

EDITOR'S NOTE

Cori Pizano ('24) is an English major and Honors Program scholar. He worked at the Writing center for over 2 years and was in the CLU choir for 4 years. In his free time, you'll find him hiking the Santa Monica mountains or reading on a Malibu beach.



This project has been an incredible experience for me as an aspiring professional editor. I saw this process through from start to finish, from putting out a call for submissions, to working with each individual author, to editing and designing the end product. There were a lot of twists and turns in this process (nothing ever goes to plan) but I was most blown away by the incredible submissions I received for this prompt. I chose the UnAcademic Journey theme because I wanted to learn more about our CLU community, focusing on its diversity and wealth of experiences, and I wanted people to write about whatever *they* wanted to share.

Throughout our academic careers, we are often asked to reflect on the educational triumphs and challenges that have led us to where we are today. Personally, my college journey has been filled with unexpected opportunities, such as the Writing Center, the Honors Program, and an independent study, but there is more to me than my academic achievements. For example, my mixed-race Mexican and Italian American identities and my identity as a transgender man have shaped every aspect of my life experience. I wish I had more opportunities to talk about those parts of myself throughout my time at Cal Lu. That is why, in this publication, I hoped to give others the same opportunity.

I was touched to see writers respond with such powerful and potent stories, in more creative ways than I could have imagined. I got all that I asked for and more, and I am honored to share these special pieces with the CLU community.

I believe this selection of works reflects the variety of different backgrounds we have at Cal Lu. We see childhood experiences from various perspectives and across multiple generations and cultures. Many contributors offer insights they've learned from their families, whether that be through tough times or shared life lessons. We also have journeys of many kinds—from fantasy adventures, to real world travels, to personal and emotional evolutions. Some of my personal favorites involve journeys of appreciation for the natural world.

I hope you enjoy each amazing UnAcademic Journey in this selection!

Sincerely,
Cori Pizano

