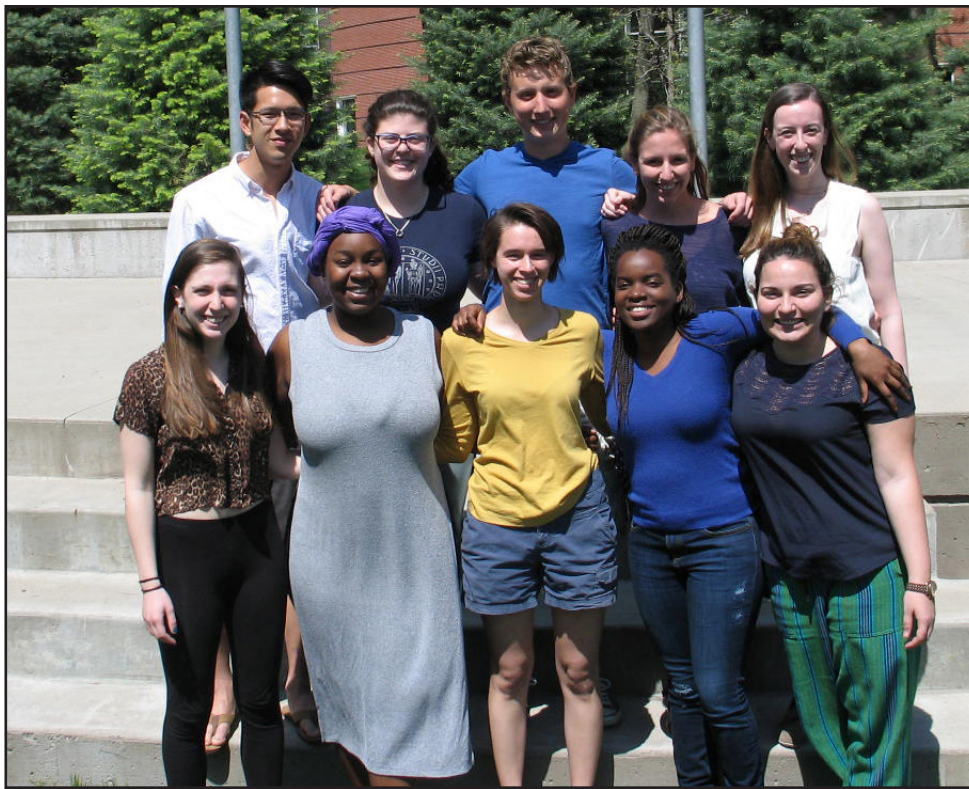


Editors' Note



Rootstalk Student Editors, Spring 2016

Back row from left: Kenneth Wee, Sarah Arena, Ben Brosseau, Ivy Kuhn, Emma Thomasch
Front row from left: Kate Strain, Ajuna Kyaruzi, Jane Carlson, Debbie Msekela, Rita Clark

In our ongoing effort to inspire an appreciation for and experience with the prairie region, we invite you to enjoy our third issue of *Rootstalk*. We've assembled a wide-ranging collection of thought-provoking pieces, covering subjects from barn quilts ("Barn Quilts in Poweshiek County") to bird-song ("Birds of the Prairie"), from the experiences of a youth new to the prairie ("What I Learned at the White Horse Ranch") to the lifetime of experience garnered by those who've spent their lives in intimate contact with the land ("We Lived There Ourselves for Forty-some Years"). From undocumented immigration to water safety, the stories in this issue give you multiple themes and destinations to visit; we hope you'll visit them all.

All of the pieces in this issue—poetry, essays, short stories, videos and digital art—share similar roots. In bringing them together, we've strived to create a synergy of science and art, and to promote meaningful dialogue. It's worth mentioning that the team of diligent editors who put this content together is every bit as diverse as the authors. These students come from around the world. They have diverse academic backgrounds and areas of interest, and have come together around *Rootstalk's* central idea: that nurturing a sense of place—in our case, a prairie place—is vital in our busy lives. It isn't every day or everywhere that you get to see differences blend together so seamlessly—and richly. 🌿