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Introduction

Scott Yarbrough

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INTRODUCTION

30 YEARS AGO the Berlin Wall was brought down, the Mirage opened in Las Vegas as the first mega-hotel, the first Gameboy and the first Lexus were produced, thousands of students occupied Tiananmen Square, gasoline was 97 cents a gallon, a postage stamp was 25 cents and you had to lick it, and Professor Peggy Brown nurtured the brain-child of starting a literary journal at an infant Collin College. Her far-sighted vision has evolved into 30 years of continuous publication. What began as an in-house, saddle-stitched, black-and-white publication has evolved to become a perfect-bound, full-color chronicle, as it continues its miraculous metamorphosis.

The journal has become a living archival reflection of Collin College and the county it serves. In addition to the actual periodical being physical – a book to hold – last year, all copies were also electronically published in the new Digital Commons, allowing anyone worldwide access to any essay, poem, photo, or story since the inception of the publication.

There is no real way to emphasize the significance of this journal, its conception, and its vibrant life, except to invite you to peruse the 30 years of artistry and experience the impact for yourself. Lastly, we would be remiss if we didn't thank the Board of Trustees for their continuing support of the journal, Collin College District President Dr. Neil Matkin, Digital Commons Manager Mindy Tomlin-Paulson, and Student Editors Phoebe Cave, Hannah Hansen, Michael Nguyen, Bridget N. Scott-Shupe, BeLynn D. Hollers, Jordan Abu-Aljazer, Emily Kedsle, Anna Boling, Caroline Dillard, and Starlit D. S. Taie.

Also special thanks to the Writers' Bloc for the selection of their *Best of Journal* recognition and their sponsor, Sean Ferrier-Watson. And finally, PR staff members Tom Delamater, Marlene Miller, Donna Kinder, Keli Fink, and Heather Darrow for their direction and support, and the ultimate *Forces* team Craig Leverette, Rachel Walker, G'Anna Saunders, Deborah Hall, and Susan Mathews.

Forces Editor – R. Scott Yarbrough