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Chair of Editorial Board

Editorial

In this fifth issue of *Crossroads* we publish general articles on modern Arabic poetry, the European Constitution, Ricoeur's theory of hermeneutics and Heidegger's philosophy on art. This issue also publishes essays written by those who were awarded places and commendations in the inaugural Annual *Crossroads* Short Essay Competition. This competition was only open to students at the University of Queensland who had completed at least two subjects in any one of the four disciplines covered by the journal. Our normal reviewing procedure involves a double blind peer review protocol, however for the essay competition entries we used a non-blind peer review process involving all ten of the then Board members, certainly a rigorous procedure in its own right. Judging was a challenging task due to the calibre of the entries. Initially we planned to publish only the top ranked five in each of the two categories – undergraduate and postgraduate – however it was difficult to separate the undergraduate entries and decided to award four commendations, and so we publish eleven short essays in total. The UQ Book Shop kindly donated book vouchers as prizes for first, second and third in each of the two categories.

The statistics show that *Crossroads* is growing at a dramatic rate. We have reached 8th place on the Google international website out of over 30 million entries; and 3rd on the Australian version of the site out of 390,000 – more than impressive we believe. And although the Australian Research Council ERA rankings have not been finalised, we are currently ranked as a B category journal, and hope this will be confirmed in the near future. We are one of a handful presently to be listed as General Social Sciences and Humanities, interdisciplinary in nature. We have locked in three Special Issues to be

published in 2009 – the first in January will consist of articles generated by the Rhizomes conference held at U. Q. earlier this year; in July will be an issue devoted to commentaries on, as well as articles by the Australian philosopher Max Deutscher; and in October one dedicated to commentaries based on the first special issue of works by Luiz Costa Lima. We are also considering another dedicated issue to celebrate landmarks in the history of the University of Queensland, which in 2009 will be celebrating its one hundredth anniversary, and of the state of Queensland itself, which will be celebrating one hundred and fifty years of statehood.

The number of page loads in August was 1,738 and the number of unique visitors was 747. In September they were down a little. However we added visitors from Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, Serbia and Montenegro, the Philippines, Portugal, Uruguay, Turkey and Russia to the already extensive list of countries accessing the website.

We are launching our book mark with this issue, and hopefully some of you will be able to get your hands on one of them. We thank the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics for funding the printing of these and the Short Essay Competition certificates. In particular thanks go to Professor Clive Moore, Helene Marszalek and Ian McKeown.

Helen Farley, Nicola Morecroft and Matthew Martinez have left the Board, and Matthew Lamb is taking a less active role for the time being. We have welcomed Tessa Jones, Sarah Collins and Chad Parkhill to the board in their stead, and the rest of us continue to carry on.

I'd like to thank all the current members of the board and those who have recently left us for all their hard work, particularly in the reading of all the entries in the Short Essay Competition, and the design of the certificates awarded to all participants. And of course our thanks go to all the others who have helped in some way.

And just as importantly I would like to thank all those students brave enough to enter the competition. It is no mean feat to expose oneself to this type of assessment.

We hope you enjoy this issue and are encouraged to submit your articles somewhere in the publishing realm, preferably with *Crossroads*.