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Contributors

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Contributors

Tomás Brockett-Delgado (he/him/his) is a freshman English major with a minor in environmental studies, and he’s on the cross country and track & field teams. When he’s not in class or at practice, Tomás spends most of his free time with his friends or outdoors. He drew inspiration from civil issues and the natural world for his two pieces in this issue. And though Tomás is still relatively new to writing creatively, he can’t wait to find more sources to write from!

Annika J. Bruce (she/her) is a junior creative writing and educational studies double major from Southern Ohio. She writes poetry and creative nonfiction in which she always ends up talking about Appalachia and her experiences as a woman, daughter, and friend. Annika likes plants, Walt Whitman, and the company of her two black cats, Salem and Ember. She wants to thank her closest friends and promise them coffee for their endless hours reading and editing her work.

Colleen Boyle (she/her) is a sophomore psychology and communication double major from Concord, Massachusetts. She is a DJ with The Doobie, involved in the Red Frame Lab, on the club baseball team, and in Greek life here on campus. She loves playing guitar, going outside, and of course, writing poetry. She hopes to enter the entrepreneurial/startup space upon graduation as well as continue to pursue her interest in creative writing.

Rita Costa (she/her) is a sophomore studio art major with a minor in communication. She is a graphic designer on Denison’s Programming Council for 2022-23, and she is very happy to be illustrating for Synapse magazine. She is especially interested in digital art, and she has been enjoying experimenting with colors, textures, and styles. With all of her art pieces, she aims to tell a story, whether she is aware of what it is or if she lets the piece dictate that on its own. She challenges herself to play with different abstractions. She had lots of fun making the pieces in the magazine, and she hopes they are able to capture her viewers’ attention.

Talia Ferguson-Nieves (they/them) is a junior English major with a music minor. The inspiration for El Centro came from a Bomba dance, an important folkloric dance in Puerto Rican culture. El Centro helped inspire Talia’s independent study within the dance department to further connect them to their roots.

Seyeong Hanlim (she) is a senior political science major with a minor in philosophy. She loves to make things, paint, write, and practice Taekwondo. Her inspiration comes from the activities and objects she encounters daily.
Ray Hsu (he/him/his) is a freshman physics and philosophy double major who takes himself too seriously. He started studying Chinese literature seriously in high school and wrote 微光 while traveling in Seattle, a destination he thought to be a decent Covid-safe alternative to Norway. Letting the Seattle wind and rain hit him straight in the face reminded him of how lonely he was. But, just like yin and yang, unfortunate experiences lead to luck, and loneliness led Ray to excessive sentiments which led to him writing a concerning amount of poetries.

Malina Infante (she/her) is a sophomore creative writing and educational studies double major. She is a barista in the Common Grounds coffee shop on campus. In her free time, she enjoys playing the piano, reading, and spending time with friends.

Tenzin Kunga (she/her) is a freshman psychology and English literature double major. She is a Tibetan-American spring-start student from Edina, Minnesota, and her hobbies include creative writing, playing amateur tennis, and listening to the same song ("Lhasa" by Shapaley, as of late) on repeat. She’s excited to pursue more opportunities within the writing field.

Pol Le (she/her) is a freshman journalism and economics double major with a minor in studio art from Vietnam. She is an intern for The Reporting Project through which she published articles with The Newark Advocate, the Columbus Dispatch, and the Denisonian. She is working as a product assistant in a theater play called “Pearls in the Wave.” Pol is on the executive board for the Denison K-pop Dance Group, and she really enjoys dancing when she has some free time.

Sophie LeMay (she/her/hers) is a sophomore journalism and biology double major with a minor in anthropology and sociology. All three of Sophie’s pieces published in this edition mean so much to her, and she’s so excited to share them! The two poems are among her first poems, written for a class at Denison that made her fall in love with the medium as a form of self understanding. The prose is a project from a couple of years ago, and it has only gained meaning after the protagonist’s recent passing. On campus, Sophie works as the department ambassador for the journalism program, and she’s in Delta Gamma and two a cappella groups, DUwop and Ladies Night Out!

Emma Lumsden (she/her/hers) is a senior psychology major with a concentration in neuroscience. She grew up in Maun, a small village in northern Botswana that serves as a hub for tourists to access the bush. Emma’s parents have been involved in the safari industry there for over 20 years, and she grew up
spending most weekends in the bush by their side. Though her family moved to Cape Town, South Africa for Emma and her siblings to attend high school, she continued to visit the Delta with her father who, noticing her passion for photography, gifted her a camera. The images published are a small representation of the moments she's been lucky enough to collect over the years, thanks to him. She hopes to return to the Delta after graduation to continue growing her collection, and in the fall, she hopes to start a masters of science for developmental neuroscience.

**Zoe Pettersen** (she/her) is a sophomore from Denver, Colorado studying biology and music performance. At Denison, she serves on the Outdoors Club executive board, she plays cello in the orchestra, and she lives on the Homestead. Zoe loves to spend time outdoors, and she is an avid skier, hiker, and backpacker. When she writes, she takes inspiration from her surroundings, especially natural settings, and she tries to evoke specific emotions and explore how they play out in poetry or prose.

**Jules Rizzo** is a sophomore dance and creative writing double major. Jules is a dance department fellow and the Vice President of Education in the Denison Coalition for Sexual Respect. Jules loves dancing and choreographing and has created and produced two pieces for dance department concerts. Jules' writing inspiration comes from interpersonal relationships.

**Zoe Schlosser** (she/her) is a freshman creative writing major. She doesn't like a lot of sci-fi works, but she likes Simon Stalenhag’s artwork which inspired “Techno-advancement.” She was thinking of the role of a doctor in one of these sci-fi worlds because medicine and technology are two different things as technology is advancing a lot faster than medicine.

**Fabrizio Vassallo** (he/him) is a sophomore physics and math double major from Argentina. At Denison, he is the co-president of the Society of Physics Students and is currently conducting research with Dr. Wesley Walter on threshold spectroscopy and with Dr. Adrian Young of the history department. On the side, he enjoys reading and writing nonfiction, his interests ranging from popular science and mathematics to more creative narrative pieces. Fabrizio hopes to one day balance his interest in becoming a professional scientist with his desire to publish a book.

**Amaya Willems** (they/them) likes stories, music, and stormy weather. They're looking forward to adopting a cat after graduation.