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Emerging Voices

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EMERGING VOICES

*Over the summer of 2012, the First-Year Experience Program asked incoming students to read Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2007), a novel about a Pakistani man's complex relationship with America. Then, in an effort to give voice to younger scholars on campus, *The Lehigh Review* challenged those first-year students to submit brief responses about that text to our journal. We encouraged them in particular to relate issues of foreignness and cultural conflict to their experiences as new undergraduates. The three winners have excerpts of their work featured here, in our first-ever "Emerging Voices" section. These students distinguished themselves from other entrants through their sophisticated writing skills as well as through their unique perspectives. We are proud to showcase some of Lehigh University's best and brightest young authors, who remind us that Lehigh's superb talent exists at all levels.*



Untitled
Jennifer Gottlieb

"Come late August I will be college-bound, leaving everything I have become accustomed to behind . . . My anticipation is that when I later return to my home, my old surroundings will be different, but only to me. As Changez saw his hometown not through the eyes of a native, but of a foreigner, I predict this scenario will happen to me. The freedom, education, and social aspects of college will spread like weeds on an unattended lawn in my head. My past perceptions will be uprooted and cast away as new ideals will be cemented in my head . . . It is a difficult aspect of life to fathom; driving away from your home and familiarity of the everyday routine to an entirely new one."

-Tyler John

"What better way is there to describe a freshman than as a foreigner? In August I'll be traveling abroad, to a new land. That would scare most people, and maybe it should. But I've been through it all before: the packing, the anxiety, saying goodbye to friends and family. So maybe I am better prepared. But no one is ever really prepared for something like this. Who can predict who they will meet, what they will do, where they will end up? . . . But what I do know is that I will grow. I will lose some things and ultimately transform into a better person. But what I hope to never lose as I start my new life in Bethlehem are the values that I brought over on that Air Jamaica flight ten years ago. What I hope, for myself as well as my fellow incoming first year students, is that we never become too desperate to please the crowd, because when the crowd turns their back on you, all that you will have to your name will be the values that have defined you up to this point."

- Scott Grant

"For the first time in my life, I will be disconnected from the maternal hands that cultivated me into the person I am today. Leaving Louisiana to enter a new region of the United States will certainly be an eye-opening experience, as I am exposed to a new mentality in addition to culture. I anticipate feeling like a foreigner as I present my southern hospitality to the students and faculty at Lehigh University . . . I know that I will not feel apprehensive about the changes that have occurred in my hometown upon my return, but rather about the changes that have occurred within myself and whether or not I will still fit into the lifestyle I once embraced."

-Brittany Partian