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Advisor's Note

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Author

Gaspar de Alba, Alicia

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ADVISOR'S NOTE

When it first occurred to me that we needed an e-journal in LGBTQ Studies at UCLA, I had no idea what the final product would look like, or how dedicated our graduate student editorial team was going to be to the process of creating a cutting-edge interdisciplinary journal that would represent the research interests of the current generation of queer and LGBT scholars. I also never expected that we would get so much help and such enthusiastic support along the way. It is important for us to acknowledge that we wouldn't be here now, about to launch the very first volume of *Queer Cats Journal of LGBTQ Studies*, were it not for the careful guidance we received every step of the way from key players in this byzantine process.

To wit, I want to recognize YRL librarians, Angela Riggio and Martin Brennan, who like Glinda in Munchkinland, cleared the path of obstacles and flying monkeys that we might have encountered (but luckily didn't) on the yellow-brick-road toward publication. I especially want to express my gratitude to Stacey Meeker, whose official title is Director of Publications for the Graduate Student Association (GSA), but who to us in the "Lavender Ballroom" (i.e., the LGBTQ program offices) is the e-scholarship Wizard, freely doling out testimonials of advice, certificates of courage, and a map to find our way home, all of which helped make this adventurous idea of an LGBTQ e-journal now both a tangible and a virtual reality. We are also extremely grateful to David Schaberg, Dean of Humanities, for the annual support his office provides for our annual queer graduate student conference (QGrad), from which the content for our e-journal derives. Thanks, of course, to the QGrad presenters who helped us flesh out the "Queers W/O Borders" Conference in 2014, and were brave enough to submit their papers for consideration in Volume 1.

Finally, all my gratitude to the editorial board, Rachael Greenberg, Vicente Carrillo, Kendy Rivera, and Kevin Medina, also known as the graduate student org, QGrads @ UCLA, for their crucial and diverse labors of pulling this volume together. You make this advisor

very proud. For me, there can be no better creative process than teamwork, where each in our own areas and abilities, puts forth their best efforts and helps to create a synthesis of the different parts, something brand new and of lasting scholarly value, as I hope *Queer Cats* will be for years to come.

Alicia Gaspar de Alba

Professor of Chicana/o Studies, English, and Gender Studies

Chair of the LGBTQ Studies Program