

# UC Merced

## The Vernal Pool

### Title

Letter by The Editor in Chief

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Peer reviewed|Undergraduate

Dear Reader,

*The Vernal Pool* is a literary journal that provides undergraduate students from the University of California, Merced the opportunity to showcase their creativity through the power of literature and art. This publication is the third semester *The Vernal Pool* has been offered as a course where students manage the production of the journal. The purpose of *The Vernal Pool* is to showcase the diversity of thought amongst the undergraduate UC Merced students.

I would like to thank the editorial board for their dedication and collaboration in formatting the journal. Our managing editors, who also doubled as other positions: Xotchitl Garibay, Nicholas Bickett, Anissa Saleem, and Oliver Briggs. They worked tirelessly to organize and ensure a quality publication. The web managers: Pat Dimaandal, Hong Xi Su, and Tehray Mccullough who organized and designed the layout of *The Vernal Pool*, and provided the editorial board with integral wisdom on the inner-workings of escholarship. Our genre editors: Marcell Avila and Lizbeth Herrera Martinez, fiction editors; Wilson Chuong and Esther Quintanilla, creative-nonfiction editors; Xotchitl Garibay and Juan Lopez, poetry editors. They all worked with our published authors to revise their work, with the intent to retain their original meaning and purpose.

This semester we enlisted the help of two copyeditors, as we learned from previous semesters the importance of copyediting: Nicholas Bickett and Alyssa Jacala who provided us with a keen eye and an astute attention to detail in formatting and upholding the integrity of *The Vernal Pool*. Lastly, our public relations & events managers: Anissa Saleem, Oliver Briggs, Victoria Rico, Ruben Perez, Evelyn Pena, Emmanuel Maldonado, and Hena Joshi. They all provided the journal with flyers and tabling events to advertise and spread the word of the publication on campus and through social media. They were also instrumental in planning and organizing The Vernal Pool's end of semester reading event, in collaboration with the GAMWS Program. I would like thank Loretta Kennedy, our advisor, for being a constant source of moral support and being a diligent advisor;

ensuring the journal's success. I would like to thank the Advisory Board, Rebeca Antoine, our chairperson. The Global Arts and Writing Studies Program (GAMWS), specifically Jayson Beaster-Jones and Andre Mele, for giving us the opportunity to collaborate with the GAMWS department on a Showcase of Art students. A special thanks to Paul Gibbons for establishing *The Vernal Pool* and providing us undergraduates with the platform and opportunity of publishing our writing.

This edition includes valuable works of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and art that communicates themes of identity, gore, self-reflection, love, loyalty, introspection, and human experience while providing insight into unique cultures and relationships.

I have been grateful for the opportunity to work with the dedicated members of this editorial board, to cultivate a journal that aims to distribute and appreciate all the diverse experiences of UC Merced undergraduates.

With Humility,  
Nicholas Vasquez-Rodriguez  
Editor in Chief  
*The Vernal Pool*