

PREFACE

As a degree-granting unit for Creative Writing, the Department of English and Comparative Literature is a honing site for young and new writers of Philippine literature in English. It is tasked with training and encouraging young talent to perfect their craft and embrace their art. However, it is also aware that young writers need opportunities to publish their first or early works. The publishing industry being an industry is not frequently welcoming to the young and new.

The Department thought of providing a publishing venue for these new writers, thus this special Creative Writing issue of the Journal of English Studies and Comparative Literature titled *Bravura*. This is especially for those who have not yet published a book. We want to introduce the works of these new writers not only to Filipino readers but to a wider international audience. The publication will be part of our national and international conferences in terms of readings by writers. We also hope that it contributes to the enrichment of course readings in our literature classes.

The collection is equally important because it gives us an idea where our young writers are going, where the Philippine short story is heading. As one of the more dynamic literary genres of the 21st century, the short story has often set creative writing pathways that other genres follow. It has traversed world cultures, different art forms, and various philosophical paradigms in its search for new ways of artistic expression.

Bravura is our contribution to the strengthening of our literature in English. We hope it to be a launchpad of our future writing greats.

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