Calliope: Muse, Musical Instrument or Magazine?

Pronounced Kuh-Lie-Oh-Pea. Not to be confused with the instrument whose airy tunes emanate from the circus carousel. Named for the muse of heroic poetry in Greek mythology that inspired Homer’s “Odyssey,” Calliope is Pacific’s literary journal produced by students. It features art, poetry, prose, fiction, and essays of Pacific’s students, faculty and alumni.

First published in the spring of 1970 with a limited run of 750 copies, it was sold in the University bookstore for 75 cents. From such humble beginnings, Calliope has woven itself into Pacific’s literary fabric.

All art work was original and created by Pacific students. Faculty and students sent submissions to the student editorial staff, which selected those that would be published.

Faculty advisor William Kollock began planning the publication the year before. A visionary English professor and poet, Kollock revitalized the English curriculum, pioneered a poetry theater and created the Pacific Writers Institute, in which students had the opportunity to discuss their work with established writers. Calliope provided an outlet for the students’ work. It was very student driven, editor Jerry McCullough ’70 recalls. Kollock was a facilitator, giving students production experience from start to finish.

Calliope has been published continuously since 1970, though funding seemed to be a challenge from year to year. Sources of support varied widely, coming from departments, student organizations, student fundraisers, individuals and businesses.

Previous literary publications, such as The Pharos and The Hieroglyph, emerged for brief periods. The Pharos began as an annual in 1893, became a literary monthly in 1912 and eventually was phased out. Produced by the Scroll and Stylus Club, The Hieroglyph lasted three years from 1931–1933. These earlier publications served as an inspiration for Calliope, according to McCullough and Rob Menzies ’72, editor of the 1971 edition.

In some years, issues focused exclusively on specific genres such as fiction or poetry. Many were built around a theme, such as “War, Love and Wisdom” (2004), “Refuge and Release” (2006) and “Devotion, Discord and Deceit” (2007).

Many of the students who contributed works or served on the editorial staff went on to become writers or artists. Calliope continues as a vehicle of self-expression and creativity for Pacific students, and each issue reflects the talent and personality of the students who create and contribute to it.

Were you a contributor to Calliope? Tell us about it at pacificreview@pacific.edu