

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Bernard Fergusson's opening lines to kick off this issue hold true for many of us personally. Though, unlike the speaker of "self-portrait with nostalgia," who claims, "I was born once and it's been downhill ever since," *Raleigh Review* has continued to get better and better with every issue—and let me remind you that Vol. 1 had an outstanding debut in the *Best of the Net* series for our magazine's launch eight years ago in 2010. Starting this magazine in my old home office that now serves as my eight-year-old daughter's princess-decorated bedroom was so very easy, though continuing to grow, nurture, and raise this magazine through its infancy and through its toddlerhood has at times been difficult. But *Raleigh Review* is so worth the many sleepless nights and the very early mornings.

Yes, *Raleigh Review* is still a work-in-progress after eight years and counting. What kind of work? Well, we've bussed tables together at the Waffle House, we've seined in the Alaskan Gulf and shrimped in the Biloxi Back Bay, we've slung drinks to those who felt they needed them, some of us have been told "enough" when we've had our fill, we've filled up fuel tanks and commuted to work together, we've paid our taxes on time and balanced the budget, we've generated and signed contracts, some of us are raising kids while others have already raised theirs and have had their fill with that, and we've been both students and teachers.

All this is just to say that we are working people, after all, who continue to make this magazine happen. We've been through a lot together though our mission has remained the same. At *Raleigh Review* we believe that great literature inspires empathy by allowing us to see the world through the eyes of our neighbors everywhere in the world. Our mission is to foster exceptional works of experience that are emotionally and intellectually complex through a wide range of literary offerings—though none more important than this magazine in your hands.

So slide on over to the cashier. Who knows, one of us might be the one ringing you up.

—Rob Greene, editor & publisher

