The Spectatorial Nomination Package

Below are the nominations from the 19 individuals applying to be on the 2014-2015 staff. Before voting, please read through these nominations carefully. Copies of the nominations will be available on election day. If possible, please also read through the application packages provided by each applicant—there's so much more to them than 200 words!

MANAGING EDITORS

Editor in Chief

ANNA BENDIY - 8 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

I feel a strong sense of loyalty towards The Spectatorial, despite not having the opportunity to participate from the journal's very inception. If elected, I would like to work with a committee of managing editors and the support of the editorial team to create a stronger brand for the journal that will carry it into its second year. I would like renew the established themes of the Spec with the goal of establishing a stronger sense of community for speculative fiction enthusiasts. Through new, innovative marketing ideas I want to help transform the journal into a staple of the UofT campus: an essential student experience. Balancing values of teamwork, creativity, equity, and editorial excellence I want to expand its literary influence and keep the journal on track. The Spectatorial has the potential of proving that "good" fiction does not have to lack otherworldliness, and I want others to get enthusiastic about the idea, just as I did. Also applying for: Fiction Editor

Creative Director

LORNA ANTONIAZZI - CURRENT 1ST YEAR EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER

I would like to nominate myself (Lorna Antoniazzi) for the position of Creative Director at the Spectatorial for the 2014-2015 academic year. Currently, my main experience is drawn from my participation on the board in the previous year, where I was—and still am—a part of the 1st year Editorial Board. Over the course of working with the journal, I have contributed through blog posts, illustrations, editing, and, of course, postering. The Spectatorial has provided me with an abundance of opportunities to experience the process behind creating a journal, and maintaining a successful academic blog. Overall, I can safely say that I have loved my time with The Spectatorial, and believe I would be a very reliable and successful Creative Director in the future.

Also applying for: N/A

Online Editor

MIRANDA WHITTAKER - CURRENT COPY MANAGER

I joined The Spectatorial this year and it has been an excellent experience. I believe that the journal is a very important addition to U of T literary culture and I would love to help it grow and thrive! This past year I have assisted in editing a piece for the 2nd print copy of Spec. I have

also voiced substantive edits for some of our blog pieces as I copy edited them. I have also been critiquing works of fiction all year, providing as much feedback as I can. This feedback has been well-received: I've had several writers thank me for my thoughts. I have also been edited and critiqued myself and I now have good instincts when it comes to a piece's strengths and weaknesses. These experiences and skills will allow me to serve Spec as a reliable and knowledgeable editor.

Also applying for: Fiction Editor

EMILY WILLAN - CURRENT EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER

I have an extensive background in writing and editing both fiction and non-fiction. In the past year, I have written and copy-edited blog posts for The Spectatorial and helped to establish the journal's online presence by sharing blog posts, group events and information. I also initiated and maintain the journal's Goodreads account. As a result of my experience with the journal, I have been able to develop my leadership, teamwork and organizational skills. I am also well-acquainted with the level of quality expected of its content. In addition, I am familiar with the organizational and time management skills required to regularly generate online content as I currently write a blog (largely on writing and editing tips) for my editing business. I am very excited about this new position, and have many ideas! If I were to be given it, I would organize a system to manage the journal's various online accounts to ensure that they are regularly utilized and updated. I would propose expanding our online presence to include other media platforms, such as Instagram and YouTube. I would also like to reach out to associated blogs and websites in order to grow the journal's community.

Also applying for: Fiction Editor

CONTENT EDITORS

Fiction Editor

ANNA BENDIY - 8 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

As a reader and a writer, I know a good story when I see one. Sometimes it is hidden behind awkward phrases, or capricious words. Sometimes it a good story needs a lot of polishing to shine through. As a fiction editor, I would have an opportunity to perform all the snips and tucks to make a piece of fiction great. I have strong interpersonal skills essential for effective communication with team members, and the authors of our pieces. I also understand the balance between the author's voice and style, and the demands of journal standards. I recognize that the editor-writer is a precarious relationship, sometimes calling for compromise and sometimes for insistence. I am dedicated to helping promote the values of the journal along with the rest of the team, and to contributing of the successful running of the editorial process. Also applying for: Editor in Chief

LARA THOMPSON - 2 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

I want to work with Spectatorial writers to have a platform on which to present their ideas and fiction. I want to help nurture creativity, and provide an outlet for people like me who want to write something for fun, instead of for school. I'm currently taking a series of seminars with the Editors Association of Canada. These include Substantive Editing, Writing and Editing for the Web, Introduction to Production Editing, Clear and Concise: Guidelines for Style, Punctuation

and Mechanics, Author-Editor Relations, and the National EAC conference this year on e-Merging Methods and Markets. My other qualifications include a seminar in Humber's Creative Book Publishing Program called "The Insider's Guide to Getting Published". I've also been accepted for an internship as the "Online Events and Entertainment Editor" of theBuzz Magazine (a new LGBTQ publication). Obviously, I am an English student and that implies an excellent knowledge of grammar, punctuation, style, and vocabulary. I'm also a Classical Civilizations major and my specialty is myths and legends in the Greek and Roman Civilizations. This is an asset in the realm of speculative fiction, since much of imagination is related to mythical archetypes.

Also applying for: Editorial Board

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Also applying for: Online Editor

EMILY WILLAN - CURRENT EDITORIAL BOARD

I would like to nominate myself for Fiction Editor. I have been writing and editing speculative fiction for over ten years. I have read widely in the genre(s); indeed, it was among the first I was introduced to. I am also studying Creative Writing at the University of Toronto, and I have participated in numerous writing workshops. I have co-written two speculative novels, which has given me ample experience in creative collaboration. As an editor, I am highly experienced, and operate my own editing service; I have an extensive portfolio in editing speculative fiction. Through my experience over the past year at The Spectatorial, I have had two opportunities to take part in the selection and editing process of fiction pieces. In addition, my experience at the journal has served to prepare me for the immense workload and responsibility associated with this job.

I would bring great enthusiasm and dedication to the journal and to this position; I am passionate about The Spectatorial and its content. I love the possibilities of fiction (especially speculative fiction), and I am always excited to read new authors. I am eager to see this journal grow in the coming year!

Also applying for: Online Editor

Nonfiction Editor

EMILY MAGGIACOMO - CURRENT EDITORIAL BOARD

This year I've been lucky enough to be on the editorial board of the Spectatorial. I've assistant edited a non-fiction piece, co-edited a non-fiction piece, copy edited, postered, and helped to design the journal. I feel that my year of experience has readied me to step up to the role of non-fiction editor next year; otherwise, I'd love to still be on the editorial board. I want to continue the wonderful non-fiction section that we have, and creating a really strong connection with our contributors is very important to me. Speculative fiction is my biggest passion and I've loved working on the journal this year, and I'm very excited to work on it next year and hopefully step up my leadership.

Also applying for: Editorial Board

JANICE TO - CURRENT EDITORIAL BOARD

Working with The Spectatorial, and being part of the production of our very first journal, has been such a pleasure. As a member of our editorial board, I've learned so much from my fellow editors, and their creativity and passion never fails to inspire me. As a student of literature, I am constantly seeking authenticity and originality in what I read and write, and I applaud The Spectatorial for nurturing a desire to showcase and celebrate speculative works that fail to get the recognition and attention they deserve. While I've enjoyed my role as an assistant editor, I'd love for the chance to take on greater responsibilities within the journal. In particular, as an essay whisperer, the roles of copy manager and nonfiction editor speak to me. Being a self-professed lover of nonfiction writing and grammar (don't judge me), and having leveled-up editorial skills, I believe I have a lot to offer these positions. Finally, I want to challenge myself to continue bringing to the Spectatorial team an unparalleled enthusiasm and a desire to produce only the most original, imaginative, and exciting works.

Also applying for: Copy Manager

Copy Manager

BRENDA BONGOLAN - 7 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

My name is Brenda and I want to be the Copy Manager for The Spectatorial. Briefly, I'm running for this position because I love the genre, the journal, I'm a 'Grammar Nazi', and I love the book medium and its production process. As far as my experience goes, I have contributed to The Spectatorial since January—I discovered its existence then—with copy editing online and off; I'm a writer-turned-Assistant-Editor for The Victoriad; and I've started doing freelance editing for my aunt's website (imiebelanger.com). Being the Copy Manager, I want to work on the 'encouraging copy editors' responsibility and make it a more social, fun occurrence. I'm thinking team socials like 'Cocktails with Copy Editors' or 'Karaoke with Copy Editors'; anything we'd like in order to build a stronger, closer team and readership for The Spectatorial. I'd also want to extend my community-building ideas into the journal for more campus-wide recognition and engagement. We can have group outings with other students to events, like a spec-fic novel's book launch; club collaborations, like with CINSSU to watch and discuss films on Fridays; and a social, offline forum where anyone and everyone can come together to talk about anything on the genre.

Also applying for: Editorial Board

ALEX DE POMPA - 10 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

I am applying for the positions of Copy Manager and Graphic Fiction Editor. I want to join The Spectatorial because I support its mission to foster a speculative fiction community at the University of Toronto. I have been impressed by the dedication of the journal's members and would like to work more closely with these talented individuals in the future. I was the Editor in Chief of my high school's award-winning volunteer newspaper, the Mary Ward Planet. I managed a team of sixteen editors and worked with over a hundred student volunteers. For my work, I was awarded by the Toronto Star the Brad Henderson Award for Excellence in Journalism and the Runner-Up in Critical Writing Award as a part of their annual High School Newspaper Awards. I was also the Copy Manager for my high school's yearbook. For both the newspaper and the yearbook, I was responsible for reading over the final proofs before sending them to print. Despite having only begun to work for The Spectatorial in the second term, I am finishing this year with the most contributor's points of all volunteers.

Also applying for: Graphic Fiction Editor

CAITLIN PLAINOS - 2 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

I am going for a position with The Spectatorial to strengthen my application to graduate school as I will be applying for a Masters in Publishing next year. Since I want to pursue a career as a fiction editor, I feel that experience with speculative fiction will be beneficial to broadening my scope and understanding of genre fiction. I have previous experience as a copy-editor with The Varsity, an assistant editor to BMSSA's The Foolscap, a content writer and editor for a skincare company called Beyond Beauty Organics, as well as a writer and editor/publisher for a blog called Wordly Journal. I have exceptional spelling, grammar and punctuation skills, and a knack for clarity, consistency and conciseness. My years of serving experience have made me into a team player that works well with others. I am also a leader who is willing to take initiative, with excellent communication and organizational skills; my work with Wordly Journal involves organizing 8 writers (myself included) to contribute to the blog on a monthly basis. I plan on bringing these skills as well as unique ideas, creativity, and an unwavering positive attitude to The Spectatorial team!

Also applying for: Editorial Board

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Working with The Spectatorial, and being part of the production of our very first journal, has been such a pleasure. As a member of our editorial board, I've learned so much from my fellow editors, and their creativity and passion never fails to inspire me. As a student of literature, I am constantly seeking authenticity and originality in what I read and write, and I applaud The Spectatorial for nurturing a desire to showcase and celebrate speculative works that fail to get the recognition and attention they deserve. While I've enjoyed my role as an assistant editor, I'd love for the chance to take on greater responsibilities within the journal. In particular, as an essay whisperer, the roles of copy manager and nonfiction editor speak to me. Being a self-professed lover of nonfiction writing and grammar (don't judge me), and having leveled-up editorial skills, I believe I have a lot to offer these positions. Finally, I want to challenge myself to continue bringing to the Spectatorial team an unparalleled enthusiasm and a desire to produce only the most original, imaginative, and exciting works.

Also applying for: Nonfiction Editor

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Also applying for: Copy Manager

AMY WANG - 2 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

I've been an avid reader of comic books and speculative fiction for most of my literate years. As a student of English literature and visual art, my pipe dream has always been to work in the comic industry in some capacity. The position of Graphic Fiction Editor holds immense appeal for me, as I love seeking out and interacting with fellow artists and writers. I understand how daunting creating graphic fiction can be for any singular person, having attempted it many times in the past (with varying degrees of success). I have many years of art and design experience that I would love to contribute to the Spectatorial's aesthetic and I'm tapped into the community of artists and writers around campus. I'm passionate about facilitating interaction between student groups, and hold no reservations toward shameless self-advertisement, a skill that I hope to contribute to the establishment of the Spectatorial's place at U of T. I see so much potential in the journal, in both content and the community that can be built around it. If elected in the Graphic Fiction Editor position, I hope to bring together creative talent of all kinds to create something that everyone can enjoy.

Also applying for: Editorial Board

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

<u>Layout Editor</u>

HELEN PICARD - NEW APPLICANT

At a large university such as the University of Toronto, there are many student publications fighting for attention and resources. In order to be different, The Spectatorial should have eye-catching, clean-cut, innovative design that matches the quality of its content. My experience as a freelance graphic designer and Design Editor for The Salterrae has provided me with the tools accomplish this. Using Adobe Photoshop and InDesign I can design visually striking layouts that

suit unusual and captivating content. I can also help cultivate a specific visual brand that can be manipulated to suit individual articles and themes, but that is still recognizable across issues. I am not completely familiar with The Spectatorial's editorial procedure or budget capabilities, but I would like to at least propose a "Wine and Design" event where members can contribute to and comment on the journal's design and layout - the best journals are superior because they incorporate multiple opinions and insights. I find The Spectatorial's subject matter not only intellectually but also visually inspiring. I hope to contribute to the already beautiful Spectatorial layout, and that soon enough, most U of T students will be wearing purple-tinted glasses. *Also applying for: N/A*

ARIANA YOUM - NEW APPLICANT

I want to join The Spectatorial because I am very passionate about writing, and I think I will do the job well. My high school years revolved around the official school magazine, the Cuspidor. Starting out as a columnist in grade nine, I became one of the four editors in my senior year. As the editor of The Cuspidor, my duties not only consisted of selecting, collating, and editing pieces, but also creating layouts on Adobe InDesign and Photoshop for each issue. While I have a lot of relevant skills that I can apply as a member of The Spectatorial, I also have innovative ideas to contribute to the team. I feel like we should focus on expanding The Spectatorial especially because it's a fairly new publication. A possible way to increase readership is through printing posters that have an excerpt of the "Piece of the Week" - we could post it around campus so people will become intrigued and want to find out more! Overall, I believe that my creativity, applicable experience, and my genuine love of literature will make me a valuable member of The Spectatorial. Thank you!

Also applying for: Editorial Board

Editorial Board

JESSICA BAKER - NEW APPLICANT

I have been a student at the university for two years now and have yet to come across something with the charm of the Spectatorial. As a fan of all forms of fiction, especially science fiction, horror, and fantasy, I would really like a chance to be able to publish pieces on these works. Although I have no formal experience with publishing or editing, I make up for it with immense passion and drive, and as an aspiring writer, I would relish this opportunity more so than someone seeking a bullet point on their resume.

Also applying for: N/A

Brenda Bongolan - 7 Contributors' Points

My name is Brenda and I want to be an Editorial Board member for The Spectatorial's 2014-2015 team. Briefly, I'm running for this position because I love the genre, the journal, and I love the book medium and its production process. As far as my experience with The Spectatorial, I have contributed to it since January—which is when I discovered its existence—with copy editing online and off, creating a blog post, and attending almost all meetings. I was also a blurb writer for The Victoriad, and got promoted to Assistant Editor due to my above-and-beyond dedication for making the yearbook perfect; I've designed a couple of pages, did 'postering' work, administrative work, and marketing. What's more, the Editor-in-Chief and I

have already started designing marketing plans for next year, and I can tell you The Victoriad's future looks very promising. With those ideas, I'd like to extend them (and more) to The Spectatorial: group outings with other students to events related to the journal and spec-fic; club collaborations, like with CINSSU to watch and discuss films on Fridays; and a social, offline forum where anyone and everyone can come together to talk about anything on the genre. Also applying for: Copy Manager

SIMONA JOHNSON - NEW APPLICANT

Info Here

Also applying for: N/A

EMILY MAGGIACOMO - CURRENT EDITORIAL BOARD

This year I've been lucky enough to be on the editorial board of the Spectatorial. I've assistant edited a non-fiction piece, co-edited a non-fiction piece, copy edited, postered, and helped to design the journal. I feel that my year of experience has readied me to step up to the role of non-fiction editor next year; otherwise, I'd love to still be on the editorial board. I want to continue the wonderful non-fiction section that we have, and creating a really strong connection with our contributors is very important to me. Speculative fiction is my biggest passion and I've loved working on the journal this year, and I'm very excited to work on it next year and hopefully step up my leadership.

Also applying for: Nonfiction Editor

NICHOLAS MORRA - 3 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

I'm a 3rd year student at the University of Toronto, with Majors in English and Ethics, Society & Law. I'm running for an Editorial Board position with the Spectatorial. I'd like to work with the Spectatorial because it covers a wide variety of material that I can feel passionate about. The journal offers the opportunity to really dedicate myself in sharing the joys of fantasy, steampunk, zombie-fiction, and other fascinating genres. Alongside my enthusiasm, I'm ready to share the editing experience I've gained with a variety of University of Toronto journals. I've already worked with the Spectatorial by lending copyediting assistance through both in person sessions and blog editing. Last academic year I served as the Renaissance Student Association's Assistant Editor in Chief for its academic journal: *Virtu and Fortuna*. I edited, fact-checked, and otherwise assisted in organizing a variety of academic Renaissance Studies journal entries. Currently, I'm an executive with the University of Toronto's English undergraduate academic journal: *Idiom*. On *Idiom* I've gained experience with: submission selections, substantive and copy-editing, record-keeping, and fundraising. With each journal, I've proven reliable in my work, available to lend my time, and eager to get involved in discussion. I look forward to doing the same with the Spectatorial.

Also applying for: N/A

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Varsity, an assistant editor to BMSSA's The Foolscap, a content writer and editor for a skincare company called Beyond Beauty Organics, as well as a writer and editor/publisher for a blog called Wordly Journal. I have exceptional spelling, grammar and punctuation skills, and a knack for clarity, consistency and conciseness. My years of serving experience have made me into a team player that works well with others. I am also a leader who is willing to take initiative, with excellent communication and organizational skills; my work with Wordly Journal involves organizing 8 writers (myself included) to contribute to the blog on a monthly basis. I plan on bringing these skills as well as unique ideas, creativity, and an unwavering positive attitude to The Spectatorial team!

Also applying for: Copy Manager

TOOBA QUIDWAI - NEW APPLICANT

As I explained in my official application for the position, The Spectatorial is the first platform that has caught my attention ever since I have started studying at the University of Toronto. With extensive and illuminating features on everything science fiction, focusing on popular culture, books, graphic novels and the sort- it has the perfect recipe that calls out to my starving mind. I am an English Specialist finishing off my third year at the University, therefore, that gives me a definite background to work in a literary press. I am used to writing/reading for my multiple courses in English every year and have experience in making deadlines, meeting certain word limits, editing for my peers, to name a few things. I hope to bring a fresh perspective to the Journal and to work with the rest of the staff to take it to new stands.

Also applying for: N/A

LARA THOMPSON - 2 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

I want to work with Spectatorial writers to have a platform on which to present their ideas and fiction. I want to help nurture creativity, and provide an outlet for people like me who want to write something for fun, instead of for school. I'm currently taking a series of seminars with the Editors Association of Canada. These include Substantive Editing, Writing and Editing for the Web, Introduction to Production Editing, Clear and Concise: Guidelines for Style, Punctuation and Mechanics, Author-Editor Relations, and the National EAC conference this year on e-Merging Methods and Markets. My other qualifications include a seminar in Humber's Creative Book Publishing Program called "The Insider's Guide to Getting Published". I've also been accepted for an internship as the "Online Events and Entertainment Editor" of theBuzz Magazine (a new LGBTQ publication). Obviously, I am an English student and that implies an excellent knowledge of grammar, punctuation, style, and vocabulary. I'm also a Classical Civilizations major and my specialty is myths and legends in the Greek and Roman Civilizations. This is an asset in the realm of speculative fiction, since much of imagination is related to mythical archetypes.

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Also applying for: Layout Editor

POLINA ZAK - 3 CONTRIBUTORS' POINTS

My name is Polina Zak and I am a 2nd year student working on a degree in Biology, Sociology, and English. As a member of The Spectatorial Editorial Board I would be excited to promote and conserve pieces of writing that are diverse and unique – both stylistically and subject-wise. I feel passionate about supporting U of T student-writers and committed to helping them share their creative literature. My editorial experience comes mostly from the work I have done in my English and Sociology courses. Since first year, I have also been a member of the U of T Undergraduate Creative Writing Club and have participated in a variety of events for this group. Any relevant skills that I have gained from these experiences I will gladly bring to The Spectatorial. Just a few of the ideas I can contribute on promoting this journal: 1) increased marketing of The Spectatorial to the Sciences (ex. Life Sci., Engineering, etc.) 2) creating a physical presence (ex. booths, contests, flyers etc.)

Also applying for: N/A