



Letter from the Editor

Joshua J. Pearman*, Psychology

Dear readers,

I believe that one of the most significant roles that undergraduate research serves is to amplify the voice of undergraduate students in the critical discourse of knowledge. For myself, this has been a year of many firsts: the first poster presentation, first thesis proposal, and first research collaboration. Even as a student, research equips me to engage in a two-way conversation with the academic literature; a conversation that comes less naturally in a one-way lecture. As I reflected on each of these new experiences, it struck me that they all had one consistent theme: mentorship. I am able to pursue research because of the faculty and graduate students who chose to invest in me. Notably, I have had many fantastic graduate student mentors who have empowered me during my academic career, and know that many other undergraduates have a similar story. Thus, I wish to express my appreciation to the many faculty members and graduate students who play a key role in supporting undergraduate research.

With the completion of this academic year, I want to recognize the tremendous effort that the OURJ editorial board has put into this issue. Each issue is the result of the board's numerous hours of meticulous examination for each manuscript. The OURJ prides ourselves on a thorough review process, which is only possible because of the contribution of each individual editor. This year, we have three editors who will be graduating: Amber Shackelford, Sravya Tadepalli, and Jamie Rehlaender. Each of these editors have played a significant role on OURJ's editorial board, and I wish them the best in all their future endeavors. I also want to personally thank Barbara Jenkins, who has played a key role in how OURJ's evolution as an academic journal. This year also marks the end of my time as Editor-in-Chief, an experience which has been instrumental in developing my understanding of research journals and leadership. I am elated to pass on this position to the next Editor-in-Chief, Starla Chambrose, and am confident she will go on to do great things for the journal.

True to OURJ's tenet of interdisciplinary research, the present issue showcases work from numerous academic disciplines at the University of Oregon, and includes three UO Libraries Undergraduate Research Award winners. This issue highlights research on a 17th century Persian manuscript, questions the use of randomized control trials in new treatments, investigates how originality is associated with memory, examines how the "homophobic Muslim" was sensationalized, and explores the interchange of religion between the east and west. We are also excited to feature a guest editorial written by Professor Josh Snodgrass, Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Research and Distinguished Scholarships, who shares his thoughts on the power of undergraduate research.

Finally, we hope you enjoy the 15th issue of the Oregon Undergraduate Research Journal!

* Joshua is a junior psychology major in the Clark Honors College. He is a research assistant in the Social Affective Neuroscience Lab and Personality and Social Dynamics Lab, and is working on developing research and data analysis skills to pursue graduate study in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. He is interested in the science of teams in organizations, and hopes to both conduct and apply group dynamics research in the future. Outside of academics, Joshua enjoys reading sci-fi novels and watching films with his friends. Please direct correspondence regarding this issue of OURJ to ourj@uoregon.edu.