

# Lights and Shadows

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Volume 53 *Lights and Shadows* Volume 53

Article 47

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2010

## Editor's Letter

Jillian Tomberlin

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### Recommended Citation

Tomberlin, J. (2010). Editor's Letter. *Lights and Shadows*, 53 (1). Retrieved from <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows/vol53/iss1/47>

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When Mr. B asked me to be the editor-in-chief of this year's edition, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I wanted this year to be different and a turning point for the magazine by giving it a fresh look; yet remain true to its diverse acceptance of students' submissions which make Lights & Shadows unique. The first major change was the shape of the magazine. It was agreed that the "traditional" rectangle shape would be replaced with a more contemporary square. Another noteworthy inclusion was including an interview with Lorraine López, who also gave a fabulous reading during UNA's 2010 Spring Writers' Series.

As for the excellent literary work, I'm proud we had the opportunity to showcase the poetry of one of UNA's international students, Sijia Yao, in both its original language, and in English translation. Significants by Lisa Anderson and Broken Little Bluebird by Matt Mallard are two pieces of poetry the reader will especially enjoy because one addresses lost love and the other tells the intriguing story of Effie through the eyes of various family members. Camp is Crap by Zach McMasters is a humorous short story of a camping experience gone wrong. Uncle Pete, Visions Through a Window Pane, and Half-Truths are more serious and force us to reflect on the demons we wrestle against. There are many other noteworthy pieces and I believe there is something for everyone to enjoy.

This year has been bittersweet for me because it was my senior year at UNA. I got to see firsthand the joys and struggles of

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selecting pieces for the magazine, laying it out, and the behind the scenes efforts it takes to put something like this together. I am grateful for the opportunity of being this year's editor-in-chief and was privileged to work alongside some of UNA's most talented students.

Zach, Brett, and Candice, thank you for keeping me sane; I have learned much from each of you. Ellen, Ginda, and Matt, thank you for providing different perspectives and ideas. Robin, where do I begin? From our initial meeting about designing the look of the magazine, we clicked and you got exactly what I envisioned. This edition would be nothing without you. To all of the students, please continue to submit your works for publication in Lights & Shadows. There would be no magazine without you and your desire to share your works with the public.

Mr. B, thank you for having confidence in me and pushing me out of my comfort zone. This has been one of the most frustrating and rewarding experiences I have participated in while at UNA.

To other English faculty: Dr. Mauriello, Dr. Koch, Pam Kingsbury, Dianne Dodson, and Anita Garner, thank you all for helping me along the way and for encouraging me to pursue my dreams.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, the reader, for your continued support of Lights & Shadows. The magazine would cease to exist without its readers, and it is my hope that this year proves to be the best read yet. So pour yourself a cup of coffee and enjoy!

Jillian Tomberlin  
Editor-in-Chief