

# Editor's note

*Posts* is a chronicle of a virus.

A virus that infects the young and the old and the individuals stuck somewhere in between. A virus that contaminates the ears and eyes and conscience. A virus that often systematically attacks our better judgments and bank accounts. A virus that replicates the whisper from our souls, "Now is the time to go."

The virus is travel. And fortunately, it's not a disease individuals are reluctant to admit to.

This year's Anthology Project represents the literary and artistic work of students joyfully infected with the virus of travel. Their pieces share beautiful stories of aching, overwhelming and the human quest for understanding—all symptoms manifested in the modern traveler.

While there are those "cultural doctors" in our country who would order a regimen of bed rest—also known as the tedious task of staying in one place—the students featured in this book have defied this prescription. They have forged their way through the fields of Costa Rica, the back roads of Kenya, the train stations of the Czech Republic and the bars of Belfast. And while many people view traveling abroad as a "once in a lifetime experience," many of these students have taken to the road relentlessly many times.

Why would they undertake such voyages? Assume such posts?

The virus of travel requires much from its host, but the host receives much in return. It is evident that each of the contributors to this volume has been gifted by their experience of travel, not just in their photographs or words, but through a more elusive source.

Miriam Beard once wrote, "Certainly, travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living."

Indeed, travel is a change of living and a transformation of its host.

The logging of air-miles, hours spent on trains, bumpy cab rides and worn out shoes are but reminders of a tale of greater evolution. The evolution of the desire to understand oneself in relation the larger world. And the evolution in search of a post that allows us to be truly, organically and contagiously ourselves.

Here's to a virus that, hopefully, will never be cured.

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Anthology Project Editor