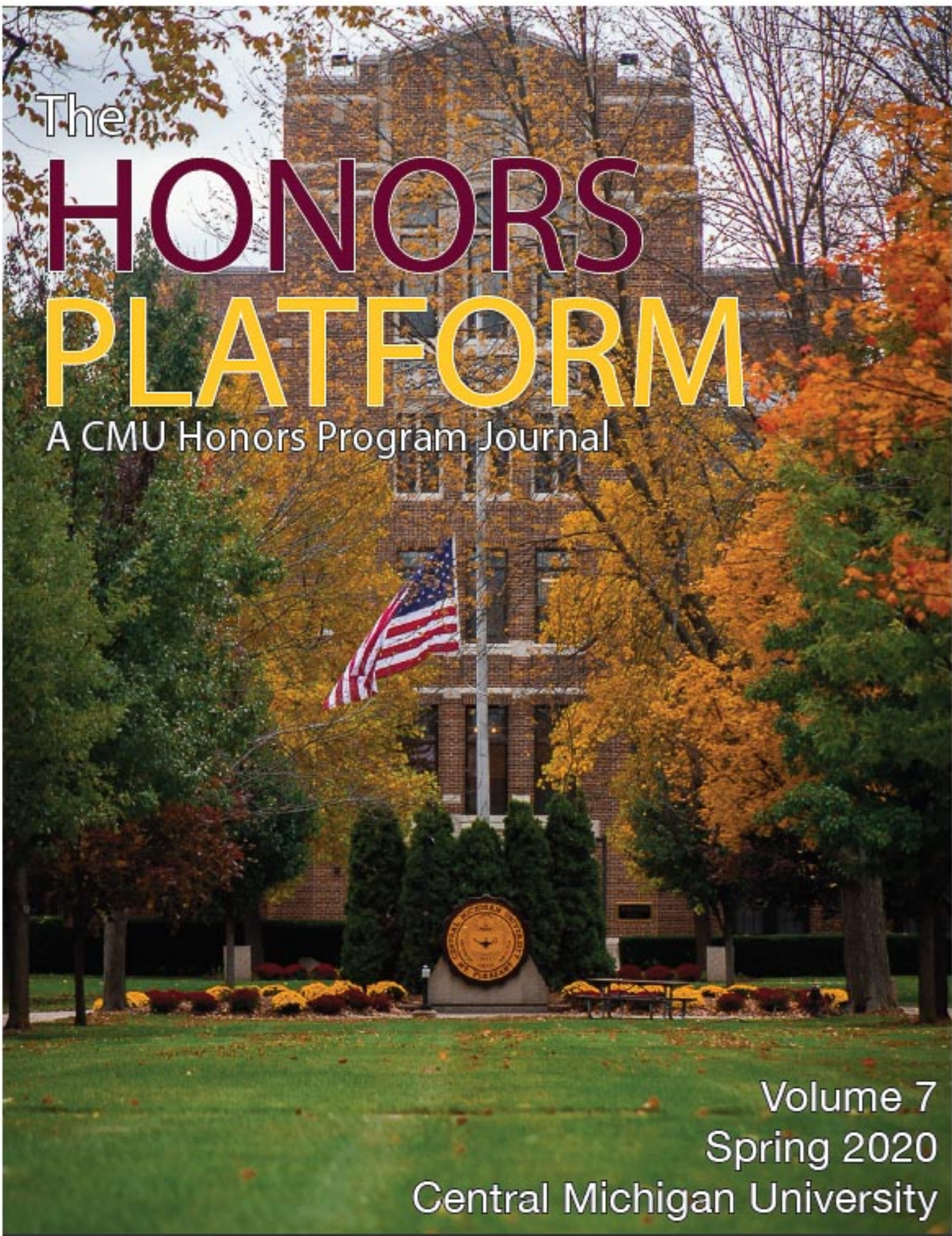


Quinn Kirby "This is For You"



The
HONORS
PLATFORM

A CMU Honors Program Journal

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CMU Student Review Team



Connor Thatcher, Lead Editor, is a senior at Central Michigan University studying English Education and Creative Writing. He's incredibly fortunate to be working with an amazing team of editors for the Platform this year. If he ever had free time, he would enjoy writing, reading, listening to music, and saying really bad puns.



Kayla Szymanski, Lead Editor, is a sophomore Honors student majoring in Secondary English Education from New Lenox, IL. This is her second year editing for The Honors Platform. On campus, Kayla is the Lutzler Hall Vice President, a Prize Desk Representative, and Honors 100 writing assistant. She enjoys helping members, committee members, and high school students find meaningful ways to express their passions.



Ashley Alford is a freshman at CMU. She plays volleyball for the Chippewas and enjoys being a part of her team as well as the CMU honors community. In her free time, she likes to go home to see her dogs, read, or watch TikTok.



Julia Amting is a writer and aspiring public relations professional with an end goal of using media to share important messages in a publishing, military, or non-profit setting. She writes her own blog, maintains an art business, and volunteers weekly as LifeCherries of Central Michigan. She loves the impact of words and has enjoyed seeing the publishing process behind the scenes through work on the Honors Platform.



Jade Androl is a first-year Honors student at CMU from Suburban, MI. She is currently pursuing Psychology and Child Development, with the eventual goal of being a child psychologist. Her biggest passion is helping others. In her free time, Jade enjoys reading, volunteering, and hanging out with friends.



Kristen Brennan is a third-year student at Central Michigan University. She is double majoring in English and History and minoring in Anthropology. Kristen works as a consultant for the University Writing Center and is also involved in several on-campus organizations, including Sigma Tau Delta and the Judo club.



Alexis Briggins is a sophomore from Paris Huron, Michigan. She is double-majoring in family studies and psychology. On campus Alexis is very involved, she is an inclusion assistant at Neribocoe Apartments, a photographer for a fashion organization on campus and is active with the Honors program.



Sam Daniels is a first-year student studying English Education with a minor in English as a Second Language. Her other involvements include the Organization of Women Leaders, Central Cities, Adops-A-Grandparents, and Planned Parenthood Next Generation. She is passionate about creative writing, drawing, and youth education and empowerment.



Paige Dambrowski is a sophomore at CMU studying English Literature, Language, and Writing with a concentration in Creative Writing. She spends her free time reading, writing, doodling, watching gossip movies, and hiking with her dog. She hopes you enjoy this advice and consider contributing to the platform in the future!



Noelle Gray is currently a junior Journalism major and Broadcast and Cinematic Arts minor from Oak Park, MI. She hopes to become an Investigative Reporter one day. Noelle enjoys reading, researching, oversteering the party, listening to new music, watching the business fall of capitalism and spending time with friends and family.



Justin Lyle is a sophomore from Duraville, MI. Justin is majoring in broadcasting & cinematic arts. He has a passion for visual arts. When not in the classroom, Justin can be editing or shooting pictures and videos, or binge-watching older classic films.



Chloe McInley is a first-year student studying music and philosophy. In the future, she hopes to pursue a career in an educational role, and become a multi-dog owner.



Megan Peterson is a freshman Honors student double-majoring in English and Public and Nonprofit Administration. She hopes to become an academic advisor in the future. Her interests include reading, writing, and binge-watching the Harry Potter movies with her friends.



Brooke Ray is a sophomore from Muskegon, Michigan, studying Clinical Exercise Science with a focus in Physical Therapy or Exercise Physiology. She is passionate about sharing love everywhere she goes and highlighting individuals who contribute goodness, such, and beauty into the world.



Eva Steepe is a sophomore majoring in English Literature and minoring in French and Leadership. She is a Resident Assistant for Thorpe Hall, a consultant at the Writing Center, and a Campus Ambassador. She loves art, good coffee, and imagine poetry.



Natalie Kea is a sophomore pursuing a bachelor's degree in dietetics. She plans to continue her studies in graduate school to become a clinical dietitian. Outside of cooking, she enjoys spending her free time writing, reading, listening to music, breaking bookshelves and exercising.



Cierra Jones is a second-year student studying Communication Sciences & Disorders, with the eventual goal of becoming a pediatric speech therapist. She is also a member of APELL on campus, a Teaching Assistant for Honors 100, and a consultant in CMU's Writing Center.

Cover Photographer



Lance Gascho is a sophomore at Central Michigan University and a proud member of the Honors Program. He is studying Broadcasting and Cinematic Arts, and is looking forward to finding a career in a media field. Lance loves taking photos in his spare time, and has been messing around with photography since High School.

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CMU Honors Mission Statement

Providing high academic ability students with unique educational opportunities and experiences. The CMU Honors Program challenges students to aim higher and achieve more academically, personally, and professionally for the greater good of our disciplines, our society, and our world.

From the Editor

Welcome to the seventh edition of The Honors Platform! This journal is produced by Central Michigan University undergraduate Honors students in an effort to highlight the impressive diversity of disciplines, accomplishments, scholarly activity, and creative endeavors within our community. To that end, the pieces we publish reflect the core values of the Honors Program in a variety of ways.

We were impressed by the quality and variety of work being done by CMU Honors students. The contributors to this edition demonstrated, through their words and art, a deep commitment to recognizing and insisting upon the furthering of knowledge in all fields. We must use our passions and resources to actively solve problems plaguing our world and embrace diverse and creative solutions to these problems.

This edition of The Honors Platform is a stunning collection of diverse works which venerate the value of all human experience. The pieces in this edition use art and research to reflect an appreciation of humanity's potential. The joint voices of these authors call for all readers to learn, grow, and use their work to better any slice of our world. It is submissions like these that exemplify the values of the Honors program and allow the entire community to be proud.

Acknowledgments

The Honors Platform would not exist as a unifying and illuminating resource without the support of Dr. Phame Camarena, the director of the CMU Honors Program. He has shown years of unwavering support for the journal and was again dedicated to publishing the best work of our community in this edition. We owe much to Phame's encouragement and high standards.

We would also like to extend gratitude to Dr. Mary Wendt who has overseen the Honors course inspired by this journal's production. Her professional knowledge of the field and her constant contribution of ideas have been invaluable to us.

I would like to especially thank the editorial board of the journal this year for their thoughtful reviews and dedication of time, making this edition possible. Their enthusiasm, flexibility, and optimism have propelled this project forward throughout the past year despite all of the challenges it presented. I think they are an excellent example of what can be achieved when Honors students work together.

Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Grace M. Ludwiczak
Editor in Chief,
The Honors Platform

Grace Ludwiczak is a junior at Central Michigan University majoring in Psychology with a business concentration and minoring in English. When Grace is not studying in the library or working as a consultant in the Writing Center, she can be seen fueling her caffeine addiction at Ponder or spending time outside.



This is For You

Quinn Kirby

The work in this series explores how I have processed trauma through the lens of seven chakras that line the spine. Due to an emotional catalyst at the beginning of 2019, I was able to unearth repressed emotional trauma from my childhood and begin to heal it. This collection represents how different phases of growth have occurred based on what each chakra represents in the human system.

While the chakras are being utilized as part of an artistic medium for this series, it should be noted the chakras are held in high esteem in Hinduism and have been for thousands of years. Western medicine is just beginning to research and confirm the validity of the chakra system and has begun to use chakras and other 'alternative'/traditional medicine to treat mental and physical ailments.

The process of creating this series involved sketching ideas, drafting them in studio, reviewing and critiquing them and then going back to stage one of brainstorming and sketching. Once I was satisfied with the final digital images, prints were created, framed and prepared for presentation. They are presented as a whole in this collection titled, "This is For You."



Quinn is a photojournalism major graduating May 2020. Kirby's passions lie predominantly in stylized portrait photography and artistic works, and the photographer is working to build a business from their creations.

Acknowledgements

This photography series was created with Professor Al Wilkey as Kirby's Honors Capstone Advisor.









