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Editor's Introduction

Ross Louis

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Editor's Introduction

Dr. Ross Louis, Communications

The present issue of *XULAnexUS* offers a hopeful message about the state of student scholarship at Xavier University of Louisiana. Volume 7, Issue 2 represents the largest peer-reviewed issue to be published by the University's undergraduate research journal. It also reveals that Xavier scholarship is happening in a wide range of places: from the art studio to the psychology classroom to the New Orleans community itself. This issue includes original research, visual art, literary criticism, and service-learning reflection. Its student authors take the reader from post World War II Japan to the Dominican Republic to Jamaica.

This issue also suggests that Xavier students are taking full advantage of opportunities to work with faculty on research projects. We present nine projects that span the fine arts, humanities, social sciences, and STEM disciplines. Our authors have published scholarship that emerged from summer research projects, course assignments, mentored collaborations with faculty, and in-class essays.

Cassandra Shepard opens the issue with a historical analysis of sexual tourism and identity politics in Jamaica. Shepard examines Jamaica's "rent-a-dread" sex trade in relation to Rastafarian male identity. In the first of two articles he published in Volume 7, Issue 2, Xavier Readus explores attribution theory through a psychological study that considers how one's personality influences the attribution process. Nile Lang's "Anomie" presents two drypoint prints that reflect the artist's self-discovery. Lang's art also signals the journal's interdisciplinary commitment to creative scholarship.

Philip Luu's critical literature review considers the effects that several groups of baby boomers have on Japan's post World War II workforce. Luu explains the phenomena of *karoshi*, *karojisatsu*, *freeters*, *NEETs*, and *hikikomoris* as dangerous to Japan's economic wealth. Drawing on her service-learning experience during a human development course, Chinyelu Onuora applies psychological theories that explain how the development of the elderly is impacted by their younger years. Lauren Pertuis' essay explicates William Rowe's argument that humans lack free will because of the existence of divine foreknowledge. Pertuis opposes Rowe's claim by distinguishing between foreknowledge and foreordination.

Benjamin Moore and Catherin Morales describe the early stages of a long-term research project funded by the Center for Undergraduate Research and the Mellon Foundation. Moore and Morales detail the process of constructing a digital library that will allow historians to search primary documents which reveal the role of women in 20th century Dominican Republic politics. Readus' second article is a literary analysis of Marge Piercy's poem, "Barbie Doll." Readus understands Piercy's work as a critique of contemporary gender roles. Finally, LaKeisha George Williams provides an evaluation of nine different online courses that offer instruction in health

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disparities and cultural competence for pharmacy students. Williams' goal is to make recommendations that will be utilized by Xavier's College of Pharmacy in training its students in cultural competence.

In summer 2010, *XULAnexUS* launches a new Mellon-funded program, Enhancing Scholarship through Digital Media, which will use multimedia tools to enhance student scholarship. Two previously published authors will be selected to enhance their work through the addition of digital media. The program encourages authors to explore innovative ways to represent their scholarship, particularly through media-based tools. The result will be the digital enhancement and re-publication of two articles in *XULAnexUS*.

The success of *XULAnexUS* is dependent on the commitment of its staff. Our peer-reviewed process relies foremost on faculty editors who train and mentor student reviewers. The Volume 7 editorial review board was especially busy this year as the journal received a record number of submissions. I am very grateful to the board's careful review of every submission. In Fine Arts, Ms. Nora Olgay mentored student reviewers Cassandra Shepard and Andrea Hodge. In Humanities, Dr. Ronald Dorris mentored student reviewers Domonique Lewis and Cassandra Shepard. In Social Sciences, Dr. Lynne Gleiber mentored student reviewers Adrienne Glover and Nicole Simmons. In Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, Dr. Anderson Sunda-Meya mentored student reviewers Artay Abua and Samantha Taylor. A special thanks is due to Mia Holmes who served as the journal's editorial assistant for this issue.