

UC Merced

The Vernal Pool

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Letter By The Editor In Chief

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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 also happens to be the first-ever student run issue of *The Vernal Pool*.

I would like to thank the editorial board for their dedication on crafting a visionary journal that aims to enlighten readers on the diverse creativity of the undergraduate community at UC Merced. Our managing editors, Maha Zaman and Nicolas Rodriguez, provided us with tremendous support in order to ensure a quality publication. Web managers Vernon Bussler and Abigail Rodriguez designed an original layout of *The Vernal Pool*, as well as managed and created innovative content for our various social media accounts. Our genre editors, Heidi Rhodes, fiction editor; Natalia Gonzalez, creative-nonfiction editor; and Luis Mejia-Jimenez, poetry editor, worked with our published authors in order to refine their work, while still preserving the author's original voice. William Fernandez, copyeditor and one of our public relations and events manager, provided the literary journal with a keen eye to detail, and upheld the professional image of *The Vernal Pool*. Lastly, our second public relations and events manager Aritza Cortez facilitated various events this semester, especially the end of the semester reading, which she effectively organized in order to provide authors with the opportunity to celebrate their publication with their family, friends, peers, and the UC Merced community. I would like to thank the Advisory Board, Rebecca Antoine, our chairperson, as well as the rest of the Advisory Board, John Hundley, Andrea Mele, Jake Kelly, Susan Varnot, Byron Webb, Christa Fraser, and Monica Perales for their support of the journal this semester. A special thanks to Paul Gibbons for the successful establishment of *The Vernal Pool*, as well as John Bultena without whose expertise the editorial board would not have a domain in which to publish the insightful works of each author.

This edition contains distinctive works of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction that communicate extensive universal themes. You will come across works that depict themes focused on relationships as a means to reveal something about self-identity. You will also encounter works that exhibit forms of unique human experiences that allow

you to step into shoes that are not your own. Lastly, these pieces that provide an insight into different cultures, relationships and experiences serve as key components that constitute a larger theme—the aestheticism of human culture.

I am extremely grateful to be given the opportunity to work with other dedicated members to cultivate a journal that aims to enlighten readers about the diversity of UC Merced.

With Appreciation,
Kimberly Martinez-Melchor
Editor in Chief
The Vernal Pool