Pro Deo et Patria (the Rikkyo motto) is not an empty refrain when faith and fraternity are the ties that bind one to a faith in community and the responsibility of a confederate spirit. For faith spans beyond creed and culture, and brotherhood is not bound by race, religion, or gender. Pro Deo et Patria cannot be emptied of its resonance, because its claims of conviction and camaraderie remain intact.

Nevertheless, 2017 marks the advent of a new era of literary scholarship at Rikkyo University, for this 77th edition of The Rikkyo Review acknowledges the departure of two formidable and highly esteemed scholars of literature, Professor Mitsuru Kamachi and Professor Kazuhiko Goto. The faculty of letters at Rikkyo has long relied upon these figures for guidance and wisdom, and their absence will resonate far beyond the humble covers of this volume and the brick walls of the university that, once upon a time, harnessed their powers of observation.

Rikkyo will also be bidding farewell to Ms. Naoko Ofuchi, administrative secretary to the English and American literature department. Ms. Ofuchi has been central to the success of the department and her diligence, efficiency, and jovial spirit will be keenly missed.

However, this volume does not wallow in nostalgia and remembrance. It celebrates the exciting achievements of a host of young academics who have bent their minds to understanding the craft of narrative and the humanity of words. Indeed, despite the tremendous scope of the scholarship collected in this volume—from Anglo-Saxon philology to 20th century American fiction—one coherent theme emerges: British and American literary studies are alive and flourishing. And if the works of these young scholars are any indication, then the battle against ignorance and insularity, against anachronism and intellectual exhaustion, is being actively waged and won.

(Michael D. H. Yates)
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