

# FOREWORD

“Art,” as Albert Einstein reminds us, “is the expression of the most profound thoughts in the simplest way.” Welcome to the 2009 issue of *Scribendi*.

This year we present to you the 23rd edition of the premier literary and fine art magazine of the Western Regional Honors Council. You will be witness to testimonies of the inspiring era we live in as you read this year’s published works. There is no arguing that we are in a thrilling and powerful age of change. We have lived to see America’s first African-American president, and we are surviving the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. The contributors to this issue of *Scribendi* have embraced Einstein’s philosophy and greatly succeeded.

Selecting the pieces for this year’s magazine was challenging but rewarding. Now, we are pleased to bring you creativity at its finest. Inside you will find cancer that makes you laugh, essays disguised as poems, poems drenched in water, and water flowing into back country where cellos grow and witches dance.

I would like to welcome back from sabbatical our faculty advisor, Dr. Leslie Donovan. We are all blessed to have such a hardworking and honest mentor. A most humble and sincere thanks goes to the Managing Editor, Bryan Schroeder, without whom I would not have spelled most of this Foreword correctly. Bryan, it has been

an unparalleled privilege and joy. To the Office Manager, Sara Cobble, you’re wonderful! Much gratitude is due to the whole University Honors Program staff, with special thanks to Dr. Rosalie Otero, our guardian angel.

And, of course, to the *Scribendi* staff: You are all remarkable. At times I found myself puzzling about how you could possibly endure my bad jokes and non-politically correct nature. You are the hardest-working group of complete knuckleheads I have ever known. I have learned so much from each of you. The diversity of our staff is reflected in the magazine, and I feel that in the same way we have all left marks on each other (but not like lithography, because that would hurt). So, in the same simplistic fashion as Einstein, I will leave you with one thought: Remember the privilege that *Scribendi* is and cherish it forever.

As Editor in Chief, I am proud to present to you an eclectic and original assembly of literature and art that will foster growth and creativity deep within your soul. I trust that you will enjoy.

*Robby Ortiz*  
*Editor in Chief*