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Letter from the Editor. Rebirth. Volume 6, Issue 1.

David Aguilar

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“Rebirth”
(Spring 2016; Volume 6, Issue 1)

To our readers,

It’s been more than a year since our last issue, and the journey to our rebirth has been arduous and fraught with change. But we are happy to announce a new issue of *The Journal of South Texas English Studies*, titled “Rebirth.” Like the phoenix, we have risen from the ashes to spread our wings; unlike the phoenix, we’re not flammable—but enough with the metaphor. This issue features notes from the field, scholarly articles, and book reviews revolving around the theme of rebirth in English studies, from literature and rhetoric to the teaching and tutoring of writing.

Rebirth is at times synonymous with transformation, and we are no strangers to the transformations we encounter in our fields. Whether it be the negotiations between literature and composition/rhetoric, the manifestations of classical elements in contemporary work, the deconstruction and reassembly of traditional definitions of teaching, or the reformation of language policy and management, rebirth demands our attention.

In this issue, Monica Reyes talks to us about the rebirth of a teacher with a background in literature into a writing-about-writing instructor. Imen Mzoughi summons Hester Prynne from *The Scarlet Letter* and compares her to Condé’s resurrection of Hawthorne’s protagonist in *I, Tituba*, as she delves into the intertextuality of such a juxtaposition and questions how the trope of rebirth operates on various levels. Dr. Sarah Foust Vinson and Dr. Susan Larkin examine the rebirth of women’s autobiographical writing in the form of Ruth Reichl’s *Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise* and Cheryl Strayed’s *Wild* as representations of contemporary women’s memoir. Dr. Beatrice Mendez Newman invites us “to re-imagine the construct of literary adolescence” as she analyzes Yuniot’s consciousness and experiences, the protagonist of Junot Diaz’s short stories and novel.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *JOSTES*. We also invite you to read our Call for Papers for our upcoming issue.

David Aguilar
Editor
The Journal of South Texas English Studies