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UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

XULAneXUS

Volume 6 | Issue 2

Article 1

4-1-2009

Editor's Introduction

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Recommended Citation

Louis, Ross (2009) "Editor's Introduction," *XULAneXUS*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.xula.edu/xulanexus/vol6/iss2/1>

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XULAnexUS: Xavier University of Louisiana's Undergraduate Research Journal.
Vol. 6, No. 2, April 2009. 1.

Editor's Introduction

Dr. Ross Louis, Communications

As a peer-reviewed undergraduate research journal, *XULAnexUS* is charged with strengthening the quality and representation of student scholarship at Xavier University of Louisiana. It is a charge that the journal staff and editorial board have taken quite seriously in 2008-2009, especially in expanding the journal to two issues per volume and diversifying the range of scholarship we publish. Volume 6, Issue 2 is a clear example of the journal's breadth and rigor.

The present issue includes scholarship from the fine arts, the humanities, and the social sciences. Student authors in Volume 6.2 have published projects that emerged from course assignments as well as co-curricular programs. I am encouraged particularly by the persistence that these authors displayed throughout the peer-review process. *XULAnexUS* introduces students to the full process of formatting a project for submission, responding to critique from multiple reviewers, revising and resubmitting, and editing for final publication. While the cycle is demanding and time-consuming, our authors responded with timely and careful revision.

Four articles in this issue come from the Department of Psychology. Adrienne Glover examines the role of discredited evidence in jury trials, and Alycia Boutte offers a literature review that explores the ways in which skin tone affects the self-esteem, mate selection, and university selection of African American college students. Courtney Watson considers the influence of parenting style on the sexual activity of college students, while Brittanee Veal studies the ways in which college students cope with university policies. Brittani Melvin, a Political Science major, adopts an interdisciplinary approach to the study of gender by reviewing economic, political, and legal influences on gender inequality. Joe Drexler-Dreis, a History/Theology double major, critiques modern strains of American liberalism by comparing this ideology to more radical cases of protest, such as Nat Turner, John Brown, and Malcolm X. Aaron Burgess, a Mass Communication major, provides a case of creative scholarship: a graphic pencil portrait of President Barack Obama that was originally published in a post-election issue of *The Xavier Herald*.

The quality of *XULAnexUS*, Volume 6, is the direct result of a commitment to undergraduate research made by Xavier administrators, faculty mentors, and the journal's Editorial Review Board. The journal especially thanks Dr. Loren Blanchard, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Gary Donaldson, Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research; Ms. Terina Walker, Center for Undergraduate Research; Ms. Courtney Watson, *XULAnexUS* Editorial Assistant, and all the members of the 2008-2009 Editorial Review Board: Mr. Ron Bechet, Dr. Christopher Faircloth, Dr. Mark Gstohl, Dr. Antonio Lopez, Ms. Candice Claiborne, Mr. Joe Drexler-Dreis, Ms. Victoria Kyerematen, Ms. Merciana Oliver, Ms. Mercedes Proctor, and Ms. Samantha Taylor.