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Letter from the Editor

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We travel to meet ourselves. How else to get to the truth of the world? To the truth of the patch of ground under our feet? Yes, this issue's symposium topic is Teaching and Studying Internationally, but as it turns out it might just as easily have been titled Making Friends. In a time preoccupied with war, terrorism, political unrest, varied turmoil, the safe response would be to huddle close and wait for the omens to go away. Fortunately for all of us, our community has responded not with fear but with a vigorous curiosity, an eagerness to explore all of the benefits—tangible and intangible—of teaching and studying in and among other cultures.

You'll find a variety of voices represented in the symposium: GVSU faculty, exchange faculty, and students, the latter a category we all fit into. The symposium leads off with a tribute to the spirit of exchange by Kate Stoetzner who, along with all of her colleagues in the Padnos International Center, was instrumental in helping collect material for this issue.

We were fortunate to have two of Grand Valley's most talented makers of art, Patricia Clark and Stan Krohmer, together on a trip to Ireland a couple of summers ago. You can see some of their collaborations on display in Lake Ontario Hall, as well as in the pages to come.

Our campus community includes Joe Abramajtys, a retired prison warden. His work originates as emails he sends to friends, and if you're like me you'll find this take—filtered through various and elusive narrative personae—on Israel and the Middle East to be challenging, controversial, perhaps even vexing, but ultimately textured and rewarding.

Submissions for *Grand Valley Review* will be reviewed on a continuing basis. We welcome any work that reflects the broad interests of our campus community. For the upcoming issue we are particularly interested in submissions (symposium-length and longer) that address the topic of Collaboration and Interdisciplinarity. This includes examinations of and past experiences with interdisciplinarity as well as collaboratively written essays, articles, or any other joint effort to create art. Be innovative. Submit work by campus mail to my office in LOH 345 or as an email attachment to havenc@gvsu.edu.

Cover: *Aqueduct at Caesarea* | digital photograph | 2004

Joe Abramajtys

—Chris Haven, Editor