

Editor's Introduction

While last year's volume of *Prized Writing* presented a collection of essays written when classes were entirely remote, this year's anthology is a bit different. Over the course of the 2021-2022 academic year, students fluctuated between in-person and remote learning depending on their classes, their instructors, and the number of COVID cases plaguing our community at the time. Although many of us would contend that operating under a constant state of *are-we-learning-remotely-or-are-we-learning-in-person* isn't ideal, the outstanding quality of essays we received this year is—once again—a testament to the resilience and talent of UC Davis students.

Impressive too is the diversity of submissions we had this year, allowing us to build an anthology that features a variety of genres and topics. *Prized Writing* has always been an interdisciplinary collection of documents, but it feels especially true with this volume. Those selected for publication this year make up texts written for eleven different course subjects and range from research essays to environmental autobiographies to literature reviews to policy briefs, just to name a few.

Of course this excellence in quality and diversity wouldn't be possible without *Prized Writing's* student authors and faculty community. I appreciate every submission and every UC Davis community member—student, friend, advisor, instructor, or staff member—that shares information about our collection of undergraduate student writing. Our faculty judges, Amy Goodman-Bide, Cassie Hemstrom, Erika I-Tremblay, Sophia Jin, Greg Miller, and Agnes Stark, volunteered to read and offer their expertise on a considerable number of essays during the judging process, to which I am very grateful.

As always, *Prized Writing* remains indebted to the support of a variety of faculty and staff, especially from the University Writing Program (UWP). Within the UWP, John Marx (Interim Director), Dana Farris (Associate Director), Elliott Pollard, Anita Rodriguez, Darla Tafoya, Jasvir Mann, Kevin Bryant, Melissa Lovejoy, and Vicki Higby Sweeney have continued to offer invaluable assistance

and advice. We're fortunate to have the continued institutional support of Gary May (Chancellor), Mary Croughan (Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor), Cynthia Carter Ching (Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education), and Estella Atekwana (Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences). I'd also like to express gratitude for the advice and assistance I received from Bridgit Noss Patrick with *ReproGraphics* and Morgan Liu with the UC Davis Bookstore.

I've also had the pleasure to work with two stellar Assistant Editors this year, Gabriel Bellue and Kal Agdie. Both played vital roles in the successes *Prized Writing* saw this year and made my job as editor significantly more manageable. Their ingenuity, creativity, and adaptability cannot be stated enough.

Finally, a big thank you to Layne Takahashi for designing such a remarkably exquisite piece for us to feature on the cover of volume 33. Beautiful in color and texture, Layne's work perfectly compliments the excellent writing that this anthology offers.

—Jillian Azevedo,
Continuing Lecturer, University Writing Program