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September–October 2005 Issue

WHAT'S INSIDE

At each stage of our lives, our learning seems to require a leap forward and a letting go. Diane LeBlanc's Bechtel Prize-winning essay offers a compelling, lyrical account of how higher education, while serving to fulfill the American dream that her parents had for her, took her away from her origins, and how creative writing has helped her to form a vital bridge between her past and her present.

Endowed by the Cerimon Fund, the Bechtel Prize is awarded to "an exemplary essay (or essays) on creative writing education, literary studies, and/or the profession of writing."

In this, the second year of the prize, we received several hundred submissions. Essays hailed from Australia, India, Los Angeles, and Alaska. Topics were wonderfully diverse—among them, teaching writing in prisons, online education, literacy memoirs, addressing 9/11 through creative writing, teaching poetry to Muslim-American youth, and bridging the gap between adult and children's literature.

We would like to dedicate this special issue of the magazine to Nancy Larson Shapiro.

—Christina Davis & Christopher Edgar

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