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FOREWORD

Undergraduate students at Washington University in St. Louis engage in research in a wide variety of disciplines and fields of study. Mentored by dedicated faculty, students conduct research that may lead to solutions to many of today's pressing social problems, to new interpretations of the past, and to the creation of new knowledge. In many cases, students' research may even lead to new questions to be studied by future investigators.

Of the students whose work is contained in this volume of the *Washington University Undergraduate Research Digest*, some conducted research in St. Louis while others traveled abroad. They worked over the summer and into the school year. They spent hours in the field, in laboratories, and in libraries, collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. They have written theses, published papers, and presented findings. Consider the work of the authors of our feature articles:

Victoria Collins explores why current public health initiatives to reduce high maternal and infant mortality in Uganda have failed. Her work asks why do delivery rates remain low in professionally staffed health care facilities despite efforts to promote their usage.

Hilah Kohen analyzes how a variety of circumstances of a text's production and distribution prevented contemporary Russian writers from gaining a readership in English in the early twentieth century, even as their nineteenth-century predecessors rapidly gained popularity.

Sally Rifkin examines the motivations, successes, and challenges of two food justice organizations in St. Louis, Missouri, both of which were started and are sustained by Black women, focusing her research on particular ways in which Black women mobilize around food issues, challenging the notion that women's food work is apolitical.

The students who wrote the following feature articles and abstracts could not have conducted their research without dedicated faculty mentors, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. We also gratefully acknowledge the work of the Peer Review Board in carefully editing our feature articles. Finally, we invite you to enter the world of research at Washington University and become inspired by the works herein.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lindsey Paunovich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a light beige background behind it.

LINDSEY PAUNOVICH
Editor