

TRAIN STATION AT DUSK



HEAL WRITING WORKSHOP

In October of 2014, HEAL hosted a writing workshop for the medical students at the College of Medicine's main campus. Participants were presented with a photograph and the task to place themselves within the image, employing all senses in order to invite the audience, the reader, into the lived reality of the photo. As workshop participants learned, great humanistic writing requires skillful observation, attention to detail, and choosing the right words—all skills that are equally important in the practice of medicine. As William Carlos Williams said of his dual profession as poet and physician, "...one occupation complements the other, that they are two parts of the whole, that it is not two jobs at all, that one rests us when the other fatigues..."

MEMOIR

Amanda Wilder, Class of 2018

As the shades of the sky shifted from blue to a deep royal purple and the sun's bright yellow light began to pool at the bottom of the horizon, the nerves I gathered to take this trip fell over me like a curtain. I glanced anxiously at my watch for the twentieth time—7:25, the train should be arriving soon. The empty station whispered to me: leaving this city meant I would be starting over in the next one all alone. As the overhead florescent bulbs kicked on, I felt pangs of excitement from deep within my chest. Next stop: Madrid.

FREIGHT

Angela Bradford, Class of 2018

The sky reflects the unfolding freight adventure, as though it is trying on every garment in the closet, trying to look just right for the arrival of the train. The purple scarf with the gold dress? Or pink gown with white shoes? It is as indecisive as me, standing on the platform, wondering what I'll say when the moment arrives. In the hours before the city wakes up, I stand at the edge, weighing my options. As the distant rumble, like faraway thunder, is noticed first in my bones before it reaches my ears—the mad thought occurs, of leaping before the train to avoid having to say anything at all.