

UC Merced

The Vernal Pool

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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 at the University of California Merced the opportunity to showcase their creativity through the power of literature. This semester's publication is the second time *The Vernal Pool* has been a course managed by students. 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, Marcelina Mariano and William Fernandez, worked tirelessly to organize and ensure a quality publication. The web managers James Kress and Kevin Qiu organized and designed the layout of *The Vernal Pool*, and provided the editorial board with integral wisdom on the inner-workings of scholarship. Our genre editors, Brad Christian, fiction editor; Hena Joshi, creative-nonfiction editor; and our poetry editors, Xotchitl Garibay and Ramon Campos Corrales, 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 the past semester the importance of copyediting. They were Julia Niemeyer and William Fernandez 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 Stephanie Colon and Hena Joshi provided us with flyers to advertise and spread the word of the journal on campus and through social media. I would like to thank Paula DeBoard, our advisor, for being a constant source of moral support and a diligent advisor. I would like to thank the Advisory Board, Rebeca Antoine, our chairperson and the Global Arts Study Program (GASP), specifically Jayson Beaster-Jones, for giving us the opportunity to collaborate with GASP on a Showcase of GASP and Writing students. A special thanks to Paul Gibbons for establishing *The Vernal Pool* and providing us undergraduates with the platform and opportunity of this journal. A special thank you to Katie Brokaw who promoted the journal to the English major and minors, which doubled our submissions.

This edition includes intricate works of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction that communicate themes of identity, wonder, self-reflection, and interesting human experiences that provide insights into different cultures

and relationships, building to a sense of the human condition and experience.

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 experiences of UC Merced undergraduates.

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