

Editor's Introduction

Thirty years ago, Eric Schroeder and Kathy Dixon co-edited the inaugural edition of *Prized Writing*. The volume's first essay, modelled on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letters from Birmingham Jail," concerned Alaskan Native American rights. Other essays explored such diverse topics as agent orange, Adrienne Rich, Brahms, olive oil, Top Gun, volcanism theories of extinction, and x-ray vision.

Eric and Kathy, along with Marlene Clarke, conceived of *Prized Writing* as a way to gather and showcase some of the finest undergraduate writing produced in classrooms across the disciplines at UC Davis. The results, year after year, have been as inspiring as they have been diverse. In the 30 years since, UC Davis's reputation has continued to soar. As it has grown in size—acreage as well as enrollment—UC Davis has risen to the challenge of maintaining its striking sense of community. Campus-wide projects, of course, are essential to community-building, and for the past 30 years *Prized Writing* has presented a yearly portrait of UC Davis academic achievement that brings together students, faculty, alumni, and others within and outside of the UCD community.

Curated by the interdisciplinary University Writing Program, no other forum provides a more representative, wide-ranging, and engaging experience of what our students are learning, thinking and writing about in classrooms throughout the campus.

I am proud to be associated with this 30th anniversary edition of *Prized Writing*, which features work by students majoring in: Earth & Planetary Sciences, Economics, English, Biological Sciences, International Relations, Cinema & Digital Media, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Japanese, Psychology, History, Design, Political Science, Plant Science, Mathematics, Animal Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Art Studio, Art History, Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior, Global Disease Biology, Marine and Coastal Science. Among this group, several are earning a Writing minor within the UWP.

The work of these 25 exemplary student-writers was chosen out of more than 400 submissions, the vast majority of which were themselves excellent responses to demanding classroom assignments. In addition to providing deeply satisfying reading experiences, many of these essays will, like those before them, find their way back into classrooms—at UCD and

beyond—as writing models. I invite you to explore the online archive of the previous 29 editions at <https://prizedwriting.ucdavis.edu>.

This year's volume begins with an immensely enjoyable graphic essay (a first for *Prized Writing*) on testicular torsion and ends with a superb literature review of PrEP-related Stigma. Between these works you'll find many different genres, styles, and moods as you learn about topics ranging from coconuts, bicycles, and wild boars to Mozart, speech synthesis, and desertification. You'll encounter about seasteads and international law, a Japanese American concentration camp survivor, a Ferris Bueller-inspired act of truancy, and a controversial memorial here on our own campus. You'll read about tensions and contractions within the state of California, and you'll learn what's new in CBD treatment for dogs. All of this, and much more.

I would also like to acknowledge here another example of superb student work: that of Design major Eriko Tominaga, whose utterly charming art and design graces our cover.

This volume of Prized Writing would not have been possible without the determination and skill of assistant editor Deana Medina, whose help I have relied upon throughout the academic year and into the summer. Deana graduated this June and I wish (and indeed expect!) the best for her.

I also want to acknowledge the unimpeachably patient, good-humored assistance of Elliott Pollard who, in addition to maintaining our website (<http://prizedwriting.ucdavis.edu>), was always there for us with each new technical challenge as Deana and I prepared these pages for production.

As *Prized Writing* enters its fourth decade, we continue to appreciate and to value the necessity of strong institutional support. I gratefully acknowledge Gary May (Chancellor), Ralph Hexter (Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor), Carolyn Thomas (Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education), Elizabeth Spiller (Dean, College of Letters and Science), and Ari Kelman (Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Planning, College of Letters and Science) for their support.

I also wish to thank Tina Pfeiffer of Reprographics for overseeing the bound book and the UC Davis Bookstore for making available copies of the book at the annual ceremony.

Thank you to the entire University Writing Program, especially

to the expert judges who helped shape the contents of this volume. A special thank you to Dana Ferris, UWP Chair. I also want to thank Anita Rodriguez for her help with the ceremony and throughout the year. Thank you also to Darla Tafoya, Vicki Higby Sweeney, Melissa Lovejoy, Mary White, Ron Ottman, and Kevin Bryant.

And thank you to all of the students who submitted. Your work—whether found in these pages or not—shows the UC Davis community at its best.

Gregory Miller
Continuing Lecturer, University Writing Program

Editors of Prized Writing: 1989-2019

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the editors throughout the years. Thanks to Pamela Demory for compiling this list — gm.

Vol. 1 (89-90): Eric Schroeder & Kathy Dixon

Vol. 2 (90-91): Eric Schroeder, Marlene Clarke, & Kathy Dixon

Vol. 3 (91-92): Eric Schroeder, Marlene Clarke, & Kathy Dixon

Vol. 4 (92-93): Marlene Clarke, Kathy Dixon, Jan Probst, Sondra Reid, Eric Schroeder, James Steinke, & Jayne Walker

Vol. 5 (93-94): John Boe, Marlene Clarke, Kathy Dixon, Sondra Reid, & Eric Schroeder

Vol. 6 (94-95): Gary Goodman with Cynthia Bates, Pamela Demory, Aliko Dragona, Lara Gary, Donald Johns, James McElroy, Sondra Reid, & Jayne Walker

Vol. 7 (95-96): Gary Goodman with Cynthia Bates, Elizabeth Davis, Pamela Demory, Aliko Dragona, Lara Gary, Paula Harrington, Donald Johns, James McElroy, Sondra Reid, Raquel Scherr, & Jayne Walker

Vol. 8 (96-97): Gary Goodman with Cynthia Bates, Elizabeth Davis, Pamela Demory, Aliko Dragona, Lara Gary, Donald Johns, James McElroy, Raquel Scherr, & Jayne Walker

Vol. 9 (97-98): James McElroy

Vol. 10 (98-99): James McElroy

Vol. 11 (99-2000): James McElroy

Vol. 12 (2000-2001): Eric Schroeder

Vol. 13 (2001-2002): Eric Schroeder

Vol. 14 (2002-2003): Eric Schroeder

Prized Writing 2018-2019

- Vol. 15 (2003-2004): Eric Schroeder
Vol. 16 (2004-2005): Pamela Demory
Vol. 17 (2005-2006): Pamela Demory
Vol. 18 (2006-2007): Pamela Demory
Vol. 19 (2007-2008): Pamela Demory
Vol. 20 (2008-2009): Pamela Demory
Vol. 21 (2009-2010): Pamela Demory
Vol. 22 (2010-2011): Amy Clarke
Vol. 23 (2011-2012): Karma Waltonen
Vol. 24 (2012-2013): Karma Waltonen
Vol. 25 (2013-2014): Karma Waltonen
Vol. 26 (2014-2015): Amy Clarke
Vol. 27 (2015-2016): Amy Clarke
Vol. 28 (2016-2017): Gregory Miller
Vol. 29 (2017-2018): Gregory Miller
Vol. 30 (2018-2019): Gregory Miller