

CONTINUUM

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VOLUME 11



MAGIC^{IN} THE MUNDANE

CAPITAL
SCHOLARS
HONORS
JOURNAL

Continuum, the Capital Scholars Honors Journal, is a publication managed by University of Illinois Springfield students, showcasing academic and artistic talent from the Honors Program. Published annually, it highlights the creativity and intellect of our student body.



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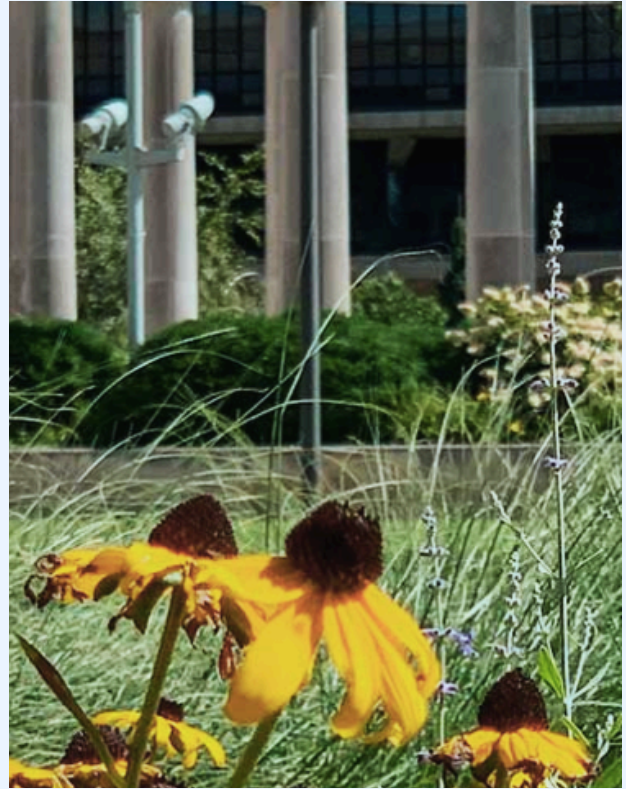
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A LETTER TO OUR READERS

Dear Reader,

We are proud to present our latest volume of *Continuum*, the Capital Scholars Honors Journal. This year's theme, "Magic in the Mundane," encouraged students to unleash their creativity by finding enchantment in everyday moments. They were prompted to transform the commonplace into a realm of wonder by showcasing the beauty and fascination hidden within seemingly common things, using their unique perspectives to elevate the ordinary to the extraordinary.

This eleventh volume of *Continuum* begins with photography submissions from CAP students. First, "Still Thrill" by Steel Anderson highlights the beauty found in Illinois's ordinary architecture and landscapes, capturing scenes that many might view as mundane or unremarkable. Next, "Ordinarily Beautiful" by Lillian Gottman showcases the beauty of finding magic in ordinary moments, describing a tranquil spring evening on a golf course where a colorful sunset, bare trees, and a solitary moon create a uniquely serene scene. Finally, "Magic in the Mundane Photo Album" by Lily Stanton compiles a series of photos that each depict simple moments on campus and in recreation that highlight the beauty of nature and the magic found in our lovely campus.



We were honored to receive two poetic entries alongside the photography submissions. Oluwatofunmi Musa-Ajakaiye's "His Nature in Creation" is a beautiful poem paired with a sunset photo, capturing the divine magic in ordinary moments. We were also thrilled when our very own Dr. Marc Klingshirn, Director of the Capital Scholars Honors Program, contributed his poem "Maidenhair," which transforms the mundane experience of traveling to campus into a unique moment through the imagery of falling leaves.

Finally, this edition would not have been possible without all of the hard work of our peer editors. The editorial team would like to extend warm wishes to you, esteemed reader, as you embark on this enchanting journey through the pages of this most recent edition of CAP Honors Program's *Continuum*.

KYLA LEONES

Kyla Leones is a sophomore majoring in Medical Laboratory Science with a pre-med concentration and a minor in Chemistry. She has been actively involved in research projects with professors and serves as the Organizational Liaison for the Research Society. In addition, she is also a Writing Tutor and a Peer Mentor for the CAP Program



SHANNON HEALY

Shannon Healy is a CAP Honors Program Freshman and a Psychology major with a clinical/counseling psychology concentration. Her consistent academic achievement earned her a spot on the university's Dean's List where she aims to stay. Through her persistence in learning and furthering her education, Shannon joined the UIS Continuum team as an editor to gain experience in this field and learn more about ways to work with her peers.



OREOFE DANIEL

Oreofe Daniel is a senior in the Capital Honors Scholar Program. She is from Lagos, Nigeria and currently majoring in Biology. She is a member of the Christian Student Fellowship and works as a tutor in the learning hub. In her free time, she likes to play basketball, watch movies, and ride bicycles. After graduation, she hopes to work in the healthcare system, specifically in disease prevention



BRIANNA LEE

Brianna Lee is a CAP Honors Program Freshman and biology major. Her academic achievements have earned her a place on the university's Dean's List. As a dedicated student, she actively engages in her academic pursuits and contributes to the field of biology as a research society member.



MOLLY HARMS

Molly Harms is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois Springfield's Capital Scholars Honors Program with a degree in Public Policy and Political Science. She served as a CAP Peer Mentor, was an active member of Active Minds, and worked at Brookens Library during her time at UIS. Because of her experience, Molly was one of *Continuum's* senior editors



STILL THRILL

BY STEEL ANDERSON

"Still Thrill" showcases the beauty of commonplace Illinois architecture and landforms. The subject matter is what most would consider bland or boring.



This unsuspecting sign says little about the road, and more about what's happened there.

These men pause to appreciate the still-life beauty of the Kaskaskia River.



The Colonnade is often overlooked but stands as a robust representation of the Prairie Star spirit.





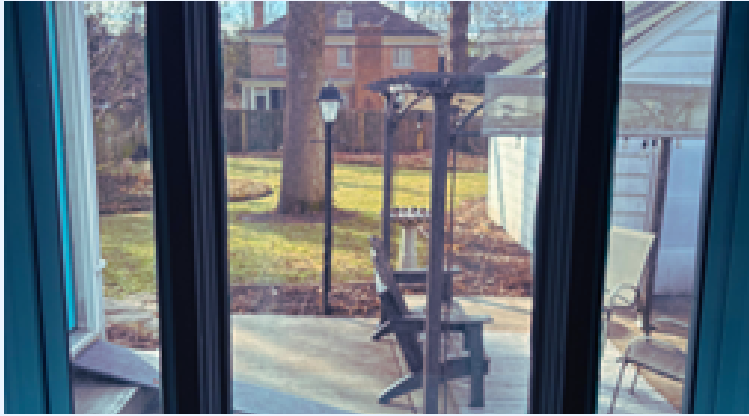
ORDINARILY BEAUTIFUL

BY LILLIAN GOTTMAN

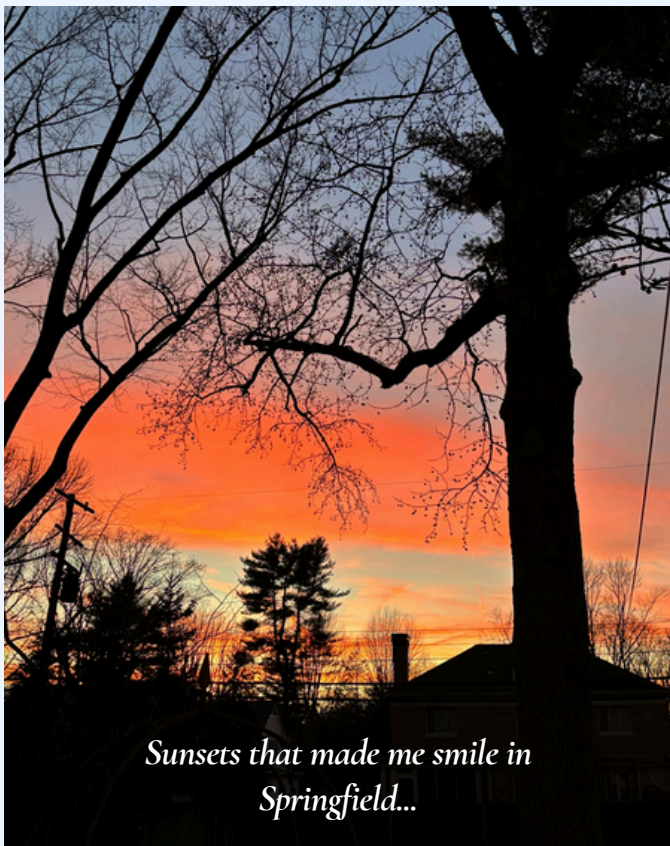
Finding magic in the ordinary is beautiful. Pictured above is a colorful evening sky on an old golf course in the early spring season. The bare trees are sprawling on the grounds while the grass lays still fragile from the winter's chill. After you look past the ordinary foreground, you see the moon staring at you through the pink, cloudy sky. The lack of stars surrounding the lonely moon is unique to this spring evening. Finding magic in the present moment, while appreciating all its uniqueness, is what makes life beautiful.

MAGIC IN THE MUNDANE PHOTO ALBUM

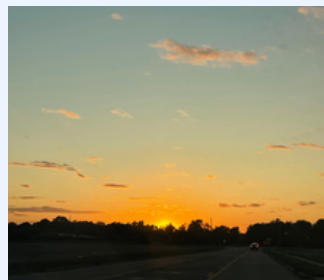
BY LILY STANTON

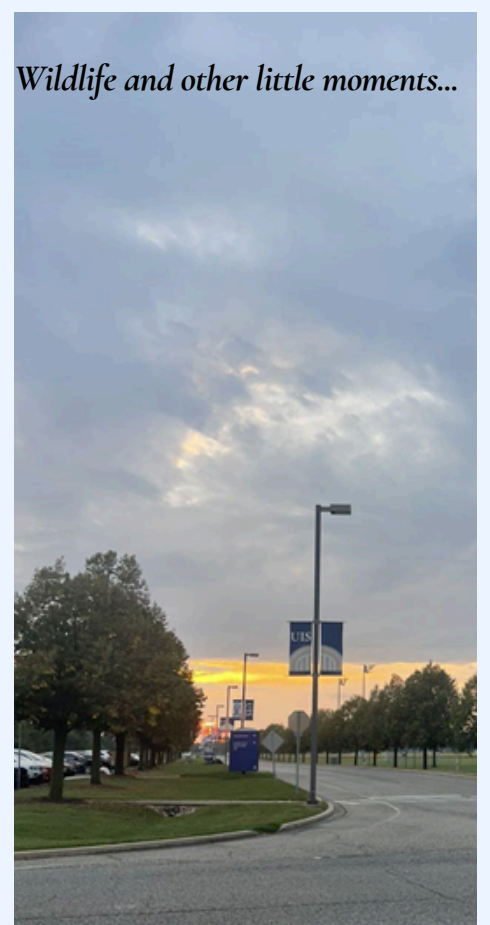


Backyard views of nature in a glimpse

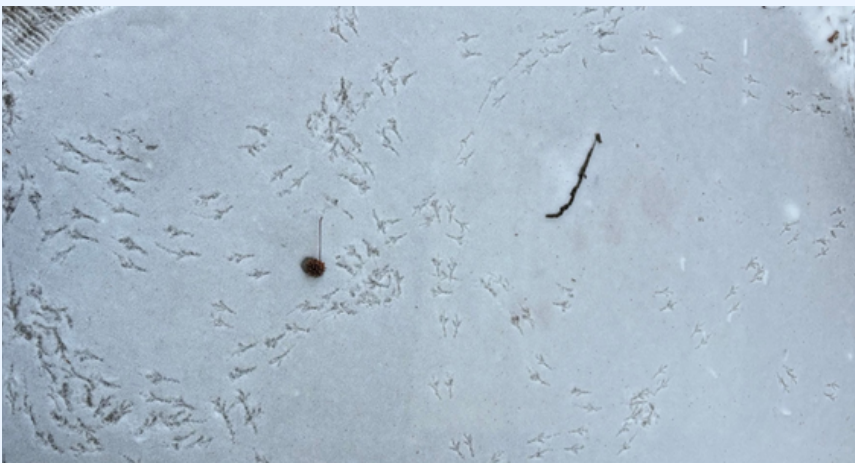


Sunsets that made me smile in Springfield...

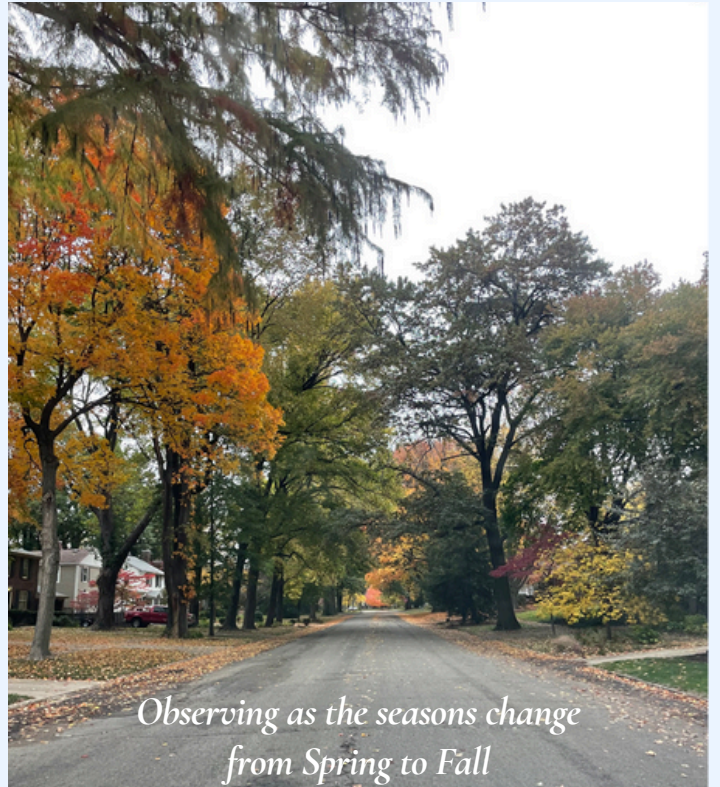




Wildlife and other little moments...



Snowy days on campus reminded me to look at nature's details and beauty



*Observing as the seasons change
from Spring to Fall*



Capturing magic on the golf course



Fascination by creation leads
to a revelation of his nature.
Take a stroll and listen close.

Do you hear it?

The sound of silence.

It reminds you of your frailty
and God's sovereignty.

Zoom out for a moment; out
of yourself and your

thoughts, out of your desires
and wants.

See yourself from the sky's
point of view.

What do you see? A minute
atom in a sea of vast beauty.

Won't it be a sad story if that
was the summary of the
imagery?

Listen more closely.

What do you hear?

The sound of silence.

HIS NATURE IN CREATION

BY OLUWATOFUNMI
MUSA-AJAKAIYE

Magnifying the sound of your
beating heart and your rasping
breath.

That breath. It's so constant yet
so uncontrollable.

He put that breath in you!

So that when you zoom out of
yourself, you can see who made
you and seek his face.

See His grace in the graceful
sway of the trees with the wind.

Feel His passion in the fierce rays
of the sun.

Behold His kindness in a bird
nest as a mother bird sacrifices
her time and energy warming her
eggs.

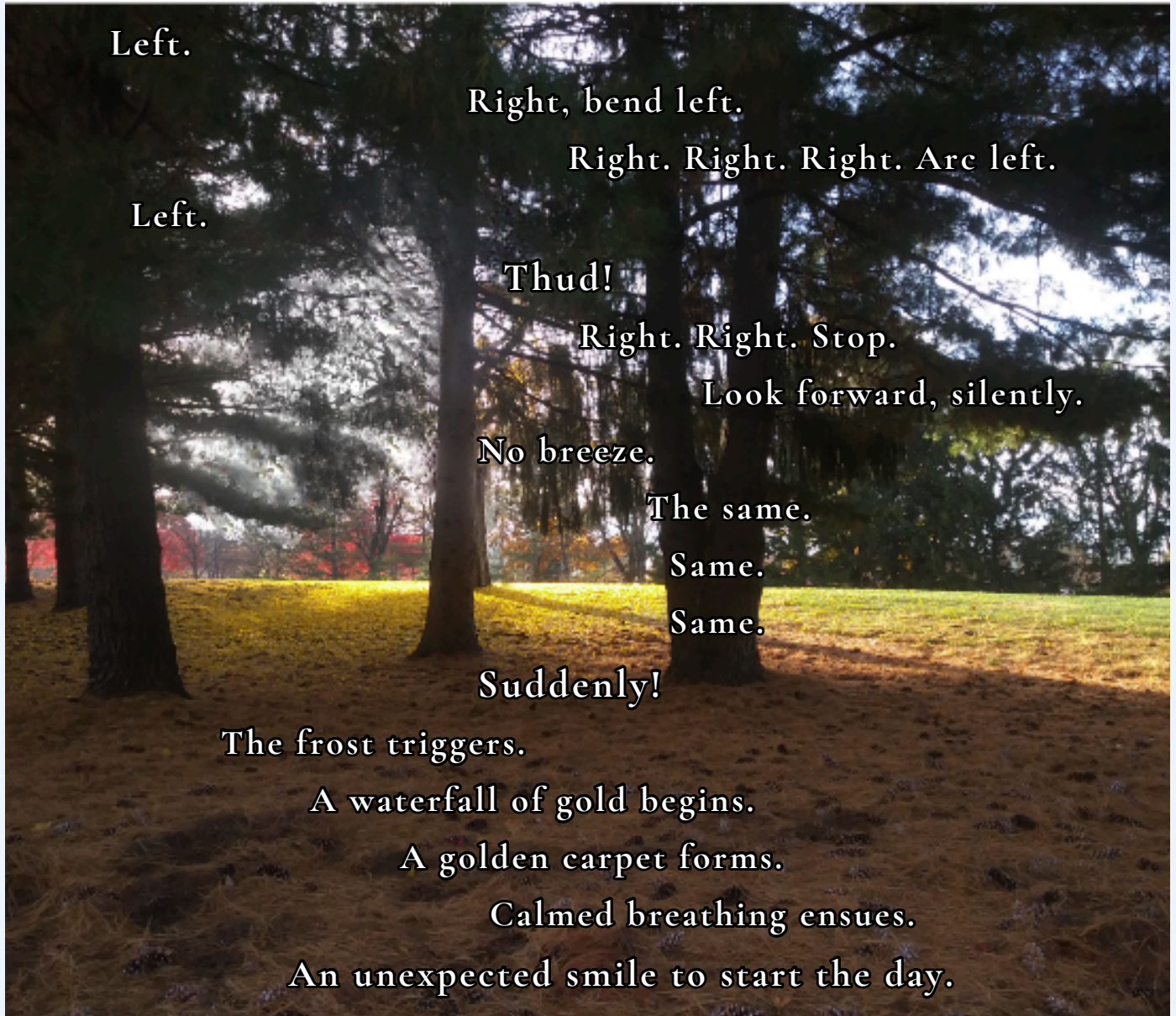
Hear the trinity in the
harmonious chirping of the birds.

See the light from the sun and
remember the light of the world.
Fascination by creation leads to a
revelation of His nature.



“MAIDENHAIR”

BY DR MARC KLINGSHIRN



"The ginkgo biloba tree is commonly known as the "maidenhair tree". It is unique that its leaves turn golden yellow and fall very quickly upon proper temperatures and frost activity. The leaves falling can occur in as short as a single day. This poem was a description of coming to campus and witnessing the occurrence."

(And yes, the "Thud" in the poem is me hitting a pothole on one of main campus roads. Ugh...)