

UC Merced

The Vernal Pool

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Kimberly Martinez-Melchor is the editor in chief of *The Vernal Pool*. She is a fourth year English major with a minor in writing. Martinez-Melchor is a soon to be graduate and is thankful for the opportunity to have led the very first student-run editorial board of *The Vernal Pool*. With the hard work of the board members, Kimberly was able to deliver a literary journal that serves as a domain that showcases the creativity and individuality of students at the University of California Merced.



Maha Zaman is a co-managing editor at *The Vernal Pool*. She works with Nicholas Rodriguez to supervise the editorial team. Maha and Nicholas address content regarding meetings and take up issues as they arise. She often works with the web manager and genre editors to address revisions of submissions. The favorite part of her job is working with genre editors and reading the submitted pieces. She is a bioengineering major who loves poetry, science fiction, and children's books. In the future, she would like to foster creativity and passion in the arts and sciences in young adults.



Nicholas Rodriguez, sometimes referred to as Vernon, is a co-managing editor for *The Vernal Pool*. He oversees all duties of the other editors, works closely with the co-managing editor, Maha Zaman, and the editor in chief, Kimberly Martinez, to keep the journal on track and on time. His primary task was to solicit submissions for the journal, and keep those authors informed of the journal's production. As a co-managing editor maintaining a good rapport with the other editors was a primary goal. If either managing editor or the editor in chief faltered or were indisposed it was valuable to maintain an accord with them.



Luis Mejia-Jimenez is the poetry editor for *The Vernal Pool*. He is in charge of overseeing the poetry submissions as well as interacting with the poets to discuss possible revisions. He is a 3rd year, majoring in psychology with a minor in writing. He has interests in pursuing writing for the possibility of having his poetry and fiction works published. He likes to incorporate elements of Korean music into his works as well as using his Mexican and Guatemalan backgrounds to influence his writing. Contemporary writers he looks up to include Sarah J. Mass and Dominique Christina.



Natalia Gonzalez is the creative non fiction editor of *The Vernal Pool*. She's a third-year student majoring in management and business economics with a minor in writing. Natalia is a cliché as she loves the beach, but not walking on it; loves chocolate, but only with milk; loves to read creative nonfiction, but prefers writing fiction. Natalia was raised by empowering women and the books her teachers forced upon her—along with the teachers who actually gave a damn, and the Saturday movies she watched every weekend.



Heidi Rhodes is the first (and best) fiction editor for *The Vernal Pool*. As fiction editor, Heidi worked with fiction authors and edited their submissions. Heidi is a two-time published author in the Bakersfield High School *Ikon Magazine*. She finds great joy in reading, writing, and playing video games. She's a sophomore pursuing a degree in psychology with a minor in creative writing and hopes to intern with the FBI in summer of 2019. Heidi finds joy in petting other people's dogs – she does not have one and wants one more than anything but cannot because her landlord won't let her.



William Fernandez is the editorial board's copy editor. He's an English major with a minor in professional writing, fond of deconstructing text. In his own experiences with writing, his topics often discuss or showcase disturbing and dark content. It is not conventional or easy to write about these topics, but he views literature as a safe space for writers to explore intense and difficult subjects to enable both writers and readers to grow, without having to directly experience pain in reality. Literature allows us to mature and empathize, and every literary work is a space for experimentation and experience.



Vernon Bussler is a web manager for The Vernal Pool editorial board, making sure other people don't have to manage technological nightmares associated with publishing an undergraduate creative writing journal. As a mechanical engineering student, space robotics engineering intern, and composer for video games, he spends little time sleeping. When not writing music, painting, taking pictures of out of place things, failing to garden, swinging in his hammock, trying to feed himself, and figuring out what it all really truly means, you can find him outside at some ungodly hour hiking and climbing around in places he really shouldn't be.



Abigail Rodriguez is a sophomore, majoring in Management Business Economics, and one of our web managers for *The Vernal Pool*. During her free time, she enjoys taking naps and eating. For the future she plans to go into accounting or become a manager. As our web manager, Abigail creates flyers, posts, layouts for *VP*, and is in charge of all of *The Vernal Pool's* social media accounts. In soliciting and promoting events, Abigail has shown her dedication as part of the editorial board. She believes that being web manager has enabled her to become more unified with the school.



Aritza Cortez holds the position of event promoting and public relations, spreading the word through promotional creation. She's in charge of making sure you know the Vernal Pool exists. Thinking of submitting? C'mon she insists! She is pursuing a cognitive science degree with a writing minor. She's a fourth year student and the workload doesn't mind her. In love with the arts, memes, and Pinterest. She enjoys her family, dogs, and too many interests. Her veins pump coffee, poetry, and bad puns. Working for the Vernal Pool was much fun.