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Letter From the Literary Editor

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Letter From the Literary Editor 2019

At the University of the Pacific, we are so lucky to have a literary and arts publication that has been thriving for 50 years. This year we celebrate the 50th year of Calliope's establishment and the amazing opportunities it has provided to students over the course of five decades. With each publication, we expand our communal love of art and literature. Calliope is, and always will be, a moment that is shared in all our timelines. Whether you're an author, an artist, an editor, a designer, or a reader, we all come together to celebrate the moment that our experiences and stories coalesce to create the unified form of Calliope. This idea of a collective, unifying experience for all people was the underlying theme of the 2019 edition of Calliope: how we become, and I continue to feel that the editions in the past, present and future, will forever have this theme ingrained into the very essence of the publication.

When I accepted the position as Editor-in-Chief alongside Ericka Wong, I was overjoyed to be able to read literary pieces that evoked the feelings of individuals at various stages in their lives. We approached the submission reading process with open minds and hearts, savoring the pieces that made us feel what it meant to be truly human. As we moved through the process, I learned so much from my fellow editor and readers, cultivating a team environment that enabled each of us to be outspoken as we selected our final pieces for publication. I was privileged to have the opportunity to lead and direct a team of intelligent and passionate young authors and readers. My favorite process during the creation of Calliope: how we become was the collaborative meetings between the literary and art teams. We engaged in ingenious, in-depth discussions regarding the pairing of literature to art pieces which allowed us to produce the official publication of the 2019 edition. The collaboration between authors, readers, artists, and editors is the most rewarding experience I could have ever asked for when I accepted the position as Editor-in-Chief of the literary team.

Shortly after the publication celebration in May of 2019, I graduated from University of the Pacific with a bachelor's degree in Speech-Language Pathology and minors in Ethnic Studies and English. Since then, I have begun working towards my master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology at my alma mater, and I am looking forward to developing my clinical and writing skills throughout my lifetime. I am not writing poetry as much as I once was, but I find myself inspired by the simple moments of life. My notebook is filled with shards and scraps of these moments, indicating that I have not lost touch but that there is still room for me to develop my story. A clean page is not an indicator of emptiness, but a reminder that there is space, lines, and words to be found.

— Joslynn Howard, Calliope 2019