

UC Merced

The Vernal Pool

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Letter from the Editor

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Dear Reader,

The Vernal Pool is a student run creative journal which serves as a platform for undergraduate students at the University of California Merced to exhibit their creative works from literature, to auditory and visual art. Our goal is to showcase and celebrate the creative works our undergraduate student body creates. We take great pride in featuring pieces which display our undergraduate's creative and artistic ingenuity.

I would like to sincerely thank the editorial board for their outstanding efforts in cultivating this semester's publication. Our managing editors, Nick V. Rodriguez & Brian Garcia coordinated their respective teams with exceptional organization and earnestness. Our web managers, Rene T. Rodriguez & Nick Ona worked hard to format and organize the layout for our publication, punctually dealing with troubleshooting problems as they arose. Our genre editors: Sandy Morelos & Ana D. Ortega in Fiction; Jonathan Nim & Andres Castro in Poetry; lastly, Wendy Gutierrez & Nick V. Rodriguez in Creative Non-Fiction. Each of the genre editing teams worked with much tenacity to ensure the pieces we worked with, and their respective authors, were treated with the highest respect. Our copyeditors, Jazmin Martir, Wendy Gutierrez, Brian Garcia, and Sandy Morelos all provided exemplary edits to every text revolving this issue, ultimately ensuring a quality publication. Our public relations and events managers, Steven Le, Adam DeLong, Athena Pulido, and Ana D. Ortega showcased exemplary public relations skills to design and distribute advertisements promoting the Vernal Pool as well as efficiently organizing events the journal was involved in. Lastly, I would like to thank our advisor Loretta Kennedy & former editor in chief Nick V. Rodriguez for their guidance, which our team and myself, found great benefit in during the process of our publication.



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This edition includes works of visual art, photography, fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry. Prevalent themes within this issue are the different perspectives and applications of human love, both negative and positive, and how it affects our lives in distinct ways; as well as the grounded introspection of character, dealing with subjects such as mental illness and identity. Each piece is equally valuable in creating the mosaic composition that was this issue and I would like to thank each and every author that contributed to this semester's issue.

It has been a great pleasure working as this semester's editor in chief, in collaboration with such a dedicated and stellar editorial team. I would like to give a final thanks to the Advisory Board, our chairperson Rebecca Antoine, the Global Arts Study Program (GASP) and Jayson Beaster-Jones for their collaboration with us on the GAMWS Showcase. And a special thanks to Paul Gibbons, the founder of the Vernal Pool creative journal for setting the foundations of our journal.

Best regards,

Daniel Rodriguez